

January 21, 2024

Christ is in our Midst!

He is and ever shall be!

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*)

- Elias and Amirah Hanna for the health of their family especially son **René** and **Natania** on the occasion of their birthdays ~ *may God grant them many years!*

BAPTISM/CHRISMATION DAYS

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for our students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this coming week:

- **George Alqazaha** ~ January 25th

May they be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}

- 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**, **Abeer Abuaita**, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad Abuaita**, **Philip** and **Janett Abuaita**, **Rasha Abuaita**, **Sami** and **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 10th).
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Panayiotis Khair** (+January 12th, uncle of Husam Khair) ~ *may his memory be eternal!*
- 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 hosted by *Elias and Amirah Hanna*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: January 28th, February 4th, 18th, and 25th ~ 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.

SANCTITY OF LIFE After announcements and before the Great Entrance, we will have special prayers for the *Sanctity of Life Sunday*. God help and be with all of us as we pray the taking of life by humans (murder, capital punishment, abortion, etc.) is stopped as we all realize God is the only one who gives us our temporary life on this earth and takes it in His time and in His way!

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 Fr. Joe at nja@aol.com.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) needs to be \$7,588 to meet our 2024 Budget. Last Sunday, January 14th, our offerings were \$2,520 😞 **Please keep up with your offerings!** If you have not already, please fill out your *2024 Offering Form* and send it to the church (address on 1st page). Thank you for supporting the good works of St. George and offering as God asks us to for our spiritual health!

➤ God bless our Church School students who offered \$194 in December!

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!

Stewardship

“Send your treasures to the heavenly storage room. Deposit your wealth in God’s bank, distributing to the poor, the orphans, and the widows so that you can receive a million times more in the Second Coming of Christ.” Elder Joseph the Hesychast

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!*

CAMP ST. GEORGE SUMMER CAMP Like the program at the Antiochian Village, 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 being 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 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.

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.

Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

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There is Still Hope ~

The Importance of Praying for the Departed

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

Our Roman Catholic and Protestant friends have one thing in common when it comes to the moment of death. Both of these denominations believe that upon death our fate is sealed ~ either the dead will be headed for heaven or they will be headed for hell.

Although Protestants believe we go either to heaven or to hell upon our death, Roman Catholics believe that some people will go to “purgatory” first. They teach that those who do go to purgatory will eventually go to heaven. Both of these denominations believe that those who do go to hell will be there for all of eternity, and that no amount of prayer can have any positive impact for the deceased.

Our Orthodox Church, alone, believes there is hope even for those in the grave. The fervent prayers of faithful Christians can sometimes have a reposed person’s eternal destiny changed, for it is possible for God’s mercy to be extended even to those who have already died.

This is the reason why we Orthodox must always remember to pray for our deceased friends and relatives. We must not think our prayers for our beloved departed are of no value if the person was an unbeliever, or even a fallen away Orthodox Christian. The prayers of the faithful are powerful, and we have a merciful God Who loves all of His creation, even those we think are beyond help.

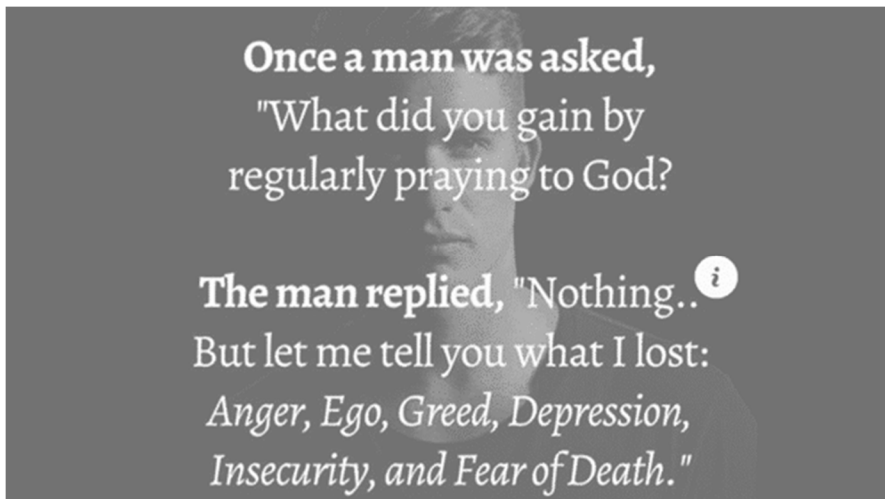
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"Hell can't be made attractive, so the devil makes attractive the road that leads there." + St Basil the Great

“A true friend prays to God for his friend. A true friend cares about the salvation of a friend’s soul. To draw a friend back from false ways and set him on the true path – that is precious friendship. The Saints of God are man’s greatest friends.”

+ St Nikolai Velimirovic

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GODPARENT “SUPER” SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 11TH

We are excited to announce our
Annual **Godparent Sunday**
sponsored by our Church
School.

This day allows our Godparents and Godchildren to “reconnect” with each other and help us understand the joy and beauty of that special relationship!

2023-24 Church School Theme

Please make note of the following:

- ❖ *Children (or parents) INVITE your Godparents to Divine Liturgy as soon as possible!*
- ❖ *Godparents INVITE your Godchildren to Divine Liturgy as soon as possible!*
- ❖ *Godparents and Godchildren should prepare themselves with Confession before February 11th so they can participate in Holy Communion together!*

⇒ An **Invitation** (to be sent by Godparents to Godchildren or Godchildren to Godparents) is on the next page or on the Narthex Table!



***This is an exciting day for Godparents, Godchildren, and our
WHOLE parish Family!***

Our Men’s Fellowship will provide a free Lunch for everyone!
(Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the meal ~ thanks!)

~~ Plan on Attending!!! ~~



2023-24 Church School Theme

Godparent “Super” Sunday February 11th

Dear _____,

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, we will be having a Godparent “Super” Sunday and Lunch at St. George Orthodox Church. It would be an extra special day if you would attend the Divine Services with me. Matins begin at 8:50am and Divine Liturgy begins at 10am. Also, if we are prepared, we can receive Holy Communion together. Confessions are available on Saturdays after Great Vespers at 4pm, by appointment during the week, or from 8:30am-9:30am on Sunday mornings.

I hope that we can be together on this special day!

Love in Christ,
