

# Blessings

SGSA Newsletter • Issue 3 • Jan 2022



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# Blessings

The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to.

The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

Deuteronomy 28:8-12

## CONTENTS

### ► 2021 Highlights!

### ► New Church Project Update!

- Milestone Achieved

- New Church Amenities

### ► New Cemetery Agreement

### ► New Board Nominations

## 2021 Highlights!

Despite the challenges faced in 2021 with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are grateful for the many blessings our Lord has granted us this past year. Some of those include:

- Resumption of Youth and Sunday School services at Lighthouse (Steeles)
- Renovation of the St. Antony and St. Moses Chapel
- Completion of 10+ major maintenance projects, including the temporary extension of the Lighthouse parking lot, and the contract award for the roof replacement
- Reduction of 80% of property taxes at Lighthouse
- Launch of the 2021 Youth Council
- Strong community engagement, including the hosting of 7 polls for Elections Canada at Lighthouse
- Youth support and volunteering at Allendale Long Term Care, Salvation Army, and St. Mary's foodbank.



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**>10 MAJOR  
MAINTENANCE  
PROJECTS COMPLETE**



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## New Church Project Update!

### Milestone Achieved

On Tuesday, November 23rd, with the grace of God, we achieved a significant milestone with the New Church Project and completed the formal submission of our Master Site Plan application. This milestone comes at the conclusion of one and a half years of technical work completed by nine (9) consultants, and in close collaboration with the Town of Milton, the Region of Halton, and Conservation Halton.

The New Church Project envisions a design that balances between the Coptic traditions and the modern infrastructure within Milton. The amenities included within the proposed concept are not only meant to address the current needs of the 540 Coptic families living in Milton, but also the future needs of the ministry.





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## New Church Amenities

The initial phase of the project proposes:

- a new Church capable of seating over 800 parishioners
- a chapel capable of seating over 200 parishioners
- a second floor housing meetings rooms, as well as a balcony seating 170 overlooking the Church
- a basement with a large kitchen, dining hall, classrooms, as well as Bethlehem for the baking of the oblation bread
- an outdoor courtyard for hosting community events

Once the new Church is built, it is proposed to convert the use of the Lighthouse building to a day nursery, with expanded classrooms and an outdoor playground.

Additionally, the future phase of the project proposes a secondary ministry building, housing additional classrooms, meetings rooms, and a full gym to address future needs.

With the Site Plan Application now submitted, the next steps will be to work with the Town and the Region on completing the remaining requirements, as well as progressing with the Detailed Design phase of the project and cost optimization efforts.

In parallel, with the grace of God, we will work collectively on raising \$8M over the next two years to support this project. On average, for 550 families living in Milton, this amounts to approximately \$7300 per family per year, or \$600 per month.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. May the Lord reward you for your love and generosity and allow us the joy of seeing this project come to completion, in His time.

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## New Cemetery Agreement

In collaboration with the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton, we are pleased to announce the development of new section at the Holy Family Catholic Cemetery, exclusively for the members of St. George & St. Abanoub Coptic Church.

The cemetery is located at 2523 Lower Base Line (intersection of Regional Road 25 and Lower Base Line).

Key features of the Memorandum of Agreement include

- Discounted pricing guaranteed through 2024, with potential for extension
- 40% upfront deposit; balance payable over 1-2 years (depending on dollar value)
- Up to 100 plots available for purchase during initial 3-year period

The location of the SGSA section is currently being finalized. For those interested in purchasing lots, please contact Mr. Mina Mikel at (416) 820-6292 to register. Holy Family Catholic Cemetery will contact interested individuals in early 2022 to book appointments.



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## New Board Nominations

In January 2022, the Church will begin the process of nominating a new Board for the period of 2022 through 2025, for the following positions:

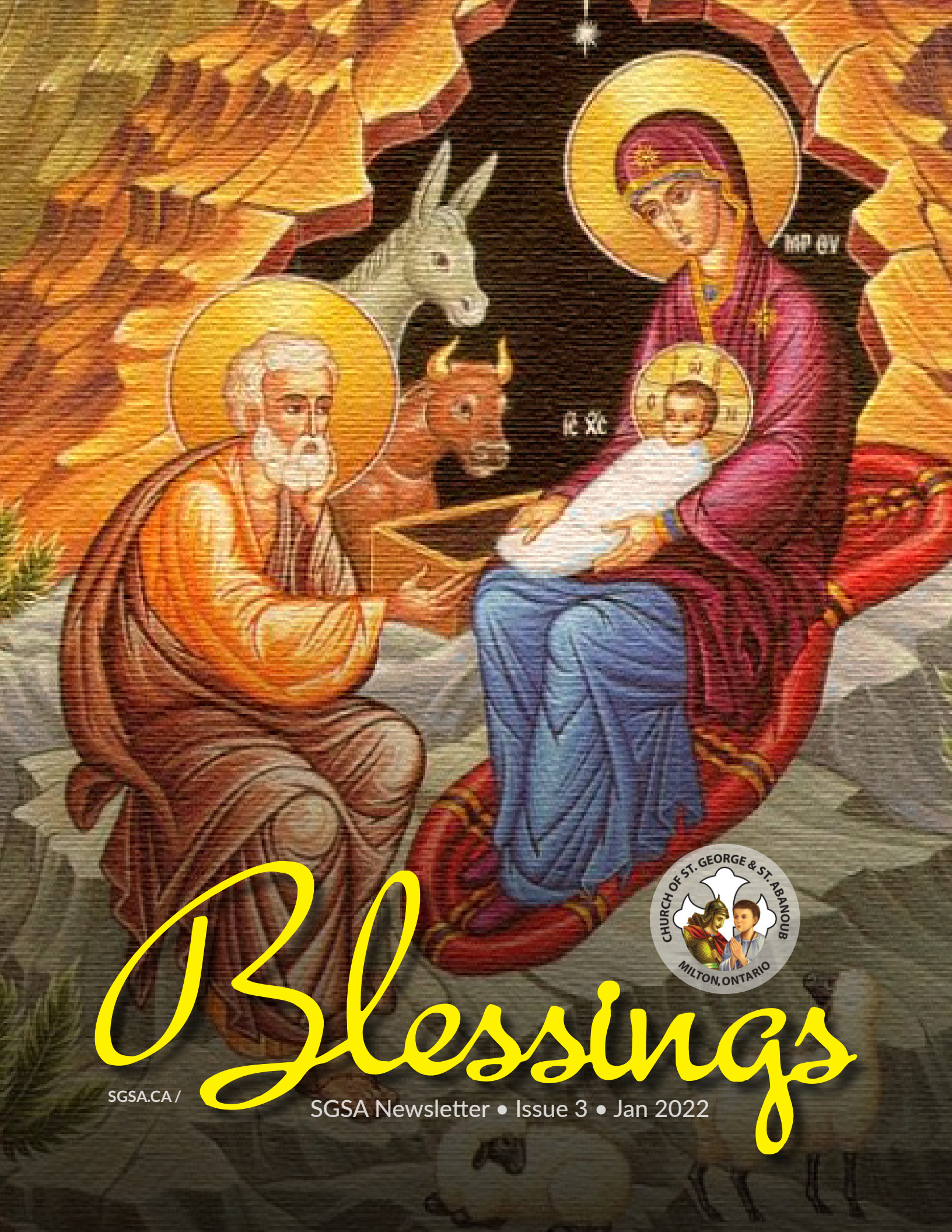
- Secretary & Director of Public Relations (Appointed)
- Church Treasurer
- Director of Development (Appointed)
- Director of Fundraising
- Director of Operations
- Director of Ministries, Youth Engagement & Community Outreach.

The timeline and process for nomination will be as follows:

DATE	STEP & DETAILS
Sunday, Jan. 16	Honoring Board Members & New Board Announcement by H.G. Bishop Mina.
Sunday, Jan. 16 - Sunday, Jan. 30	Submitting Nominees' Names by <b>Sunday, Jan 30 at 4 PM</b> . Nominees receiving 7 or more nominations will be in the nominations list. <i>*** in case total nominees exceeds 20, the <u>highest</u> 20 nominees will be on the list of nominees.</i>
Sunday, Jan. 30	Posting the List of Nominees on Church website and Church Bulletin Board.
Sunday, Jan. 30 – Thursday, Feb. 10	Any <u>VALID</u> objections on Nominees will be accepted OR Nominees can withdraw for any personal reasons by <b>Thursday, Feb. 10 at 9 PM</b> .
Thursday, Feb. 10	Personal Forms of Nominees are to be submitted no later than midnight to Church's website, failure to do so will be considered as withdrawal.
Friday, Feb. 11	Final Lists of Nominees will be posted on church website and bulletin board as well as brief biography/personal statement on each nominee.
Sunday, Feb. 13	Voting till 4 PM (only Milton SGSA church members can vote) – virtually using your ID.







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