

AL-NOUR

The Light of Christ

October 30, 2011
Issue 295



النور

FATHER GEORGE H. SHALHOUB
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



October 30, 2011

HALLOWEEN

St. Nikolai of Zhicha



As Orthodox Christians we must carefully examine every aspect of our involvement in the world, its activities, holidays and festivals, to be certain whether or not these involvements are compatible with our Holy Orthodox Faith. For a while now everything in the outside world is reminding us that Halloween is near: at school our children are busy painting pumpkins, cutting and pasting bats, ghosts and witches and planning the ideal costume in which to go trick-or-treating. Most of our schools, local community organizations and entertainment on television, radio and press will share in and capitalize upon the festival of Halloween. Many of us will participate in this festival by going to costume parties, or by taking our children trick-or-treating in our neighborhood after dark on October 31st. Most of us will take part in the Halloween festivities believing that it has no deeper meaning than fun and excitement for the children. Most of us do not know the historical background of the festival of Halloween and its customs. The feast of Halloween began in pre-Christian times among the Celtic peoples of Britain, Ireland and Northern France. These pagan peoples believed that physical life was born from death. Therefore, they celebrated the beginning of the "new year" in the fall, on the eve of October 31st and into the day of November 1st, when, as they believed the season of cold, darkness, decay and death began. Instructed by their priests, the Druids, the people extinguished all hearth fires and lights and darkness prevailed. According to pagan Celtic tradition, the souls of the dead had entered into the world of darkness, decay and death and made total communion with Samhain, the Lord of death, who could be appeased and cajoled by burnt offerings to allow the souls of the dead to return home for a festal visit on this day. The belief led to the ritual practice of wandering about in the dark dressed in costumes indicating witches, hobgoblins, fairies and demons. The living entered into fellowship and communion with the dead by this ritual act of imitation, through costume and the wandering about in the darkness. They also believed that the souls of the dead bore the affliction of great hunger on this festal visit. This belief brought about the practice of begging as another ritual imitation of the activities of the souls of the dead on their festal visit.

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The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary

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

Reminder:

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 6th.
Set your clocks back one hour.



THE EPISTLE

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises.
Clap your hands, all ye people.*

**The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians
Chapter 1:11-19**

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He Who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other Apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE GOSPEL

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
Chapter 16:19-31**

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

(continued from page 1)

The implication was that that any souls of the dead and their imitators who are not appeased with "treats", i.e. offerings, will provoke the wrath of Samhain, whose angels and servants could retaliate through a system of "tricks", or curses. In the strictly Orthodox early Celtic Church, the Holy Fathers tried to counteract this pagan new year festival by establishing the feast of All Saints on that same day (in the East, this feast is celebrated on another day). The night before the feast (on "All Hallows Eve"), a vigil service was held and a morning celebration of the Eucharist. This custom created the term Halloween. But the remaining pagan and therefore anti-Christian people reacted to the Church's attempt to supplant their festival by increased fervor on this evening, so that the night before the Christian feast of All Saints became a night of sorcery, witchcraft and other occult practices, many of which involved desecration and mockery of Christian practices and beliefs. Costumes of skeletons, for example, developed as a mockery of the Church's reverence for holy relics. Holy things were stolen and used in sacrilegious rituals. The practice of begging became a system of persecution of Christians who refused to take part in these festivities. And so the Church's attempt to counteract this unholy festival failed. In today's world of spiritual apathy and listlessness, which are the roots of atheism and turning away from God, one is urged to disregard the spiritual roots and origins of secular practices when their outward forms seem ordinary, entertaining and harmless. Let us light vigil lamps in front of our icons, and together with our families, ask God to grant us faith and courage to preserve as Orthodox Christians in these very difficult times, and to deliver us from the evil one.

PRAYER CORNER

Lord, you are the physician of our souls and body. We pray You grant the following parishioners good health and blessings: Al Ingram, Jerry Basila, Shawky Mousa,

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION

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

- Ibrahim Hanania,
- Jamileh Hanania,
- Yusef Hanania,
- Suad and Ayman Dirbas,
- Hanna Zarou
- Jerry Mughannem
- Mufid Harb
- Boulos and Helen Saba
- Amjad Saba
- Mary Razook
- George and Fruaja Razook
- Jeannette Farra

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

- Shauqi and Ayda Mughannem and family
- Joe Razook

Ladies Society

The Ladies Society will be hosting their annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on Sunday, Nov. 6th immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center. Cost is \$12.00 for adults, \$8.00 for children 8 to 11 years old, under 5 years, free. For reservations, please call Dolly Matta at 248-444-1000. Please note that **NO TICKETS** will be sold at the door. This function is by reservation only.

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 Yacoub Kassis offered by his wife Nadia Kassis and family,
- \$200**-In loving memory of Jeannette Farra offered by family and friends,

OUR NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations and best wishes to Georgette and Chuck Eaton on the birth of their baby girl, Lilian Elaine. Proud grandparents are Michael and Feryal Obeidi and Charles and Kay Eaton. May God bless parents, grandparents and child.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mikel and Jennifer Zaghmout on the birth of their baby girl, Diala Mikel. Proud grandparents are Hanna and Dina Zaghmout and Jalal and Linda Marzouq. May God bless parents, grandparents and child.

From the Heart

God did not promise sun without rain, light without darkness or joy without pain. He only promised us strength for the day when the darkness comes and we lose our way.

“If I say, “Let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night,” even the darkness is not dark to thee, the night is bright as the day; for darkness is as light with thee.”

Psalm 139:11,12

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)
Nov. 6th-40 day memorial in loving memory of Shawqi Ghannam offered by his wife Lorice and children,
Nov. 13th-6 month memorial in loving memory of Hanna Zarou offered by the family,

فليكن ذكركم مؤبدا

**“A Vigil Light is Burning”
In Loving Devotion**

For The Health and Well Being Of:
In Memory Of: Joseph Michael Mouaikel; George Abodeely; Maxine Koury, Ken Biedron,

Sermon On-Line

If you missed Fr. George’s sermon last Sunday, you can now listen to him or you can see the full Liturgy at www.saintmarylivonia.com click on multimedia and go to videos

Last few week’s sermons:

Transform Yourself Through Worship
By: Fr. Jim King

What is the Hardest Thing to Give?

God’s Intention For Us
By: Fr. Jim King

The Great Mercy of God

Faith Unpracticed is No Faith at All
By: Fr. Jim King

Department of Youth and Outreach

Week of October 30, 2011

ARABIC SCHOOL HAS A STRONG START

Over 65 children have registered this year for Arabic school, which takes place immediately after church on Sunday, beginning at 12:30pm. Our teachers are talented and the curriculum is awesome!

This is a great opportunity for you or your child to learn to read, write, and speak Arabic. Adult classes are available, too!

We are so thankful to those who have made this program possible and encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity.

For more information about how to register or include your child in this please contact the Arabic School Superintendent, Mrs. Lina Nunu Matta at:

313-633-0933

e-mail: linanunu@hotmail.com



Please visit our website for details about all the Basilica of St. Mary events and activities.
www.saintmarylivonia.com

The Basilica of St. Mary's annual
GRAND BANQUET

Saturday, November 12, 2011
St. Mary's Cultural Center

Cocktails and Appetizers beginning at 6:30pm

Dinner at 7:30pm

Live Entertainment and Dancing to follow.

\$100.00 per person

For reservations, please contact Sandy Bojrab at:
sbojrab@me.com

Dated Material

Return service requested

18100 MERRIMAN ROAD • LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48152

The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary

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