

# AL-NOUR

The Light of Christ

September 29, 2013

Issue 387



# النور

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248-374-0591

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THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX BASILICA OF ST. MARY

▪ 18100 Merriman Road ▪ Livonia, Michigan 48152 ▪ www.saintmarylivonia.com ▪ Office: (734)-422-0010 ▪

Sunday Services  
Confession: 8:30AM  
Matins: 9:00AM  
Divine Liturgy: 10:00AM

St. Mary's Cultural  
and Banquet Center  
(734) 421-9220

ودعي التلاميذ مسيحيين في انطاكية أولاً

“And the disciples were first called  
Christians in Antioch.” Acts 11:26

Daily Confession by Appointment - Call the Church Office

September 29, 2013



## 2013 Assembly Statement on Marriage and Sexuality From the Assembly of Bishops



To our Orthodox Faithful

1. We, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, representing millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States of America, Canada and Central America, express our deep concern over recent actions on the part of our respective governments and certain societal trends concerning the status of marriage in our countries, in particular the legalization of same-sex unions.

2. The Orthodox Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality, firmly grounded in Holy Scripture, two millennia of Church Tradition, and Canon Law, holds that the sacrament of marriage consists in the union of a man and a woman, and that authentic marriage reflects the sacred unity that exists between Christ and His Bride, the Church.

3. Persons with homosexual orientation are to be cared for with the same mercy and love that is bestowed on all of humanity by our Lord Jesus Christ. Moreover, the Church is a spiritual hospital, where we all are called to find the healing of our fallen humanity through Jesus Christ, who assumed human nature in order to restore it. All of us struggle with various passions, and it is only within the Church that we find the means of overcoming these passions with the assistance of God's grace. Acting upon any sexual attraction outside of sacramental marriage, whether the attraction is heterosexual or homosexual, alienates us from God.

4. We exhort the clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church to bear witness to the timeless teachings of Christ by striving for purity and holiness in their own lives, by instructing their families and communities in the precepts of the Holy Gospel, and by placing their trust in our Lord, who “has overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Continued on page 2

### The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary

Fr. George Shalhoub - Pastor  
Fr. Jim King - Director of Youth &  
Pastoral Outreach  
Programs  
Archdeacon Issa Rizkallah  
313-690-2030  
Deacon Dr. Dennis Bojrab  
Salem Samaan - Parish Council  
Chairman  
Linda Lawson - Choir Director  
Stacey Badeen - Church Administrator  
Arwa Ansara - Church School  
Administrator  
Richard Shebib/Sami Azzouz -  
Ushers  
Dr. Tom Saba - Young Adults-  
St. John Divine  
Georgine Hayes - Ladies Society  
President  
Nicole Khamis - Teen Soyo President  
Lina Nunu - Arabic School  
Keith Rowe - Cultural Center General  
Manager 734-421-9220

**THE EPISTLE**

*Thou, O Lord, wilt keep and preserve us.  
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.*

**The Reading is from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians  
Chapter 1:21-2:4**

**B**rethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; He has put his seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

**THE GOSPEL**

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke  
Chapter 6:31-36**

**T**he Lord said: “As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

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Continued from page 1

5. Finally, we encourage our faithful to approach their parish priest or spiritual father with any questions or concerns about this statement and its practical repercussions in their daily lives.

**PRAYER CORNER**

Lord, you are the physician of our souls and body. We pray You grant the following parishioners good health and blessings: baby Aydan Hujdurovic, Dr. Muaid Shihadeh, Najla, Rose Biedron, Waad Al-Khal, Andrew Ansara, Abdelnour Abdelnour, Adriana Mansour, Evelyn Naser, Nadim Haddad, Marie Ansara, Sonya,

**HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION**

Holy Bread of Oblation is offered by the families, for the month of September, in loving memory of:

- Leo Snage
- John S. Ajlouny
- Jalil Ghannam
- Shawky Mousa
- Jad Alex Harb

Holy Bread of Oblation is offered by the families, for the month of September, the health and well being of:

Chloe and Abbey Tyree

**Upcoming Events for St. Mary Parishioners**

- Oct. 13th-St. Mary's Grand Banquet
- Oct. 20th-Trunk-n-Treat

**Thank You**

The following parishioners and friends of the Basilica of St. Mary have given special donations to the Church in the past few weeks:

- \$100-**In loving memory of Dr. Evert Tan offered by the family,
- \$500-**For the health and well being of newly baptized Zachary Avery offered by parents Justin and Elaine Avery,
- \$500-**For the health and well being of newly baptized Jordan and Jayden Nesheiwat offered by parents Rumsey and Jacquelin Nesheiwat,

**Golf Outing**

St. Mary's 13th annual Golf Outing was held on Saturday, September 21st. We had close to 100 golfers. Many thanks to our golfers and our sponsors for participating in this event. A full day of fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Your Golf Outing Committee,

- Salem Samaan
- Bob Harb,
- Alex Harb,
- Bashar Ashkar
- Al Abdelnour
- Aziz Naser

**From the Heart**

Always remember that whatever betide you, you are never alone for God is beside you.

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

Psalm 46:1

**MEMORIALS**

قال يسوع: أنا القيامة والحياة من آمن بي يحيى الى الأبد.

I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:25)



فليكن ذكرهم مؤبدا

**"A Vigil Light is Burning" In Loving Devotion**



**For The Health and Well Being Of:** Major Timothy Lawson, Ken and Jen Biedron, Brett and Sarah, Gail Nagher,

**In Memory Of:** Joseph Michael Mouaikel; George Abodeely; Ken Biedron, Jack and Mary Nagher, Karem Abboud,

**OUR NEW ARRIVALS**

Congratulations and best wishes to Fadi and Chanel Ashkar on the birth of their baby boy, Jacob. Proud grandparents are Hikmat and Salam Ashkar and Anwar and Heyam Dughman.

May God bless parents, grandparents and child.

**Nativity Play News**

**October 5th:** Sign up to be in the Choir, Speaking Roles, Nonspeaking Roles and to Volunteer at 12:00pm in the Activity Center.

**October 6th:** Sign up to be in the Choir, Speaking Roles, Nonspeaking Roles, and to Volunteer in the Activity Center at 1:00pm.

# Department of Youth and Outreach

Week of September 29, 2013

## Upcoming Events



Every Saturday: Great Vespers (5:00-5:45)

Every Wednesday: Mother-Toddler Group (10:00am-12:00pm)

October 12: PB&J Teen Soyo Leave Church at 7:00am

October 27: Trunk N Treat 5:30pm

November 8-10: YES Trip Detroit

If you have any questions regarding any of these events, please call Fr. Jim King at the Department of Youth and Outreach office. The life of the Basilica depends on you. Get involved today!

### TRUNK-N-TREAT

OCT 20TH

PLEASE COME JOIN US AT CHURCH

5:30- SET UP YOUR TRUNK

6:00- FREE CIDER AND DONUTS

7:00 TRUNK AND TREAT

HAYRIDES AND S'MORES

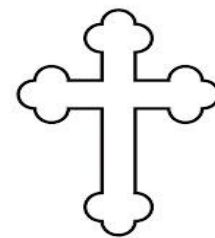
\$10.00 PER-FAMILY

\$1.00 HAYRIDES



### Church school !!

Church school is going Great!! We would like to thank the teachers for giving their time to teach our kids. And for the parents for bringing their kids to church and signing them up for church school.



Please visit our website for details about all the Basilica of St. Mary events and activities.  
[www.saintmarylivonia.com](http://www.saintmarylivonia.com)



# The Basilica of St. Mary Grand Banquet

**When:** Sunday, October 13, 2013

**Where:** St. Mary's Cultural Center

**Time:** 5:30-Cocktails 6:30-Dinner

**Entertainment:** Faisal Wazani

**Cost:** \$100.00 per person

For tickets or more information, please contact:

Maha Khalil  
248-538-1294  
Amal Ayyash  
248-444-8678  
Church Office  
734-422-0010



**Dated Material**

*Return service requested*

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