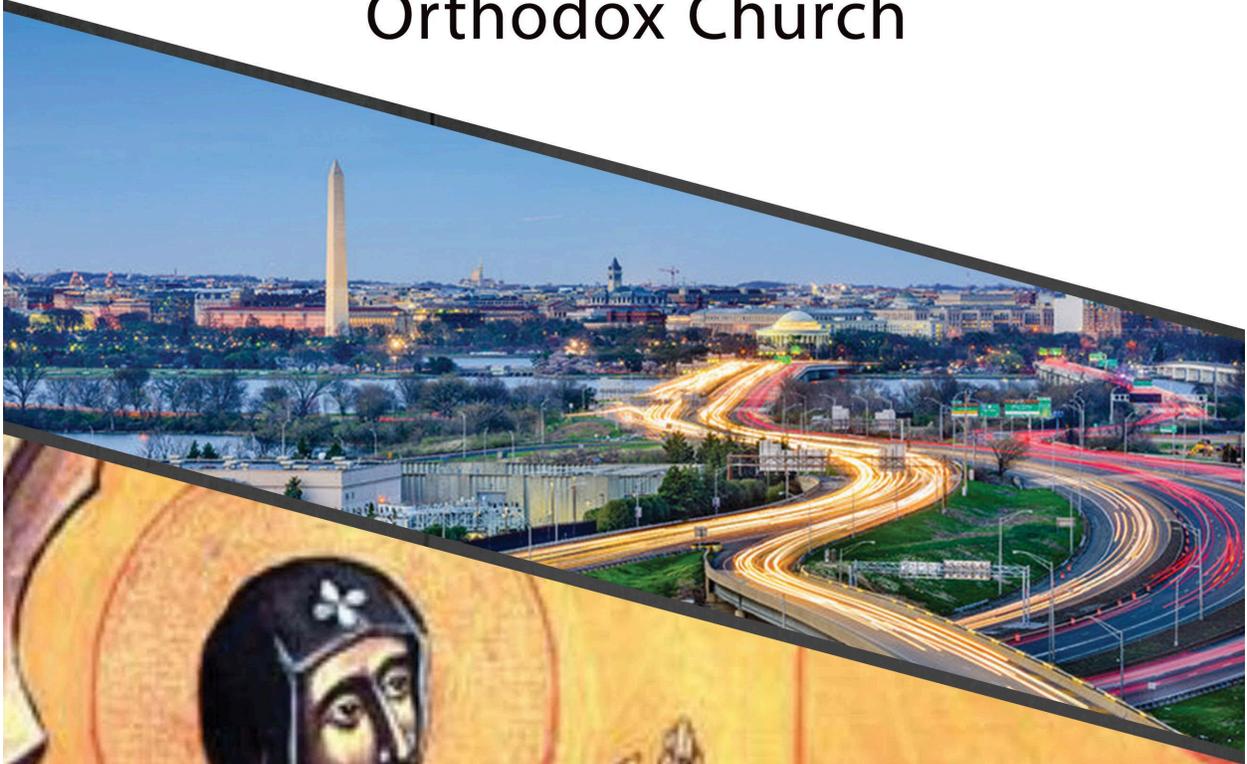


St. Aphraim Syriac Orthodox Church



-SECOND QUARTER 2024-
REPORT

STAPHRAIM.ORG



St. Aphraim Syriac Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

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6200 Indian Run Parkway, Alexandria, VA 22312

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Pastor

Father Aphram Al Faham

September 27, 2024

Parish Council

President

Hanna Chakarji

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As the new Saint Aphraim Parish Council, we extend our warm wishes to you and your families and pray that our Lord blesses and strengthens us as we carry on our duties and responsibilities.

Vice President

Simon Khazmo

Chief Operating Officer

Milad Abraham

With God's endless blessings, for more than 40 years our community continues steadfast in our faith and service to our church. In November, our church will celebrate the 17th anniversary of the consecration of our church at our current location in Alexandria, VA. Through your generous support and committed participation, we were blessed to hold many community gatherings and fellowship events—social and spiritual.

Treasurer

Annie Khoury

The Parish Council is aware of the challenges associated with maintaining our church property and the ability to grow toward a bright future of community and development. Hence, the council is conducting an ongoing strategic review of all aspects of our church, including administrative and financial. We have identified several immediate, short-term, and long-term priorities that we are working towards.

Members

Farid Shammas
Ammar Touza
Esabel Khoury

On the administrative side, we have finalized a strategic plan (see page 5) that includes our vision, mission, and objectives for the next two years. This strategic plan will act as a guide during our term and succeeding parish councils. We are also working hard to put in place standard operating procedures to streamline and professionalize all administrative aspects of our church. We will be regularizing quarterly town halls to go over our progress, our financial standings, and most importantly to hear from you. **Our first town hall is scheduled immediately after mass, on Sunday, September 29.**

On the financial side, we are fortunate that through many years of your support, the church was able to fully pay off its loan on the property in 2020, which allowed us to focus our efforts on the growing need to update, modernize, and expand our current structure. As such, the council has estimated that our annual operating costs are approximately \$120,000. We need to raise this figure every year just to break even. This figure does not take into consideration unexpected needs or any savings toward future projects to better serve our community and grow. Hence, the council is presenting to you an updated Annual Membership Dues Plan (see page 6) to help us ensure that we not only meet our yearly costs but also replenish our savings for the good of the parish. We acknowledge that financial hardships are felt nationwide including the households of most parishioners. The membership dues plan considers this and allows for maximum flexibility. We are grateful that many of you have paid your dues and made additional donations with diligence.

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For many years, parishioners have yearned for a modern and safe structure adjacent to the church for us to congregate after mass and to host events that allow us to grow together. This council is greatly prioritizing this and has developed an action plan to work toward this goal. It is in this spirit, once again, that we appeal to your generosity in support of our growth-oriented goals. The realization of this goal will benefit our children for years to come and perpetuate the presence of our rich Syriac tradition and heritage in our nation's capital.

Together, as faithful servants and beneficiaries of the church, we share in this financial responsibility. With a grateful heart, we recognize that our material blessings come from God, and "to whom much is given, much is required." (Luke 12:48)

Please help our parish—your parish—meet its expenses and enable its growth. All non-purchase donations to Saint Aphraim Church are tax-deductible.

On behalf of Reverend Father Aphram Al Faham and our various church councils, we wish you and your family a blessed, happy and healthy year.

Sincerely yours,

The Parish Council

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2024-2025 Parish Council Strategic Plan

The 2024-2025 Parish Council of the St. Aphraim Syriac Orthodox Church, Washington, D.C., presents the following actionable goals that act as a guide to fulfill our vision and mission.

Vision: To sustain a resilient church where we glorify our Lord Jesus Christ, better understand our church's faith, and preserve its rich history and roots.

Mission: To work diligently to strengthen the presence and cohesion of our church community, inspire a sense of responsibility, and rehabilitate and/or expand our church structure.

Objectives:

1. Host routine activities (social or spiritual) at least once a month that include but are not limited to picnics after the Holy Mass, mid-week social evenings, local weekend trips, all-hands church cleanups, landscaping, etc.;
2. Coordinate with and support our priest, ladies' auxiliary, Sunday school, youth, junior youth, and choir to ensure all integral components of our community work simultaneously and effectively with each other;
3. Improve, renovate, and/or fix our existing church structure and grounds to improve the efficiency and appeal of our church; *and*
4. Initiate all preparatory work (engineering, legal, financial, etc.) to build a community hall on our church grounds to provide a modern, safe, and utilized indoor convening space.

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2024-2025 Annual Membership Dues Plan

The following plan is being presented to provide clarity and flexibility to parishioners as you plan for your contributions and donations toward our church.

We strongly emphasize “**suggested**” to indicate that these amounts are not rigid to accommodate your level of comfort. As an active member of our church, you are entitled to services offered by the church at a different cost from non-members seeking the same service. Please note that most churches, including our churches across the United States, have similar plans to cover the basic operational costs of the church.

Membership Dues Breakdown and Associated Services	
Suggested annual pledges levels:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$600 or more – A family • \$400 or more – Single person • \$100 or more – Visiting students 	
<i>Services</i>	
Members	Non-members
Suggested fees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weddings - \$500 or more <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$100 Marriage registration fee for the Archdiocese • Baptism - \$300 or more • Funeral - \$300 or more • Use of church tent/grounds excluding Sundays after church - \$200 or more 	Flat fees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weddings - \$750 or more <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$100 Marriage registration fee for the Archdiocese • Baptism - \$400 or more • Funeral - \$400 or more • Use of church tent/grounds - \$300 or more

Annual dues may be paid anytime between January 1 and December 31 of the calendar year. Dues may be paid by check or PayPal¹ and also in cash form but need to be placed in an envelope and labeled accordingly. Checks and cash envelopes may be placed in the collection basket or given to the Parish Council Treasurer (Annie Khoury). Please help us track these contributions accordingly by labeling them “annual membership dues” or “dues” with your name and associated family name. Please refer to the frequently asked questions for further clarity:

¹ Contributions or donations paid via PayPal are subject to a 3% fee of your donated amount that is charged to the church by PayPal. It would be much appreciated if this option is used only as a last resort to avoid these fees.





St. Aphraim Syriac Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

كنيسة القديس افرام السرياني اورتودوكس واشنطن العاصمة

**Financials
April – September 2024**

	April 2024	Current*
Main Account	\$161,335.56	\$185,486.83
Ladies Auxiliary	\$16,767.32	\$17,724.19
Youth	\$5,003	Same
<i>*as of 9/27/2024</i>		

	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024*
Total Monthly Income	\$15,872	\$13,037.17	\$13,897	\$9,222.57	\$8,369	\$17,831.05
Total Monthly Expenditures	\$10,955.92	\$9,423.48	\$9,759.88	\$7,908.30	\$11,661.88	\$10,787.89**
Monthly Net Income	+\$4,916.08	+\$3,613.69	+\$4,137.12	+\$1,314.27	-\$3,292.88	+\$7,733.16
<i>*September numbers are not complete</i>						
<i>**Not including a \$5000 down payment for a construction engineering study</i>						

Based on the numbers above, our average monthly expenditures are **\$10,082.89** (approximately \$10K)



