



## **Our Patriarchate**

*Mailing Address:*

The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch  
Post Office Box 9  
Damascus, Syria

Our Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America is part of the ancient and venerable Patriarchate of Antioch the Great City-of-God and all the East, founded by the Foremost of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. Our Patriarch is THE MOST BLESSED IGNATIUS IV (Hazim) who was elected 165th successor of the Holy Apostle Peter in 1979. He resides at the Patriarchal compound located on the Biblical “Street Called Straight” in the Old City of Damascus, Syria. The Patriarchal Cathedral of the Dormition of the Theotokos is located at this same compound. His Beatitude presides over our Holy Synod, the Council of all Metropolitans of the See of Antioch throughout the world. The Metropolitan of our Archdiocese is a member of the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate.

## **Our Archdiocese**

*Mailing Address:*

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America  
Post Office Box 5238  
358 Mountain Road  
Englewood, New Jersey 07631-5238

The Primate of our Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America is THE MOST REVEREND PHILIP (Saliba), ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA, who resides at the Archdiocesan Headquarters in Englewood, New Jersey. His Eminence’s Cathedral is St. Nicholas in Brooklyn, New York, the “mother parish” of our Archdiocese (being founded by St Raphael Hawaweeny of Brooklyn in 1895).

Our Archdiocese has jurisdiction over all Antiochian Orthodox Christian parishes, missions and institutions in both the United States and Canada. It is divided into nine geographic Dioceses, each overseen by its own Diocesan Bishop: The Metropolitan’s Diocese of New York & Washington with its Cathedral of St Nicholas in Brooklyn, New York; The Diocese of Worcester & New England with its Cathedral of St George in Worcester, Massachusetts; The Diocese of Oakland & the East with its Cathedral of St George in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; The Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada & Upstate New York with its Cathedral of St Elias in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; The Diocese of Miami & the Southeast with its Cathedral of St George in Miami, Florida; The Diocese of Toledo & the Midwest with its Cathedral of St George in

Toledo, Ohio; The Diocese of Los Angeles & the West with its Cathedral of St Nicholas in Los Angeles, California; The Diocese of Eagle River & the Northwest; and our own Diocese of Wichita & Mid-America with its Cathedral of St George in Wichita, Kansas. The Synod of Bishops of our Archdiocese is comprised of all Diocesan Bishops with the Metropolitan serving as president. The Synod meets twice annually in conjunction with the Fall and Spring meetings of the Archdiocesan Board of Trustees (of which all bishops are members).

An Archdiocesan Convention is held biennially, during the last full week of July in odd numbered years with the location and highlights advertised well in advance. A biennial Archdiocesan Clergy Symposium is held in even numbered years in July at the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. A biennial conference is often hosted in even numbered years specifically for the clergy and laity of our Western Rite Vicariate.

*\*The Archdiocesan Directory\** is published annually and is available upon request from the Archdiocesan Headquarters in Englewood, New Jersey. It provides a convenient listing of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all clergy and communities of the Archdiocese, as well as Archdiocesan Officers, Board of Trustees members, Department heads, the Diocesan and Deanery affiliation of each community, a listing of important dates and events in the life of the Archdiocese, etc. *\*The WORD Magazine\**, the official organ of our Archdiocese, is published ten times per year (September through June) and is sent free-of-charge to all households registered with a community (parish, mission or mission station) of our Archdiocese. It is the responsibility of each community to submit a complete mailing list of its households to the Archdiocesan Headquarters in Englewood, New Jersey, and to update it with changes, additions and deletions each May or June.

## **Our Service Organizations**

### *Mailing Addresses:*

Please refer to the Archdiocesan Directory

There are four service organizations organized on Archdiocesan, Diocesan and Local levels:

1. THE ORDER OF ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH is an organization of men and women who are committed and active members of their local parishes, and who are also pledged to providing the Archdiocese with a substantial amount of annual income in order to spearhead new projects, supplement income for existing but under-budgeted Archdiocesan programs, provide grants for charitable endeavors, etc. On a Diocesan level the Order is directed by its Spiritual Advisor (a priest of the Diocese appointed to this position by the Bishop) and its officers (who are elected to year long terms by members from throughout the Diocese during the Order's general assembly at the annual Parish Life Conference). *\*Membership applications\** and other information on the Order of St Ignatius of Antioch may be had by contacting the Order's Diocesan Chairman or the Archdiocesan Headquarters in Englewood, New Jersey.

2. THE FELLOWSHIP OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE is the adult spiritual movement and fellowship organization. In our Diocese its primary purpose is to function as a fellowship of all Diocesan congregations (each represented at meetings by the Priest, Parish Council Chair and a

third lay delegate – the President of the parish’s Fellowship organization, if one exists, or, if no local Fellowship organization exists, by another person appointed by the Priest and Parish Council Chair). The purpose of the Fellowship is to advance Christian education, spirituality and outreach, and to coordinate the many activities and programs offered on the Archdiocesan and Diocesan levels. It is directed by its Spiritual Advisor (a priest of the Diocese appointed to this position by the Bishop) and its officers (who are elected to year long terms by the clergy and lay delegates from each community during the Fellowship’s Diocesan Assembly at the annual Parish Life Conference). This executive committee and the various program and committee chairs help the local communities in such areas as Christian education, liturgical music, humanitarian projects, evangelism, etc. Vital parts of this are the St Philip Prayer Discipline and the Parish Ministry Teams. The Prayer Discipline is an excellent way to unite your prayer with those of people in other communities and support the whole archdiocesan effort. The Parish Ministry Teams reach out on the local level to put into practice the physical and spiritual works of mercy. Each community has an opportunity to be creative in doing this and we learn from each other in sharing our successes and failures. On an Archdiocesan level, the Fellowship coordinates the annual “Food for Hungry People” campaign during the Great Fast to collect funds to feed the hungry poor throughout the world Each community in the Diocese (except those specially dispensed) is expected to pay annual dues to the Fellowship. *\*Information on the Fellowship\**, the annual Parish Life Conference, and the numerous creative festivals sponsored by the Fellowship for your Church School children and teens may be had by contacting the Fellowship’s Diocesan President. *\*The Festivals Manual\** with annual updates is available upon request from the Department of Youth and Parish Ministries.

3. Every adult woman in every community is considered a member of THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN. On the Diocesan level it is directed by its Spiritual Advisor (a priest of the Diocese appointed to this position by the Bishop) and its officers (who are elected to year long terms by delegates from each local women’s group during their general assembly at the annual Parish Life Conference). This organization has a varied program of spirituality and humanitarian projects which it supports. Each local women’s group has its own personality and modus operandi in accomplishing its program. On an Archdiocesan level, the Antiochian Women select a charity each year to be the beneficiary of its combined fund raising efforts. Each local women’s organization (except those specially dispensed) is expected to pay annual dues to the Antiochian Women. *\*Information on the Antiochian Women\** and their current year’s charitable project may be had by contacting the Antiochian Women’s Diocesan President.

4. SOYO (Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations) is our Archdiocesan youth movement. It is under the oversight of the Department of Youth and Parish Ministries. It includes teens aged 12 to 18, and is directed by its Spiritual Advisor (a priest of the Diocese appointed to this position by the Bishop), lay Youth Director (appointed by the Bishop and the chairman of the Department of Youth and Parish Ministries), and its officers (who are elected to year long terms by the delegates from each local SOYO chapter during their general assembly at the annual Parish Life Conference). On an Archdiocesan level Teen SOYO sponsors an annual Special Olympics Sports Camp for physically and mentally challenged children at our Antiochian Village Camp. The Teens make a special appeal each October to help underwrite the Special Olympics Sports Camp, and each January to support acquisitions for the library at the Antiochian

Village's Heritage and Learning Center. The Diocesan Youth Director, assisted by each Deanery's Youth Director, is a ready resource for parishes and missions to assist in youth work. Locally, you need a dedicated and dynamic advisor, or advisors, for your SOYO. Each local SOYO chapter (except those specially dispensed) is expected to pay dues to Teen SOYO. ***\*Information on SOYO\**** may be had by contacting SOYO's Diocesan President.

The Archdiocese has designated the Sunday nearest the feast of St John the Divine on September 26 as Fellowship Sunday; the month of October is Youth Month and is dedicated to SOYO; the first Sunday in December is designated as Choir and Chanter Appreciation Day; the month of March is Women's Month and is dedicated to the Antiochian Women whose feast day is the Annunciation on March 25; and the Sunday before Christmas is Order of St Ignatius Sunday. During these special months/days members of the highlighted organizations are invited to participate in the Divine Liturgy as epistle reader and ushers. The priest may also invite a member of the highlighted organization to address the congregation with a brief message (prepared under the priest's supervision) after the Dismissal of the Divine Liturgy.

### **Our Facilities and Camping Programs**

#### *Mailing Addresses:*

The Antiochian Village Summer Camp  
201 St. Ignatius Trail  
Bolivar, Pennsylvania 15923

THE ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE SUMMER CAMP is a 500-acre camping facility in the Laurel Mountains of southwestern Pennsylvania, north of the historic village of Ligonier, which provides an excellent program for children and teens from throughout our Archdiocese each summer (June-August). ***\*Antiochian Village Summer Camp applications\**** (for campers as well as for counselors) and camping session dates are advertised by mail to each community, are noted in "The WORD Magazine," and are also available upon request from the Camp's business office. The Antiochian Village is also the site of the St Thekla Shrine to which a pilgrimage is made each September, and the Holy Resurrection Cemetery where are located the graves of ST RAPHAEL (Hawaweeny) and several other hierarchs and pioneer clergymen of our Church in North America. THE ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE HERITAGE AND LEARNING CENTER is our national retreat and conference Center. It has fine, hotel-like accommodations and very comfortable meeting facilities. Many of our Archdiocese's special programs, retreats, seminars and workshops - for the Parish Council, Choir, Chanters and Church School teachers, etc. - are held there in surroundings which are most conducive to prayer and productivity. The Center is also the headquarters for the Antiochian House of Studies. The Chapel of Ss Peter and Paul, the Heritage Museum and the Village's Library are three of the jewels of the Center which is fully owned and operated by the Archdiocese. ***\*Information on all special events and programs\**** sponsored at the Antiochian Village is available through the Center's business office.

### **A VISITATION BY THE BISHOP**

1. Scheduling a Visit: It is requested that the priest contact the bishop to schedule a visitation well in advance (usually a year in advance) of the desired date.
2. Setting the Agenda for the Visit Once the date for the visitation has been confirmed, the priest must send to the bishop a tentative agenda of all divine services, meetings and events to take place during the visitation. The agenda is tentative until it is blessed/approved by the bishop.
3. Travel Arrangements: Contact Bishop Thomas about travel arrangements and how they will be made and paid for.
4. Lodging & Meals: The priest is to discuss with the bishop the specific arrangements for his lodging and meals, the cost of which is to be covered by the parish or mission. A single hotel room with one bed is sufficient for the bishop. Suggested menus for all meal events as well as food and drink items placed in his hotel room for hospitality must be discussed with the bishop; of course, the traditional fasting discipline must be observed at all meal functions – both public and private. Bishop Thomas eats everything outside of the Lenten periods while observing the traditional fasting discipline during the fasts periods of the church. Note that if the bishop arrives by car or is otherwise accompanied by an aide, the lodging and meal expenses of his driver/aide are also to be covered by the parish or mission
5. Stipend: It is traditional that a monetary gift be given to the bishop by the community at the time of his visit. The amount of this gift is usually between \$500 and \$1,000. Note that if the bishop arrives by car or is otherwise accompanied by an aide, it is traditional that a monetary gift also be given to his driver/aide.
6. Arrival: If the bishop is arriving by plane, he is to be met immediately outside the secure passenger area by the priest and one or two parishioners who can assist with the car and luggage. While the priest and bishop go to the baggage claim area, the parishioner should bring the car around to the door from which the bishop and priest will exit the terminal with the luggage.
7. Divine Services: Well in advance of the visit the priest must discuss with the bishop any questions or concerns he or others might have concerning the divine services so that everything is done “decently and in order.” It is the priest’s responsibility to see that all who take an active role in the services (subdeacons, altar boys, chanters, choir, etc.) are well trained and fully prepared for the bishop’s visit.
8. You will also need to order candles for the bishop’s trikiri and dikiri. You may contact Bishop Thomas if you do not know where to order these. One source for these is the monastery of Saint Gregory Palamas. You may call them 419-368-5335.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHANCERY:**  
**724-787-9832, [bp.thomas@earthlink.net](mailto:bp.thomas@earthlink.net)**  
**PO Box 638**  
**Ligonier, PA 15658**

## **SERVING NOTES FOR DIVINE SERVICES WITH THE BISHOP**

*Preserve, O Lord, our master and chief priest = Ton dhespotin kai archierea imon  
Many years, master = Eis polla eti, dhespota*

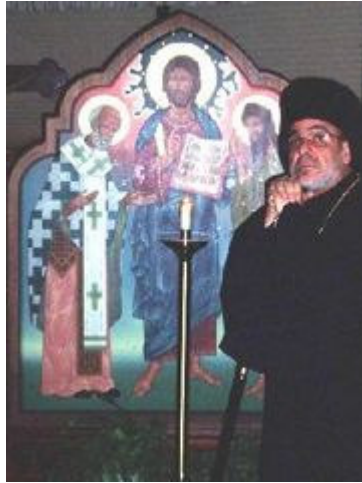
*Blessing for Church Service and the Tonsuring of Taper-bearers and Readers take place at Vespers (immediately following St Simeon's Prayer). Ordination of Subdeacons take place at Orthros (immediately after the Holy God of the Great Doxology). Elevations take place at Liturgy ((immediately before Wisdom. Stand upright.)*

Bishop Thomas's office has texts available through the computer for the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, Vespers, and Divine Liturgy when the Bishop is present but not serving. You may email the office if you do not already have these texts. Please also note that for other services you should use the Liturgical texts that are supplied by the Antiochian Archdiocese. Please see the included books listed in the section titled "Your Basic Library".

## YOUR BASIC LITURGICAL LIBRARY

For Liturgical Resources and Guidelines visit  
<http://www.networks-now.net/litresswraoc/>

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PUBLISHED BY</b>
Service Book of the Archdiocese	Antiochian Archdiocese
The Liturgikon	Antiochian Archdiocese
Divine Prayers and Services ( <i>Nassar</i> )	Antiochian Archdiocese
Service Book ( <i>Hapgood</i> )	Antiochian Archdiocese
Little Compline with the Akathist Hymn	Antiochian Archdiocese
Sacrament of Holy Unction	Antiochian Archdiocese
Byzantine Music Project for Chanters ( <i>a multi-volume series</i> )	Antiochian Archdiocese
Music for Choir and Congregation ( <i>many titles available</i> )	Antiochian Archdiocese
The Book of the Holy Gospels ( <i>readings for each day</i> )	Antiochian Archdiocese
The Funeral Service for a Bishop or a Priest	Antiochian Archdiocese
The Services for the Feast of St Raphael ( <i>text and music</i> )	Antiochian Archdiocese
The Book of the Royal Hours ( <i>complete with rubrics</i> )	Eighth Day Books
The Apostolos/Book of Epistles ( <i>readings for each day</i> )	Holy Cross Press
The Psalter according to the Seventy	Holy Transfiguration Monastery
The Great Horologion	Holy Transfiguration Monastery
The Pentecostarion	Holy Transfiguration Monastery
The Menaion	Holy Transfiguration Monastery
The Lamentations	Holy Transfiguration Monastery
Prayer Book	Holy Transfiguration Monastery
The Lenten Triodion ( <i>needs completed by the following Supplement</i> )	Faber and Faber
Supplement to the Lenten Triodion ( <i>completes the above</i> )	Monastery of the Veil
The Octoechos/Parakletike ( <i>Saturday &amp; Sunday Offices, Tones 1-8</i> )	Monastery of the Veil
The Octoechos/Parakletike ( <i>Weekday Offices, Tones 1-8</i> )	Monastery of the Veil
A Small Octoechos ( <i>Weekday Vespers only, Tones 1-8</i> )	Priestmonk Seraphim of St Paul's
Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos ( <i>music supplement</i> )	Priestmonk Seraphim of St Paul's
The Festal Menaion	St Tikhon Seminary
The Book of Needs	St Tikhon Seminary
The Great Book of Needs	St Tikhon Seminary
Abridged Typikon	St Tikhon Seminary
Prologue from Ochrid ( <i>4 volumes</i> )	Lazarica Press
Holy Week and Pascha ( <i>1981 &amp; 1987 editions only</i> )	Father George L. Papadeas
Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete ( <i>w/ Life of St Mary of Egypt</i> )	Holy Trinity Monastery
Book of Akathists	Holy Trinity Monastery
The Septuagint with Apocrypha	Hendrickson Publishers
Services of Intercession and Thanksgiving	Orthodox Church in America
Psalm Verses of the Orthodox Liturgy	Oakwood Publications
Prayers for Purity	St Nectarios Press
The Little Supplicatory Canon ( <i>Small Paraklesis</i> )	St Nectarios Press
The Great Paraklesis	St Nikodemos Publication Society
Blessing of Icons ( <i>from the Greek euchologion</i> )	Light and Life Publishing Company
Canons of the Most Holy Theotokos ( <i>Theotokarion</i> )	St John of Kronstadt Press
The Menaion ( <i>from the Slavonic</i> )	St John of Kronstadt Press
Selected Individual Services ( <i>each in a separate booklet</i> )	Monastery of the Veil
Selected Individual Services ( <i>each in a separate booklet</i> )	Orthodox Church in America
The Anthologion/General Menaion	Archimandrite Ephrem Lash



Thomas (Joseph) of Oakland

Bp. Thomas of Oakland and the East His Grace the Right Reverend Bishop Thomas (Joseph) of Oakland and the East (b. 1953) is a diocesan bishop of the Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. (Oakland refers to Oakland, Pennsylvania, a borough of Pittsburgh and the location of the cathedral for the Antiochian Diocese of Oakland and the East.) [edit]Life

Of Arab-American heritage, Thomas Joseph was born in Paterson, New Jersey, in 1953. He attended John F. Kennedy High School in Paterson, graduating in 1970. He went on to college at William Paterson College, graduating in 1974. After college, he worked in the Department of Community Improvements in Paterson, then served as a teacher for the Paterson Board of Education. When the Antiochian Village camp opened in the late 1970s, he was recruited by Fr. John Namie to serve as one of the original camp counselors from 1979 to 1982.

In the fall of 1979, Thomas began part-time study at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, and was made a subdeacon by Metropolitan Philip (Saliba) of New York in July of 1982. He continued his studies until the spring of 1983, when he was assigned to Virgin Mary Church in Yonkers, New York.

In 1984, Metr. Philip assigned him to St. George Church in Houston, Texas, where he served as Director of Christian Education and Youth Services. While in Texas, the Archdiocese also assigned him to oversee Christian Education and then later teen activities for the churches in the Southwest Region (now the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America). In July of 1988 Thomas was ordained to the diaconate by Archbishop Michael (Shaheen) of Toledo.

On August 28, 1994, Bishop Antoun (Khouri) ordained Dcn. Thomas to the priesthood, and Fr. Thomas served as assistant pastor at his parish in Houston until August of 1996, when he was appointed pastor of St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church in Pinellas Park, Florida (near St. Petersburg).

Between 1996 and his consecration to the episcopacy, Fr. Thomas served in multiple capacities aside from his work as a pastor. He was an appointed member of the Archdiocese Youth Department Board; Spiritual Advisor to the Teen SOYO (Society of Orthodox Youth

Organization) Southeastern Region; Chairperson of the Tampa Bay Orthodox Clergy Association; Director of Programs in Pastoral Bioethics for the International Academy of Bioethics and Philosophy of Medicine in the United States; Speaker at Braunels, Germany, and at City University of Hong Kong on Bioethics; author of published articles on Christian Bioethics; Speaker at Antiochian Village and third session camp priest for many years; past President and Vice President of the Tampa Bay Council of Orthodox Churches. In July 2002, Fr. Thomas was granted a Master of Arts degree in Applied Orthodox Theology jointly from the Antiochian House of Studies and the St. John of Damascus School of Theology of the University of Balamand in Lebanon.

On February 15, 2004, Fr. Thomas was elevated to the rank of archimandrite by Bp. Antoun, and on December 5, 2004, he was consecrated to the episcopacy by Patriarch Ignatius IV (Hazim) of Antioch in Damascus, Syria.

Bp. Thomas was enthroned as Bishop of Oakland and the East at St. George Cathedral in Pittsburgh (Borough of Oakland), Pennsylvania, on May 6, 2005. In August of 2006, Bishop Thomas was awarded a Doctorate in Education from California Coast University.

His Grace's residence is at the Antiochian Village in Ligonier, Pennsylvania.