

St. George Orthodox Church

5191 Lennon Road • Flint, MI 48507 • (810) 732-0720

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

January 28, 2024

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!

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*)

- Ayman and Wafaa Elias for the health of their family especially Dr. **Matthew, Christine**, and newborn **Maximus Paisios** Krinock and husband, father, and now grandfather **Ayman** on the occasion of his birthday ~ *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:

- **Eli** and **Julianna** Helal ~ January 31st

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 **Shafiqa** Abuaitha, **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; **Shadine, Joseph**, and newborn **Daniel** Hijazin who will be brought back into the life of our parish through the *Prayers of Churching*; **David, Gabriella** (*daughter of Joseph & Mary Jo Ghattas*), and newborn **Edward Joseph** Ayyash (January 10th); Dr. **Matthew, Christine** (*daughter of Ayman & Wafaa Elias*), and newborn **Maximus Paisios** Krinock (January 21st); **John, Jacqueline** (*daughter of Anwar & Janet Abueita*), and **Henry John** Timm (January 24th).
- 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, **Kari** (daughter of John & Theresa Farah) and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis, & **Vera** and **Luay** Sababa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: January 28th, February 4th, and 18th ~ 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 Fr. Joe at njja@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 21st, our offerings were \$4,360 😞 **Please keep up with your offerings!** If you have not already, please fill out your *2024 Offering Form*. You can put it in Sunday's Offering Tray or send it to the church (5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507). Thank you for supporting St. George and offering as God wants for our spiritual health!

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!

The Family (and Godfamily)

We are so concerned with our children's schooling and worldly success, if only we were equally zealous in bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. This then, is our task: to educate both ourselves and our children in godliness, otherwise what answer will we have before Christ's judgement seat? Saint John Chrysostom

PLEASE HELP ~ KIDNEY NEEDED!

One of our parishioners is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. Everyone has 2 kidneys, but only need 1 to live. Both of this parishioner's kidneys are not working properly. If you are inspired to see if you could be a donor 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.

Thursday Combined Pan-Orthodox **Great Vespers** for the **Presentation of our Lord in the Temple** at *St. Mary Magdalene (2439 S. Long Lake Road, Fenton)* 6pm

Friday Combined Pan-Orthodox **Divine Liturgy** for the **Presentation of our Lord in the Temple** at *St. Mary Magdalene (2439 S. Long Lake Road, Fenton)* 10am

Saturday **Great Vespers** and **Confessions** 4pm

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A Life of Grace* ~

The True Christian Life is One of Grace

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

Many people sail through their life thinking happiness is something they have created for themselves. Good fortune, and success in work and play, is something they have brought about, either through struggle, or by pure luck. Yet when they experience difficult times, or loss of the things that brought them comfort, they despair.

Sometimes it takes the loss of this established order, to enlighten our darkened hearts to the reality that only happiness that is of an eternal nature will never be lost. For such a man, there is nothing that can take away from the comfort and security he experiences that are of a faith-based nature. This is because God's grace fills his very essence with such peace, nothing, even loss of worldly comforts, can bring about despair.

How can we possibly despair when we know that the God we worship in Trinity, and Who has created us and our world, is become our Co-suffering Savior? He has showered us with such an abundance of grace, that no hardship that comes our way can detract from the peace and joy that we have experienced in our life in Christ.

Compared to this grace-filled life, all else is but foolishness. Grace has liberated us from all the temporary nature of earthly happiness, and has taken up residence in our heart, from which springs forth the healing that transforms us. This grace makes us whole, and our sickness disappears as though it never was!

*** God's grace is a free gift, often described with terms like "undeserved" or "unmerited favor." From Merriam-Webster's Dictionary: a) unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their sanctification, b) a virtue coming from God, c) a state of sanctification enjoyed through divine assistance. Also, God's approval, favor, mercy, and forgiveness.**

Meeting of our Lord in the Temple

February 2nd

On this day, the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3rd) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: *"Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel"* (Luke 2:29-32). St Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: *"Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed"* (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (February 3), *"who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when St Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem"* (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: *"This Child has established Heaven and earth."*

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons on the Feast by the holy bishops Methodius of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth century.



In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: St Andrew of Crete in the seventh century; St Cosmas Bishop of Maium, St John of Damascus, and St Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the eighth century; and St Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica in the ninth century.

On this day we also commemorate the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as "the Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy." The Mother of God is depicted without Her Child, with seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below. A similar icon, "Of the Seven Swords" (August 13th) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right.

The icon "Simeon's Prophecy" symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous Elder Simeon: *"a sword shall pierce through your own soul"* (Luke 2:35).



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Volunteer Sunday 2024

“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”

Mark 10:45

Dear Beloved in Christ,

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America has blessed the last Sunday of January as Volunteer Sunday, raising awareness about a new Agency of the Assembly, [Orthodox Volunteer Corps](#) (OVC). As the Episcopal Liaison to OVC, I invite you to join me in observing January 28 as Volunteer Sunday.

In the Gospel of Mark, Christ calls his disciples to an unexpected form of greatness—service.

You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Just as Christ called his first disciples to service, so he calls his followers today. Orthodox Volunteer Corps seeks to embody this call by providing a yearlong, domestic immersive service program for young adults (21-29 years old) combined with Orthodox formation, community living, and engagement with local parishes. OVC began programming in Pittsburgh in 2022 with 6 Corps Members, grew to 30 participants in 2023, and will expand to Boston in 2024. Corps Members serve alongside our most vulnerable neighbors—at homeless shelters, after-school programs, free medical clinics, and more.

Please join me in reminding the faithful of our call to serve and in raising awareness at our parishes of this new ministry of service, Orthodox Volunteer Corps.

In Christ,

Bishop Andrei
Episcopal Liaison to OVC



OVC SUNDAY – JANUARY 28



For more info email OVC staff
Michael Sider-Rose and Kyra
Limberakis at:

info@orthodoxvolunteercorps.org



www.orthodoxvolunteercorps.org

LIVE YOUR FAITH. SERVE FOR A YEAR.

Orthodox Volunteer Corps (OVC) is a yearlong domestic service program for Orthodox young adults and an official Agency of the Assembly of Bishops. We offer young adults from across the country an immersive year of service in Pittsburgh and Boston, working at homeless shelters, after-school programs, free medical clinics, and more. In addition, Corps Members receive weekly formation & training in Orthodoxy and community-based leadership development, live in community with other Orthodox young adults, and engage local parishes. Housing, transportation, and food are 100% covered.

OVC began in Pittsburgh in 2022 and is expanding to Boston this fall. To learn more, scan the QR code. Application deadline for Fall 2024 is February 22. *Applicants must be 21-29 years old.*

Nominate a young adult or apply yourself today!



The Challenge

Young adults are leaving the Church but eager to serve. The Church wants to retain young adults but provides too few opportunities for them to lead in service.



The Opportunity

Orthodox Volunteer Corps exists to create a new reality: A national movement of Orthodox young adults in faithful service to the Church and the world.

OVC, an official Agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States, develops and equips Orthodox young adults, 21-29 years old, to lead lives of faithful service.

Serve for a Year.

Prepare for a Lifetime.

OVC offers two programs for young adults using a four-pillared approach →



www.orthodoxvolunteercorps.org



The Four Pillars

- **Service:** We match Corps Members with local nonprofits for intensive placements that provide direct experience serving in solidarity with our vulnerable neighbors as well as back-end, practical experience in nonprofit management and leadership.
- **Formation:** We take one full day per week for an interactive, experiential seminar focused on two core topics: Orthodoxy & Service and Community-Based Leadership Development.
- **Community:** Corps Members live together in an OVC House and develop communal practices for meals, mutual support, and prayer.
- **Church:** OVC fosters connections to local Orthodox parishes, so Corps Members can immerse themselves in the rhythm & beauty of the Church and offer their gifts.



Part-time program

- Designed for young adults already living in a city where a full time OVC house is established.
- Attend evening or weekend seminar 1-2 times per month
- Participate in episodic service, design and execute in collaboration with Full-Time OVC Corps Members
- Do not live in OVC House

Full-time program

- 10 months: 4 days/week at service placement; 1 day/week at seminar
- Live in OVC house
- National recruitment process; if accepted, the Corps Member must move to a city in which OVC is established.

