



320 Palermo Ave • Coral Gables • FL 33134 • [www.stgmiami.org](http://www.stgmiami.org) • [office@stgmiami.org](mailto:office@stgmiami.org) • Office: (305) 444-6541  
V. Rev. Archpriest Ayman Kfouf, Pastor • [Dean@stgmiami.org](mailto:Dean@stgmiami.org)

## LEAVE-TAKING OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

STONE 5

**DEAN'S MESSAGE**

EOTHINON 8

### GUIDED BY CHRIST

Fr. Ayman Kfouf



In the 'Dean's Message' section of our newsletter, I aim to cultivate a dialogue that resonates with everyone in our beloved Cathedral.

Through pastoral reflections, theological insights, or educational materials, the 'Dean's Message' seeks to deepen our understanding of the rich Orthodox ethos, foster a stronger community, and guide us in the light of Christ.

At St. George Cathedral, we are

blessed with a diversity of voices, each expressing unique hopes, concerns, and perspectives. Diversity of opinions within our Church is a healthy sign of growth. True unity in Christ is not found in uniformity of opinions but in our shared commitment to love, understand, and support each other in our faith. As your Dean and Pastor, it is my privilege to hear your voices, aspirations, and challenges and to offer my prayers, guidance, and support.

Listening to the various voices, aspirations, and views, the Pastor must make decisions to support, guide, and

lead. When making such decisions, a Pastor often faces the challenge of choosing paths that may align with some views while differing from others. These moments highlight the complex responsibilities of pastoral care and the need for discernment and much prayerful reflection.

According to Metropolitan George Khodr, the Priest is Christ's ambassador. He conveys the divine message without adding personal opinions or interpretations. ***The priest must deliver the "Gospel" with utmost responsibility and without personal embellishments.*** Therefore, it is important to remember that as your Pastor, I will not impart my own teachings but rather those of the Gospel of Christ. Likewise, when a pastoral decision is made, Christ's teachings are solely the guide, intending that every decision glorifies God and contributes to your salvation.

In decision-making, the outcome may be perceived as favoring specific individuals or groups. While I understand these perceptions, rest assured that my guidance in all decisions will be

rooted in the Gospel of our Lord and the teachings of our Orthodox Church, attuned to divine guidance over the loudest voices.

St. Paul's words, ***"I have become all things to all people"*** (1 Corinthians 9:22), inspire my pastorate. ***Like St. Paul, my service, love, and care are extended to everyone equally.*** In Christ, I hold each of you in my heart and mind, sharing in your joys and concerns. As I carry all of you in my prayers, I seek the Lord's guidance in serving you, nurturing your spiritual growth, and leading our Cathedral to achieve its mission.

My door remains open to all, and I am ever-ready to listen, reflecting St. Paul's example of being all things to all people. Your thoughts, prayers, challenges, and hopes are always welcome.

As we take this deifying journey together, let us embrace our mission, not as individuals with differing views, but as the one body in Christ, united in our diversity, strengthened by our faith, and mindful of the love that calls us to serve.



### THE EISODIKON OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

### APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

### APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

### TROPARION OF ST GEORGE IN TONE 4

As the deliverer of captives and the protector of the poor, as the physician of the feeble and combatant of kings, holy champion and great martyr George, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

### KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE 3

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.

### إيصوديكون لعيد ميلاد المسيح

مِنَ البَطْنِ قَبْلَ كَوْكَبِ الصُّبْحِ وَلَدْتُكَ، حَلَفَ الرَّبُّ وَلَنْ يَنْدَمَ،  
أَنَّكَ أَنْتَ الكَاهِنُ إِلَى الدَّهْرِ عَلَى تَرْتِيبِ مَلْكِصَادَق.  
خَلَّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ وُلِدَ مِنَ البَتُولِ، لِنُرْتِّلَ لَكَ.  
هَلْلُوِيَا.

### أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللحن الخامس

لِنُسَبِّحْ نَحْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَنَسْجُدُ لِلْكَلِمَةِ، المُسَاوِي لِأَبِ وَالرُّوحِ  
فِي الأَزَلِيَّةِ وَعَدَمِ الأِبْتِدَاءِ، المَوْلُودِ مِنَ العَذْرَاءِ لِخَلَّصِنَا،  
لأنَّهُ سُرَّ بِالجَسَدِ أَنْ يَغْلُوَ عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ، وَيَحْتَمِلَ المَوْتَ،  
وَيُنْهَضَ المَوْتَى بِقِيَامَتِهِ المَجِيدَةِ.

### أبوليتيكيون ميلاد المسيح باللحن الرابع

مِيلَادُكَ أَيُّهَا المَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا قَدْ أَطْلَعَ نَوْرَ المَعْرِفَةِ فِي العَالَمِ،  
لأنَّ السَّاجِدِينَ لِلْكَوَاكِبِ، بِهِ تَعَلَّمُوا مِنَ الكَوْكَبِ السُّجُودَ لَكَ  
يَا شَمْسَ العَدْلِ، وَأَنْ يَعْرِفُوا أَنَّكَ مِنْ مَشَارِقِ العُلُوِّ أَتَيْتَ، يَا  
رَبُّ المَجْدُ لَكَ.

### أبوليتيكيون الأحد بعد عيد الميلاد باللحن الثاني

يَا يَوْسُفُ، بَشِّرْ دَاوُودَ جَدَّ الإِلهِ بالعَجَائِبِ البَاهِرَةِ، لِأَنَّكَ  
رَأَيْتَ بَتُولًا حَامِلًا. فَمَعَ الرُّعَاةِ مَجَّدْتَ، وَمَعَ المَجُوسِ  
سَجَّدْتَ، وَبِالمَلَاكِ أَوْحِيَ إِلَيْكَ. فَابْتَهَلْ إِلَى المَسِيحِ الإِلهِ أَنْ  
يُخَلِّصَ نَفُوسَنَا.

### طروبارية القديس جاورجيوس باللحن الرابع

بِما أَنَّكَ للمَأسُورِينَ مَحْرَرٌ وَمَعْتَقٌ وَلِلْفُقَرَاءِ وَالمَسَاكِينِ عَاضِدٌ  
وَنَاصِرٌ وَلِلْمَرَضَى طَبِيبٌ وَشَافٍ وَعَنْ المَؤْمِنِينَ مَكْفَاحٌ  
وَمَحَارِبٌ أَيُّهَا العَظِيمِ فِي الشَّهَادَةِ جَاورجِيُوسِ اللّابِسِ تَشْفَعُ  
إِلَى المَسِيحِ الإِلهِ فِي خَلَاصِ نَفُوسِنَا.

### قنداق ميلاد المسيح باللحن الثالث

اليَوْمَ البَتُولُ تَلَدَ الفَائِقَ الجَوْهَرَ، وَالأَرْضُ تُقَرَّبُ المَعَارَةَ لِمَنْ  
هُوَ عَيْرٌ مُقْتَرَبٌ إِلَيْهِ. المَلَايِكَةُ مَعَ الرُّعَاةِ يُمَجِّدُونَ،  
والمَجُوسُ مَعَ الكَوْكَبِ فِي الطَّرِيقِ يَسِيرُونَ، لِأَنَّه قَدْ وُلِدَ مِنْ  
أَجْلِنَا صَبِيٍّ جَدِيدٍ، الإِلهِ الَّذِي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ.

## THE EPISTLE

Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee.  
Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

The Reading from the Epistle of  
St. Paul to the Galatians

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

## THE GOSPEL

Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



## الرسالة

لِيَسْجُدَ لَكَ كُلُّ أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ وَيَرْتَلُوا نَعْمَكَ.

هَلِّلُوا لِلَّهِ يَا جَمِيعَ أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولَسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى تِيموثَاوَسَ.

يا ولدي تيموثاوس، تيقظ في كل شيء واحتمل المشقات، واعمل عمل المبشر، وأوف خدمتك. أما أنا فقد أريق السكيب علي ووفت انحلامي قد اقترب. وقد جاهدت الجهاد الحسن، وأتممت شوطي، وحفظت الإيمان. وإنما يبقى محفوظاً لي إكليل العذل الذي يجزيني به في ذلك اليوم الرب، الذي العادل، لا إياي فقط، بل جميع الذين يجوبون ظهوره أيضاً.

## الإنجيل

لأحد قبل عيد الظهور الإلهي

بدء إنجيل يسوع المسيح ابن الله كما هو مكتوب في الأنبياء "هأنذا مرسل ملاكي أمام وجهك يهتئ طريقك قدامك. صوت صارخ في البرية: أعدوا طريق الرب واجعلوا سبله قويمه." كان يوحنا يعمد في البرية ويكرز بعمودية التوبة لغفران الخطايا. وكان يخرج إليه جميع أهل بلد اليهودية وأورشليم فيعمدون جميعهم منه في نهر الأردن، معترفين بخطاياهم. وكان يوحنا يلبس وبر الإبل وعلى حقويه منطقة من جلد، ويأكل جراداً وعسلًا برياً. وكان يكرز قائلاً: إنه يأتي بعدي من هو أقوى مني، وأنا لا أستحق أن أنحني وأحل سير جذائه. أنا عمدتكم بالماء، وأما هو فيعمدكم بالروح القدس.

## HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION SUNDAY 12/31/2023



- ✠ For the health and spiritual welfare of Suhel and Najwa Turjman and their family.
- ✠ For the health and spiritual welfare of Said and Lama El-Haj and their family. Offered by Said and Lama El-Haj.
- ✠ For the health and spiritual welfare of Tabte and Mona Habib. Offered by Jamal Habib.
- ✠ For the health and spiritual welfare of Cathy Habib and Logan Ruff, on the occasion of their two-year wedding anniversary. Offered by Jamal Habib.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

WEEK OF 12/31—01/6



**DR. ALEX ZAKHARIA 1/1**

**NOAH EDE 1/2**

**TANIA BARAKAT 1/4**

**COREY ZAKHARIA 1/5**



## EPISTLE READERS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

**VLADIMIR KOSTIK— ENGLISH**

**DR. HANI JUMEAN— ARABIC**

## ST. GEORGE PRAYER LIST

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### FOR HEALTH

FOR THE WELLBEING SPEEDY RECOVERY

Souad Nahas, Mouna and Laura Dahlan, Wadi, Maha, Nicholas, Nicole Mabardi, Shammaseh Pat Nimer and the Nimer & Ameen Families, Tabte, Jamal, and Mona Habib; Carol Bardawil, Laila Soufia; Dr. George Bikhazi, Najat Zacur, Haifa Khoury.

### FOR THE DEPARTED

IN THE HOPE OF RESURRECTION

+Archdeacon David Nimer, +Elias Ede, +Ernesto Carralero  
+Mary Bikhazi, +Donna Nimer, +George Chukrallah Habib,  
+Ibrahim Khoury, +Kareem Zakharia, +Sean Nicholas O'Brien,  
+Michael Dahlan, +Jorge Diab Zacur, +Maurice Bardawil,  
+Emile Farah

## ALTAR VIGIL CANDLE

(DECEMBER)

- \* Mouna Dahlan & Family, Mabardi Family.
- \* Shamasseh Pat Nimer In Memory of +Archdeacon David Nimer.
- \* In memory of Sean Nicholas O'Brien For the good health of the O'Brien and Hatem families.



Date	Holy Bread	Coffee Hour
2023/24	Offered by	
December 31	-Suhel and Najwa Turjman (Health) -Said and Lama El-Haj (Health)	Said and Lama El-Haj
January 7	-Suhel and Najwa Turjman (Health) - George and Myrna Khouri (Health)	Open
January 14	-Tony and Hiam Nahas (Health) -Suhel and Najwa Turjman (Health) - George and Myrna Khouri (Health)	Tony & Hiam Nahas
January 21	- Suhel and Najwa (Health) - Cathedral Council (Health) - George and Myrna Khouri (Health)	Cathedral Council
January 28	- George & Widaa Khoury (Memorial) - Suhel and Najwa (Health)	George & Widaa Khoury (Memorial)
February 4	- Suhel and Najwa (Health)	Festival

The Holy Bread and Coffee Hour are ministries of the Antiochian Women. Please see the coordinator of these ministries, Mrs. Salma Zacur, to inquire on scheduling and requirements.



# *Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral*

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America  
Diocese of Miami and the Southeast  
V. Rev. Archpriest Ayman Kfouf, Dean

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December 21, 2023

Dear beloved parishioners,

Christ is born. Glorify Him.

This letter serves as an official call for the 2023 Annual General Assembly Meeting of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral. The Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21, 2024, and will take place in the Cathedral Hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy. An agenda for the meeting is attached for your reference.

According to our Constitution, only voting members may participate in voting on agenda items, such as electing new members of the Parish Council or addressing other official business. However, it is important to note that this meeting is open to all members of the Cathedral, not just the voting members. Our Cathedral recognizes two types of membership: voting membership and general non-voting membership. We strongly encourage all church members, both voting and non-voting, to attend the General Assembly Meeting. This is a valuable opportunity to learn about the Cathedral's operations, ministries, and vision. Everyone's presence and input are crucial, as each member plays a vital role in defining our future and contributing to the growth of the Cathedral and the fulfillment of our mission.

A voting member is defined as a "member in good standing" who fulfills all the following criteria:

1. An individual who is baptized or received into the Orthodox Church.
2. An individual who participates regularly in the liturgical life of the church.
3. An individual actively engaged in church ministries, activities, and events, utilizing personal talents.
4. A pledged individual who shows stewardship through active financial support and commitment to the church's mission.

Please note that we are committed to welcoming and embracing every family with open arms, regardless of the committed pledged amount. If you are unable to commit to our pledge system for personal reasons, you are encouraged to discuss your situation privately with the Pastor for potential accommodation. Rest assured, any discussions about finances will be held in strict confidence.

This year, there will be a Parish Council election for four members for a three-year term. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Mrs. Lama El Haj, Mrs. Andrea M. Abu-Akel, and Sdn. Elie Bardawil, will prepare a list of candidates and submit it to the Dean of the Cathedral by January 12, 2024. All parishioners in good standing who are interested in serving on the Parish Council and willing to make the commitment required to fulfill this important responsibility must discuss with the Dean before submitting their name and then submit their candidacy to the Nominating Committee, using the provided form, by January 11, 2024, to be included on the ballot. No nominations will be accepted after this deadline or from the floor during the meeting.

Please be advised that the upcoming assembly will include a presentation of the financial report for 2023, the proposed 2024 Annual Budget, and reports from various church organizations.

Your active involvement in the Annual General Assembly Meeting is crucial for guiding our Cathedral and shaping its future. Through our shared vision, commitment, and the grace of God, we will chart our path forward.

Yours in Christ,

*Very Rev. Archpriest Ayman Hfouf*  
*Cathedral Dean*

*Andrea M. Abu-Akel*  
*Cathedral Council Chairlady*

# St. George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral

The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA  
Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS  
Auxiliary Bishop of Miami and the Southeast

V. Rev. Archpriest Ayman Kfouf  
Cathedral Dean

## CATHEDRAL COUNCIL:

V. Rev. Archpriest Ayman Kfouf, *Presiding Officer*  
Andrea M. Abu-Akel, *Chairlady*  
Lama El Haj, *Vice-Chairlady*  
Jackie Barakat-Wanna, *Secretary*  
George M. Khoury, *Treasurer*  
Muazzi Hatem, *Financial Secretary*  
Sdn. Elie Bardawil, *Member*  
Zeina Bardawil Farah, *Member*  
Douglas Ede, *Member*  
Jamal Habib, *Member*  
Hannan Mounayyer, *Member*  
Diana O'Brien, *Member*  
Noura Soufia, *Member*  
Basel Zacur, *Member*  
Yamil Zacur, *Member*  
Tony Zammar, *Member*

## COUNCIL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:

Muazzi Hatem, *Finance*  
Douglas Ede, *Legal*  
Jamal Habib, *Membership*  
Lama Elhaj, *Property Usage*  
Yamil Zacur, *Property Management*  
Noura Soufia, *Public Relations/Web Master*  
Nasser Soufia, *Vision and Development*

## BROTHERHOOD OF THE NOBLE JOSEPH:

V. Rev. Archpriest Ayman Kfouf, *Dean*  
Sdn. Charles Khoury  
Sdn. Elie Bardawil  
Sdn. Sean Hatem  
Sdn. Louis Hatem  
Sdn. Hanna Soufia  
Acolytes (servers)  
Jackson King, *Choir Director/Lead Chanter*  
Dr. Don Shalhub, *Chanter*  
Yamil Zacur, *Lead Usher*  
All Choir Members and Ushers

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARABIC SCHOOL

Reem Yazji, *Coordinator*

## COUNCIL EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Lama El Haj, *Sunday School Principal*  
Yola Hayek, *Antiochian Women*  
Hanna Soufia, *Young Adult Fellowship*  
Luke Hatem, *SOYO*  
Zeina B. Farah, *Order of Saint Ignatius*  
Tony Zammar, *Antiochian Men*

## Cathedral Office:

Mrs. Elsa Herrmann, *Office Secretary*  
Mr. Frank Marco, *Custodian*

## SOYO Advisory Team:

Hannan Mounayyer, *Lead Advisor*  
Said Elhaj, *Advisor*

# CONTACTS

## Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

## Cathedral Address

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral  
320 Palermo Avenue  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

## Contact Numbers

Cathedral Office: (305) 444-6541  
Fax: (305) 445-6530

## Email Contacts

Father Ayman Kfouf: [Dean@stgmiami.org](mailto:Dean@stgmiami.org)  
General Inquiries: [office@stgmiami.org](mailto:office@stgmiami.org)  
Website Support: [webmaster@stgmiami.org](mailto:webmaster@stgmiami.org)

## Worship Services

Saturday: Great Vespers: 5:00 PM  
Confession: 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM (or by appointment)

Sunday: Orthros: 9:15 AM  
Divine Liturgy: 10:30 AM

## Pastoral Care and Input

For concerns, pastoral care, or to provide input, please reach out to:  
V. Rev. Archpriest Ayman Kfouf

Telephone: (248) 565-5353  
Email: [dean@stgmiami.org](mailto:dean@stgmiami.org)

## Stay Connected

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stgmiami](http://www.facebook.com/stgmiami)

Instagram: [@StGMiami](https://www.instagram.com/StGMiami)

Cathedral website: [www.stgmiami.org](http://www.stgmiami.org)