

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

October 22, 2023

OCTOBER IS YOUTH MONTH THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE

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.

Youth (Teen SOYO) Month Greeters/Ushers:

Hannah Zeidan and Nadine Khoury

Special Olympics Letter: Nadine Khoury **Icon Bookmarks:** Natalia Awwad and Nadine Khoury

Epistle Reader: Member of Teen SOYO

Holy Bread Offerings (Oblations)

- Khaled and Sally Abuaita and family for the health of their family especially son-in-law **Karim** (Watan) Assaad on the occasion of his birthday and the children in Gaza ~ *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:

- **Zeina** Abueita ~ October 23rd **Ryan** Mitri ~ October 28th

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

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Jean** Parks (+September 28th, mother of Judy (Dr. Raouf) Mikhail), and **Yvonne** Holwey (+October 7th, friend of Fr. Joe and mother of Chris Holwey) ~ *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** Abulaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Georgette** Abueita, **Iliyana** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Mariam** Al-Khoury, **Ola** Alqazaha, **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, **Jeanette** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; **Jason** Dine who is under instruction/catechism to become Orthodox; **Laith**, **Dina**, and newborn **Liam** Maymoun (September 4th); **Mousa**, **Amanda**, and newborn **Nicholas** Rishmawi (September 19th); **Maroun**, **Julia**, and newborn **Mariella** Noelle Alatrash (September 23rd).
- 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, **Renea** and **Rakan** Bayouk, Drs. **Lindsey** and **Ryan** Brunner, **Casandra** and **Danial** Burbar, **Dania** and **Subdeacon Salim** Hanna, **Andrea** and **Josh** Jones, **Christine** (daughter of Ayman & Wafaa Elias) and Dr. **Matthew** Krinock, **Kari** (daughter of John & Theresa Farah) and **Panagiotis** Mikroudīs, **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: December 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 31st ~ 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.*

2023 PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY is scheduled for Sunday, November 12th, immediately after Divine Liturgy. Members in good standing both spiritually (*attending church*) and in their financial stewardship (*offerings to the church*) are considered Voting Members and may speak and vote on any non-canonical matter at the meeting. Report Packets with Minutes and the Proposed 2024 Budget will be mailed this week. Please review the Report Packet and, most importantly, plan on attending!

- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER** is defined in our Constitution as: *all persons, regardless of sex, eighteen (18) years of age and over, who have been baptized and accepted as members of the Holy Orthodox Church according to its teachings, who accept, profess and practice the faith and discipline of the Holy Orthodox Church and who subscribe to the temporal maintenance of the Parish, through payment of such dues, pledges and assessments.*
- **General Assembly Proxies** are given to those who cannot attend the meeting because of medical treatment or illness, those confined to their homes, or those with written verification of a prior travel commitment. A VOTING member who cannot attend the meeting may have another VOTING member vote on their behalf. PLEASE NOTE: Proxies can be picked up in in the church office and must be returned back to the office by Sunday, November 5th. Proxies received after November 5th will be considered invalid. A proxy cannot be replaced.

Parish Council Vacancies

- If you would like to be nominated or would like to nominate qualified (*see below*) parishioners for the 3 expiring terms on the Parish Council, please submit names to a member of the **Nominating Committee** (Raed AbuAita, Tony Daoud, or Fr. Joe). The deadline to be a nominee is October 23rd and all nominees must attend a **Parish Council Nominee Seminar** on Monday, October 23rd from 7-8pm. If you will be attending, please let Fr. Joe know. If this day and time does not work for you, speak with Fr. Joe to reschedule another time before the deadline of October 22nd.

Parish Council Qualifications (from our Parish Constitution)

- *No member of the Parish Council shall be under the age of 18 years of age (excluding any ex-officio member) and no Voting Member of the Parish shall be eligible to become a member of the Parish Council unless such person has been a voting member of the Parish for a period of one year and has fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Orthodox faith. Further, nominees must worship at St. George at least 3 out of 4 Sundays a month; shall be exemplary (model) members of St. George; participate in extracurricular ministries of the parish (such as: Fundraising, Parish Council committees, Educational, etc.); participate in the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Communion on a regular/frequent basis; and attend a Nominee Seminar.*

ST. GEORGE DISCLAIMER: All children must be supervised by a responsible adult while attending any function on the property of St. George Orthodox Church. St. George Orthodox Church will not be liable for any damage or injury to property or person resulting from unsupervised minors.

الصالة استنجان عند مسؤولية إخلاء:

من اي خارج او داخل مناسبة أي في تواجدهم أثناء ومسؤول بالغ شخص برفقة الأطفال جميع يكون أن يجب إصابة أو خاصة اغراض فقدان عن مسؤولية الكنيسة تكون لن .الأرثوذكسية جورج القديس كنيسة ممتلكات الاطفال مراقبة عن المسؤولين هؤلاء قبل من تقصير عن ناتجة اشخاص

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.

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| Monday | Bible Study: <i>St. Paul's Letter to the Romans</i> 1:30-3:30pm
Parish Council Nominee Seminar at 7pm (speak with Fr. Joe!) |
| Tuesday | Pan-Orthodox Book Club at <i>St. George</i> 6pm |
| Wednesday | Arabic Bible Study: <i>St. Paul's Letter to the Romans</i> 12:30-2pm |
| Saturday | Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
Fall Harvest PARISH Thanksgiving Family Night! <i>follows</i> |

+++++

Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition

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

The Bible can only be understood through the Church, for the Holy Scriptures came forth from the Church. The reformers dumped the papacy only to replace that institution with themselves as the ultimate authority. Since reason and logic ruled, there was no room for the intuitive, noetic nature of the heart. Thus the interpretation of the Bible became a debatable subject between believers, ending in new denominations proliferating like rabbits.

The Bible is the written account of the first Christians experience with God and was a living, oral tradition inspired by the Holy Spirit, and put down in written form. To think that it is therefore open to personal interpretation, apart from the Church from which it sprang, is the cause of over thirty-five thousand different denominations today!

The Orthodox Church has kept the early teachings and liturgical traditions precisely because she has refused to interpret Scripture apart from that which was always taught. Her Divine services connect us to the early Church precisely because they are the same liturgical services used by the early Church.

Orthodoxy is increasingly becoming known in the West, and more and more people are being drawn to her. But we don't convert people to Orthodoxy by words and debate, but by the example of our lives. Judging others cannot be a part of our witness to the truth of Orthodoxy. Giving witness to the transformational power of the Church is what convicts others of the truth of our faith.

We must pray for our friends and loved ones who do not yet know Orthodoxy, yet we should also give thanks for those who know Jesus Christ. It is a joy to have God as our Father and an extra benefit to have the Church as our Mother. But lest we forget, it is of no value whatsoever to be Orthodox if we do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 327/2023

October, 2023

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of our Archdiocese:

Greetings in the Name of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

God willing, this coming summer our teens will have the blessing to host and serve at the 43rd Special Olympics SOYO Sports Training Camp, providing—free of charge—a week of sports training for over 320 athletes and coaches. As has been the long-standing custom, we ask the parishes of our God-protected Archdiocese to generously support this worthy program.

The mission of Special Olympics, as described on their website, “is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.” As is true in any ministry, when we offer the love of Christ to others, we receive so much in return. I know from my own personal experience of caring for a brother with special needs for many years how life-changing it can be, both for the people competing, and even more for those providing them the opportunity to gather and meet. Please generously support this offering of love by our young people and be a part of the far-reaching transformative impact it has on so many lives.

As you leave liturgy this morning, the teens will offer you a bookmark with an icon of the Communion of the Apostles. They offer this icon as an expression of their appreciation for your contribution and for you joining them in this sacred ministry that helps them share their blessings with others.

Asking the Lord to bless this forty third of our participation in Special Olympics as well as all of you and your loved ones, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Saba". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Awareness Day

AS NAC TEEN SOYO PREPARES TO SPONSOR THE 43RD ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORTS CAMP, WE ASK FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND HELP IN MAKING THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE. APPROXIMATELY 300 ATHLETES AND COACHES PARTICIPATE IN OUR CAMP EACH YEAR. TEEN SOYO MEMBERS TRAVEL FROM ACROSS OUR ARCHDIOCESE TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME, TO LIVE IN SERVICE TO OTHERS AND TO FULFILL THE CALL TO DO ALL THINGS.

"AS WORKING FOR THE LORD, NOT FOR MEN." (COL. 3:23)

Today, our teens will request your financial donations to enable them to sponsor the 43rd Annual Special Olympics Sports Camp, which will be held at the Antiochian Village, in August of 2024. Your donations make it possible for every athlete to attend this event free of charge and also help Teen SOYO members travel to serve as Coaches at the camp.

As an expression of gratitude for your donation to this effort, teens will be handing out bookmarks with the icon of the Communion of the Apostles. Thank you for considering the support of this wonderful ministry that allows our children to be a witness and blessing to others!

Please make checks payable to your local Teen SOYO group with "SOAD 2023" in the memo.

Donations can also be made online at www.teensoyo.org/special-olympics.

Your donations make this ministry possible!



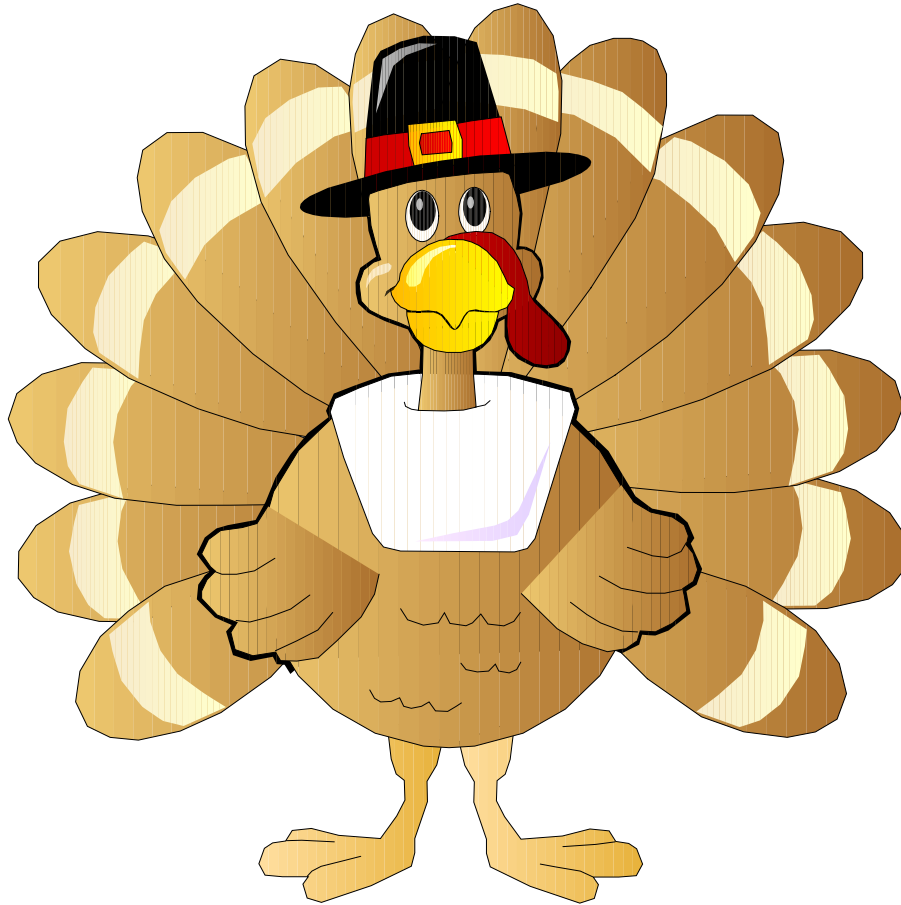
**Special
Olympics**



DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, NAC Teen SOYO covers the cost of the camp, approximately \$75,000, through the generosity of our fellow parishioners. Through the years, we have hosted more than 8,500 athletes and coaches. Around 1,200 of our teens have had the unique experience of being a coach or volunteer at the camp.

Fall Harvest PARISH Thanksgiving Family Night!



Saturday, October 28th

Our Church School children are to be dropped off as follows: (*8th-12th Grade Class at 2:30pm; Kindergarten thru 7th Grade Classes at 3pm*). Each class will prepare their part of the meal, set the tables, do crafts, and have a great time together! We are asking all parents to be back by **5pm** so their children are sitting next to them praying at ***Great Vespers***.

Following ***Great Vespers***,
we will all enjoy the meal prepared by our children!

This is for ALL of our St. George Family – see you there!



PARISH FEAST DAY
THE 86TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ST. DEMETRIOS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
THE FEAST OF
SAINT DEMETRIOS THE MYRRH-STREAMER!

SCHEDULE

Wednesday - October 25th

Festal Vespers: 6:00 pm

With visiting clergy of the
Metropolis of Detroit

Reception to follow

Thursday - October 26th

Orthros: 9:00 am

Festal Liturgy: 10:00 am

Reception to follow

Sunday - October 29th

Orthros: 8:50 am

Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

*Feastday Glendi
after the Liturgy*

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THIS GREAT SAINT
AND THE FEAST DAY OF OUR CHURCH!