



**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Sunday, January 17, 2021**

**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

Hebrews 13:17-21

Luke 17:12-19

**2021 Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes for 2021 are now available in the narthex for pickup. If you have already requested a box, you may pick it up while at church for a service, or you can contact the church office at [office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org) to coordinate a time to pick it up outside of services. If you do not have a box number assigned to you but would like a box of offering envelopes, please contact the church office.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Choir practice - Tuesday 1/19, 7pm  
 Contact [Matt Gordon](#) for Zoom link

**Philly OCF**

- Meeting – Monday 1/18, 8pm  
[Zoom link](#)  
 Mtg ID # 835 2215 9264  
 Password: Fellowship
- Bible study - Tuesday 1/26, 11am  
[Zoom link](#)  
 Mtg ID #880 5713 0161  
 Password: Scripture

- The following services will be held in the church and streamed on the [website](#):
  - **Tuesday 1/12** – Matins, 9am
  - **Tuesday 1/12** – Akathist, 7pm (email [Dn. Joseph](#))
  - **Thursday 1/14** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour, 9:30am
  - **Saturday 1/16** – Vespers, 5pm
  - **Sunday 1/17** – Orthros and Liturgy, 9:30am
- To attend one of the services listed above at the church, please sign up via Sign Up Genius ([January services](#)). When doing so, please keep in mind the following:
  - reserve the number of slots for family members attending (For example, if there are 3 household members attending, reserve 3 slots.)
  - those who are elderly, have pre-existing conditions, or currently are not feeling well are asked to remain home.
  - children who are too young to keep a mask on are asked to remain home.
- To set up a time to receive communion, please sign up via the [Sign Up Genius](#). Please reserve only one slot per household unit. Prior to arriving at the church for communion, please say the [Morning Prayers](#) and the [Prayers of Preparation before Communion](#).
- Confession is also being scheduled by appointment. To set up an appointment, please email the church office and provide a few dates/times you are available. The office will email you to confirm your appointment time.

**Troparion of St. George**

O liberator and deliverer of captives, helper of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender for kings, O great among Martyrs, the victory-clad George; intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

**If you attend a service, you must wear a mask/face covering out of care for ourselves, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our neighbors.**

### 2021 Home Blessings

Due to the current situation and at the urging of Bishop THOMAS (and barring the widespread availability of a vaccine by February), there will be a modified schedule for home blessings in 2021. You may have your home blessed prior to Lent, but it will be a blessing only (no meals, visiting, etc). You may also opt to wait and have your home blessed after Pascha. To sign up for a time to have your home blessed, please complete the form linked here:

<https://forms.gle/Duy8KewHKydZkYjU8>. Thank you for your understanding.



### Church History

*This week we continue a series on the Essentials of Faith. The hope is that we can all learn and be edified and come to a “knowledge of the Truth” (1 Tim. 2:4), and to witness to the things of faith that were “delivered to the saints” (Jud. 1:3) in the Church, which is the “pillar and ground of Truth”. (1 Tim. 3:15) May God bless the labor. These lessons are taken from Fr. Thomas Hopko’s series The Orthodox Faith.*

### The Spread of Orthodoxy in the Lower 48 States in America Conversion of the Uniates

In 1878, Saint Alexis Toth (1853–1909) was ordained as a priest of the Byzantine Rite of the Roman Catholic Church, in Slovakia. After serving for some time as Director of the Prešov Seminary, where he also taught Church History and Canon Law, he was sent in 1889 to Minneapolis, Minnesota, as a missionary priest to serve the Uniate immigrants there. However, when he reported to the local Latin-rite Roman Catholic Bishop John Ireland, upon his arrival in the city, he was rudely rejected. Two years later, he did what he said was “something which I had carried in my heart for a long time, for which my soul longed: that is, to become Orthodox.” In 1891 Bishop Vladimir (Sokolovsky; r.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

The 2020-21 Sunday School year curriculum focuses on the 12 Great Feasts of the church. Classes rotate through an activity each week, and everything is done remotely. The schedule for January is listed below. Parents whose children are registered will receive additional information for the upcoming week from the church office by Thursday each week.

**January Feast:** Theophany (1/6)

#### January 3

- Elementary school: Ask Abouna
- Middle school: At home resources
- High school: Class (via Zoom)

#### January 10

- Elementary school: At Home Resources
- Middle school: Class (via Zoom)
- High school: Ask Abouna

#### January 17

- Elementary school: Class (via Zoom)
- Middle school: Ask Abouna
- High school: At home resources

#### January 24

Family Ask Abouna

#### January 31

No Sunday School

1888–1891), head of the Russian mission-diocese, personally received Saint Alexis and his 361 parishioners into the Orthodox Church.

Soon thereafter, Saint Alexis was invited to serve the Uniate parish in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. After receiving the approximately 500 parishioners' unanimous decision to become Orthodox, he began his 16 years of ministry there, until his death in 1909. In these years, enduring strong opposition from both Eastern- and Latin-rite Roman Catholics, he guided some 29,000 Uniates in 17 parishes, mostly in Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut, into Orthodoxy.

In 1994 the mitred Archpriest Alexis was glorified as a saint, with the title “Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America,” in services held at Saint Tikhon’s Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania.



### The Serbs

Attracted by the California Gold Rush, Serbian immigrants began arriving in California in 1850. Some of them became involved in the Russian Orthodox parish in San Francisco established in the 1860s. This was where a Serbian-American child named Sebastian Dabovich (1863–1940) was baptized. In 1892 he became the first native-born American to be ordained as an Orthodox priest. Two years later he built Saint Sava Orthodox Church, the first Serbian Orthodox church in America, in the gold-mining town of Jackson, California. In May 2015, Sebastian was canonized by the Serbian Church and became the first American-born saint of the Orthodox Church.

The 1890s also saw the beginnings of the Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago; this would become the “Mother Church” for the Serbian immigrants in America. Also, the first Orthodox church to be established in Cleveland, Ohio, a city that would come to have many Orthodox churches, was Saint Theodosius Cathedral, founded in 1896 by the Serbian Orthodox.

### Wisdom of the Holy Fathers

What I see around me  
would drive me insane,  
if I did not know that  
no matter what  
happens, God will have  
the last word.  
+ St. Paisios

### The Syrians

In 1895 the community of Syrian Orthodox immigrants in New York City invited Father Raphael Hawaweeny (1860–1915), a Syrian by birth who had joined the Church of Russia and was then teaching at the missionary seminary/academy in Kazan, Russia, to come and be their priest. He accepted this offer after making it clear to these Syrians that for him to come, they would have to accept the authority of the Russian Administration in America, since he was a Russian clergyman. Thus began 20 years of fruitful ministry to the Syrian Orthodox scattered all across the United States and Mexico, including founding 30 parishes, until his death in 1915. In 1904 he was consecrated as the Bishop of Brooklyn in the first Orthodox episcopal consecration in the New World. He was glorified as a saint in 2000 by the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) and the Antiochian Archdiocese in America, at services also held at Saint Tikhon’s Monastery.

### The Greeks

As with the Syrians, Greeks began emigrating to America in large numbers after about 1890. Before then, in the 1860s, earlier Greek immigrants, along with some Russian, Serbian, and Syrian immigrants, had been active in establishing the Holy Trinity parish in New Orleans. Before the turn of the century Greek immigrants had established two churches in New York City, two in Chicago, and one in Lowell, Massachusetts.

These parishes were established without reference to the Russian Administration. Priests were sent to these parishes, upon the request of the immigrants, by either the Church of Greece or the Ecumenical Patriarchate, depending on which part of the Old Country the immigrants originally came from.