



St. George Orthodox Church of Montreal  
Annual General Assembly  
St. George Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, June 11, 2019.  
7:00 p.m.

555 Jean-Talon Street East, Montreal QC H2R 1T8  
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**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF MONTREAL**  
**MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA**  
**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**  
**Tuesday, June 11, 2019.**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**AGENDA**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Call to Order   | V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura  |
| 2. Confirmation of Quorum  | Mark Hanna   |
| 3. Opening Prayer & Welcome  | V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura  |
| 4. Appointment of Sergeant-at-Arms                                     | Nicolas Abou Chahla  |
| 5. Pastor's Report<br>Assistant Priests                                | V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura<br>Rev. Jean El Murr<br>Rev. Justin Mitchell |
| 6. Chairman & President's Annual Report                                | Alan Rossy   |
| 7. Motion to approve Minutes of 2018 Annual<br>Parish General Assembly | Alan Rossy   |
| 8. Finance   |  |
| 8.1 Financial Report   | Rick Ayoup, Treasurer  |
| 8.2 Accountants  | Lutfy, Lawand & Associés, S.N.E.C.)  |
| 9. Motion to ratify all acts & deeds of the Board of Trustees          | Bruna Salhany  |
| 10. St. George Legacy Fund Report                                      | Peter Auger  |
| 11. Motion to ratify the Trinity Fund By-Law changes                   | Peter Auger  |
| 12. Legal Advisor  | Mark Hanna   |
| 13. New Business   |  |
| 13.1 Planned giving  | Fadi Ephtimios   |
| 14. Election of new Parish Council officers                            | Zach Cattiny   |
| 15. Appointment of Parish Accountants                                  | Rick Ayoup   |
| 16. Appointment of Parish Legal Adviser                                | Rick Ayoup   |
| 17. Open Forum   | Alan Rossy   |
| 19. Call to Close  | V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura  |
| 20. Closing Prayer   | V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura  |

## **ST. GEORGE ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS**

### **ORGANIZATIONS**

St. George Mentoring Program  
Antiochian Women  
St. George Choir  
Le Cercle (The Circle)  
Community Care & Comfort  
Youth Ministry  
West Island Bible Study  
Institut Périchorèse (Icon Studio)  
St. George Social Club  
St. George Arabic Bible Fellowship

### **SUBMITTED BY**

Rev. Justin Mitchell  
Linda Alexander  
Paul Jabara  
Hedy Ephtimios & Magda Naim  
Carolyn Zigayer Freedin  
Rouba Khouri & the Youth Committee  
Diane Nemer  
Diane Poulin Sarkis  
Nick Maliha  
Nick Maliha

## **ST. GEORGE ORGANIZATIONS**

The Parish Council  
Antiochian Women  
Teen SOYO  
Order of St. Ignatius  
Youth Ministry  
Legacy Fund  
Trinity Fund  
Le Cercle/The Circle  
Altar Boy  
St. George Choir  
Byzantine Choir  
West Island Bible Study  
Mentoring Program  
Community Care & Comfort  
Church Beautification  
Raffle Committee  
Oyster Party Committee  
Volunteers  
Sunday School  
Parent-Teacher Committee  
Sponsorship Program  
Stewardship Committee  
St. George Arabic Bible Fellowship  
St. George Social Club  
Soccer Team  
Church Ushers  
Young Adult Ministry

**V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura**  
**Pastor's Report to Saint George Orthodox Church of Montreal**  
**2019**



My Dear Parishioners,

We have been blessed with a fruitful year of growth, new initiatives, and joyous events. We have had the joy of baptizing many beautiful children, marrying our young adults, educating many in the faith, forming our young people in the Lord, working and praying together. We once again journeyed together through another Great Lent, sacred Holy Week and a glorious Pascha as one family in Christ Jesus. Each week, we joyously worship God together. For all these good things, we give thanks to God.

As a community, we have also experienced our dark days, shedding tears for our loved ones gone to Life Eternal, praying with and for our families struggling with loss, illness, brokenness and all those things that belong to this fallen and broken world. Somehow, despite the many tragedies, God has blessed us and, in His time, and in His way, He upholds us even in our brokenness. The Fathers of the Church say that God prunes us to prepare us for salvation. Sometimes this pruning is painful, but in the end, it sprouts healthier life for each of us as we work on our salvation.

We are thankful for the outstanding Office Staff: Assistant Priest Fr. Jean El Murr, a living example of perseverance through his illness which has been a witness to his deep faith in Christ, as is his wife Kh. Souhaila, an equal example of patience, faith, and endurance. They both remain in our constant prayers and hearts. Fr. Justin Mitchell, our Mentoring Program Director, has done an exceptional job this year carrying out our vision of mentoring the teens and young adults. Viviane Gédéon skillfully carries out numerous office duties. We gratefully recognize Gaby Habash, Lenny Ayoub, George Bouassaly, and Joseph Kaba for their faithful weekly and daily volunteer service in the office. We thank our new Data, Financial, Marketing, and Communications Volunteer Teams, and so many of our office and parish volunteers who give so freely of their time and talents. We thank Diane Nemer, Afaf Abboud, and our new teams of Prosphora (church bread) bakers, led by Alida Rossy and Carol Jazzar, who now produce the traditional Orthodox Prosphora for our Liturgies and faithful. We take this opportunity to thank Rouba Khouri, our past Youth Director of four years, who worked diligently to meet the needs of our youth and continues to volunteer in our Church School. We thank Rana Jabbour for her time in the office helping us with data entry and event planning.

As a parish we are blessed with an Icon Studio and School of Orthodox Iconography. We thank Diane Sarkis and Virginie Desjardins, their staff and students for the outstanding work they do in producing icons for our community and church, as well as the outstanding work they do in teaching iconography and furthering the skills of our local and greater Montreal area iconographers.

We once again have an exceptional Parish Council of devoted officers who love Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church. I want to convey heartfelt thanks to Alan Rossy and his devoted family. As Parish Council Chairman, Alan has done a multitude of good works in many areas for the parish throughout

this past year, working alongside me and many others to help this parish move forward. Alan also serves as the parish's Stewardship Committee Chair and is a member of our Archdiocese's Board of Trustees representing the Montreal parishes and Canada. We thank Alan for his support and vision throughout this past year impacting many of our efforts done on behalf of this parish.

In addition, I want to express sincere thanks to all the officers and members of the Parish Council and their families as stewards of this parish for their tremendous dedication, faithful service and sacrifices for the well-being of the Saint George Church Community. It is a joy for me to see our Parish Council Members worshipping in the very Church to which they have been called by God to see to the daily needs.

I thank our Legacy and Trinity Fund Administrator, Elizabeth Kabbash and now, Peter Auger and the entire team for their vision, good work in helping grow our parish, and providing for those in need, fulfilling our Lord's command in Matthew Chapter 25.

As a priest, I am greatly blessed to serve at our Sacred Altar with my brothers in Christ, Fr. Jean and Fr. Justin, our Sub-Deacons Philip Genest, Robert Bayouk and Christian Kishfy, along with our Assistant Sacristan, Ernest Tewfik and our many altar servers who bring life and joy to our Sanctuary each week in service to Christ. Their good works and faith are uplifting and richly add to our Liturgy.

We are blessed with a beautiful choir led by Paul Jabara. We thank Paul and all the choir members for filling the church each Sunday and Holy Week with the beauty of their voices as they glorify God. We are grateful to Georges Fattouh for his tremendous dedication as our Lead Chanter and for his presence at our parish services. I thank the many chanters and singers who work alongside him for Vespers and Orthros each week as well as our special services and on Feast Days. Thank you to our Byzantine Choir Director, Nagy Helal and the many faithful members of the Arabic Byzantine Choir.

I thank Magda Naim and the Church School teachers who minister to our beautiful children. We especially thank the parents, Godparents and grandparents who see to the education and the raising up of our children in the faith and love of God. We are especially grateful that they are fulfilling the promise made at Baptism that each of these baptized children would be raised and educated in the Orthodox Faith. We thank Michel Sarkis for leading the Arabic and English Bible Studies at the church as well as the West Island Bible Study, hosted by Diane Nemer, Colette Ward and Kh. Souhaila El-Murr.

Thank you to Linda Alexander and all the Antiochian Women for their care and good works towards Saint George Church, the clergy, and all the members of this parish. We thank the Antiochian Women through the leadership of Alida Rossy, in renovating the Women's restroom in the parish hall upper level.

We thank Nick Maliha and all those who work with the newly created Saint George Social Club to bring our members and guests together for a monthly evening of fellowship.

Thank you to the outgoing Teen SOYO President, Nadine Dababneh, for her hard work and dedication in serving alongside her fellow Teen SOYO members and all of our teens, who bring joy and life to our parish through their faithfulness and good works in SOYO, the Church School, the Sanctuary, the Mentoring Program, our sports teams, and so many other areas of parish life. I also thank Alex Habib and the young adults who help with our youth and other needs of this parish.

I thank Gaby Habash for his work at maintaining our facilities and for the extensive hours he volunteers in helping to manage the many projects directed at upgrading our building systems and structures.

As a parish, we are grateful to the Larry and Cookie Rossy Foundation through whose donation, we have completed the beautiful granite front church stairs and obtained new, more efficient heating and air conditioning systems.

We also recognize and are grateful to the Alan and Roula Rossy Family Foundation for their great generosity in the care, upkeep, and major improvements to our Church and facilities as well as our upcoming expansion project. We thank Joanne Rossy for her leadership and work in preparation for our future office and Church School expansion and redesign. May the Lord bless and multiply all their good works.

We remember and thank the many people who this year and in past years have considered this parish in their planned estate giving. Their generosity and remembrance of this Church during their life and upon their death have helped make possible the financial health and growth of this parish and its many ministries.

I take this opportunity to thank Metropolitan Joseph for allowing me to devote so much time to the ministry of this parish. We lovingly acknowledge Bishop Alexander for his love and care for this parish and its faithful members; we are grateful for his prayers, pastoral visits, and participating in our liturgies and sacraments. We hope and pray that we will see more of His Grace in the coming year and are grateful to our Lord God for the restoration of his health.

I thank all our faithful members of this parish, who fill our church with their presence and love each week in worship, for their service and growing generosity to this parish and its ministry. There are so many others whom I should personally acknowledge today, but what really matters is that God sees your good works and we, as a community, are greatly blessed by you and your presence.

### **New Initiatives**

In the midst of my third year with you as your Pastor, I continue to observe and study the needs of this parish along with Alan Rossy, the Parish Council, Fr. Jean, Fr. Justin, and many others as we continue to lay out and implement plans each year to better meet the needs of the faithful. So much has been accomplished over the life of this parish and we are very grateful for the foundation and good work already established by our loved ones who came before us. Now, the current leaders and faithful of this parish are called by God to continue building upon the foundation established and sustained by Christ. It is our duty to make St. George Parish a beacon of light and hope for the faithful of Greater Montreal who seek a serious and deep faith and relationship with Jesus Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church.

1. **Teen SOYO:** As we move forward in securing a new parish Youth Director, we will see to it that Teen SOYO and its many ministries and offerings becomes a priority and that we conduct this ministry, with excellence, for and with our youth. I expect that Teen SOYO, our Mentoring Program, our Church School, and our Youth Choir will all work together as one ministry that forms our young people in Christ and equips them to live righteous and successful lives as Children of God. We want our young people to succeed in all aspects of their daily lives, and we will continue to build our youth programs with this hope in mind.
2. **Involving our youth in the worship life of the Community:** I have written before that as a community, we are blessed with gifted children, with so many talents including music and

serving at the Altar. I have often stated across the Archdiocese that if we engage our children, teens, and young adults into the worship life of the community and give them a real and meaningful place in the parish, they will much more likely stay and be engaged in the parish for all of the days of their lives.

3. This is the goal for our young people, that as the Baptism service states: “when they are old and grey they will walk in the ways of the Lord.” For this to happen, they must be engaged in the life of the Church today in a real and meaningful manner.
3. **Youth Mentoring Program:** Through a very generous grant from the Chamandy (Glenn and Amel) Family Foundation our first annual \$100,000 grant was received and utilized. I am very pleased by the progress made in the first year of the Mentoring Program and the number of our young people, especially young adults, engaged by this work. Creating and developing a robust and meaningful youth mentoring program has been a dream and desire of mine and my wife’s ministry for many decades. It is a great joy to see this dream being fulfilled here at St. George Montreal. It is interesting to see the number of people who have been engaged and energized by this effort and the impact it is having on the entire parish, even though this program and ministry is still in its early stages. We have just completed the first year of this work and are now laying the groundwork to enter the second, and what we hope will lead to many more years. You will hear much more on this vital ministry and work in Fr. Justin Mitchel’s mentoring report.
4. **Choirs:** Music is an integral part of the worship and spiritual life of every Orthodox Christian Parish. At St. George, we have been accustomed to having an excellent choir and music effort. I have asked Paul Jabara, the Director of Music for this parish, to further raise the level of all our music efforts. While we have an excellent English choir, I want to see more of our talented parishioners engaged in the Choir’s weekly work, as well as that of our Byzantine and Youth Choirs. Paul will focus this year on building the English Choir, help us meet the needs of our Byzantine Choir and help establish a full and well-trained youth choir. While these efforts will take years, we must earnestly start these efforts now. I ask that all our choirs and Church School give Paul their full cooperation. As Chairman of the Archdiocese Department of Sacred Music, Paul is uniquely positioned and has tremendous resources to help us be successful in all these areas.
5. **Baptisms, marriages, and funerals:** This past year, we wrote and distributed our first article on the sacraments. “When a Child is Born,” was written to help our parishioners understand what we Orthodox Christians do in terms of caring for a newborn child, and its relation to God and His Holy Orthodox Church. In the coming year, I hope to publish work on Orthodox Christian Marriage. I have observed over the past two years, that we need to regain our Orthodox practices in this area. We want our young people to marry in the Orthodox Church because:
  - a. it really does matter;
  - b. all other Christian bodies recognize our Sacrament of Marriage, while the reverse is not true.
  - c. we want our parishioners to still be members of this parish after marriage.

I also hope to publish work on Orthodox care of those who have died. We have an Orthodox tradition and practice and a clear Orthodox understanding of how we love and care for those who have gone before us. It is a beautiful tradition that offers dignity and respect for the body and at the same time cares deeply for those left behind. We need to work together as a

parish to regain these beautiful traditions and right practices of our Orthodox Christian forefathers and foremothers as well as brother and sisters from around the world.

**6. Financial health of the parish:** While the parish is in overall good financial shape, it still requires the ongoing prayers and financial support of every faithful member of this parish. While we are a very active parish, and while many of our parishioners are very generous, there is so much more we should and need to be doing as a vibrant Orthodox parish. Your generous financial contributions are necessary to this growth and good work. I especially thank those of you who have increased your financial support to this parish and community as you are making a difference!"

**7. Other Completed, In Progress, and Upcoming Upgrades:**

- a. Church sound system (Phase 1):** We have completed the 1st stage of improving the quality of sound from our sound system in the Church. We now need to properly mic the choir and chanters stand, so our online live streaming will be more robust and complete. As well, a few other adjustments are necessary for Phase 2 sound improvements.
- b. Altar Table Covers and Sets:** We have completed fabricating new Altar covers and now have the proper liturgical colors of gold, blue, green, red, purple and white sets, meeting the needs of each liturgical season. We thank Peter Auger for his assistance in completing this task.
- c. Computer Systems:** We have upgraded the office computer systems, so we can better serve the members of this parish, at the same time securing our systems and data through an enterprise level of security.
  - i. We are utilizing a new, updated, secure, and more robust system for our parishioner data and their contributions through IconCMO Parish Data Management Systems.
  - ii. Our day-to-day document creation and management is handled through Microsoft Enterprise levels 3-5 Office 365.
  - iii. Our online contributions are handled through Bambora and IconCMO.
  - iv. Our secure event online registration is now handled through Rubix, an IconCMO company, so that parishioners may easily register and securely pay online for parish events, thereby acquiring their tickets early and from the comfort of their own home.

**d. Communication**

- i. Website:** We have completed the first level of a total revamping of our website and online services. Explore our new web offerings at <https://SaintGeorgeMontreal.org> . Our website now offers:
  - 1. Online giving portal through IconCMO Systems and Bambora.
  - 2. Weekly parish bulletins
  - 3. Parish calendar
  - 4. Online livestreaming of services each Sunday and parts of Holy Week.
  - 5. Mentoring Program portal



6. Event registration
7. News section
8. Organizations

**ii. Enhanced Parish Communications:** We have instituted better systems to communicate effectively with the parish at large through the following:

- 1. Email through Constant Contact:** allowing parishioners to effectively receive parish information and to manage whether they receive our emails or not.
- 2. Call-Em-All Texting and Voice Messaging:** to better reach our parishioners who tend to not use email and to more personally message our materials.
3. Parishioners may opt-out of these messaging systems, though they will then miss opportunities to receive information from the parish, and not have opportunities to register early for events that often sell out.
- 4. Canada Post:** We are implementing changes to be more cost effective and successful with our printed mailings:
  - a. We have just registered for and received our Indicia for substantially reduced postal rates for mailing out physical mailings.
  - b. We are now making available Business Reply Mail, as a service and benefit to our parishioners to make their mailing back to the parish easier. This will hopefully increase our response rate and ultimately, making our efforts more cost-effective.
- 5. Higher Quality Printing at A More Affordable Cost:** Quality Assurance has been instituted for our Sunday Bulletins, service booklets, and all other materials which are now folded and stapled to make for easier handling and reading, and ensuring that all documents are complete. This has been accomplished by better managing our printing and equipment purchasing contracts, resulting an average monthly savings of \$500.00 on previous agreements.

St. George Church Community has had a blessed and fruitful year. A great deal has been accomplished this past year, much is in progress, and much more is to be done. Kh. Kathleen and I have made the St. George community an integral part of our ministry in the Church and in our hearts. We look forward to moving forward with the parish as we bring many of the projects in development to fruition, building upon that work and starting new initiatives. Together as one Church family rooted in Christ, we can do great things. We ask our Lord and Master Jesus Christ to bless and multiply all our good works and to bless you, the faithful members of this parish.

Yours in Christ,



V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura, Pastor

**ALAN ROSSY—CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT’S REPORT**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019.**

Dear Parishioners of St. George,

I am pleased to report another successful year at St. George. I want to thank Very Reverend Dr. Joseph Purpura, Father Jean El-Murr and Father Justin Mitchell for their spiritual guidance, blessings and leadership to our Church and community over the last year. Their tireless work and compassion have been essential to our growth at St. George. I am grateful to our Parish Council Board Members for their service, dedication, and insight to St. George.

As we move St. George Church into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century administratively, our goals are to communicate better with our Parishioners and community, develop programs and events to facilitate the interest of our younger generation and to renovate and create a new Parish House that will better serve the needs of our Church.

In 2017, The Youth Mentoring Program was launched at St. George, under the guidance of Father Joseph and Father Justin. This program is fully sponsored by The Amal and Glen Chamandy Family Foundation and we thank them for this beautiful initiative. The purpose of the mentoring program is to address the unique needs of persons aged 16-30 years old as they transition into adulthood, to provide a formation of a mature spiritual life and to strengthen their Orthodox Christian identity as young men and women. This program continues to build momentum and assists many in our community.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed the many Organizations of St. George gather their fellow parishioners through events and fellowship.

Their Fundraising efforts contribute quite importantly to the operational expenses of the Church each year. We thank the organizations for their hard work and assistance in keeping our church sustainable.

Of note in 2018-2019 was the creation of the St. George Social Club, initiated by Nick Maliha. The goal is to connect parishioners of different ages with one another in a safe and supportive environment. This group meets the first Thursday of every month. They hosted their 1st Valentine’s dinner & dance in our Fellowship Hall which was a sold-out affair. Nick is also responsible for Arabic Fellowship Bible Study.

The 2 bread baking teams have been baking our church bread for almost a year. We thank Kh. Catherine Mitchell, Susan Auger, Alida Rossy, Carol Jazzar and many others for bringing back this tradition to St. George. The Antiochian Women hosted many beautiful successful events this past year including their Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale, and a Mid-Lenten Sunday lunch to name a few. This incredible group, under Linda Alexander, bring together many though excellent fellowship and hard work. Their support to our church is commendable and needed.

The Choir, under the Direction of Paul Jabara, has had an outstanding year. Their Christmas Concert was magical and a sold-out venue. Their Holy week participation was incredible this year. The voices of these men and women bring St. George a defining grace every Sunday during Liturgy. We are proud to have such a beautiful Choir.

Le Cercle is another tireless group under the direction of Hedy Ephtimios and Magda Naim. Hosting coffee hour every Sunday, the many luncheons and events they make happen brings life and warmth to our community. Sunday School, under the direction of Magda Naim, brings together our youth and educates them spiritually with a touch of fun. Our Community Care & Comfort team under the guidance of Carolyn Zigayer and Kim Awada assist the many needy of our church with food donations, visits and comfort.

The West Island Bible Study group with Coordinator Diane Nemer, host many sessions teaching spiritual fellowship. Teen SOYO had their “Day of Service” on April 12, 2019 and made lunch bags to distribute to the homeless in Downtown Montreal. Nadine Dababneh and her peers say that this was “a most rewarding experience as they touched many in need”.

Much appreciation to our lead chanter Georges Fattouh and the Byzantine Choir members. We are grateful for having our very own Icon Studio which produces many beautiful religious works as directed by Diane Sarkis and Virginie Desjardins. Our Young Adults Ministry (YAM) under the guidance of Alex Habib, the Altar Boys for their service every Sunday, the Order of St. Ignatius with Michel Sarkis and Gaby Habash and our Liturgy Ushers with George Aboud and Peter Auger round up the organizations that come together and make our St. George such a special place to worship God and partake in fellowship.

The Raffle, held every October, was once again brilliantly lead by Mona Mégélas, along with Lori Massad, Nina Samaan. We thank her and her committee for their hard work. The Oyster Party, a perennial favourite in November, was again a sold-out affair. Jaimie Auger, Veronique Brox, Andrea Chamandy and the entire committee make it a fun and dynamic event. The wine, nuts and biscuit campaign offered before Christmas has been an annual fundraiser organized by Brian Chamandy-Cook and Brian Rossy. We thank you all for your dedication to your church.

The Legacy Fund, under the Chairmanship of Peter Auger, continues its fine purpose of addressing humanitarian, cultural, heritage and religious needs of the St. George community while enriching the legacy of St. George for future generations. We thank Peter and his Legacy Board for their support to the Parish Council Board and our parishioners. Peter served as Chairman & President of St. George from 2016-2018. We thank him for his continued support to the Church, his attendance at Parish Council Board meetings and ushering and welcoming our Parishioners on Sundays.

The Facilities, Maintenance & Security Committee, under the guidance of Gaby Habash, continues to maintain and respond to all needs of our facilities. I want to thank Gaby for his service and care to our buildings.

The Stewardship Committee has been working hard at collecting dues and allocating the right assessment to the Parishioners. Membership dues are vital to the operation of the church which has seen its expenses rise to over one million dollars for the first time in its history. We have set a target of \$1,000 per family per calendar year. Of course, we are mindful of those families who cannot afford this amount and ask of them to give to their Church as generously as they can. We have worked hard to create an online payment system on our new website ([saintgeorgemontreal.org](http://saintgeorgemontreal.org)) to facilitate credit card payments. Our goal is that Parishioners give as generously as they can to sustain the Church and to assist in creating new programs and events to enhance the teaching of our Orthodox faith and pursue our fellowship. I thank Roy Azar and Father Joseph for their dedication to this important role for the financial health of St. George.

In closing, I thank Father Joseph, Father Jean and Father Justin, the Parish Council Board and its Officers Rick Ayoup (Treasurer), Bruna Salhany (Secretary), The Legacy and Trinity Funds, the Organizations Presidents, the Church office administration - Viviane Gédéon and Gaby Habash and all our Parishioners for their service to God and dedication to St. George Church. This is your Church, yours to keep strong and yours to ensure its growth and prosperity for many more generations to come in faith and love.

May God bless you, your families and our beloved St. George Church.



Alan Rossy

Parish Council Chairman & President

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018**

**1. Welcome, Call to Order, Opening Prayer – V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura**

The meeting was called to order with a welcome from Fr. Purpura at 6:42 p.m., and the chanting of the Troparion for St. George by Fr. Jean El Murr in Arabic and Fr. Justin Mitchell in English.

**2. Confirmation of Quorum – Mark Hanna, Esq.**

Mr. Hanna confirmed quorum with fifty-nine (59) members. The final number of attendees was eighty-five (85).

**3. Appointment of Sergeant-at-Arms – Nicolas Abou Chahla**

Mr. Nicolas Abou Chahla was appointed Sergeant at Arms by Fr. Purpura.

**4. Pastor's Report & Clergy Comments**

***V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura***

The pastor's report can be on page 3-9 in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) booklet. Highlights include a recent funding commitment from the Chamandy Foundation for the launching and support of a parish Mentor Program to be chaired by Fr. Justin Mitchell. For 2018, the Foundation will offer \$100,000 for the planning and roll out of program goals, as well as for 2019. If the initiative bears good fruit, the Foundation will recommit to an additional three years.

***Rev. Jean El Murr, Assistant Priest***

A deepfelt thanks was expressed to the parishioners for their continued prayers for himself and Kh. Sue, for the phone calls, and email messages wishing him good courage as he continues to manage serious health issues. It is a joy to continue home and hospital visits, to serve St. George Church and her members in prayer.

***Rev. Fr. Justin Mitchell, Director – St. George Mentor Program***

Fr. Mitchell joined St. George on June 4, 2018, as the chair of the new parish initiative "Make the Leap!", a mentorship program directed to parishioners who are 25-30 years old, the goal of which is to display the synergy of Orthodox Christianity in personal and professional development. There are at least 500 young adults in the St. George database from across the island and surrounding areas, and the Church needs "you and your kids".

**5. Chairman's Annual Report – Peter Auger**

A look back on the past two years of mandate as Parish Council Chair has brought one thing in particular to the forefront: thankfulness. The guidance of the clergy, and the "continued encouragement, open heartedness, and giving" shown by parishioners who made St. George Church a blessed parish. P. Auger hopes and will pray for the community to continue to flourishing under God's Grace in the years to come.



**6. Motion to approve Minutes of 2017 Annual General Assembly – Peter Auger**

P. Auger motioned to approve the minutes of the June 2017 Annual General Assembly; said motion made by Gaby Habash and seconded by George Abboud. CARRIED.

**7. Financial Report – Rick Ayoup**

The full financial report can be found on pages 17-46 in the AGM booklet. Highlights include the merging of the Development Fund into the Operation Fund as shows in the “2017” column on page 22 (page 4 of Lutfi Lawand report), and the new agreement with Moneris on credit card processing of donations.

Clarification was offered by Michael Turk of Lutfi Lawand on where donations for the Clergy Retirement Fund were registered; it was confirmed that they are registered as cash held in trust.

Julie Lehoux motioned to accept the report as presented; seconded by George Bou Assaly. CARRIED.

**8. St. George Legacy Fund & Trinity Fund – Elizabeth Kabbash**

The full Legacy Fund report can be found on pages 47-48 in the AGM Booklet.

E. Kabbash reported that all budgetary commitments have been met by the Legacy Fund and Trinity Funds, both of which are growing.

An expression of thanks was given to Fr. Purpura, Fr. Mitchell, V. Gedeon, and but most of all the donors for making the Fund what it is today.

**9. Motion to Ratify all Acts & Deeds of the Board of Trustees – Bruna Salhany**

B. Salhany, Parish Council Board Secretary, put forth a motion to the membership to ratify all acts and deeds of the Board for the previous year. Motion made by Nicolas Abou Chahla, and seconded by Frances Barakett. CARRIED.

**10. Motion to ratify the Legacy Fund By-Law Change – Peter Auger**

The Legacy Fund has recently amended its by-laws to institute membership service term limits which did not previously exist: two-year term mandates will be up to three consecutive two-year term mandates, for a maximum of six (6) years. A member may be the Chair of the Legacy Fund for a maximum of two years. Also added to the by-laws was the description for what constitutes a member in good standing.

Sam Maliha motioned to approve the by-law change; seconded by Nicolas Abou Chahla. CARRIED.



### **11. Motion to Ratify the Trinity Fund By-Law Changes – Peter Auger**

The Trinity Fund by-laws have recently been amended to now include parameters on how monies should be managed, and on the disbursement possibilities for the benefit and growth of St. George Church.

Sam Maliha motioned to approve the by-law changes; seconded by Nicolas Abou Chahla. CARRIED.

### **12. Election of New Parish Council Officers – Zach Cattiny**

Special thoughts were given to Mr. Bill Lawand who recently fell asleep in the Lord, and who would be the one to present every year the roster of names for those who have been recruited to serve on the Parish Council, and also reconfirm the names and remaining amount of time in a term for current members.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, whose members were himself, Fr. Purpura, Andrew Auger, Bob Michaels, and Emil Shamy, the following individuals have accepted to serve a two-year term (2018-2020) on the Parish Council: Rima Awad, Rick Ayoup, Nicolas Manoli, Bruna Salhany, and Dina Yaziji.

Michael Turk motioned to accept the candidates; seconded by Susan Auger. CARRIED.

P. Auger presented those who have another year to serve in their current two-year term (2017-2019): Dan Anber, Andrea Chamandy, Gaby Habash, Alan Rossy, and Michel Sarkis.

### **13. Appointment of Parish Accountants – Rick Ayoup**

Mark Turk motioned to retain Lutfi Lawand as the accountants for St. George Church; seconded by Christine Boutros. CARRIED.

### **14. Appointment of Parish Legal Adviser – Rick Ayoup**

Rick Ayoup motioned to retain Mark Hanna, Esq., as the parish's legal adviser; seconded by Randa Awad. CARRIED.

### **15. Open Forum – Peter Auger**

#### **15.1. Large Space for Youth Activities**

Mirna Abboud inquired as to the creation of a space dedicated to Youth Ministry and its activities. Joanne Rossy was introduced to the membership, who were advised that preliminary work has begun on revamping the spaces in the parish house (administrative office and Sunday School spaces).

#### **15.2. Blue Bin Initiative**

Mirna Abboud thanked the Parish Council for embracing eco-friendly practices at St. George Church, particularly with the strategic placing of several blue recycling bins throughout the Church and parish building.

#### **15.3. Health Status of His Grace Bishop ALEXANDER Mufarrij**

Sam Maliha inquired as to the health of His Grace Bishop ALEXANDER Mufarrij. P. Auger deferred to Michel Sarkis who is in constant contact with His Grace: treatments are ongoing and prayers are requested.



#### **15.4. Upcoming visit of Metropolitan NIPHON Saykali**

Sam Maliha advised that His Eminence NIPHON will be coming to Montreal to serve at a wedding on June 23, 2018, and the Divine Liturgy at St. George on June 24, 2018, after which a reception hosted by the Antiochian Women and The Cercle will be held. Those interested in attending a private lunch afterwards should submit them to V. Gedeon.

#### **16. Installation of Parish Council Officers & Organizational Heads – V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura**

Fr. Purpura called to face an icon of Christ to offer the Prayer of Installation for the new and continuing members of the Board of the Parish Council, and also heads of organizations who attend their monthly meetings.

#### **17. Call to Close**

Sam Maliha motioned to call the 2018 Annual General Meeting of St. George Church to a close, which was seconded by Randa Awad.

#### **18. Closing Prayer**

Fr. Jean El Murr closed the 2018 Annual General Meeting with a prayer at 7:48 p.m.



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Alan Rossy  
Parish Council Chair & President

May 19, 2019.  
Date



## **Report Of The Legacy Fund to the St George Orthodox Church of Montreal Annual General Meeting, June 11, 2019**

On behalf of our parish I would like to thank Elizabeth Kabbash Chamandy-Cook for her time and dedication as chair and co founding member of the St George Legacy Fund.

Elizabeth will join Emile Shamie and myself as members emeritus of the Admin board as founding members of Legacy.

I would like to introduce your new Legacy Admin Board:

Yours truly, Peter Auger  
Veronique Brox  
Fadi Ephtimios  
Jason Rahal  
Joanne Rossy

We are very excited to work with this new team and look forward to the new initiatives that they will bring to the table .

We have launched this year with a few new programs along with the ones we have funded in the past.

We have added to our budget :  
Aid to families in desperate need of financial help due to grave illness or life changes.

Educational aid to our young adults and purchase of religious reading materials for our Clergy to distribute.

We have also initiated a marketing team to help in establishing a branding of St George and a marketing plan that will be used , in conjunction with the parish council, by all organizations in the parish.

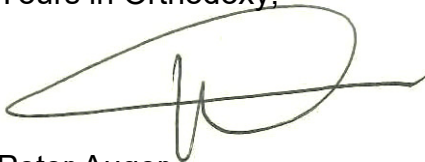
We are also presenting to you tonight the options of planned giving, the ways and means that you can leave a lasting Legacy to your church.

In conclusion we are very excited for the future of St George and we are blessed with a dedicated team of Administrators, Parish Council members , organizations and especially the leadership of Fr Joseph, Fr Justin, and God willing Fr Jean.

Thanks especially to you ,the donors ,who made this all possible.

Keep a watch for exciting things to come.

Yours in Orthodoxy,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Peter Auger', written over a horizontal line.

Peter Auger  
Chair, St George Legacy Fund

**BY-LAW 2019-1**  
**OF**  
**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF MONTREAL**

being a by-law to amend and add to the by-law respecting the St. George Trinity Fund so that the by-law respecting the St. George Trinity Fund shall henceforth read as hereinbelow provided.

BE IT ENACTED as a by-law of St. George Orthodox Church of Montreal ("St. George") as follows:

**MISSION STATEMENT**

A fund known as the St. George Trinity Fund (also to be referred to as the "Trinity Fund") was established by the Parish Council of St. George and the St. George Legacy Fund Administrative Board, for the purpose and with the objectives and mission of maintaining and augmenting the financial resources of St. George located at 555-575 Jean-Talon Street East in the City of Montreal.

All funds of the Trinity Fund shall be entrusted to and administered by the St. George Legacy Fund. All capital shall be invested in conjunction with the investments of the St. George Legacy Fund and be maintained in a separate account. All investment income of the Trinity Fund shall be transferred to the general fund as requested by the Parish Council of St. George. Any funds not transferred in a fiscal year shall be reinvested and available to the general fund at any future time as needed. The capital of the Trinity Fund may only be encroached upon by a resolution of the Council of Past Presidents passed by a majority vote.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provision respecting the restriction on the encroachment of the capital of the Trinity Fund by resolution of the Council of Past Presidents, the Parish Council of St. George may also encroach on the capital of the Trinity Fund, without the approval of the Council of Past Presidents, during any twenty-four (24) month period, up to a maximum of ten percent (10%) of the capital of the Trinity Fund as at the start of any such twenty-four (24) month period, but only for the purpose of a special capital project for St. George **and/or in cases of unique and unforeseeable and emergency circumstances and/or incidents**, and subject to the approval for such a special capital project for St. George **and/or in cases of unique and unforeseeable and emergency circumstances and/or incidents** by special resolution of the Parish Council by secret ballot by no less than eighty percent (80%) of the then total number of the members of the Parish Council.

The Trinity Fund shall receive monies from a planned giving program to be established at St. George, promoted and marketed by a committee appointed by the Parish Council of St. George in conjunction with the St. George Legacy Fund Administrative Board.

This by-law replaces, and henceforth shall be, the by-law respecting the St. George Trinity Fund enacted by the Parish Council of St. George Orthodox Church of Montreal on April 30, 2019, and ratified by the members of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the members of St. George.

Enacted by the Parish Council of St. George at Montreal, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019.



|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>ALAN ROSSY</b>                                       |  | <b>BRUNA L. SALHANY</b>                       |
| Chair and President of the Parish Council of St. George |  | Secretary of the Parish Council of St. George |

## **St. George Mentoring Program Report**

**June 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> 2018**

The Mentoring Program covers several different and overlapping aspects:

- Young Adult Fellowship Workshops
- Academic Tutoring
- Volunteer Teams

**Background:** In the Summer of 2018, The Chamandy Family Foundation approved the sponsorship of a Community Mentoring Program and an Academic Tutoring Program at Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church. The new programs aim to engage young men and young women ages 16-35 years old at critical points in their personal and professional development. Ultimately, the goal is to form the next generation of community leaders with a strong sense of an Orthodox Christian identity and values.

**Development:** The program was created from scratch, fulfilling a vision held by Fr. Joseph Purpura, Pastor, and his wife Kathleen after their many years working together in youth ministry. Over the Summer of 2018, Fr. Justin Mitchell began working full-time on program development with the input and assistance of various stakeholders within the community, including: Fr. Joseph and Kh. Kathleen, Fr. Jean, the Parish Council, a Steering Committee, along with many teens and young adults, and outside community groups.

**Messaging:** The following are the key messages for Mentees:

- There are adults who believe in you, who accept you for who you are, and will help you get where you want to go (not tell you what to do).
- Transitions in life bring new and unexpected challenges and opportunities, and everyone benefits from having a sounding board when making important decisions.
- Mentors will be another source of support to help mentees reach their full potential at home, school and work.

**Impact:** Through various group and individual activities Mentees work to achieve the following outcomes:

- a. Improved Attitude/Motivation
- b. Improved Social/Relationship Skills
- c. Spiritual/Emotional Growth
- d. Responsible Personal Conduct
- e. Enriched Academics
- f. Enhanced Wellness & Physical Health

## **Highlights of Group Events:**

**September 29<sup>th</sup> Rescue Dog Event with Animatch.ca:** Approximately 35 participants. Event was a “kick off” for the season. Introduced the mentor program to interested mentees and mentors, and promoted enrollment.

**October 27<sup>th</sup> Leadership/Public Speaking Event:** Approximately 35 participants. Three speakers including Mike Newton, Managing Partner at Fuller Landau, Ashley Werhun of Mentorly.ca, and philanthropist and former media executive Frank Merhar. Event was highly rated at 4.7 out of 5 points. Participant feedback included, “very inspiring”, “great energy”, and “great insights.”

**October 30<sup>th</sup> Financial Planning:** Approximately 30 participants. Rean Lawand and Claude Kayal, who are both are certified and work in the financial planning industry, discussed budgeting, the use of credit, investments and insurance. The clergy also shared personal financial experience and the importance of charitable giving. Event was rated a 4.3 out of 5. Participant feedback included, “very enjoyable”, “learned a lot”, and “a good reality check.”

**November 17<sup>th</sup> Young Adult Dinner:** Approximately 35 participants. The dinner followed Great Vespers on a Saturday evening. The keynote speaker was iconographer Jonathan Pageau, who explored the doctrine of the Incarnation and the feast of Nativity (Christmas). An exciting and fun part of the evening included actor/musician and five-time Emmy award winner Jonathan Jackson, who pre-recorded a video message to welcome participants and encourage them to continue their spiritual journey in fellowship with others in the mentoring program.

**December 30<sup>th</sup> Resolution Night Run:** Fifteen participants turned out for an evening fundraising event aimed at those who are looking for more of an “extreme sports” seasonal experience. Many of the St. George mentoring program participants chose to volunteer at the race to assist the over 400 runners benefitting the Willow Fund at Cedars Cancer while others participated in the race.

## **Academic Tutoring:**

The academic tutoring occurs every Saturday afternoon from 4pm-6pm, and Sunday afternoon from 12:30pm-2pm at the church. The students gather in the boardroom for group tutoring sessions. Both professional and volunteer tutors have been recruited, and they regularly attend every week. The Sciences are taught by a PhD level Chemistry professor from John Abbott college. Mathematics are taught by a retired teacher from Royal West Academy as well as a licensed professional engineer. Participation has varied considerably even though significant efforts have been made to raise awareness of the program. For example, all homes with children in this age bracket have been contacted by telephone in addition to having received emails, church bulletin advertising, and Facebook postings. Additionally, a printed postcard invitation was mailed to over 300 homes in this demographic. The program is evolving to meet student needs and is available in Arabic, French, and English.

## **Volunteer Program:**

Beginning in February the Mentoring program began a new volunteering initiative which quickly added over 25 people. The groups focus on marketing, accounting, data management, event promotion, and IT infrastructure at St. George church. The volunteers are a mix of current high school and college students along with working professionals who are subject matter experts. The teams function as working groups with responsibility for advancing the needs of the community. Not only do the participants benefit from the mentoring experience, but also the wider community gains from the enhanced level of communication and outreach.

The goal of incorporating the volunteers under the mentoring canopy is to develop a future mentor base with proven commitment to the community and relative skill sets. By pairing professionals with students on teams with highly specific tasks, this new program is becoming “mentoring in action” as teens and young adults work on live projects.

## **Website:**

**Phase One:** Completed. Includes Event calendar, Online Event Registration, News, & Picture Gallery ([www.saintgeorgemontreal.org/mentoring](http://www.saintgeorgemontreal.org/mentoring))

**Phase Two:** Mentee and Mentor Matchmaking Platform

A third-party technical team will be designing a custom matchmaking website application to match mentors with mentees, which will include chat and exchange on different topics.

The functionality of the matchmaking website includes:

- Registration and Profile Creation
- Video Communication
- Mentor/Mentee Searching and Matching
- Headshot photograph for each profile
- Brief description of profession or career interest
- Calendar availability for booking mentoring sessions

## **Communication Technology:**

The Mentoring program has made extensive use of the new ICON CMO software package. For example, we use integrated Call-em-All application which allows for simultaneous personalized texting and telephone calls to hundreds of members. We have received very positive feedback from the young adults about this use of technology. We are also using the Constant Contact application for targeted email campaigns.

## **Thank you:**

In 2019, I look forward to continuing to strengthen and develop an engaging mentor program experience for our young adults at St. George church.

Prayerfully Submitted

*Fr. Justin Mitchell*

# ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF MONTREAL

✠ A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS ✠



May 24, 2019

Father Joseph F. Purpura, Pastor  
Father Jean El-Mur  
Father Justin Mitchell  
Brothers & Sisters in Christ

RE: Antiochian Women of St. George Montreal  
Annual Parish Council Report June 2019

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*The Antiochian Women have had another eventful year. New friendships have formed amongst us and despite what our challenges are we are there supporting each other.*

## **ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2018-2019 SEASON**

- ✚ We opened our season with a **Wine & Cheese Party** which attracted many people and some newcomers. The wines selected were from a Lebanese winery - Maison Ksara. Zeina Nahas gave a presentation on the winery.
- ✚ The Antiochian Women participation in the annual **Raffle Event** was our presentation of the dessert table.
- ✚ Our **Mega Christmas Bazaar** co-ordinated by Cheryl Courey was held on November 30, 2018 through December 2, 2018. The annual **Bake Sale** was also held at this time and was co-ordinated by Zekiye Musi and Gina Michael. As the Bake Sale is always held on the Feast of St. Barbara, Ilbee was served as is our custom. Both the Bazaar and Bake Sale were very successful netting a total amount of \$25,829.
- ✚ The St. George **Choir Christmas Concert** in December 2018 was followed by a reception where the AW served Ilbee & coffee.
- ✚ Our 2018 **Christmas Dinner** was held in the Fellowship Hall. It catered by Arlette Maalouf who prepared very tasty Lenten dishes. The ambiance was warm, pleasant and enjoyed by all.
- ✚ In place of our annual walkathon, we decided on a **Zumbathon** which will take place on June 8<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. This event is open to all. The churches of St. Nicholas and St Mary's have been invited to join us. The donations raised from the Zumbathon will sponsor the Cedar's Home for the Elderly- Wellness & Support Center. At this moment the Foundation is in the process of finding a location for this centre in an area not far from the Cedar's Home for the Elderly.

## RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

- ✚ Our AW General Assembly meetings have a session called “**Ask Abouna**”. Following are some of the topics covered during our Ask Abouna sessions:
  - *What is the representation of the different coloured vestments worn by the clergy*
  - *The roles of the sub-deacons & deacons & their vestments*
  - *Cremation and the Orthodox faith.*
- ✚ On January 26, 2019 our **Religious Committee** hosted an afternoon conference entitled **Parenting in the 21st Century** with speaker Dr. Lila Amarali. Though the audience was small, they were most impressed with the speaker and her presentation and an enlightening question and answer period followed.
- ✚ On March 15, 2019, the Antiochian Women hosted the first **Medayeh**, as is tradition. The Lenten food prepared by the AW at this **Medayeh** brought in donations of \$1,000 for the Food for the Hungry.
- ✚ On March 16, 2018, the **OCW** held their **Annual Day Conference** at St. George whereby many of the St. George AW assisted the OCW in their organizing for this day conference. Handmade Easter and Palm Sunday candles, made by the monastery nuns, were on sale at the conference.
- ✚ The **Annual AW Mid-Lenten Luncheon** was held on March 31, 2019 which was the Sunday of the Feast of the Cross. There were tickets donated by parishioners and the Antiochian women to our new parishioners. Gina Michael and Zekiye Musi were our AW organizers for the menu and food preparation. The hall was beautifully decorated by Rana Jabbour. St. George parishioners blessed us with a full hall and the event was very raised \$1,803. The luncheon was most enjoyable.
- ✚ Following the **Paschal Liturgy**, Ka'ik and red coloured eggs, prepared by many AW, were given to parishioners.
- ✚ A **Bright Monday Reception** was held in the Fellowship Hall following the Hierarchal Liturgy. With the coordination of Linda Alexander & Magda Naim, the AW and the Circle worked hand in hand to make this reception a successful event.



## HUMANITARIAN ACT



Hedy Ephtimios continues to head her group of women from the different organizations with a monthly visit to the residents at the **Cedar's Home for the Elderly**. These volunteer women initiate and partake in many activities with the residents and all enjoy a coffee & dessert time with them as well. The residents are most happy and appreciative of these visits from Hedy and her volunteers.

## DONATIONS FROM THE AW of St. George

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • Christmas Gift to St. George Church                                  | \$10,000           |
| • For Church Hall Renovations to Bathrooms & Repairs                   | \$ 9,000 (approx.) |
| • Church tablecloths & chair covers                                    | \$ 3,200           |
| • NAB project  | \$ 1,000           |
| • Four Homes of Mercy  | \$ 500             |
| • Cedar's Meal on Wheels Programme                                     | \$ 1,000           |
| • Camp Transfiguration Sponsorship of 5 children                       | \$ 2,350           |
| • For parishioners in need ( <i>medical, educational purposes...</i> ) | \$ 1,275           |

In closing, I would like to extend a thank you to all of you who have supported the Antiochian Women of St. George in so many ways. St. George has many wonderful people who have their hearts open to helping the church.

May God always be with you.

Respectfully,

Linda Alexander Abraham

President – Antiochian Women, St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church Montreal

LAA/cas

## George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Montreal

### 2019 Choir Report

Christ is in our Midst! He is and ever shall be!

Since its inception in 1947, the St. George choir has been an integral part of the liturgical services at St. George. St. George is the *only* parish in the archdiocese to have had the wisdom to create a respectable working budget since the choir's inception. Today, seventy-two years later, the choir is stronger than it has ever been. We serve as an example throughout the archdiocese on how a church choir should function and flourish. Our liturgies are simply beautiful, Glory to God.

This past year has been an active one for our choir. We learned more music than ever before. We commissioned new music for the Divine Liturgy. We continued our annual tradition of a Nativity concert, and our guests were one of America's leading English Byzantine choirs, the Boston Byzantine Choir under the direction of Charles R. Marge. The program represented music of our faith, Byzantine, choral and Western Rite. The church was packed and the music inspiring. In addition, our Holy Week and Pascha services were deeply moving and the music divine.

The upcoming year will bring some changes to the mission of our choir. In addition to our annual concert and continued beautification of our services, the choir will begin participating in most Feast Day services as well, including Presanctified services during Lent.

Many years ago, I had the privilege of hearing Bishop Basil speak about perfection. He explained that because we believe that God is perfect, we too must strive for perfection in everything we do. This is what the St. George choir does. We believe that every day is a new opportunity to improve and to try our best.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Father Joseph and Alan Rossy for their continued support and encouragement. Through their hard work and love for our parish, I am witnessing tremendous growth and am feeling excited about what the future may bring. Our future is bright, and I am grateful to be part of such a beautiful church family.

In Christ's everlasting love,



Paul Jabara, Director, St. George Choir Montreal  
Chairman, Department of Sacred Music, Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America



## **CERCLE ST-GEORGES-CIRCLE MONTREAL** **Église orthodoxe Saint-Georges de Montréal**

***Saint George Orthodox Church of Montréal***  
**555, rue Jean-Talon Est, Montréal, Québec H2R 1T8**  
**A FLASHBACK OF OUR 2018 ACTIVITIES!**

Although we are a small group, we remain a truly dynamic one!

- v Our first activity of the calendar year starts on the Feast of the Epiphany! A beautiful service celebrating the Baptism of our Lord Jesus! After which as has been our tradition, we serve coffee and *Zalabia*.
- v We continue our tradition of hosting a small luncheon in honour of Godparents Sunday! A tradition that brings families to both pray and socialize together.
- v The Circle always hosts the 5<sup>th</sup> and last Madayeh Lenten meal, to an overwhelming crowd, and this year was no exception! We are proud to report that we raised \$1500 thanks to those who generously donated food or money or both.
- v Donated to "Food for the Hungry Appeal": \$1500.
- v The St. George Circle has a long tradition of donating the wreath on Holy Friday.
- v We celebrated the Feast of St. George, our Patron Saint.
- v Joined in the St. George raffle.
- v Bought new uniforms for the St. George Soccer Team that joined the DOECUNY Annual Soccer Tournament in Ottawa: \$1687.25.
- v Added to the Soccer Team's Fundraising BBQ activity (\$1355) for their tournament expenses (registration, car rental, hotel stay): \$1055.
- v Thanks to the generosity and participation of our parishioners in our regular coffee hours and different activities, we were able to donate \$2000 to our beloved St. George.

This year, we hope to recruit new people to host the Coffee Hour that takes place almost every Sunday all year round and from which we derive the bulk of our income! Our coffee hour money is first and foremost used to cover the needs of our youth!

We thank our dedicated team of volunteers (couples and individuals) for their hard work and commitment!

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**June 11, 2019**

**CERCLE ST-GEORGES-CIRCLE Montreal**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenses for 2018, 51st year**

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|   | <b>2018</b>     | <b>2017</b>    |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>REVENUES</b>                           |                 |                |
| Sunday Coffee Hour (net)                  | 4159.45         | 5064.40        |
| Lenten Meal (Madayeh)                     | 1772.40         | 1635.00        |
| Epiphany celebration donations            | 250.00          | 250.00         |
| Donations various occasions               | 325.00          | 300.00         |
| God Parent Lunch                          | 726.00          | 773.00         |
| Circle luncheon                           | 3705.00         | 0.00           |
| Soccer Team BBQ fundraiser                | 1355.00         | 0.00           |
| Antiochian Women (St-George Feast Day)    | 0.00            | 500.00         |
| Antiochian Women (Special Celebration)    | 0.00            | 366.00         |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>                     | <b>12292.85</b> | <b>8888.40</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                           |                 |                |
| Food for the Hungry                       | 1500.00         | 1500.00        |
| Christmas special recognition             | 600.00          | 600.00         |
| Youth Ministry                            | 1217.00         | 2000.00        |
| Youth Ministry bus for sugaring off party | 0.00            | 79.50          |
| Feast of the Epiphany                     | 200.00          | 198.00         |
| Donations in memoriam                     | 150.00          | 150.00         |
| Get well gift                             | 0.00            | 100.00         |
| God Parent Sunday                         | 419.00          | 0.00           |
| Helping Hand (Christmas)                  | 500.00          | 200.00         |
| St-George Raffle                          | 0.00            | 100.00         |
| St George Church                          | 2000.00         | 0.00           |
| Special recognition                       | 600.00          | 1252.96        |
| Antiochian Women (choir)                  | 0.00            | 93.50          |
| St-George Feast Day                       | 70.27           | 1000.00        |
| Coffee supplies                           | 97.89           | 608.00         |
| Donation Sayenda Ephrem                   | 0.00            | 500.00         |
| Soccer tournament                         | 1055.00         | 865.61         |
| Soccer uniforms                           | 1687.25         | 0.00           |
| Soccer BBQ expenses                       | 300.00          | 0.00           |
| Simply Classy (wreath for Good Friday)    | 114.87          | 114.97         |
| Welcome extended coffee hours             | 106.00          | 0.00           |
| Bank charges                              | 85.00           | 81.06          |
| Circle luncheon                           | 912.82          | 0.00           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                     | <b>11615.10</b> | <b>9443.60</b> |
| <b>SURPLUS (SHORT)</b>                    | <b>677.75</b>   | <b>-555.20</b> |

## COMMUNITY CARE & COMFORT

### 2018 REPORT

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Bank Balance as of December 31, 2017</b> | <b>\$ 15,857.20</b> |
|---|---------------------|

#### **Income (donations)**

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Various Parishioners | \$ 4,300.00 |
|----------------------|-------------|

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Income:</b> | <b>\$ 4,300.00</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------|

#### **Expenses:**

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Easter Cheques to needy families (21) | \$ 2,100.00 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Christmas Cheques to needy families (55) | \$ 4,950.00 |
|--|-------------|

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Christmas Baskets, Food Vouchers, Gifts | \$ 5,757.27 |
|---|-------------|

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Poinsettas | \$ 1,832.35 |
|------------|-------------|

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Father Jean El Murr (gas allowance) | \$ 1,200.00 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Flowers for the sick | \$ 100.00 |
|----------------------|-----------|

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Extra Assistance | \$ 1,300.00 |
|------------------|-------------|

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Bank Charges | \$ 1,71.52 |
|--------------|------------|

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Expenses:</b> | <b>\$ 17,239.62</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|



## YOUTH MINISTRY Annual General Assembly



**Reporting for Activities held between June 2018 and May 2019**  
**June 11th, 2019**

The **ORTHOFLASH**, providing a concise introduction of various Orthodox topics, has been running for over two years with 108 editions, that have become trilingual in the past year.

**Throughout the year** a few young ladies benefited from the expertise of Angela Marino in professional singing.

**June 9** It was the Bible Bowl Selection Night. It was a good way to identify our Bible Bowl teams for PLC. We had one Teen Team and three Senior Teams.

**June 10** It was the first meeting of the marching band. 15 people showed up and were interested to take part of the band. Gaby Abu Sbeaa was volunteering to teach trumpet playing with great enthusiasm. Another 9 meetings took place weekly but school work and other activities conflicted with the participants' commitment.

**June 22-27** We had six extensive Bible Bowl practice sessions of the Book of Acts in preparation to the competition in Halifax.

**June- July 28-1** The Annual Parish Life Conference was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. 4 SOYO officers, 8 Bible Bowl participants, 3 chaperons, and 1 SOYO Diocesan reasurer represented the St. George's Youth Ministry at PLC. Danielle Chayeb was elected as Diocesan SOYO Treasurer.

**July 16-20** A Youth Choir Day Summer Camp was held for the first time in St. George. We had an average of 8 participants every day of the week. Angela's experience, method and teaching skills were highly appreciated by participants.

**July 20-25** The NAC SOYO Leadership Training was held in the Antiochian Village. Rouba Khouri attended as Diocesan Youth Director and Danielle Chayeb as Diocesan SOYO Treasurer.

**August 12-18** Camp Transfiguration. We had 36 participants from St. George. Fr. Joseph and Fr. Justin visited our children on August 15th. The Youth Director visited camp as a volunteer on August 16 and 21, 2018.

**August 25** The Youth Ministry held a goodbye dinner in honour of Ghassan Kassab, a newly enrolled St. Vladimir seminarian, in the presence of his family members and fellow Sunday School teachers.

- August 26** The Creative Arts Festival Recognition Event was held. All 22 St. George participants including five who are under participation age were recognized in church and offered a small plant as a souvenir.
- The Youth Choir Summer Camp Recognition was held. All nine participants of the Summer Camp were recognized in church and offered a small souvenir keychain. Parishioners were informed of the resuming of classes in the Fall and of the availability of private voice lessons for serious participants through the Chamandy Family Foundation grant.
- The Soccer Tournament Fundraiser BBQ was very successful due to the hard work of the organizing adults and teens. The fundraiser made \$1055 in net revenue which will cover part of the junior team participation expenses. The Circle fully sponsored the new uniforms of the junior team.
- Aug. – Sept. 31-2** The Annual Soccer Tournament in Ottawa was held in Ottawa. St. George was represented by a Junior and a Senior team.
- September 15** Sunday School Outing to the Monastery of our Lady the Consolatory
- September 16** Sunday School resumed with 80 registered children.
- September 22** Fall Retreat in Ottawa – Guest Speaker Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick  
16 teens and 6 adult chaperones.
- October 13** An iSaute activity was organized by the teens and their adult chaperones and attended by 20 of them.
- October 21** The teens organized themselves and relayed into reading the epistles and running the collection trays throughout the month of October.  
And for the SOYO Special Olympics Awareness Day, they did a second collection, distributed bookmarks and organized a bake sale to support this SOYO program.
- October 27** A Halo Ween Party organized by the teens for the teens of Montreal.
- November 11** The annual Nativity Food Drive was launched with the IKEA collection bags.
- November 10** Orthodox Mini Institute on “Dividing the Word of Truth” with Fr. Christopher. We had 25 attendees: 5 clergy and speakers; 6 Sunday School teachers; 5 St. George; 8 St. Mary’s; 1 Pan-Orthodox
- November 24** The Nativity Communion Breakfast was a diverse and interactive one. Photos of participating families were taken by a professional photographer in church next to the icon of the Nativity, the icon of St. Nicholas and the tree. They

were subsequently printed and handed out with a frame as a souvenir. Participants could color icons, make reindeer jars, make paper angels, learn one part of the Nativity canon, and trim the tree. We had over 140 participants.

- December 15** With the food gathered from the Sunday School food collection drive (265 kgs), Sunday School could prepare food baskets for 9 families. With the help of parents, The Circle and the Helping Hand Fund, it could offer gifts and cheques to 4 additional families on top of these 9.  
With the help of volunteers/staff over 60 reindeer jars with candy canes were added to the St. George food baskets as a present from the Youth Ministry.

| 2018 | YOUTH MINISTRY |        | CHURCH  |         | TOTAL   |         |
|------|----------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|      | Kgs            | Lbs    | Kgs     | Lbs     | Kgs     | Lbs     |
|      | 265.84         | 586.07 | 1267.99 | 2795.41 | 1533.83 | 3381.48 |

- December 23** Sunday School Participants presented after Divine Liturgy the Nativity carols/chants they have been learning in class.
- January 27** Godparents Sunday: Every Godparent and Godson/Goddaughter is invited to take part in the procession and The Circle hosted luncheon
- March** March is Youth Month of Service – The teens went with a number of adults to distribute sandwiches to the homeless.
- April 5** The Medayeh was hosted by Teen SOYO to raise funds for the Food for the Hungry Archdiocesan Program.
- April 20** Sunday School held its annual Lazarus Saturday Communion Breakfast. Participants enjoyed Liturgy, a brunch set up by their parents and fun activities in preparation of Palm Sunday and Holy Week.
- April 24-27** Teens participated extensively in the readings of Holy Week and the set-up of Holy Friday.
- April 28** Following the Agape Service over 45 young children took part of the amazing challenges of the annual Egg Hunt.
- May 25** Six teachers took part of the Annual Colloquium of the Montreal Orthodox Institute as part of their ongoing development.
- June 1** The Sunday School Graduation Ceremony took a different turn by being held at a Bowling Hall where children, teachers and parents had pleasure spending a few hours and enjoying a meal.

**PREPARED BY ROUBA KHOURI & THE YOUTH COMMITTEE  
JUNE 2019**



**ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF MONTREAL**  
**WEST ISLAND BIBLE STUDY – 2018-2019 REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

***This report is dedicated in prayer to the health and courage of  
Fr. Jean and Kh. Souhaila El-Murr.***

In January 2019, the West Island Bible Study marked its 16<sup>th</sup> year of existence.

Last August, we had our annual kick-off pot-luck brunch at Diane Nemer's home in Kirkland, where approximately 35 people attended. We were blessed with a warm sunny day, giving us the opportunity to enjoy good food and company, both indoors as well as outdoors under the breeze of a canopy of trees. The purpose of this event was not only to regroup and socialize, but also to welcome potential new participants and to discuss the upcoming season's study. This season we welcomed and enjoyed many new participants not only from the West Island, but from various parts of the city.

Our study this past season from September to March was St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. St. Paul is believed to have written this first of two epistles to the Corinthians (a rich but corrupt city) from Ephesus around the year 55 A.D. As with other chapters of the Holy Bible, we realize over and over that the world has not at all changed since the early days of Christ and the Apostles; our challenges and issues, although appear different, are still fundamentally the same.

This beautiful epistle focuses on love and communion with God and one another. It covers a wide range of subjects that impact our very beings as humans and our lives as practising Christians. Corinth was not at all living by Christian standards and served as an excellent example of how not to live; Paul wrote to them in a letter of love to set them straight. He covers issues such as church disunity, paganism, the wisdom and discernment of the Church/God, sexual immorality, worshipping of idols (whatever they may be), the theology, importance and practice of the Eucharist, the correct use of our spiritual gifts and our ultimate resurrection after our earthly death.

One of the most famous quotes of the Bible comes from First Corinthians, Chapter 13 and summarizes how we should be living our lives:

*"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy, love does not parade itself, is not puffed up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.*

*When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

*And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”*

Over the years, God has prospered our group with the leadership of Father Jean-El-Murr and later on, also, as he completed his Master's Programme in Orthodox Theology, Michel Sarkis. On average, 15-20 people attend each session. The hospitality of the group has been shared over the years at not only at my home, but also the homes of Colette and Alex Ward in Dollard des Ormeaux and Father Jean and Kh. Souhaila El-Murr's home in Pierrefonds. It is a blessing and honor to host anyone who chooses to join us.

We gather every second Tuesday from 7:30 pm until approximately 10:30 pm and break during specific periods of the ecclesiastical year. Our upcoming sessions will be announced in the church bulletin and online; we look forward to welcoming you, sharing in a cup of coffee and the “breaking of bread”, growing with you in God's Wisdom, and enriching your church experience and Christian life!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Diane Nemer, West Island Study Coordinator,

Kirkland, Quebec

514-695-2171



## Annual Report Year 2018-2019

*V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Purpura, Rev. Fr. Jean El-Murr, Rev. Fr. Justin Mitchell, President  
and Parish Board Members and Beloved Parishioners;*

All the members of the Icon Studio are very grateful to all of you who make it possible for us to continue our mission to preserve and to teach the traditional technique of iconography in respect to the canons of the Holy Orthodox Church and the beauty of this sacred Art. In Chora Icon Studio at St-George is the only professional Icon studio established in a church in the province of Quebec and one of the few in the whole Western hemisphere. The Studio is devoted to offer affordable hand painted icons and icon workshops according to the traditional technique of egg tempera on wood boards, genuine gold leaves and natural pigments. Since 2010, 80 new students were welcomed in our Studio and felt home, learning the beautiful technique of writing icons and experience the beauty of our faith in a spiritual ambiance. More than 275 icons have been written for the glory of our Lord. We receive from people all over the world many commentaries about the beauty of the icons written at the studio; you can see the pictures on our web sites and Facebook page.

This year as in the past years, we continued workshops for all levels, weekly on every Monday & Thursday – and on two Saturdays every month. Also the Bourse in Chora Program allowed one parishioner to receive the teaching for free and pay only cost prices for the material. The teachers continue to write icons to be donated to St. George church: one icon of the Mother of God of Korsun is now completed (15 x 18 - estimated value of 750\$). They also write specific icons for the parishioners at a very reasonable price: this year a new icon of the Righteous Rebecca has been created. The draw of an icon of the Mother of God (13x18 – value of 500\$) – was held on April. The funds collected will allow us to buy icon board and 22 carats gold leaves for the writing of new icons for our beloved St. George Church. We wrote a large icon of Christ Great Priest (64x100 cm //estimated value 3000\$): the icon is a gift to the church by a family from our parishioners. The Icon has been varnished and is now ready to be hanged in the church and receive the benediction.

Iconography is a sacred art of the Infinite Love of God, a spiritual way to transform the physical things of this world that we may see a “window to Heaven”. In the book [\*Icons: Theology in Color\*](#), Eugene Trubetskoï said that the Orthodox Church had saved the icons and that the spiritual beauty of the icons will now save the world. By venerating the icons, the Christian Church asserts its belief in the Incarnation of God in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. May our Lord allow us to carry out many iconography projects for the glory, joy and adornment of the Holy Church. Amen!

Respectfully and faithfully submitted,

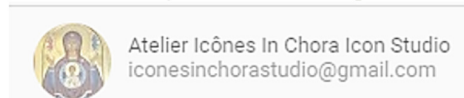
Diane Poulin Sarkis, president

Board of Directors:

Diane Poulin-Sarkis, Virginie Desjardins and Nicole Tanguay, iconographers and teachers

Michel Sarkis, coordinator for Institut Périchorèse-Atelier d'iconographie In Chora and St-George Church

Institut Périchorèse – Atelier d'iconographie In Chora  
[www.perichorese-icones.org](http://www.perichorese-icones.org)



# **St. George Social Club**

## **Report for the Annual General Assembly**

### **11 June 2019**

#### **Introduction**

The idea behind establishing the **Saint George Social Club** was to provide Saint George parishioners and non-parishioners a communal location for informal social gatherings where they could interact and connect with each other in a relaxing and friendly environment. We believe that this type of activities will help galvanize parishioners with their mother church and attract new members to join our community.

The organization of the events and services is provided by members of the Arabic Bible Study Group.

To help establish the Social Club and meet the cost of logistics and equipment, the Parish Council has kindly approved an advance payment of \$1000.

#### **Social Game Night Events**

The idea behind these events is to create a fun and friendly environment within the premises of the Church that is open to our entire community. Parishioners can show-up at any time between 6:30pm to 10:30pm with their friends, family or on their own to socialize with one another, grab a snack (sandwiches and soft drinks are available for purchase) and play cards, board games, ping pong etc.

The events take place every 1st Thursday of each month. So far we have conducted a total of 7 events.

On average, around 65-85 people attended each event and they have all expressed their appreciation of the food and services and gratitude to the Church and to the host group. Financials of the 7 events are presented in **Table 1**.

#### **Bridge Club**

As an initial effort to supplement our upcoming Bridge Club and the Game Night events, we are offering Bridge courses for beginners. Course participants are expected to form the base of players who will join and help us establish the Bridge Club.

The first introductory Bridge Course kicked off in early February 2019 with a total of 7 participants and was concluded end of March. The feedback indicates that participants are happy with the progress they have made so far and are starting to enjoy and appreciate the game. They participated in an advanced course (April-May 2019). The instructor Dr. Anis Merjaneh has proven to be highly professional in terms of planning the sessions and teaching.

#### **Valentine's Dinner**

The idea behind the Valentine's Dinner & Dance was partly to generate some funds to support the Social Club activities.

Based on the feedback we had from many of the participants, one would easily say that the event was extremely successful. Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed the food very much. The services were excellent and the wait staff accommodated all special requests.

The presence of Father Joseph F. Purpura and Michel Sarkis with their families and their interaction with the guest added more value to the event.

About 130 people attended the event and they all had quality time in terms of overall ambiance, music and services. The entertainer was up to the level and all enjoyed his performance.

Despite the short time we have had for planning the event we were able to attract and host 131 guests. We sold 123 tickets (104 at full price 40\$, 19 at reduced price 25\$ for the Fellowship group and 8 invitations). Financials of the event can be views in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Financial Summary of the Saint George Social Club.**

| Activity                              | Revenue      | Expense     | Balance     | Remarks           |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Advance from P. Council               | 1000         | -           | 1000        |                   |
| Social Game Night -1*                 | 857          | 1081.8      | -224.78     |                   |
| Social Game Night -2*                 | 609          | 651.83      | -42.83      |                   |
| Social Game Night -3                  | 552          | 262.09      | 289.91      |                   |
| Social Game Night -4                  | 430          | 389.1       | 40.9        |                   |
| Social Game Night -5                  | 577          | 306.55      | 270.45      |                   |
| Social Game Night -6                  | 915          | 389.1       | 525.9       |                   |
| Social Game Night -7                  | 819          | 467         | 352.5       |                   |
| <b>Valentine's Dinner</b>             | 5550         | 3817        | 1732        |                   |
| <b>Bridge expenses</b>                |              | 140         | -140        |                   |
| Settlement of the PC Advance          | -            | 1000        | -1000       |                   |
| Donation to St George Church          | -            | 1000        | -1000       |                   |
| Donation to St. Mary Church in Aleppo | -            | 250         | -250        | Church renovation |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>11309</b> | <b>9614</b> | <b>1554</b> |                   |

\*Most expenses during the first 2 events relate to the purchase of kitchen supplies & games

## Sustainability and Development

The Social Club is intended to be self-sustaining so that it would not need to rely on external funding to keep it up and running.

The required funds to run the social club will continue to be generated through selling food and beverage to its members for the duration of the first 6 months.

Any additional funding needed could be generated through events such as the Valentine's Dinner.

### *Considerations for moving forward:*

Introducing a membership fee

Improve the level of services and activities

Establish the Bridge Club

Increase the frequency of the Social Events from once a month to twice a month or once week

Attract young adults to join the club by engaging them in the planning of future activities and giving priority to their needs and preferences

## Acknowledgment

Thanks are due to Father Jean El-Murr and Michel Sarkis for their input at the inception of the Saint George Social Club in mid-2018, Father Joseph Purpura and Alan Rossy and all members of the Parish Council for their unconditional support. Thanks are also due to the ladies of the Arabic Bible Fellowship Group for their extraordinary work efforts in preparing the food and providing the services.

**St. George Arabic Bible Fellowship**  
**Report for the Annual General Assembly**  
**11 June 2019**

This group was originally formed for the new comers from Syria who arrived to Montreal in 2015-2017. The purpose of the gathering was to provide love and comfort using the word of God to our Syrian Orthodox brothers and sisters who were forced to leave behind their family, friend, assets and work to come to Canada seeking new peaceful life.

The first meeting of the Spiritual Group of St Georges was held on 22 September, 2016. The group started its Spiritual activities by studying the Gospel of Mark with the blessings and full involvement of Father Jean El Murr and Michael Sarkis.

In 2018 the Group activities included the following:

- Completed 11 Chapters of Saint Mark with through and very rich discussions.
- Other topics included the study of some of the Holy Fathers of the Church, St Seraphim Sarovsky, John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria (G. Zoghbi), Also we had a detailed discussion that was moderated by George Zoughbi on Life after Death that was based on a books by Dr, Adnan Traboulsi (You Asked me and I Answered you), The Psalms (M. Sarkis, Tony Dawwod & Joseph Kaba), Explanation of Divine Liturgy (Father Ghassan Ward).
- The studies were supported by few social events including two dinners in which more than 80 families with their children participated. The aim of the events was to bring together our Orthodox brothers and sisters who arrived during the last three years in Montreal, Canada in order to get acquainted with each other and with the Church activities.
- The group also prepared on 9 March 2018 one of the five Medayeh Meals within the Campaign of Food for Hungry.

We all pray to God for Father Jean to get better and resume his active role with the group and the Church.

***“Lord, Our God, crown them with Glory & Honour!”***

**Weddings 2018**

Famy Charestan & Roxane Santucci  
Daniele Alfonsi & Catherine Kishfy  
Michael Nasra & Sabine Ambaraghassi  
Mathieux Rahal & Paola Mansour  
Maher Zamel & Jane Karam  
Imad Obeid & Layal Hocheimy  
Dani Hani Massie & Julie Provencher-Lavoie  
Patrick Besilis & Michelle Maliha  
Alexander Coury & Maria Freije  
George Sourial & Kristen Poirier  
Mark Jason Rossy & Atusa Sokut  
Tony Alfred Aoude & Kaydie Rabbe  
Vincent Iadeluca & Stephanie El-Hage

**Date of Wedding**

May 26<sup>th</sup>  
June 24<sup>th</sup>  
July 21<sup>st</sup>  
July 28<sup>th</sup>  
August 18<sup>th</sup>  
September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
September 8<sup>th</sup>  
September 8<sup>th</sup>  
September 8<sup>th</sup>  
October 6<sup>th</sup>  
October 13<sup>th</sup>  
October 20<sup>th</sup>  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>

***“Give rest to our beloved departed in Christ!”***

**Funerals 2018**

Eugenie Abboud  
Evelyn Farha  
Jacques Abboud  
Philip Sayer  
Elizabeth Ephtimios  
Edward Sayer  
Catherine Sarraf Tabah  
William Lawand  
Farid Akkaoui  
Laurice Awada  
Georges Terouz  
Fouad Hanna  
Fouad Dib  
Christine Bishara  
Portia Dragonas Darwish  
Rene Darwish  
Celia Shamy Rossy  
Emile Rassi  
Vivienne Shatilla  
Zoubad Mourad  
Rafla Zariffa

**Date of death**

January 17  
January 18  
January 24  
February 12<sup>th</sup>  
February 16  
March 30<sup>th</sup>  
March 28<sup>th</sup>  
April 17<sup>th</sup>  
April 14<sup>th</sup>  
April 17<sup>th</sup>  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
April 24<sup>th</sup>  
May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
June 1<sup>st</sup>  
July 10<sup>th</sup>  
July 30<sup>th</sup>  
August 16<sup>th</sup>  
August 22<sup>nd</sup>  
September 18<sup>th</sup>  
November 24<sup>th</sup>

***“As many as have been baptized into Christ,  
Have put on Christ, Alleluia!”***

### **Baptism 2018**

Anastasia Bardakji  
Jude Elia Maheux  
Christopher William Abboud  
Lea Rose Radwan  
Rosalie Jade-Patricia Alexander  
Julie Provencher-Lavoie  
Mikah Younes-Garcia  
Noah Haddad  
Victoria Balikcioglu  
Dylan Alan Haddad  
George Gabriel Hinnawi  
Elene Elveria Girgi  
Alexandre Charbel Jureidini  
Elie George Namroud  
Nicholas Anthony Azar  
Marc Chahine  
Robert Everett David-Koke  
Beatrice Anne Kantemiroff  
Daphne Marie Carriere  
Nicholas Anthony Gattas  
George Georgios Ashkar  
Michel Abu Akel  
Maya Maria Lawand  
Firas Elie Samaan  
Alexandre Simon Issid  
Atusa Sokut  
Leah Kate Malek  
Andrew James Assad  
Kaia Marie Haddad  
Anna Zeghbi  
Mia Grace Reding Dakar  
Nathan Samuel Aboulehaf  
Anthony George Bcharah

### **Date of Baptism**

February 18<sup>th</sup>  
March 10<sup>th</sup>  
April 15<sup>th</sup>  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
May 6<sup>th</sup>  
May 12<sup>th</sup>  
May 20<sup>th</sup>  
May 26  
May 27<sup>th</sup>  
May 27<sup>th</sup>  
June 8<sup>th</sup>  
June 10<sup>th</sup>  
June 17<sup>th</sup>  
June 17<sup>th</sup>  
June 24<sup>th</sup>  
June 25<sup>th</sup>  
July 1<sup>st</sup>  
July 15<sup>th</sup>  
July 15<sup>th</sup>  
July 22<sup>nd</sup>  
July 22<sup>nd</sup>  
July 29<sup>th</sup>  
August 26<sup>th</sup>  
August 26<sup>th</sup>  
September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
September 9<sup>th</sup>  
September 16<sup>th</sup>  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
September 30<sup>th</sup>  
October 13<sup>th</sup>  
November 4<sup>th</sup>  
November 18<sup>th</sup>

### **Chrismations**

#### **Chrismation 2018**

Jonathan Naccache

#### **Date of Chrismation**

December 22<sup>nd</sup>