



SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
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God's Response to our Uncertainty and Anxiety

By Father Joshua Makoul



Where there is anxiety there is uncertainty. All of our fears are based on some uncertainty related to the potential outcome of events both in the present and in the future. Some of us are better at tolerating uncertainty than others. We have a hard time not knowing. Some of the events that create uncertainty are events unique to our own life personally, yet others are more universal and affect a larger group. We see in the news a surge in tragic events. We sit, watching, and pondering where we will end up as a society. Whether the events creating the perceived uncertainty are unique to our life or more public or universal; both can create anxiety as we feel powerless in the face of that uncertainty. Powerlessness is a state that no human being enjoys. It can be traumatic for us. We are wired for survival and our minds naturally perceive powerlessness as a threat. However, when viewing our life through the lens of faith, we can learn to have a new perception or powerlessness.

A child will often choose the same story to be read to them repeatedly. This is because they know how the story will end. There are no surprises. Children need and crave predictability and consistency. Knowing the story and how it will end gives them a sense of mastery. A child may even thumb through the pages and jump to the end to see how it will end before allowing the reading of the story to resume. Knowing how the story ends gives them comfort and greater confidence when facing the uncertainty of the story as it progresses. Are we so different as adults? God knows that our fears come from having to face situations of uncertainty where we are not sure how something will end. God, in His mercy and love, has shown us the end of the story of our life in this world. After the

disciples had experienced the death of Jesus on the cross there is little doubt they were filled with uncertainty. They were no doubt wondering what would become of them and feeling confused. Soon after this they encountered the empty tomb. At the moment they peered into that space that was supposed to be holding a bruised body but now was empty, they experienced a lifetime of realizations. Everything suddenly made sense. No sorrow or suffering of this fallen world will have the final say. In the end God's love and providence will always have the final say.

In encountering the empty tomb God allowed the disciples and us to see the end. It was the act of a loving parent, who holding their child in their lap, holds the storybook of their life, and allows them to jump ahead to see the end of the story. As the loving parent allows their child to do this, so God did so for the disciples and us. He did so to offer comfort, allay fears, and to give confidence as we go through the pages in between and the seeming uncertainty of our days in this world. He did it also to help them makes sense of and understand the suffering they had just witnessed and experienced. Indeed, in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples were strengthened and more confident as a result of knowing the end. No earthly experience can have the final say due to the presence and promise of the Kingdom of God. The empty tomb was their first glimpse into the end of the story. However, it is an end that is but a new beginning. We have an opportunity to go through our life in this world with the confidence of a child who knows how the story will end. So that no matter what occurs during the story, the child will not be overwhelmed nor despair, for the joyful ending is fixed and cannot be changed. Indeed, knowing the end helps us to tolerate the uncertainty we will inevitably encounter while passing through this world.

God's presence and His assurance that He has already written the end of the story, makes it okay for us to let go and tolerate our own powerlessness.

Later in the New Testament we encounter the Book of Revelation. The book of Revelation was written for an early Christian community that was suffering under persecution. It is a revelation given to the Apostle John as a comfort to the suffering Christian community. It is a message of hope; for the Christians to hang in there and that God has a plan. He hasn't disappeared. He hasn't abandoned His creation. Later in the book, we hear the words describing the Kingdom of God, "And God will wipe away every tear from their eye; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away". The former things have passed away. The former things will be all those things we struggle with now and that have occurred in our life. One day indeed they will be reduced to "former things". They will be of and have no significance. This can help us put them into perspective now and to let go of them. God then announces in the following verses, "Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end". God is the beginning and end of our story. He has given us a glimpse of the end of the story just as the loving parent allows the child to peek ahead at the end of the story to see how it ends. Yes, we strive to live in the present moment, but there are times where we need to peek ahead for a reminder that everything will be okay.

*PLC Bible Bowl
Sunday, May 12*



Life at Saint George



Dcn. Noah's Ordination to the Diaconate July 13



Important Announcements!

The St. George Homeless Ministry will be serving dinners to the homeless on Sundays August 25 and September 29. If you would like to serve, please come to the church hall at 2:00 on those dates or see Robin Khorey.

On August 5, the closing took place for the purchase of 3410 Dawson St. It is official! Thank you for your support! Once we are done hosting the 2021 National Archdiocesan Convention, we will focus upon taking the next steps with the properties we own. However, even now and over the next two years, we will quietly be organizing and gathering data/ feedback from the community on what we should do with the properties and with our building options; so that when the convention is completed, we can move right into the next exciting chapter of our community! Many hands will be needed for these endeavors....so enlist now!

Convention Related Work: Stephen Esper (esper.stephen@gmail.com)

Future Building/ Capital Campaign work: Maria Terezis (mmahfood@yahoo.com) or Fr. Joshua 412-721-5828

The St. George Children's Ministry will be having their start up event on Sunday, September 8 right after church in the church school building. Please bring your children (ages 5-12) so they can learn a sense of ministry and service in the church.

Church School begins Sunday, September 8! Please bring and enroll your kids on that Sunday in the Church School building! As we strive to meet our children's physical needs, let us not neglect their spiritual needs!

The annual Calendar Party will be held on October 27.

If you're a mom and looking for peer support, fellowship, and weekday worship...come to the Friday morning 10:00AM Orthros and potluck lunch with the St. George Mom's Ministry!

Teen Soyo will have their start up event on Saturday September 7 at 11:00AM with a Pizza Party and Introductions! Please take advantage of this opportunity to provide your teen with faith-based peer support and emotional/ spiritual support provided by the church. It is needed in this world in which we live! Please see Fr. Joshua or Sub.Dcn. Michael Janakis for more information.



SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
HOMELESS MINISTRY

OUR VISION

Bringing dignity, hope and comfort to those who are displaced and in need.

OUR MISSION

By sharing nourishment, connection and fellowship in the spirit of Christ to where we are called.

Stewardship

If St. George has been a place of worship, fellowship, family, ministry, and support for you...

Please support our community and ministries by keeping up with our faith offerings! Please express your gratitude by being mindful of stewardship responsibilities to our community. The church meets our needs and we meet the church's needs. It is a synergy. We do this not only with our time but also with financial support. We need your support! We also need big and generous hearts!

As we head into the last quarter of the year please express that gratitude and support! It is a spiritual responsibility for each one of us.

Thank you in advance!



THE 55th BIENNIAL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION

July 18-25, 2021
Wyndham Grand Hotel at the Point
Downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
St. George Cathedral



Departed Anniversary List

The following Parish members will be remembered at the Divine Liturgy closest to the anniversary of their death.

AUGUST 2019

August 04, 2019: Mary Dip-1956, Stanley Sams-2007, Josephine Evans-1954, Hesna Davis-1980, Paul Douglas Labash-1975, Elias Moses-1980, Abraham Dahma-1984, Emily Esper-1994, Violet Khorey-2009, Mildred (Mickey) Kosanovich-2010 and Nahiba Joseph-1956.

August 11, 2019: Martha Davis-1973, Paul Hazo-1960, Isaac Ward-1972, Sara Joseph-1984, Freda ("Fritzie") George-2003, Renee Jabbour-2002, David Diab Moosa-1964, Sarah Deep-1996, Mary Fayad-1963 and Alex Nassar-1979.

August 18, 2019: Adib Khouri-1972, Elaine Reuss-1997, Mildred Abraham-2009, Audrey Myers Trbovich-1963, Sadie Brown-2002, Michael C. Jacobs-2005, Freda Thomas-1970, Sam Hazo-1973, Anna Eazor Johns-1972, Sylvia Roy-2003, Kathy Mitchell-2014, Abraham Davis-1957, Mary Barterome-1978, Edward Albert-1998, Suad Khoury-2009, Eva Jane Fekete-2006, Jennie Solomon-1967, Hilweh D. Saba-1981, Anthony Joseph-1989 and Helen Elias-1993.

August 25, 2019: Helen Elias-1961, Dewey David-1983, Thomas Gallaher-1973, Helen Haddad-1975, George Riston-1973, George N. Elias-1988, John E. Khalil-1997, Theresa M. Johnson-2003, Albert Anthony, Sr.-2000, Sabha Abdallah Lesoon-2017, Jabour Khalil-1965, Michael Essad-1971, Velma Thomas-1998, and Taofik Abboud-2017.

SEPTEMBER

September 01, 2019: Yasmine Bazari-2015, Susan Davis-1959, James Thomas-1993, Zachary E. Hallow-1977, Minerva Namen-1987, John Abraham-1988, Michael Abraham-1961, Ayna Maryam Zahir-1993, Craig R. Stephens-1988, Phillip Nassar-2008, Mary Hazo-1965, Esper Bazy-1982, and Helen Farah-1979.

September 08, 2019: Donna Leahy-2007, Ronald E. Degenkolb-2005, Abraham Albert-1956, George N. Abraham-1997, Joseph E. Lesoon-1976, Wallace Solomon-1996, Charles G. Thomas-2001, Maryann Esper-1993, and John Bazari-1998.

September 15, 2019: Elias J. Hakim-1964, Agnes ("Aggie") Khalil-2003, Lottie Haddad-1956, Ayupe Hanna (Bitar)-1977, James Hanna-2000, Mariam Mashraky-2017, Katherine Joseph-1978, Craig Stephens-1988, John David Skelton, Jr.-1998, Julia Esper-1999, Thomas A. Hakim, Sr.-2007, Mary Ayoub-2006, James Mahfood-1978, Michael M. Serafy-2013, and Dan Robbins-2014.

September 22, 2019: Selma Detmer-1964, Wasif Saba-2016, Albert Khalil Nahas-1976, Yassemine Khalil-2014, Mary Hanna-1993, Wasif D. Saba-2016, Olga Marie Solomon-1996, Martha Hanna-1978, Charles Charley-1980, Daniel Fraed-1972, Elias Hakim Jr.-2009, Susan Salem-1973, and Sari A. Brooks-2004.

September 29, 2019: Samuel Abraham-1966, Edward W. Liebert-2003, Margaret Khorey-2017, Abraham Esper-1989, Elizabeth S. Cory-1994, Elias Khalil-2007, Namy Farah-1965, Sadie Abraham-1977, William Salem-2014, and Mary Ruth Zahir-2014.

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Dates to Remember

For an up to date list of events and dates to remember, please visit the cathedral website at www.sgcoakland.org and click on the Cathedral Calendar link under News & Events.

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