

**Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Seventh Sunday of Matthew

The Holy Seven Sleeping Youths of Ephesus; Recovery of the relics of Martyr Eudokia of Persia

Tone 6

Eothinon 7

**KONTAKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION IN TONE SEVEN**

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

**The Epistle**

*O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Until Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (15: 1-7)**

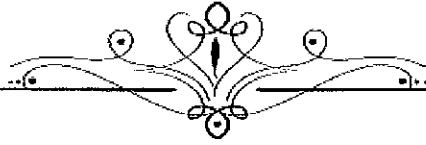
Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures, we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

**The Holy Gospel**

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9: 27-35)**

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud: "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

**Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!**



الاحد 4 آب ، 2019

الاحد السابع من متى — الفتية السبعة الذين كانوا في أفسس — نقل رفاة القديسة افدوكيا الفارسية  
اللحن السادس  
الإيوثينا السابعة

### قنداق عيد التجلي باللحن السابع

تَجَلَّيْتَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهَ عَلَى الْجَبَلِ، وَحَسَبًا وَسِعَ تَلَامِيذُكَ شَاهَدُوا مَجْدَكَ. حَتَّى عِنْدَمَا يُعَايِنُونَكَ مَضْلُوبًا، يَفْطَنُوا أَنَّ  
الْأَمَكَ طَوْعًا بِاخْتِيَارِكَ، وَيَكْرِزُوا لِلْعَالَمِ، أَنَّكَ أَنْتَ بِالْحَقِيقَةِ شُعَاعُ الْآبِ.

### الرسالة

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبِّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيراثَكَ، إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبِّ أَصْرُخُ إِلَهِي  
فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولَسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رُومِيَّةِ (15: 1 - 7)

يَا إِخْوَةَ، يَجِبُ عَلَيْنَا نَحْنُ الْأَقْوِيَاءُ أَنْ نَحْتَمِلَ وَهَنَ الضُّعْفَاءِ، وَلَا نُرْضِي أَنْفُسَنَا \* فَلْيُزِضْ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ مِنَّا قَرِيبَهُ لِلْخَيْرِ، لِأَجْلِ الْبُنْيَانِ \* فَإِنَّ  
الْمَسِيحَ لَمْ يَزِضْ نَفْسَهُ، وَلَكِنْ كَمَا كَتَبَ "تَعْيِيرَاتُ مُعْيَرِكَ وَقَعَتْ عَلَيَّ" \* لِأَنَّ كُلَّ مَا كَتَبَ مِنْ قَبْلُ، إِنَّمَا كَتَبَ لِتُعَلِّمِنَا، لِيَكُونَ لَنَا الرَّجَاءُ  
بِالصَّبْرِ وَبِتَغْزِيَةِ الْكُتُبِ \* وَلْيُنْعِظْكُمْ إِلَهُ الصَّبْرِ وَالتَّغْزِيَةِ أَنْ تَكُونُوا مُتَّقِي الْأَرَاءِ فِيهَا بَيْنَكُمْ، بِحَسَبِ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ \* حَتَّى إِنَّكُمْ بِنَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَقَمٍ  
وَاحِدٍ تُمَجِّدُونَ اللَّهَ أَبَا رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ \* مِنْ أَجْلِ ذَلِكَ، فَلْيَتَّخِذْ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا كَمَا اتَّخَذَ الْمَسِيحُ لِمَجْدِ اللَّهِ.

### الإنجيل المقدس

#### فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى البشير والتلميذ الطاهر (9: 27 - 35)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ مُجْتَازًا، تَبِعَهُ أَعْمِيَانِ يَصِيحَانِ وَيَقُولَانِ: ازْحَمْنَا يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ \* فَلَمَّا دَخَلَ الْبَيْتَ، دَنَا إِلَيْهِ الْأَعْمِيَانِ، فَقَالَ لَهُمَا  
يَسُوعُ: هَلْ تَوُؤْمِنَانِ أَنِّي أَفْعِلُ ذَلِكَ؟ فَقَالَا لَهُ: نَعَمْ يَا رَبِّ. \* حِينَئِذٍ لَمَسَ أَعْيُنَهُمَا قَائِلًا: كَيْمَايَكُمَا فَلْيَكُنْ لَكُمَا. فَانْفَتَحَتْ أَعْيُنُهُمَا.  
فَانْتَهَرَهُمَا يَسُوعُ قَائِلًا: انظُرَا، لَا يَعْزَمُ أَحَدٌ \* فَلَمَّا خَرَجَا، شَهَرَاهُ فِي تِلْكَ الْأَرْضِ كُلِّهَا \* وَبَعْدَ خُرُوجِهِمَا، قَدَمُوا إِلَيْهِ أَخْرَسٌ بِهِ شَيْطَانٌ \* فَلَمَّا  
أَخْرَجَ الشَّيْطَانُ، تَكَلَّمَ الْأَخْرَسُ. فَتَعَجَّبَتِ الْجُمُوعُ قَائِلِينَ: لَمْ يَظْهَرْ قَطُّ مِثْلُ هَذَا فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ \* أَمَّا الْقَرَيْسِيُّونَ فَقَالُوا: إِنَّهُ بِرَأْسِ الشَّيْطَانِ  
يُخْرِجُ الشَّيْطَانِ \* وَكَانَ يَسُوعُ يَطُوفُ الْمُدُنَ كُلَّهَا وَالْقُرَى، يُعَلِّمُ فِي مَجَامِعِهِمْ، وَيَكْرِرُ بِبِشَارَةِ الْمَلَكُوتِ، وَيَشْفِي كُلَّ مَرِيضٍ وَكُلَّ ضَعِيفٍ فِي  
الشَّعْبِ.

المجد لك يا رب المجد لك!

## Weekly Schedule - برنامج الرعية الأسبوعي

Day	Time	Event
<b>Feast of the Divine Transfiguration</b>		
Monday August 5 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Matins Divine Liturgy
Tuesday August 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Wednesday August 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Thursday August 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Friday August 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Saturday August 10 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm	Great Vespers – صلاة الغروب
Sunday, August 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.45 am 10.00 am	Great Matins – صلاة السحر Divine Liturgy – القداس الإلهي

### **Memorial This Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

† 40 day memorial service for Michele Mikhael Hajal who fell asleep in the Lord in Lebanon offered by her uncle Archpriest Ghattas Hajal, Kh. Helene, and their children Marlene, Gaby, Rose-Mary and their families.

***May Her Memory be Eternal!***

### **Grapes for the Feast**

On Monday evening, following the Divine Liturgy, we will bless the fruit of the vines, grapes, for the Feast of the Transfiguration. We are kindly asking for parishioners to bring with **them washed and cut grapes tomorrow**, thank you!

#### **Why do we bless grapes? (Source Patheos.com)**

- ❖ “The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on this day is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God’s unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord.
- ❖ This is an ancient Christian custom. The first week of August, on the sixth of August, the farmers use to gather the early fruits of their summer harvest (grapes, figs etc.) and to present them in the Church to be blessed and to give them for free to congregation. These fruits are called the “beginnings”.
- ❖ In a text from the 7th century (“the laws of the kingdom” by emperor Constantine Porfirogenitos) this custom is described vividly: “The Emperor of Constantinople gathers the “beginnings” (“aparches”) in Chalcedone, where there are many vines, and then he waits for the Patriarch of Constantinople to come on the Holiday of Transfiguration, to bless the fruits and to personally hand out the grapes to the laymen”.
- ❖ We must not forget that the Church was presented once as a “vine”. So, [the] Church blesses the first fruits of vine giving a “theological” meaning to farmer’s work.

**19th ANNUAL  
DOECUNY  
SOCCER TOURNAMENT**



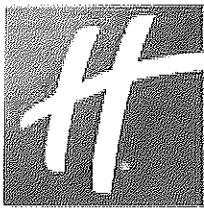
August 30th - September 1st, 2019

St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church - MONTREAL

**\*\*\*Register by August 21, 2019\*\*\***

Schedule & Registration Forms:

**SaintNicholasSoccer.weebly.com**



***Holiday Inn  
& Suites***

POINTE CLAIRE - MONTREAL AIRPORT

Rate: \$145/night for 2 Queen beds (4 people)  
Booking Link: **St. Nicholas Soccer**  
OR call: 514-697-7110 (Use CODE: **UNS**)

**FREE WIFI & PARKING INCLUDED**

**\*\*\*BOOK BY AUGUST 8, 2019\*\*\***

For more Information Contact Myriam Zakaib  
[myriam.zakaib1@gmail.com](mailto:myriam.zakaib1@gmail.com) or [SaintNicholasEvents@gmail.com](mailto:SaintNicholasEvents@gmail.com)

## **A Rapid Reflection on a Grand Convention:**

### **Pastoral Reflections on Grand Rapids 2019**

From the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, 2019, clergy and faithful of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese from all over North America convened in Grand Rapids, Michigan for the 54<sup>th</sup> Biennial Archdiocesan Convention which was graciously organized and hosted by St. Nicholas Church, Grand Rapids, MI. Fr. Michael Nasser, host pastor and his team put together a thoughtful schedule and a creative program that helped our Archdiocese not only conduct its business but also worship, learn, share and have fun.

11 delegates from St. Elias Cathedral, Ottawa participated in the convention. We believe that any Diocesan or Archdiocesan General gatherings don't only relate to officials and delegates but to all the parishioners of our Church and thus I wanted to share with you some highlights from the convention.

Right off the bat, our brothers and sisters in Grand Rapids showed their hospitality by hosting a complimentary dinner on Monday evening in their beautiful parish hall in which they offered delicious Middle Eastern food served by the parishioners.

On Tuesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, I was blessed and humbled to preach following the morning service, speaking about spiritual watchfulness and how discipline in prayer helps us attain this very important virtue. Following that, all the clergy of the Archdiocese met with His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH and the Bishops of the Archdiocese. His Eminence gave his fatherly instructions to the clergy. It is noteworthy that the focal point and concern of these hundreds of clergy was the urgency of being proactive in ministering to the youth and young adults.

As the Teen SOYO leadership conference went on and other departments and organizations held their meetings, others participated on Tuesday in various workshops. We decided to participate in the workshop organized by our Department of Missions and Evangelism. They spoke about their priority going forward: Revitalizing our own parishes, which is surely the best way to evangelize. We will, God willing, be working on bringing speakers and programs from this department to Ottawa in the near future. Another interesting workshop was Dr. Philip Mamalakis' on his book on Orthodox Parenting: "Parenting towards the Kingdom" (*highly recommended*).

That night, the Order of St. Ignatius, the charitable arm of our Archdiocese that continues to fill in various needs, hosted their dinner.

Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, was a day in which the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Teen SOYO was celebrated. A Marquee event of that day was a 5 hour workshop which all the clergy attended organized by *Faithtree Resources* (<https://faithtree.org/>), a ministry of our Archdiocese whose goal is to equip clergy and lay leaders of our Churches to better minister by offering training and material for parishes to build ministry teams. Remember: It takes more than one! We will also be looking into cooperating with them in what would help us enhance our ministries in Ottawa.

Following Vespers, Guest Speaker Paul Karos started his series of 3 talks which brought tears to our eyes and strength to our hearts. Being legally blind from his childhood – and 99% blind now – Paul overcame tribulation and became the No. 1 Airline analyst in the world and built a glamorous career and reputation

in Wall Street. Despite having all the pleasures of the world, Paul realized at one point that real joy comes from within, through Jesus Christ. We were blessed that Paul shared this and much more.

The highlight of the convention, at least from our biased viewpoint, was the Bible Bowl Competition. Our Bible Bowl team, consisting of our teens and altar servers: David and Michael Massaad and Kevin El-Saikali and trained by our incredibly hard working Church School Director Kelly Hamwi, brought home the trophy for a second year in a row. Glory be to God for these young people. Congratulations, boys!

On Thursday, the General Assembly, in which business of the Archdiocese is conducted, took place. We thank the Lord for the hard work of many people that help administer our Archdiocese and its financial affairs; we also thank the Lord for His blessings that our Archdiocese is doing well from that perspective.

On that evening, the host parish put together a carnival-like family friendly evening in which people got to walk next to the river and enjoy street food, desserts and entertainment. This event highlighted the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Antiochian Village, a beacon of our Church.

The second part of the General Assembly was held on Friday. His Eminence addressed all the faithful of the Archdiocese with a beautiful speech that you can find on YouTube. Among the things he said, His Eminence reminded us that: "Our Lord did not tell us to 'take up our easy chair' and follow Him. He told us to take up our Cross and follow Him." Sayidna also revealed his plans for the Antiochian Village which include a cathedral, a monastery and a retirement home for hierarchs.

At the end of the Assembly, Members were assigned and elected to the Archdiocesan Board of Trustees among whom was our parishioner Dimitri Zeidan. We wish Dimitri and the whole board a blessed ministry in God's fear, faith and love.

Another Creative event took place that evening in which various talents from the Archdiocese put together a Broadway-like show. A confession to be made: I did not expect such professional performances! Glory be to God for such talents and gifts.

On Saturday, our own Maria Abou Nehme represented our Diocese in the Archdiocesan Oratorical Festival delivering an oration on the verse: "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me" (Phil 4: 13). Congratulations, Maria, on winning the Diocesan competition and well-representing our Church on the Archdiocesan level.

That evening the Convention Gala was held; and, on Sunday, a hierarchical Divine Liturgy concluded and brought to meaning and closure the works of a successful and creative convention.

Over 1500 people participated in the Archdiocesan convention. What made it successful is not only the participation; nor the extremely well done job by the hosts; but rather the spirit of love that directed all the events and interactions. We tried to convey the love and faith of our parish to our brothers and sisters from all over the continent. We shared our experiences and learned from theirs, both, the successful and the challenging ones.

Hoping that more people get to experience the upcoming conventions: *Pittsburgh 2021, Phoenix 2023 and Chicago 2025.*

Jesus Christ is one. His body is one. And thus, we too are, and shall remain, one.

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

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PRIMATE OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

THE RIGHT REV. BISHOP ALEXANDER

AUXILIARY BISHOP OF OTTAWA, EASTERN CANADA & UPSTATE NEW YORK

*The Very Rev. Father Ghattas Hajjal*

ARCHPRIEST & DEAN OF THE CATHEDRAL

*The Rev. Father Nektarios Najjar*

ASSISTANT PASTOR

*Rev. Deacon Yakoub Daoura*