

Department of Liturgics Report, April 4, 2017
Chairman, Archpriest Thomas Zain

The mission of our department is to provide the texts and order of the various liturgical services according to the usage of the Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East with local variations according to the common practice of our Antiochian Archdiocese of North America as approved by His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH.

The department was formerly combined with the Department of Translations as one singular unit until 2015 at which time they were separated so that the Department of Translations can concentrate solely on the correct translation and presentation of the services by providing correct and proper English service books and texts for the clergy and faithful of the archdiocese.

The work performed by the Department of Liturgics, on the other hand, is one of a practical nature in that it provides the *actual* texts including the changeable parts of the services for the weekly services as used in the parishes by positing them on <http://www.antiochian.org/online-liturgical-guide>, **making it the most popular page on the Archdiocesan website that is accessed by other archdioceses within our Patriarchate.** It also provides texts for special services based on the approved translations from the Department of Translations. Finally, it answers questions from clergy and laity about how services are to be properly done.

Our work is a continuous and ongoing one. During 2016, in addition to our regular work, we have started, in conjunction with the Department of Sacred Music, to add hyperlinks to the printed hymns in our texts. That is, when one is using his or her tablets and smart devices, he or she can click on one of the hymns in our liturgical texts and the music for that hymn will open. This is a major step forward and took a lot of time to implement. We welcome all suggestions, especially technical, to improve this product.

We continue to streamline already existing texts on <http://www.antiochianladiocese.org> to the Online Liturgical Guide, however, this has been delayed due to a change in leadership for www.antiochian.org. Hopefully, this work will finish under the direction of our new web team in the near future. We also interact closely with the Department of Translations for proofreading of the weekly liturgical texts prepared by Peter Samore. We additionally provide bilingual texts in English and Arabic through the good work of our department member Fr. Nicholas Dahdal of St. George Church in Cicero, Ill. He has been providing these texts for many years on his own and we have brought him into our department in a formal way in order to provide a comprehensive, uniform and consistent text. We now have Arabic-speaking members of our committee reviewing his work and that has cut down on many errors. Since we last met, we are now posting these bilingual texts directly on our department webpage along with the English texts. In the coming months, we hope to also post bilingual Saturday Great Vespers as well as bilingual texts for the great feasts. Some of this additional work will be done by Fr. Elie Estephan who joined our department last year.

Therefore, our goals for 2017 and 2018 would be to continue to do what we are doing at a good pace, while at the same time, working on completing these and other liturgical texts for the edification of the clergy and faithful.

The Department of Liturgics consists of a core group of liturgical experts: Fr. Nicholas Dahdal, Fr. Patrick O'Grady, Fr. Alban West, Fr. Elie Estephan Peter Samore, and Samir Cohlma and me.

We have a minimal budget in the Department of Liturgics, \$3000.00, which is used for travel on behalf of the department when necessary.

In Christ,

Archpriest Thomas Zain
Chairman, Department of Liturgics