1926 ✝ 2026

29th Annual

ST GEORGE

MIDDLE EASTERN FESTIVAL



FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Sept. 18 | 5 - 10pm	Sept. 19 | Noon - 10pm	Sept. 20 | Noon - 4pm

St George Orthodox Church 10748 E. 116th St. | Fishers, Indiana

ADMISSION PRICES
$5 adults | $2 children under 13

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Dear Friends:

On behalf of the faithful of St George, welcome to the 29th Annual St George Middle Eastern Festival! We are grateful for your visit during our Centennial year of St. George Orthodox Church.

We are delighted to host our annual festival as we love to share our faith, our roots, our culture, and heritage with our community. We are so blessed to have you visiting our community this weekend. To make your experience enhanced year we have our festival app for you to download.

We are thrilled to share with you our love of Middle Eastern music throughout the festival. This year we are bringing in Emad Batayeh from Detroit, and DJ JBeats also from Detroit to entertain our guests. Throughout the weekend the various dance troupes of St George dancers will be performing. Get ready to join them in learning the Dabke as they invite you to the dance floor.

In keeping with tradition, we once again are serving the ever-popular gyros, lamb shanks, grape leaves, kafta, kibbee, chicken shawarma, falafel, rice bowls and more. Our pastry shop located in the fellowship hall has a wide variety of Middle Eastern sweets including the well-known favorite - Baklawa as well as Kanafeh and much more. Other treats include honey balls, Arabic coffee, as well as Beer and Wine bars (one outside and the other inside).

The festival will also include our bookstore which has our newly released book, ***Step into the Light***, which chronicles the story of the iconography of St George Orthodox Church at a special festival price of $60. There are a number of vendors, tours of our magnificent church with the beautiful iconography, the children's game area, and you will enjoy our Silent Auction and Marketplace "the Emporium" with its different purchasing options.

Our parishioners have one thing in common - an overwhelming enthusiasm to welcome you and offer our St George hospitality, an eagerness perhaps matched by you, our festival patrons! Thank you for spending time with us.

We invite people of all ages to enjoy the many aspects of our festival. Everyone here at St. George has been working tirelessly to present the St George Middle Eastern Festival for you. We are enormously proud of our executive committee, and grateful to our volunteers, cooks, sponsors, and supporters who have made this festival not only possible but safe, engaging, and entertaining.

We welcome you all, and please have fun and enjoy yourselves!



With gratitude,
Fr Anthony G. Yazge
Pastor



Riyad Bannourah
Festival Chariman

V. Rev. Fr. Anthony G. Yazge · 724-953-7238 · pastor@stgindy.org
10748 E. 116th Street, Fishers, IN 46037-9714 · 317-845-7755 · www.stgindy.org · Founded 1926



Dr. William Kaleel Nasser (1933-2005) and **Dr. Jean Pharon Mercho** (1934-2021) were both Christian Syrian-American immigrants who founded their respective cardiovascular programs. Dr. Nasser was a cardiologist and master clinician who trained countless cardiologists, physicians, students, nurses and technicians establishing a world class statewide cardiology referral network in Indiana. Dr. Mercho was a cardiothoracic surgeon who performed the first open-heart bypass surgery at Community Hospital in Indianapolis in 1972 and later established cardiovascular surgery programs at Union and Regional Hospitals in Terre Haute, Indiana. Both fulfilled multiple epic accomplishments prior to their departure from this life touching innumerable lives directly and indirectly. The symbiotic relationship between Dr. Mercho and Dr. Nasser went well beyond their professions as a heart surgeon and cardiologist working cohesively to provide quality cardiovascular care for patients throughout the Midwest. With the unwavering support of their wives, families and partners, these programs have continued to flourish.

Dr. Nasser's legacy continues today at Ascension St. Vincent Health in Indiana and was honored with the dedication of the William K. Nasser MD Healthcare Education and Simulation Center in 2018 on the campus of Ascension St. Vincent Hospital 86th Street in Indianapolis where the next generation of medical professionals are educated to provide the highest standards of healthcare for patients. Dr. Nasser had a unique quality of unrelenting positive mental attitude to overcome adversity. The stated secret to his success was to "treat everyone as he wanted to be treated." Dr. William K. Nasser is the proud son of Christian Syrian-American immigrant parents who arrived in Terre Haute, Indiana in the early 1900's to live the American dream. His parent's humble beginnings started in Ein-el-Shara, Syria (1 hour southwest of Damascus), a mountain village near the Lebanese border. On their journey to America, they traversed the rugged terrain of the Jebel Sheikh (Mount Hermon) mountain range and traveled to the Port of Beirut and boarded a steam ship while overcoming incredible odds with little money and not speaking any English.

Dr. Mercho was born in Hassaki, Syria (northeast border of Syria and Turkey). He immigrated to the United States in 1961 after completing medical school in Beirut, Lebanon. Later, he completed his surgical training at the University of Pittsburgh and Indiana University Medical Center to revolutionize cardiovascular surgery in Indianapolis and Terre Haute. Dr. Mercho was most well known for inspiring and sponsoring many Middle Eastern Christians to live the American dream. He welcomed them into his home and frequently covered their financial expenses without ever expecting payment. These humble acts of kindness changed the course of these new immigrants in a positive way introducing them to assimilate into American society while advancing their education, professional vocations and spiritual life. The Syrians mentored by Dr. Mercho continue to thrive today and are indebted to the Mercho family, forever.

Along with their families, the St. George Middle Eastern Festival and St. George Orthodox Church celebrates Dr. William K. Nasser and Dr. Jean P. Mercho as true servant leaders.

May their memory be eternal on behalf of the entire Nasser/Mercho Families and Providence Medical Group + 2723 S. 7th St. Ste A + Terre Haute, IN 47802 + Office 812-232-8164. www.provmed.com

About St. George Church

Founded 100 years ago by Christian families from the Middle East who settled in Central Indiana in the early 1900s, St. George Orthodox Church has been an active participant in the local community since its first home was erected at 28th and Sherman Drive in 1926. As our parish has grown and now includes members of diverse backgrounds, we relocated to the present location, in Fishers, in 2013.

Church History in a Nutshell

After Jesus' Resurrection, the Apostles, the eyewitnesses of the Risen Christ, went into all the world, preaching, teaching and baptizing (Matthew 28.19-20). They spread out from Jerusalem across the whole known world.

There was basically one Church, with several regional administrative centers, until the 'Great Schism' that happened in 13th century, when the Church of Rome separated. A subsequent division within the Church of Rome, known as the Protestant Reformation, took place in the 16th century and resulted in the many of denominations we know today.

Our bishop is a member of the Council of the same Antioch *"where they were first called Christians"* (Acts 11.26). There are about 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, with three million in North America.

Icons

Entering a traditional Orthodox church building, one is immediately struck by the presence of icons of Christ and the saints all around. This is 'theology in color,' and one perceives being *"surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses"* (Heb. 12.1).

Main Weekly Services

Sunday: **Matins & Divine Liturgy, 8:50 am**
Wednesday: **Evening Prayer & Adult Education, 6:30 pm**
Saturday: **Great Vespers, 5 pm**

Check out our full schedule at www.stgindy.org

We welcome you to join us!



Church Tours

As you enjoy the food and music, we also welcome you to come, see the inside of the church building and what's under that 'gold dome at the top of the hill.'

Guided tours will begin at the following times.

Friday:
6:00, 7:30, 8:30 pm Tours

Saturday:
2:00, 3:30 pm Tours

5:00 pm Vespers (evening prayer)

6:30, 8:00 pm Tours

Sunday:
2:00, 3:30 pm Tours

You're also welcome to come in and just take a look any time during the Festival. We have several church members on hand to answer your questions.

Please enter via the glass lobby doors, where you will also find a selection of religious books and articles.

Westfield Dairy Queen welcomes patrons of the St. George Festival!

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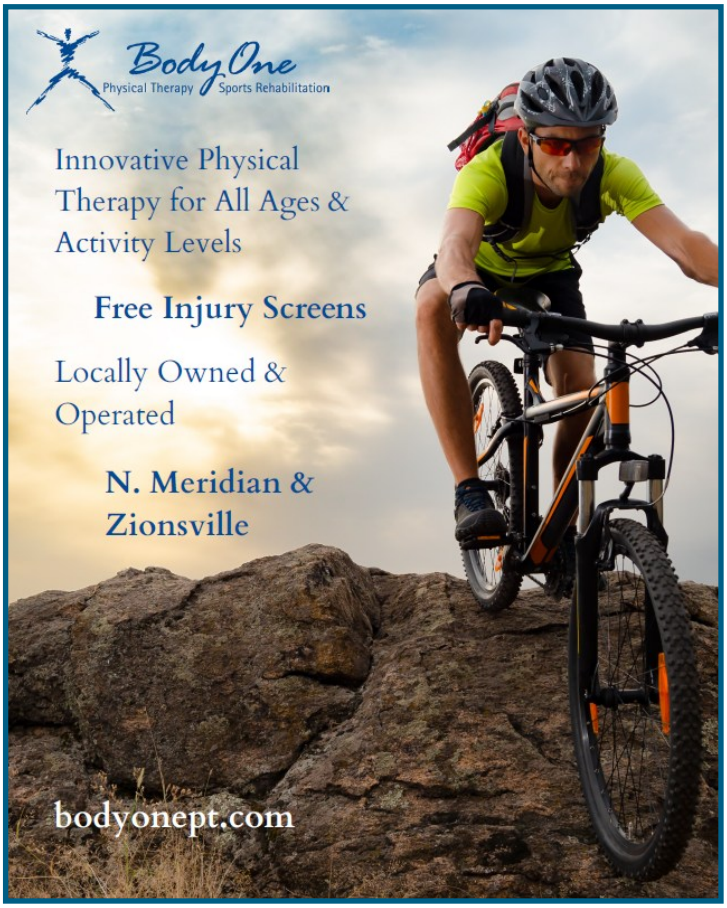
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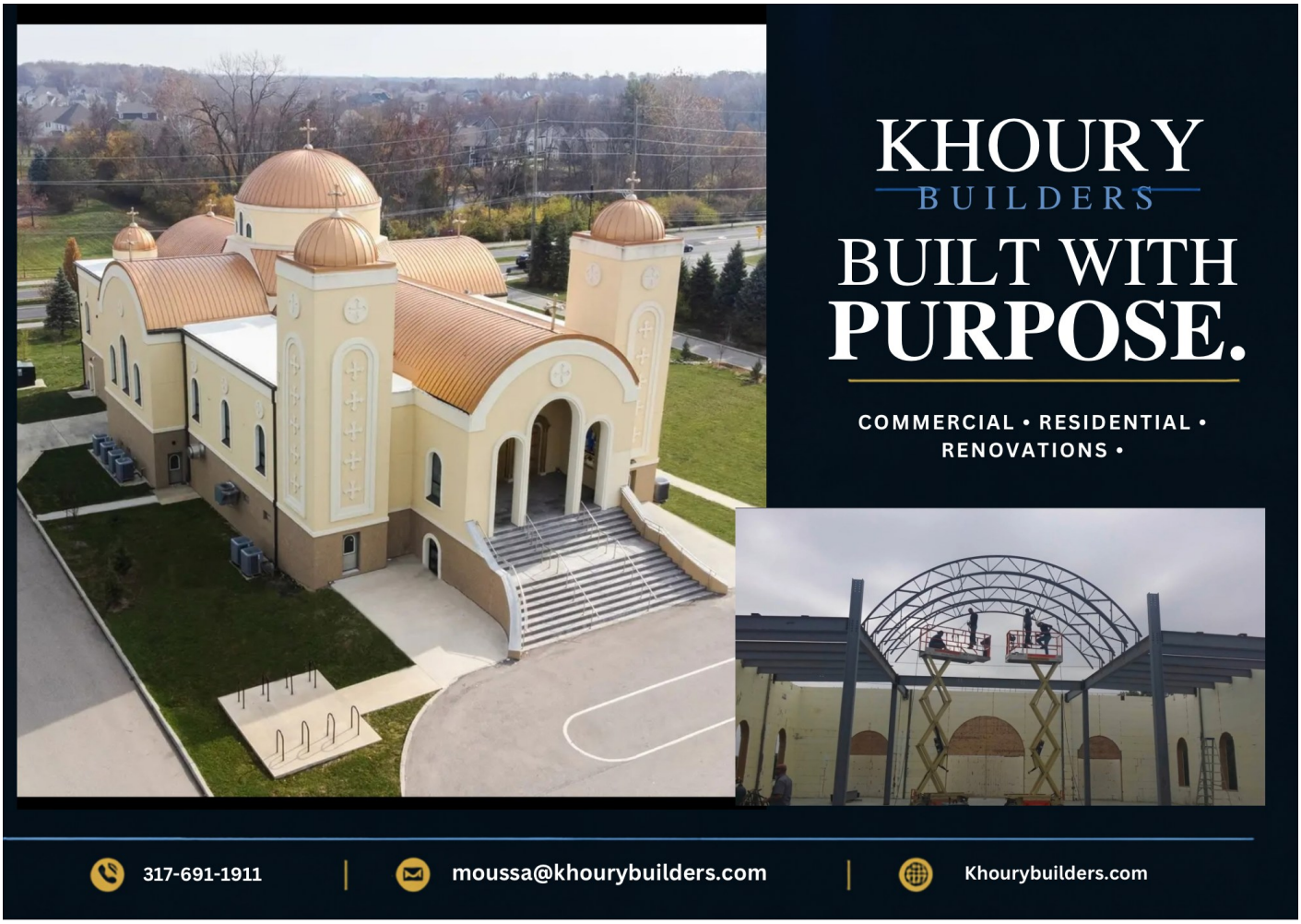
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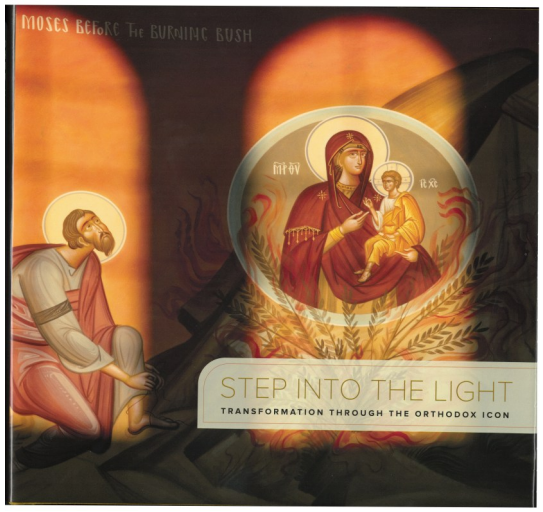
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St. George Bookstore



Offering Orthodox books, Bibles, icons, jewelry, greeting cards, prayer ropes and bracelets, tapestries, night lights, gifts and a large selection of children's items!



Newly published book that chronicles the iconography of St George Orthodox Church. Available in the bookstore.

Special Festival Sale

September 18-20 only

$60

(*full retail price $90*)

		Church Tours	St George Dancers	St. George Dancers
Friday	5:00 PM	Welcome to the St George Middle Eastern Festival		
	6:00 PM	In Church		
	6:30 PM			Outside
	7:15 PM		Inside	
	7:30 PM	In Church		
	8:00 PM			Outside
	8:30 PM	In Church		
	9:00 PM			
	10:00 PM	Good Night & Drive Safely		
Saturday	Noon	Welcome to the St George Middle Eastern Festival		
	2:00 PM	In Church		
	3:30 PM	In Church		
	4:00 PM			Outside
	4:30 PM			
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers In Church		
	6:00 PM			Outside
	6:30 PM	In Church		
	7:15 PM		Inside	
	8:00 PM	In Church		Outside
	9:00 PM			
	10:00 PM	Good Night & Drive Safely		
Sunday	Noon	Welcome to the St George Middle Eastern Festival		
	2:00 PM	In Church		Outside
	2:30 PM		Inside	
	3:30 PM	In Church		
	4:00 PM	Thank You & Drive Safely		



ST GEORGE EVENTS

New Festival App

Download the St. George Events app for Android:

Download the St. George Events app for Apple:

Thank you to Hoosier Road Elementary School and Hamilton Southeastern School District for generously making their property available for parking.

All tips collected will be donated for charitable work in the local community.

Festival Menu

GF **Gluten Free** when not served with pita bread

V **Vegan**

Mezza Booth

$10 EACH or PICK 3 FOR $27

GF **GRAPE LEAVES**

Grape leaves stuffed with beef and rice, simmered to perfection and served with yogurt

SPANIKOPITA

Savory pies made of flaky phyllo dough, stuffed with feta cheese and spinach

TIROPITA

Savory pies made of flaky phyllo dough, stuffed with three varieties of cheese

KIBBIE

Finely ground lean beef combined with cracked wheat and onions, baked in layers with a pine nut mixture filling

Also available in the Mezza Booth

GF V **RICE & GREEN BEANS $5**

Green beans stewed in a perfectly seasoned tomato sauce, served atop rice pilaf

Gyros Booth

GYRO PITA $12

Tender slices of a lamb and beef mixture, grilled rotisserie-style and served on pita bread with tomatoes, onions, and a creamy yogurt-based Tzatziki sauce.

GYRO FRIES $13

Gyro meat on a bed of St George Fries with tomatoes, onions, and a creamy yogurt-based Tzatziki sauce.

Gyros Fries available in Gyros & Grills booths.

The Grills Booth

MEAT LOVERS SAMPLER $23

Can't decide which meat you want to try? Try them all! A sampler plate of gyro meat, kafta, and chicken shawarma, served with garlic and yogurt sauces and pita bread

KAFTA PITA $12

A flavorful combination featuring ground beef, onions, and parsley, grilled and served on pita bread with tomatoes and tahini sauce

CHICKEN SHAWARMA $12

Tender chicken breast marinated in a special blend of herbs and spices, grilled and served on pita bread with pickles and homemade garlic sauce

SALAD WITH CHOICE OF PROTEIN $10

Chopped lettuce, tomatoes, and cucumbers, seasoned with a light Mediterranean vinaigrette, with choice of Chicken, Falafel, Gyros or Kafta

KIDS KAFTA SLIDER MEAL $7

Kafta patty on a bun, served with St. George Fries

RICE BOWL $12

A bowl filled with a rice pilaf base topped with your choice of Chicken, Falafel, Gyros or Kafta on top with the trimmings and Tzatziki sauce

Falafel Booth

V **FALAFEL PITA $11**

Ground chickpeas and fava beans, deep fried to a golden crisp and served on pita bread with tomatoes and tahini sauce

Lamb Shanks Booth

GF **LAMB SHANKS $15**

A whole shank marinated with our special seasonings and slow roasted, served with pita bread and pickled turnips

Honey Balls Booth

Honey Balls $6

Pastry dough formed into balls, deep fried and coated with a sweet syrup

Available at All Booths

St. George Fries $5

French fries seasoned with the St. George special seasoning and a hint of olive oil

GF V **Side Salad $5**

Chopped lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, olives and pepperoncini seasoned with a light Mediterranean vinaigrette

GF V **Watermelon $5**

Freshly cut watermelon

GF V **Hummus $5**

Chickpeas and tahini blended with lemon and garlic to create a creamy and healthy dip, served with pita bread

Mediterranean Cheese Plate $10

A mix of biblical-era cheeses and olives, drizzled with olive oil and herbs, served with pita bread

Soft Drinks $3

Coca Cola, Diet Coke & Sprite - 20 oz. bottles

Bottled Water $2

16.9 oz bottles

St George Special Middle Eastern Savory Breads

$4 each or 3 for $10

Fatayer (Cheese Bread)

Manousheh (Za'atar Bread)

Mohamara (Pepper Bread)

Beer & Wine Booth

You must be at least 21 years old to enter designated Beer & Wine Booth area. No children. No exceptions.

Beer $7

White Wine $8

Red Wine $8

Red Wine $30 by the bottle

White Wine $30 by the bottle

We accept cash, Festival coupons and credit cards at all food booths and the Bakery

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Vendors may have their own payment policies.

Bakery Menu

Walnut Baklawa $2
Layers of flaky filo dough filled with walnuts topped with syrup

Pistachio Baklawa $3
Layers of flaky filo dough filled with walnuts topped with syrup

Cashew Bird's Nest $3
Flaky filo dough rolled into a bird's nest filled with cashews topped with syrup

Pistachio Bird's Nest $3
Flaky filo dough rolled into a bird's nest filled with pistachios topped with syrup

Fingers $1
Flaky filo dough rolled around ground cashews topped with syrup

Mini Rose $1
Mini bites of filo dough filled with cashews topped with syrup

Namoura $3
Mini cake of farina and a hint of coconut topped with syrup

Makaroon $2
Deep fried anise dough dipped in syrup

Coconut Cookies $2
Soft biscuits covered with coconut

Kanafeh $6
Shredded wheat filled with a wonderful blend of cheeses topped with syrup

Malban Sweet Candies $1
Fruit jelly made with fruit molasses flavored with rose water stuffed with pistachio (Fine or Course)

Burma $3
Shredded filo dough wrapped around cashews and fried to a golden brown

Ghoribeh $1
"S" shaped butter cookies

Mamoul $3
A light buttery outer cookie filled with walnuts, pistachios or dates

Katayef $3
Pancakes stuffed with walnuts baked then dipped in syrup

Kaak $12 per package
Donut shaped anise cookies

Candy Kabobs $3
A skewer filled with assorted candy

Rice Krispy Treats $3
Rice Krispy treats dipped in chocolate sprinkles

Bakery Samplers

Baklawa Sampler $25	St George Sampler $25	Mixed Pastries 1/2 Tray $35
A collection of favorite types of Baklawa	Try our favorites here at St George including Namoura, Ghoribeh, Fingers, Makaroon, Pistachio Baklawa, Walnut Baklawa, and Burma	A variety of Baklawa, Bassma, Fingers, Ballourie, Bird's Nest, Mini Roses and Burma, all in a gift box



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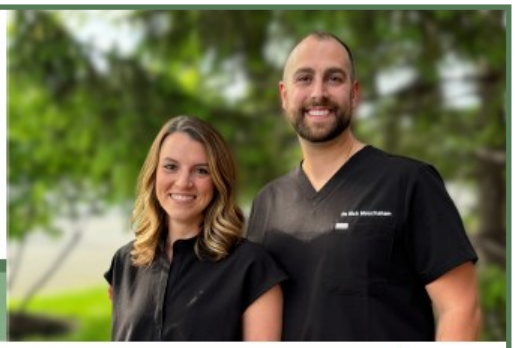
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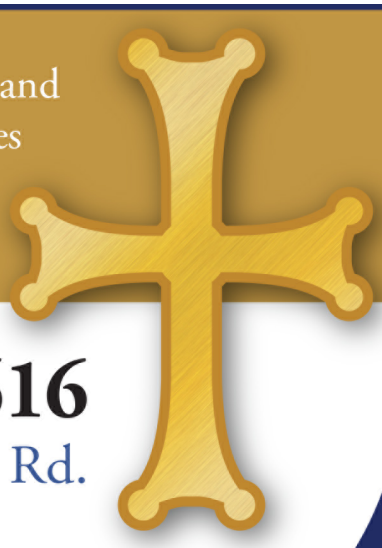
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Jam Concessions (Games)

Sam Shine LLC (Gift Shop)

Business Tent

Absolute Restoration

Erie Insurance

M&M Pediatric Dentistry

Mouchaham Dentistry

CARL GEORGE
ADVISORY

Silent Auction & Emporium

Anonymous
Advance Medical Aesthetician (Susan Barnes)
Allied Center for Performing Arts-Payne and Mencias Palladium
Anna Afshar Art
Auction Shake Up
Beyond Monumental
Carmel Marathon
Carmel Symphony Orchestra
Chef Yousef
Cooper Hawk Winery & Restaurant
Countryside Interiors
DeBrand Fine Chocolates of Indianapolis
Feinstein's at Hotel Carmichael
Fire & Flow Yoga, Carmel
Fishers Feight
Fishers School of Rock
Flix Brewhouse
Hotel Carmichael
Dr. Emily Hrisomalos
Indianapolis Fuel
Indy Eleven
Indy Card Exchange
Khamis Jewelers
Kit & Kaboodle
KP Photography Indy
LuxGive
Marriott North Indianapolis
MacNamara Florist
Monterrey Cuisine
Nasser Family Foundation
Tom Nasser
Oberer's Flowers
Olive Mill
Paradise Rental Boats-Fourwinds Lakeside & Marina
Peace Water Winery
PRP Wine
Pure Barre
Rascal's Fun Zone
Total Wine & More
Ashley Ulbricht
Tammy Ulbricht
Tiburon Coastal Cuisine
Tyler Mason Salon
Wilstem Wildlife Park
and much more



Online Bidding

This year all bidding will be done online at:

Friends of the
St George Middle Eastern Festival

Anonymous

Thomas Assalley

Steve & Susie Baranyk

Brent & Elaine Eckhart

First Internet Bank

Ken & Jody George

Duke & Cindy Haddad

Hamilton Southeastern Schools

Sotiris Hji-Avgoustis & Eugenia Molleston

International Center

Samir Kanazeh

Khamis Fine Jewelers - Mary Khamis-Rowe

Malola Family

Maple Creek Golf & Country Club
(J. Grossi & J. Lorenzano)

McLane Company

Marwan & Rona Mustaklem

Wanda Nasser & Family

Providence Medical Group

Fadi & Lama Saloum

Mark Shublak

Edward & Samar Srour

Ashley Ulbricht

Fr. Anthony Yazge



ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH
FISHERS, INDIANA

St. George Celebrates 100 Years

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church is about to celebrate the Centennial anniversary on October 10, 2026. When you enter the church on 116th Street in Fishers, you are enveloped with sixth century frescos of saints and biblical scenes with Christ and the Virgin Mary from the dome arching down to every inch of the walls. It is like stepping into heaven.

The Middle Eastern Christian immigrants that came in the late 1890's and early 1900's fleeing persecution and oppression in the Ottoman Empire from what is today Lebanon and Syria, settled and raised their families in the land of opportunity in central Indiana. While they assimilated to their new communities in many aspects, they wanted to hold on to their faith. Initially, this was done with visiting priests and services in the homes of the faithful. As the immigrant community began to grow, several members worked and saved to buy a small plot of land and construct a proper church building.

In 1926, St. George Orthodox Church at 2745 N. Sherman Drive, Indianapolis was erected and consecrated. This new church could hold about 100 people. Now they had a place for services, weddings, baptisms, and funerals—a place for everything from birth to heaven.

In the late 40's, the church services that had been conducted entirely in Arabic began to feature more English as the children of the immigrants and non-Arab converts needed to understand the prayers. In 1961 a stunning church was built under the leadership of the new priest, Fr. Joseph Shaheen, with 209 stained glass windows. Some of these windows are today in the hall as you enter the church building.

Food is always an important element in the hospitality of these Middle Easterners. In the early years of the church, the St. George Smorgasbords became well known throughout the city. In 1995 the parish converted the annual smorgasbord to the St. George Middle Eastern Festival. The Festival draws now nearly 7000 guests every year and features delicious ethnic foods, dancing for all, children's games, a bazaar, and a silent auction. Most importantly, the Festival has become a major avenue for enlightening the community of the Orthodox Christian faith and the heritage of the Middle East.

The current church building was completed in 2013. Fr. Nabil Hanna led the construction of this magnificent temple, designed in the style of 6th century Byzantine churches in the Middle East, including elements borrowed from the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. Inside, the walls and ceiling of the church are adorned with depictions of Christ, saints, and events from the Old and New Testaments. Once you step inside, you will be taken to another world.

St. George Orthodox Church, the church on the hill in Fishers, Indiana is celebrating 100 years. What began as a small community of immigrants from the Middle East has become a growing and vibrant parish of over 400 families who claim heritage from all corners of the world. Fr. Anthony Yazge and the parishioners of St. George welcome all to come and experience Orthodox Christianity in their heaven on earth.



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