

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

September 24, 2023

OCTOBER IS YOUTH MONTH THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE

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.

Youth (Teen SOYO) Month Greeters/Ushers:

Natalia Awwad, Nadine Khoury, Maya Jaraysa, and Joelle Sababa

Epistle Reader: Cezar Abuaita (English)

Holy Bread Offerings (Oblations)

- Amal Abuaita and Walaa Al-Qassis and their families for the health of their families and in loving memory of their father and grandfather **Issa** Awad (6 month).
- Georgette Abueita for the health of her family especially children **Anwar, George, Issa, Atallah, Suheil, Nawal**, and their families and in loving memory of husband **Yacoub** (28 years).
- Khaled and Sally Abuaita and family for the health of their family especially son **Ayham** on the occasion of his birthday ~ *May God grant him many years!*
- Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee Abud and family for the health of their family especially daughter **Joanna** Abud on the occasion of her birthday -- *May God grant her many years!*
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Cindy** Victorson (+August 31st, friend of Fr. Joe), **Deborah** Salim (+September 7th), **Kamal** Bathish (+September 8th, brother-in-law of Hiam Bathish), **Joseph** Boufaissal (+September 9th, husband of Shefaa), and **Luceille** Nassar (+September 10th, wife of Basem) ~ *may their memory be eternal!*
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: our **Bishop Anthony, Sahar** Abdallah, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad** Abuaita, **Philip** and **Janett** Abuaita, **Rasha** Abuaita, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Mariam** Al-Khoury, **William** Alsahouri, **Naila** Banna, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Karen** Mortensen, **Laura** Nassar, **Adam** Odeh, **Richard** Ramsdell (father of Jodie Bathish), **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; **Branden**, **Letizia**, and newborn **Saylor Elli** Jones who will be brought back into the life of our parish through the *Prayers of Churching*; (August 21st); **Laith**, **Dina**, and newborn **Liam** Maymoun (September 4th); **Mousa**, **Amanda**, and newborn **Nicholas** (September 19th) Rishmawi; **Maroun**, **Julia**, and newborn **Mariella Noelle** Alatrash (September 23rd); **Michael** and **Sandy** (Abueita) Al-Khoury who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Ambur** (daughter of Joseph Haddad) and **Matt** Allison, **Gabriella** (daughter of Joseph and Mary Jo Ghattas) and **David** Ayyash, **Renea** and **Rakan** Bayouk, Dr. **Lindsey** and Dr. **Ryan** Brunner, **Casandra** and **Danial** Burbar, **Dania** and **Subdeacon Salim** Hanna, **Andrea** (Haddad) and **Josh** Jones, **Christine** (daughter of Ayman and Wafaa Elias) and Dr. **Matthew** Krinock, **Kari** (daughter of John and Theresa Farah), and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis, & **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet Abueita) and **John** Timm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Georgette Abueita*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: October 22nd, November 5th, 19th, and 26th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is 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**, contact Manal Abuaita. *During the Nativity Fast (November 15th - December -24th) no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are to be served.*

Thank you and God bless...

... those who help send out our monthly newsletter The VOICE: **Manal Abuaita, Anaam and Georgette Abueita, Hiam Andoni, Hiam Bathish, Vera Daoud, Daisy Isaac, and Jeanette Nassif** ~ it couldn't happen without you ~ **Great job, Ladies!**

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.

Monday	St. George Preschool BEGINS! Bible Study: <i>St. Paul's Letter to the Romans</i> 1:30-3:30pm
Tuesday	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 5pm <i>note time!</i>
Wednesday	Arabic Bible Study: <i>St. Paul's Letter to the Romans</i> 12:30-2pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 4pm

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Laughter

~ **Joy is the Infallible Sign of God's Presence**

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

Although we have no written evidence that Our Lord Jesus Christ laughed, I am personally convinced that he did. How could He not have shared in our humanity with perfection had he not had a sense of humor, and shared moments of laughter with His disciples? Laughter is such a precious gift, for it allows us to share circumstances in our lives in a special way. When we allow ourselves to see with joy those often funny events that take place around us, we are able to put ourselves in a proper perspective. Our ability to laugh at ourselves helps reduce our sense of self-importance.

That a Christian can laugh in no way suggests it is proper to smile at dirty humor, or make light of another person's infirmity or failure. Our humor must never be based on ridicule, or the demeaning of another. Christ used humor when He depicted a camel struggling to get through the eye of a needle. (Matthew 19:24). And we read in Proverbs 17:22, *"that a merry heart does good, like medicine"*.

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A sense of humor demonstrates to others that we live with joy and gladness in our hearts, because we have reason to be happy. We believe the gift of salvation is a good reason to be happy, since the Lord's ministry did not end on the Cross, but was followed by His Holy Resurrection. Living with a joyful heart adds value to our faith because it makes others want to share in the joy they see in us.

We can laugh because we know that all will work out in the end because God loves us, and we believe His providential hand is at work in our lives. We believe that God knows there is plenty of sadness, sorrow, and sickness in this life, but that it will not prevail, because His plan for our salvation is at work. The old Celtic saying, *"Life is all about loving, living, and laughing, not about hating, dying, and moaning,"* has as its basis the Orthodox Christianity of the Celtic people. That is why it is an oxymoron for a Christian to be crabby, griping, and whining, and why *"Joy is the infallible sign of God's presence"*.



ATTENTION ALL TEENS

SOYO SUNDAY

Join us October 1st

WHERE: HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM

WHEN: AFTER CHURCH SCHOOL

WHO: ANYONE 12 & OLDER

Join us for our first meeting to
kick-off Teen SOYO! We can't
wait to see you all there!

- Lauren & Gabrielle





St. George Orthodox Church

G-5191 Lennon Road Flint, Michigan 48507-1050 810-732-0720

V. Rev Fr. Joseph M. Abud
Pastor

SOYO Sundays!

Dear Parents of St. George teens,

We are excited to start a new year of Teen SOYO and look forward to getting to know your teens. As the advisors of St. George SOYO, we would like to share a few updates regarding Teen SOYO for the 2023-2024 year.

This year we are trying a new structure for Teen SOYO in hopes that more teens can participate in events. SOYO Mondays have been switched to SOYO Sundays to accommodate as many teens and their parents as possible, as they will already be present at Divine Liturgy. One Sunday a month will be designated as SOYO Sunday so as to decrease the number of commitments your families may have on busy weeknights. In addition to SOYO Sunday, there will be one other activity scheduled for each month.

In order to be a member of Teen SOYO, teens must have a consent form completed and returned. They received the consent form on Sunday, September 24th. If you have not already signed the form or need a copy, please let us or Father Joe know.

Our first SOYO Sunday will be October 1st at the conclusion of Church School. At this time, your teens will sign a contract outlining the expectations of being a member of St. George Teen SOYO.

If you would like to be notified of upcoming meetings and events, please feel free to email us at stgeorgeflintteensoyo@gmail.com with your contact information and teen's name. We are more than happy to include you in our communications with the teens.

Thank you for all you do in raising your children in the Orthodox Faith! We are here to help you with whatever we can. May God bless and help us!

With love in Christ,
Gabrielle Gantos & Lauren Zerka
St. George Teen Advisors