

January 14, 2024

# **Blessings on the leave-taking of the great feast of our Lord's Theophany!**

***(manifestation or revelation at His Baptism)!***

**Welcome to St. George!** Thank you for attending today's Divine Services. If you are a first-time visitor, please register your visit by completing the guest book located in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you after liturgy, so feel free to join us during Coffee Fellowship! Every Sunday we remember the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The word "*Liturgy*" means *work of the people* that means everyone participates through singing, praying, hearing the teaching, and opening our hearts to allow God's grace to enter. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy.

**Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion for Orthodox Christians:** Orthodox Christians fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist by receiving Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command *to eat His Body and drink His Blood*. In order to be properly prepared to receive Holy Communion, the faithful should fast (no food or drink from midnight the night before), the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, being at peace with others, and striving to always love God and their neighbor. Frequent communion and regular confession are recommended for all faithful Orthodox Christians.

**For other Christians:** We welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately, we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (*antidoron*) which will be given when coming forward to venerate (kiss) the Holy Cross and receive the final blessing from the priest. Again, welcome!

## **Live Streaming of Divine Services**

St. George is open for all parishioners and visitors. If you cannot attend, please pray with us through our livestream which can be seen on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintGeorgeOrthodoxChurchFlintMI>

If you have a smart TV, you actually have a web browser and YouTube app built in. All you have to do is start the browser app for YouTube and put the link in the address bar.

# Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Archbishop Alexander** (bishop of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Nicholas), our **Bishop Anthony**, **Fr. Joe Abud**, **Sahar Abdallah**, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad Abuaita**, **Philip** and **Janett Abuaita**, **Rasha Abuaita**, **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila Abud**, **George Abueita**, **Georgette Abueita**, **Jane Abueita**, **Mary Abueita**, **Youssif Abousamra**, **William Alsahouri**, **Naila Banna**, **Vera Daoud**, **Said Farah**, **Joseph Gagne**, **Elias Gantos**, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad Gantous**, **Phyllis Good**, **Ronald Haddad**, **Daisy Isaac**, **John Joseph**, **Karen Mortensen**, **Laura Nassar**, **Jeanette Nassif**, **Adam Odeh**, **Rahmeh Rashmawi**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **Michael Silpoch**, and **Sandy Thomas**; **David**, **Gabriella** (daughter of Joseph & Mary Jo Ghattas), and newborn **Edward Joseph Ayyash** (January 10<sup>th</sup>).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Ambur** (daughter of Joseph Haddad) and **Matt Allison**, Drs. **Lindsey** and **Ryan Brunner**, **Casandra** and **Danial Burbar**, **Amira** and **Abdulla Farah**, **Andrea** and **Josh Jones**, **Christine** (daughter of Ayman & Wafaa Elias) and Dr. **Matthew Krinock**, **Kari** (daughter of John & Theresa Farah) and **Panagiotis Mikroudis**, **Vera** and **Luay Sababa**, & **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar & Janet Abueita) and **John Timm**.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** is not hosted today 😞. Please offer a donation to help cover our costs ~ *thanks!*

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: January 28<sup>th</sup>, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> ~ sign-up poster and hosting information are in the Lounge. *Hosting includes bringing whatever you wish to serve, setting up, and cleaning up afterwards.* St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$30. **For more information**, please contact Manal Abuaita.

**E-MEMO'S** If you do not receive emails from Fr. Joe and would like to be added to our Parishioner Email List to receive our weekly *St. George E-Memo*, and only things related to the church, please send your e-mail address to [saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com](mailto:saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com).

**MY CHURCH BAGS** These were put together for *Preschool-aged* children! **PARENTS**, please see that your child takes care of these, replaces all of the items, and returns the bag to the rack by the Narthex Table at the end of Divine Liturgy ~ thank you ❤️!

### THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS ...

- ❖ Our **St. George Altar Society** for years of love, dedication, and time (stewardship) in cleaning and decorating throughout the year, especially this Christmas ~ *May God grant them many years!*
- ❖ **Elie Ghattas** for donating the Holy Water Icon Bottles. They are filled with Holy Water and are in the Narthex for you to take.
- ❖ **Everyone** who called, left messages, emailed, or sent cards (if you texted, unfortunately I did not see it because I do not text) on my recent fall. You don't know how you touched my heart with the outpouring of your love and prayers. I pray for our parish family every day and I ask you to continue to pray for me. Love, Fr. Joe

# PLEASE HELP ~ KIDNEY NEEDED!

One of our parishioners is in desperate need of a kidney. Everyone has 2 kidneys, but only need 1 to live. Both of this parishioner's kidneys are not working properly. If you are interested and want more information, please speak with Fr. Joe ~ *thanks!*

**SUMMER CAMP** The Summer Camp Program at the Antiochian Village (about 1½ hours from Pittsburgh) serves young people ages 9-17 who come from parishes throughout the Archdiocese. The main goal of the camp program is to “*present to young people a living experience of the Holy Orthodox Faith in their relationship with God and other campers in an uncluttered, natural environment*”. For more information and to register, please check out their website at: <https://avcamp.org/summer-camp/>. We go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, June 30<sup>th</sup> - July 12<sup>th</sup>, but it is full with 200 kids on the waiting list! You might be able to sign-up for a different session. **Registration HAS OPENED ~ if you want your child(ren) to go, REGISTER NOW!**

**CAMP ST. GEORGE SUMMER CAMP** Like the program at the Antiochian Village (see above), Camp St. George serves young people ages 9-17 who come from parishes throughout our Midwest Diocese (mostly the western part). After not meeting last year, they are hoping to bring Camp St. George back in 2024. But they need help. The most critical component in making it happen is sufficient staffing, particularly counselors. Will you consider to be a candidate? Applicants should be at least 18 years old, have a solid grounding in the Orthodox Faith, and be regular in Church attendance. They also need to exhibit patience while leading children in a faith-based, natural environment. Staff applications will be available at [CSGlowa.org](http://CSGlowa.org) soon. Some details: Camp St. George meets June 30-July 6, 2024 at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point, Iowa. Staff arrive two days prior for training. For more information or questions, contact Camp Director Fr. Fred Shaheen at [shaheenf@hotmail.com](mailto:shaheenf@hotmail.com).

## OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS



**Our stewardship, offerings, and donations are needed.** PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer your gifts! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) and donate on-line (or use the QR code to the left) or you can bring or mail your offerings to St. George, 5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity and love of our St. George!

## COMING EVENTS

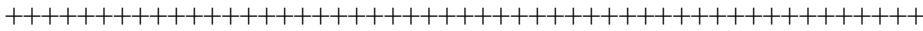
**Fasting Discipline** The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.

Thursday **Pan-Orthodox Dormition Dinner** (*see flier on Narthex Table*) 5pm

Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

*“Watch out for complaining. It only makes situations worse and increases sorrows.”*

St. Macarius of Optina



# Making a Fresh Start ~

## Keeping Company with Fellow Christians

*by Abbot Tryphon, head of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington*

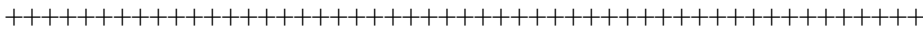
It is easy to feel trapped by our bad habits. We don't like certain behavioral patterns that have become habitual, and we feel helpless in our attempt to change. Growing as Christians is often fraught with failure, and we find ourselves stuck. Our spiritual progress feels more like a treadmill, only seemingly moving forward, yet noticing the scenery is remaining the same.

Sometimes the only way to move forward is to commit to changing our environment. If we have friendships that keep us from growing, perhaps it is time to leave those friendships behind. Back in the late 1960's I hung around with a group of friends in Berkeley, California, where we'd gather in a coffee house, talking about the poetry books we were going to publish, the novels we were going to write, but all we did was talk. One young man shocked the rest of us one day when he announced he was no longer going to come to the coffee house. He had decided it was just a waste of time. If he was ever going to make something of himself, he had to make the break. He told us he wanted to go to medical school, and was therefore planning to put all his energy into completing his college degree with the best grades he could possibly get. We all tried to convince him that he could accomplish all of that without abandoning the coffee house scene, but he wasn't convinced. That was the last evening he'd ever join the rest of us.

His decision haunted me, for deep down I knew he was right. My life was going nowhere, and I was feeling increasingly unfulfilled, both spiritually and intellectually. Within six months, I made the decision to go to graduate school and make a fresh start. Abandoning those friends was the best decision I could have made, for none of us was motivated to go beyond that little coffee house ghetto we'd created for ourselves.

Sometimes the only way to make the changes in our lives that are needed for spiritual growth is to walk away from relationships that are keeping us stuck. As Christians, it does make a difference who we hang out with. If we have friendships with individuals who are simply not interested in things of a spiritual nature, we will find ourselves wasting precious moments in our journey to God.

Having friendships with fellow Christians is the only way we can keep ourselves centered in Christ. If we want to deepen our faith, we must spend time with people who desire the very same thing. Build a stronger relationship with Christ by spending time with people whose values are the same. If we waste our time with people who are only pursuing worldly pleasures, we'll end our life doing the same. The time God has allotted us must not be squandered. If we keep company with people whose goals are of a spiritual nature, and whose lives are centered in Christ, our goals will be the same, and we will grow as Christians.



# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Dinner for the Holy Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery

- ⇒ **When:** Thursday, January 18, 2024, 5 – 8:30 PM
- ⇒ **Where:** St. George Orthodox Church  
5191 Lennon Rd., Flint, MI 48507

**YouTube Livestream**  
Talks Only Starting  
Around 7:30 PM



## Evening Schedule

- ✓ 5:00 Vespers led by the Monastic Community followed by Social Time, Appetizers & The Monastery Gift Shop
- ✓ 7:00 Dinner and Program (A Rule of Prayer: Individual, Parish, Monastic)
  - YouTube Livestream of the talks only on the Saint George YouTube Channel beginning about 7:30 PM (see QR code)
- ✓ 8:30 Closing Prayer & Good Night!

## REGISTER / VOLUNTEER / DONATE by Sunday 1/07

- **Online:** [www.saintgeorgeflint.org](http://www.saintgeorgeflint.org) (or the QR Code below)
- **By paper:** Fill out the form below, detach and give to your Parish Contact
- **By phone:** Call St. George Church (810-732-0720)

**Minimum Suggested Dinner Donation**

- \$35 / Adult
- \$25 / Child or Student

Make Checks Out To:  
**DORMITION MONASTERY**  
OR

**Use your phone's camera and the QR Code below to Register / Donate Online**

## PARISH CONTACTS

- ✓ Assumption Greek Orthodox Church ..... Lori Photiou
- ✓ St. George Church ..... Fr. Michael Bassett
- ✓ St. Mary Magdalene Church ..... Dn. Michael Schlaack
- ✓ St. Nicholas Church ..... Matushka Kathy Gonser

*A Pan-Orthodox Event Sponsored by the Orthodox Churches of Genesee County*

**Register / Donate Online** →

**OR**

Fill in the form below and give it & your donation to your Parish Contact

Online Registration /  
Donation QR Code



## **PAPER REGISTRATION FORM**

**V = Volunteer / \$\$ = Amount Given / M = Meal / D = Donation Only**

Name (please give cell # if Volunteering)	V	\$\$	M / D