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*A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America • Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest*

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**TONE 6**

**DECEMBER 17, 2017**

**EOTHINON 6**

## **SUNDAY OF FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST**

*PROPHET DANIEL AND THE THREE HOLY YOUTHS ANANIAS, AZARIAS AND MISHAEL  
DIONYSIOS OF ZAKYNTHOS, THE WONDERWORKER • NEW MARTYRS PAISIUS THE  
HIEROMONK AND HIS DISCIPLE HABAKKUK THE DEACON OF BELGRADE*

The holy, glorious and right-victorious hieromartyrs Paisius and Habakkuk were monks at the Tavna Monastery near Čačak in Serbia. Paisius was abbot, and Habakkuk a deacon. Habakkuk arrived from Moštanica Monastery which was near Banja Luka.

As Christians, both were impaled on stakes by the Turks on the Kalemegdan in Belgrade on December 17, 1814. Paisius carried his stake through the streets of Belgrade while the courageous Habakkuk sang. When Habakkuk's mother begged him with tears to embrace Islam in order to save his life, this wonderful soldier of Christ replied to her:

"My mother, thank you for your milk,  
But for your counsel I thank you not:  
There is no faith as beautiful as a Christian one  
A Serb is Christ's; he rejoices in death.  
Today for the Name of Christ."

Even Turks were impressed by his attitude. The Turkish governor, therefore, ordered the torturers to kill Habakkuk painlessly.



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# LITURGY VARIATIONS

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## 3<sup>RD</sup> ANTIPHON: TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (TONE 3)

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Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the first-born

from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

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## APOLYTIKIA AFTER THE ENTRANCE

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### Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3)

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Let the heavens rejoice....

### Schedule of Regular Weekly Services

**Sundays:**      **Matins, 8:50 AM**  
                    **Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**

**Wednesdays:** **Vespers, 6:30 PM**

**Saturdays:**    **Great Vespers, 5 PM**

**Confession:**    **After Saturday Vespers**  
                    **During Sunday Matins**  
                    **Or by Appointment**

*See Calendar for Feast Days and Other Weekday Services Scheduled*



*Remember to turn  
cell phones off!*

### Order for Holy Communion

Members of the Orthodox Church age seven and above must prepare for Holy Communion with a recent confession, prayer, fasting from all food and drink from midnight (unless medical condition preclude it), being in church *before* the Epistle and Gospel readings, and being at peace with everyone.

**CHILDREN** going to church school and their teachers should come down the center aisle first. (Small children may need to be assisted by their parents.)

**ALL OTHERS** should wait until an usher dismisses your row from the center aisle. Then return to your place by a side aisle for the prayers of thanksgiving and the final blessing and dismissal. Please let choir members pass when they come down for Communion.

### A Warm Welcome to Our Guests

We are glad you are worshipping with us. Please note that participation in **Holy Communion is limited to members of the Orthodox Church** in good standing, who have prepared with prayer, fasting and confession.

For all others: though we cannot share Communion with you—since it is an expression of membership and full unity in faith—you are welcome to come forward after the dismissal, receive a blessing and partake of the blessed bread (from the large bowls). Please also sign our guest book, and introduce yourself to Fr. Nabil during the coffee hour. You may inquire with him how you can become a member.

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### **Troparion of the Forefathers (Tone 2)**

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Thou hast justified by faith the ancient forefathers, and through them, Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory, for from their

seed sprouted forth a noble Fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

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### **Troparion for St. George (Tone 4, Byzantine)**

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Liberator of captives, Defender of the poor, the Physician of the sick and the Champion of kings, O Trophy-bearer, Great-martyr George,

intercede with Christ our God that our souls be saved.

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### **Kontakion in Preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Tone 3)**

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The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth at the message.

With the angels and shepherds give glory to Him who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He Who is from eternity God.

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## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

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### **Prokeimenon (Daniel 3.26-27 LXX; Tone 8)**

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Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.  
*Verse:* For You are just in all you have done.

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### **Epistle of Saint Paul to the Colossians (3.4-11; 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Forefathers)**

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BRETHREN, when Christ Who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger,

wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

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## Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (14.16-24; 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke/the Forefathers)

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THE LORD SPOKE THIS PARABLE: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and

reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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## HOLY OBLATIONS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

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- By Elias Doug Fadel, for the health of his family, Roger, Raja, Marie, Jack and Sarah, and in memory of Helen Janice, Elizabeth, Robert, Anourine, Rosa, Michael, and all the departed of the Fadel, Mokhiber, Jacobs and Najour families.
- By Patrick and Diane Koers, for health of George Nimri, David Mouck and David George, and in memory of Iyad Bannourah, Ragheda Rabie and Karl Means.

*A sign-up sheet for baking and offering the prosphora (altar bread) is posted on the bulletin board, next to the elevator. You can also contact Thelma Hoover at (317) 782-1633.*

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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Immediately following the Liturgy—*before refreshments are served*—our children will put on a new, original Christmas program, written by our own church school teachers.

You may grab a quick cup of coffee, then please take a seat in front of the stage as quickly as possible. We will begin as soon as the clergy arrive.



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER LITURGY

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- Coffee hour is hosted today by Ed and Samar Srouf.
- Church school snack is hosted today by Samer and Norma Nahas.

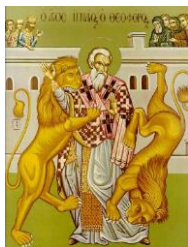
*Sign-up sheets for **2018** coffee hour as well as for the Church School snack are posted on the bulletin board next to the elevator. (Something simple is all that's expected, though you may do more, if you want, for a special occasion.)*

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING TODAY

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After the children's program and fellowship time, our choir and Teen SOYO invite everyone to join in Christmas Caroling. We will be visiting some of our older parishioners who are homebound or in nursing homes. It's only a couple of hours, but it means so much to our shut-ins.

*Please let Fr. Nabil know confidentially of any parishioners who could use assistance this holiday.*



## THIS WEDNESDAY: FEAST OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

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We commemorate St. Ignatius the "God-bearer," the second bishop of Antioch on December 20. Please try to join us for **Divine Liturgy at 10 am Wednesday**.

## ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE CAMP

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Camp is one of the most important aspects of our youth ministry. The programs at the Antiochian Village Camp fill up fast, and we don't want anyone left out. **For Summer Camp our parish will be going to Session II, July 1-13, 2018.**

- Winter Family Camp registration is now open
- Winter Camp registration is now open
- **Summer Camp registration is now open at [www.avcamp.org](http://www.avcamp.org)**
- September Family Camp registration opens the week of January 8-12

*We will share more details next week about how our parish is restructuring our camp scholarship program, but please register your kids right away, as spaces fill up fast!*



# Christmas Schedule:

## Friday, December 22

10:00 a.m.     **Royal Hours of Christmas**

## Saturday, December 23

5:00 p.m.     Great Vespers and Confessions

## Sunday, December 24

8:50 a.m.     Matins

10:00 a.m.     **Divine Liturgy** (Sunday *before* Christmas)

7:30 p.m.     Chrismations

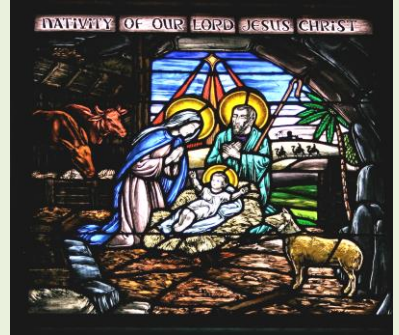
8:30 p.m.     **Christmas Matins**

**10:00 p.m.     CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGY**

*In celebration of the Feast and as a token of our love and appreciation of you, Fr. Nabil and Khouriyah Elaine will host dinner in the church hall immediately following Liturgy, assisted by our parish council.*

## Monday, December 25

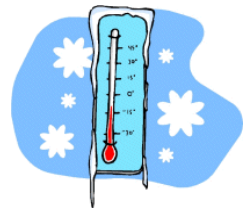
NO Services



## IN CASE OF SNOW

When it's cold or wet/snowy, kindly enter via the glass lobby doors instead of the big church doors (so we don't let in a big blast of cold air or track in water).

*Note: since we have the nice covered drop-off (porte cochère), we will NOT shovel or salt the plaza in front of the big doors.*





## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS EARMARKED FOR SOUND SYSTEM

So that we might join the wise men in offering gifts to the newborn King, please bring in or mail back the “Christmas Gift to My Church” card that was mailed *by Thursday,*

**December 21.** Extra copies are available at the candle stand, or make your offering online at [tinyurl.com/ChristmasGiftChurch](http://tinyurl.com/ChristmasGiftChurch)

Include the names of the living and departed whom you wish to have commemorated at the preparation of the Holy Gifts. We will also print the names of those offering and those being remembered in the bulletin for the Christmas Liturgy.

**Our Christmas offerings—*separate from our tithes*—are dedicated this year to upgrading our church sound system, which we need badly.** We are aware of the frustrations that many have expressed with not being able to hear the service, especially sermons and announcements.

We conducted a professional sound study and computer-modeled the church building for acoustics. We have identified a solution and actually tested it in our own building. We know you will notice a huge improvement. *I am also pleased to tell you that we already have pledged nearly \$20k of the \$42k needed to replace our speakers and microphones!* Your generous gift will allow us to install the new sound system early next year.



candle stand, or return it by mail. You will find extra pledge cards in the narthex, or you can enter your pledge as a recurring donation online yourself at [www.stgindy.org/donate](http://www.stgindy.org/donate)



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### Special Christmas Gift to My Church

*With the angels, shepherds and Magi, we come to the manger in awe to worship and offer our gifts to the newborn King. O pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!*

Your Christmas Gift will help build up the St. George Development Fund, which is set aside solely for our building completion and future growth.

We will remember all those whom you list below at the *proskomedie* of the Christmas Liturgy and print in the bulletin. You do not need to copy names on the “Given by” line to the “For the health of” line, we will remember you automatically.

**Given by**

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**For the health of** \_\_\_\_\_

**In memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the back of this card for additional space. Please return to church office at least three days before Christmas.



## STEWARDSHIP

Thanks and blessings on all who stepped up last week and made their stewardship commitments for 2018. This is the pledge we make to continue the operational support of our new church for the coming year and is separate from the building fund pledge.

If you haven’t done so yet, please place your pledge card in the offering box at the

## CHRISTMAS CHARITY OPPORTUNITIES

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### Coat drive and toiletries

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In conjunction with Holy Trinity, we are collecting **new and gently used coats and gloves and new hats and scarves** for the Embrace program at Eskenazi Hospital to help the Pink Ribbon Connection. Some of the breast cancer patients don't even have coats to go to the hospital for their treatments.



**Items can be for either women or men.** The items collected for men will be forwarded to Wheeler Mission. We will also collect **toiletries such as soap, shower gel, lotion, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste** for them as well.

### Canned and Non-perishable Food for Our Food Pantry

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From now until Christmas, as part of our parish participation in the Archdiocese-wide World Food Day program, we ask you to bring in canned goods and other non-perishable items. You can place them on the table in the main Lobby.

Please check the expiration date on the items you purchase and try to bring items whose expiration date is in late 2018 or after. PLEASE DO NOT BRING EXPIRED ITEMS.

In order to keep the food pantry manageable, please bring only the following items:

- December 17 Spaghetti & other pastas, dry or canned; spaghetti sauce
- December 24 Small boxes of cold cereal, oatmeal, non-fat dried milk
- December 31 Any of the above and we can use canned vegetables, esp. canned beans, tomatoes and tomato sauce.



We report the total poundage received to the Archdiocese, but we keep the items for our own food pantry to help those in need (including parishioners), and if we have excess, will donate to other local food pantries.

### BOOK DRIVE!

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We are hosting a new & gently used children's book drive for **Brightwood Community Center**, located in our old church neighborhood. *Brightwood* services kids, ages 5-14, in after-school programming, tutoring, summer camps, & more.



Drop off your donations at St. George Church (look for our donation boxes), or contact Gabriella Nahas via email: [missgan05@gmail.com](mailto:missgan05@gmail.com); Liza Nahas: [lizanahas@yahoo.com](mailto:lizanahas@yahoo.com), 317-797-2966. Donations accepted now thru 1/14.



## CHARITY TIC TAC TOE

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To help families remember our Christmas charity programs, those who wish to participate (completely voluntarily & just for fun) would get a game board (at the candle stand) and try to get "tic tac toe" or three in a row. Once they've achieved their tic tac toe, they may bring their completed game board to church and we would post it to a Holiday Giving Board.

### FROM TODAY'S SYNAXARION

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On December 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Mishael; Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonderworker; and the New Martyrs Paisios the hieromonk and his disciple Habakkuk the deacon of Belgrade. On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus.

We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally, the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son.



Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

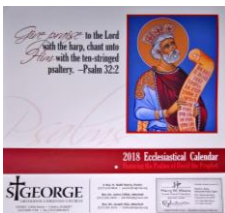
*By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

### 2018 CHURCH CALENDARS

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New church calendars are available in the Narthex.

*One per household, please. You may take additional copies after every family has had a chance to get one.*



## “THE GOLD SLIPPERS” (A CHRISTMAS STORY)

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It was only four days before Christmas. The spirit of the season hadn't yet caught up with me, even though cars packed the parking lot of our local discount store. Inside the store, it was worse. Shopping carts and last-minute shoppers jammed the aisles. Why did I come today? I wondered. My feet ached almost as much as my head. My list contained names of several people who claimed they wanted nothing, but I knew their feelings would be hurt if I didn't buy them anything. Buying for someone who had everything and deploring the high cost of items, I considered gift-buying anything but fun. Hurriedly, I filled my shopping cart with last minute items and proceeded to the long checkout lines. I picked the shortest, but it looked as if it would mean at least a 20-minute wait.

In front of me were two small children - a boy of about 5 and a younger girl. The boy wore a ragged coat. Enormously large, tattered tennis shoes jutted far out in front of his much too short jeans. He clutched several crumpled dollar bills in his grimy hands. The girl's clothing resembled her brother's. Her head was a matted mass of curly hair. Reminders of an evening meal showed on her small face. She carried a beautiful pair of shiny, gold house slippers. As the Christmas music sounded in the store's stereo system, the girl hummed along, off-key but happily.

When we finally approached the checkout register, the girl carefully placed the shoes on the counter. She treated them as though

they were a treasure. The clerk rang up the bill. "That will be \$6.09," she said. The boy laid his crumpled dollars atop the stand while he searched his pockets. He finally came up with \$3.12. "I guess we will have to put them back," he bravely said. "We will come back some other time, maybe tomorrow." With that statement, a soft sob broke from the little girl. "But Jesus would have loved these shoes," she cried. "Well, we'll go home and work some more. Don't cry. We'll come back," he said. Quickly I handed \$3.00 to the cashier. These children had waited in line for a long time. And, after all, it was Christmas. Suddenly a pair of arms came around me, and a small voice said, "Thank you lady." I asked, "What did



you mean when you said Jesus would like the shoes?" The boy answered, "Our mommy is sick and going to heaven. Daddy said she might go before Christmas to be with Jesus." The girl spoke, "My Sunday school teacher said the streets in heaven are shiny gold, just like these shoes. Won't mommy be beautiful walking on those streets to match these shoes?" My eyes flooded, as I looked into her tear-streaked face. "Yes," I answered, "I am sure she will."

Silently I thanked God for using these children to remind me of the true spirit of giving. "'Tis the Season!!

Merry Christmas!

*Anonymous*



**Your gifts of love were delivered yesterday** to the eleven local, needy families we adopted for Christmas this year. Your gifts of love were sorted, grouped by family, and stacked (like the stack above) on tables all around the hall.

The folks pictured above delivered your gifts (included four bicycles) to appreciative families (such as the one at right). It was a moving experience for all.



### WORDS OF WISDOM

Be mindful, O Lord, of those who bear fruit and do good works in Thy holy churches and who remember the poor; requite them with Thy rich and heavenly gifts; give them things heavenly for things earthly, things eternal for things temporal, things incorruptible for things corruptible.

*From the Anaphora of St. Basil the Great*

Prayers that are offered up to God remain behind closed doors if they do not contain love, for only love can open the doors for prayer. *St. Ephraim the Syrian*

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

*Please include in your daily prayers the following — those struggling with acute illness and those newly departed this life—from our parishioners and those for whom they have requested our prayers. (Names are kept for 40 days, the date indicated after the name, and may be renewed upon request of the patient/family.)*

### LIVING

**Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John**  
**Fr. Andrew and the community of St. Matthew,**  
 church burned in Ohio

**Amal Khazal,** 1/25

**George Corey,** 1/16

**Nicholas Rick Gann,** 1/16

**George Nimri,** St. Vincent Hosp., 1/14

**Anthony Khal,** 1/14

**Elias Al Tawil,** St. Vincent Hosp., 1/7

**Robert Abraham,** IU North Hosp., 1/6

**David Mouck,** our construction project manager,  
 in ICU, 1/15

**Cade Freije,** cousin of George Freije and Elaine  
 Eckhart, 1/3

**Donna Byers,** friend of Kathleen Everhart, 1/1

**James Pendleton,** 12/23

**Anne-Marie McCormick,** friend of the Kiritsis  
 family, 12/22

**Alisa Barnes,** friend of Christy Roberts, 12/17

**Those in danger from wildfires** in California

**All those suffering from illness, violence or**  
**want** in Egypt, Texas and everywhere

### DEPARTED

**Iyad Bannourah,** brother of Ryiad, Imad and  
 Nihad, 1/15

**Ragheda Rabie,** former parishioner, 1/14

**Zakiya Sharaya,** mother of Hani and Rami, 1/13

**Georgey Butenko,** husband of Domnikya  
 Butenko in Ukraine, 1/10

**Karl Means,** 12/27

**Elizabeth Schubmehl,** cousin of Doug Fadel,  
 12/25

**All victims of violence** Egypt, Texas and  
 everywhere

## ST. GEORGE PARISH CALENDAR

### December 2017

<b>Sun. 17</b>	<b>Matins,</b> 8:50 am <b>Church School</b> Christmas pageant practice, 9 am <b>Choir</b> practice, 9 am <b>Divine Liturgy,</b> 10 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Church School</b></li> <li>• <b>Christmas Pageant</b></li> </ul> <b>Caroling</b> to Shut-ins, 1 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teen SOYO</b> fellowship follows</li> </ul>
<b>Tue. 19</b>	<b>Parish Council,</b> 7 pm
<b>Wed. 20</b>	<b><i>Feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch</i></b> <b>Divine Liturgy,</b> 10 am <b>Vespers,</b> 6:30 pm
<b>Thu. 21</b>	<b>Choir</b> practice, 7 pm
<b>Fri. 22</b>	<b>Royal Hours</b> of Christmas, 10 am
<b>Sat. 23</b>	<b>Great Vespers</b> and confession, 5 pm
<b>Sun. 24</b>	<b><i>Christmas Eve</i></b> <b>Matins,</b> 8:50 am <b>Choir</b> practice, 9 am <b>Divine Liturgy,</b> 10 am <b>Christmas Matins,</b> 8:30 pm <b>Choir</b> practice, 9 pm <b>CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGY, 10 PM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Christmas Dinner/Reception</b></li> </ul>
<b>Wed. 27</b>	<b>Vespers,</b> 6:30 pm
<b>Sat. 30</b>	<b>Great Vespers</b> and confession, 5 pm
<b>Sun. 31</b>	<b>Matins,</b> 8:50 am <b>Choir</b> practice, 9 am <b>Divine Liturgy,</b> 10 am

See the full calendar and the latest additions and updates at [www.stgindy.org/calendar](http://www.stgindy.org/calendar)