

January 7, 2024

# **Blessings on the great feast of our Lord's Theophany** *(transferred from January 6<sup>th</sup>)* *(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*)

- Lubna Jones, Branden, Letizia, and Saylor, Devin and Danielle for the health of their family and in loving memory of husband, father, and grandfather **Dannie** Jones (1 year).
- Jamal and Manal Abuaita and Family for the health of their family especially **Jamal** (father of Manal) and in loving memory of **Mariam** Ghanim (1 year, mother of Manal).
- George and Jeanette Nassif for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Adel** (26 year), **Joseph, Paul, Nick, Aminee, Ferris, Joe, Rose, Mona, and Khouriya Joanne**.
- Aida Nassar for the health of her family especially husband **Karam** on the occasion of his birthday ~ *May God grant him many years!*
- 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, Shafiqa Abuaitah, Laila Abud, George Abueita, Georgette Abueita, Jane Abueita, Mary Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, William Alsaouri, Naila Banna, Vera Daoud, Said Farah, 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**.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Ambur** (daughter of Joseph Haddad) and **Matt Allison, Gabriella** (daughter of Joseph & Mary Jo Ghattas) and **David Ayyash, 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

Today's special **ZALABEE (FRIED DOUGH) COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** is hosted by *our Altar Society*. They are taking donations to help in their ministry of decorating the church throughout the year ... please be generous!

Why *Zalabee* (or *Zalabia*) for Theophany? There are two reasons: #1 relates to the manner in which it was originally leavened. In olden days, the dough was prepared without yeast. Instead the dough was wrapped in cloth which was then tied into a bag, dipped three times in water ("baptized") and then suspended from the limb of a tree until it doubled in size (the water acted with enzymes to create a natural leavening); and #2 relates to the manner in which it is cooked. Rather than being baked, it is deep-fried by being submerged ("baptized") in hot oil.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: January 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<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 CONGRATULATIONS TO ...**

❖ **Father Michael Bassett** for making St. Basil's Bread (*Vasilopita*) in honor of St. Basil the Great whom we remembered on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations and many blessings this year to **Elias Hanna** and **Jaden Turner** (one of our constant visitors interested in our Orthodox Faith) who found the special St. Basil coins.

## **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>. If you would like more information or have any questions, please speak with our Camp Coordinator, Anaam Abueita (810-962-1033).

Registration opens TODAY, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm ~ **DON'T WAIT or you won't get in!**

**REGISTER TODAY at 6pm!**

**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      **Parish Council** Dinner Meeting    6:15pm

Saturday      **Great Vespers and Confessions**    4pm

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# Happy New Year! ~ May the Light of Christ shine brightly in us throughout 2024!

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

St. Paul taught in 1 Timothy 3:15, “*the Church is the pillar and ground of Truth*”, and it is to this Church that the Apostles entrusted the Faith, once and for all delivered to the saints as its guardians and protectors (Jude 1:3). Thus, the Church’s services, prayers, Liturgies, and sacraments are all essential if we are to be authentic as people of faith.

*“In accordance with the Apostolic Faith delivered to us by tradition from the Fathers, I have delivered the tradition, without inventing anything extraneous to it. What I have learned, that I inscribed, comfortably with the Holy Scriptures”* (Saint Athanasios the Great, Archbishop of Alexandria, 297-373AD).

It is through this Tradition that we bind ourselves to Christ, serving only Him. All else must be secondary. When the Lord says “*You cannot serve God and mammon,*” He is referring to things of a materialistic nature (mammon is the Aramaic word for “god of wealth” i.e. money). He asks us all to declare whom we serve, God or mammon?

The way to determine who or what we love the most is to see where our loyalties lie. When we are faced with choices between God, and anything else, what will be our choice? Do we choose to attend church on Sunday or do we choose to sleep in or find something else to do? Do we prioritize our life around our relationship with God, or do sporting events, vacations, family outings, entertainment, or friends take center stage? Does prayer, reading the bible, serving others, financially supporting the church and its mission, and giving alms for the poor serve as our central theme, or do we choose personal gain and pleasure as central to our life?

It is my heart’s desire to greet all of you as we begin the year 2024, with the words, “*Glory to Jesus Christ, Glory Forever*”. May this year be one of spiritual renewal for all of us, and may we use the time God gives us profitably, and for His glory. Let us love one another, and remember to pray for each other. Let us pray for the world, peace, and the salvation of all. May the Light of Christ shine brightly in us, that the world may know the love of God, and see God’s mercy and kindness in us. Happy New Year to all of you!

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# 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!

**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**

## 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)

### 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