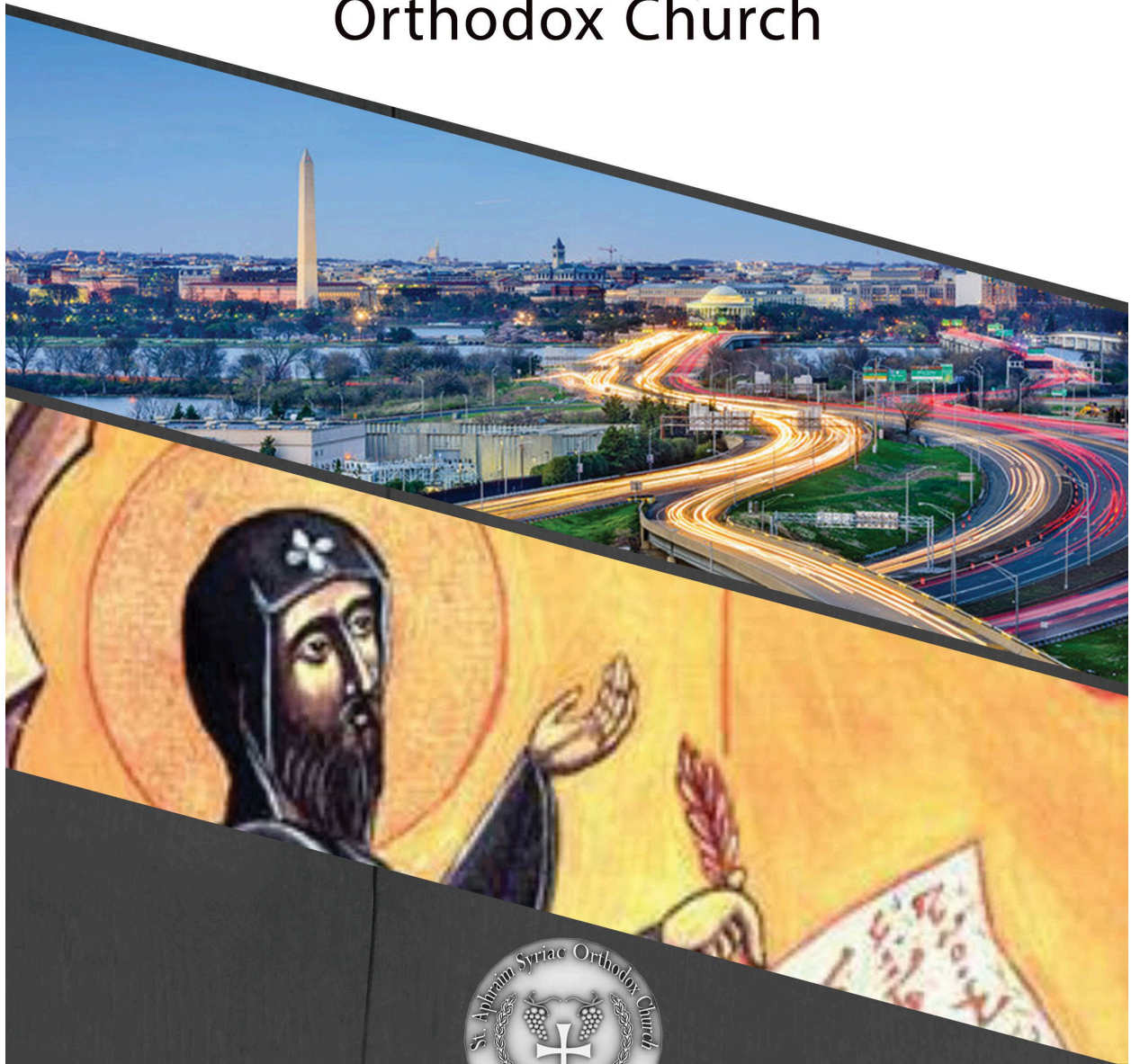


St. Aphraim Syriac Orthodox Church



-SECOND QUARTER 2024-
REPORT

STAPHRAIM.ORG







St. Aphraim Syriac Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

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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

6200 Indian Run Parkway, Alexandria, VA 22312

<https://staphraim.org>



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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	
<u>Suggested</u> annual pledges levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$600 or more – A family • \$400 or more – Single person • \$100 or more – Visiting students 	
Services	
Members	Non-members
<u>Suggested</u> 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.



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Annual Dues Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. Can I pay my annual dues in one lump-sum payment?**
 - a. Yes! You may do so at any point in a calendar year by following the instructions above.
- 2. Can I pay my annual dues in partial payments?**
 - a. Yes! You may make a partial payment of your choice every week or month. Please follow the instructions above to help us track them toward your suggested annual dues by the end of the year.
- 3. I've been donating to church but haven't been labeling them as "dues", will my donations count toward my annual dues?**
 - a. Yes! Any donation made to the church by an identified parishioner, by following the instructions above, these donations will be tracked and counted toward your annual dues.
- 4. What if my identifiable donations over the year mount up to more than the suggested annual dues, will they also be tracked by the parish council?**
 - a. Yes! We appreciate your generosity of all your donations! The Parish Council will track all identifiable donations. All identifiable donations will initially count toward your annual dues, once the suggested amount is met, the following contributions will be counted as additional donations.
- 5. Will my annual dues and other identifiable donations be tax deductible?**
 - a. Yes! All non-purchase donations to Saint Aphraim Church are tax-deductible. If you wish for your contribution to be tax deductible, please help us by labeling your contributions accordingly by following the instructions provided above.
- 6. Will my cash contribution in the Sunday collection count toward my annual dues?**
 - a. It depends! If you place a check or an identifiable envelope with your name on it, then yes. If you just place cash in the Sunday collection, then there is no way for us to track this, but your generous anonymous contributions greatly benefit our church!
- 7. When will I receive a letter that proves my tax-deductible contributions for the entire year to file with my taxes?**
 - a. January of the following calendar year. We will need a week or two to verify all entries in our tracker, print them, and mail them to your home address. If you prefer an electronic version, please inform the treasurer, and we will try our best to accommodate this request ASAP.

For any unanswered questions please contact the treasurer, Annie Khoury, or email us at st.aphraim@outlook.com. We will respond at the earliest possible!

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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
*as of 9/27/2024		

	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
*September numbers are not complete						
**Not including a \$5000 down payment for a construction engineering study						

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

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and a statement that the remaining benefit you receive is an intangible religious one. If you do receive goods or services in the exchange, you must reduce your deduction by their value.

Donating property to a church

When you donate property to a church, the tax laws require you to assess the fair market value of each item. You may choose any valuation method, as long as it gives a reasonable estimate of the price a buyer would pay for similar property on the open market. For example, it is reasonable to obtain an independent appraisal on a precious stone you donate to the church. Different appraisal requirements need to be met when the value of your donation exceeds \$5,000.

TurboTax has a tool called ItsDeductible that can help you determine the IRS-approved value of your charitable donations.

With TurboTax Live Full Service, a local expert matched to your unique situation will do your taxes for you start to finish. Or, get unlimited help and advice from tax experts while you do your taxes with TurboTax Live Assisted.

And if you want to file your own taxes, you can still feel confident you'll do them right with TurboTax as we guide you step by step. No matter which way you file, we guarantee 100% accuracy and your maximum refund.

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