

St. George Orthodox Church

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Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

November 19, 2023

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*)

- Laila, Fr. Joe, and Kh. Leslee Abud for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Yvonne** Holwey (40 day, friend of Fr. Joe and mother of Chris Holwey).
- Naila Banna for the health of her family and in loving memory of dear friend **Aida** Raffoul (1 year), **Michael** Khal (6 month), husband **Cesar** (5 year), and parents **Yacoub** and **Marie** Farah.
- Subdeacon Salim and Dania Hanna for the health of their family especially **Dania** and newborn **Elias** and the **Hanna, Elias, Joubran, Khoshaba** and **Krinock** families.
- **Timothy** Beers on the occasion of his birthday ~ *May God grant him many years!* ~ for the health of his family especially **Victoria** and **Shirley** Zerka and in loving memory of **George, Lourice, Sam, Sadie, Handoumi, Harry, Fred, Louise, and Albert, Vicki, David, and Richard** Salim.
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Kh. Loretta** Karpelenia (+November 6th, mother of Denise Ghattas) ~ *may her memory be eternal!*
- 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, Sahar** Abdallah, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad** Abuaita, **Philip** and **Janett** Abuaita, **Rasha** Abuaita, **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Mary** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **William** Alsahouri, **Naila** Banna, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **John** Joseph, **Karen** Mortensen, **Karam** Nassar, **Laura** Nassar, **Jeanette** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; **Jason** Dine who is under instruction/catechism to become Orthodox; **Deeb, Narmeen**, and newborn **Julia** Shamshoum who will be brought back into the life of our parish through the *Prayers of Churching*; **Rakan, Renea**, and newborn **Jacob** Bayouk (October 24th); **Subdeacon Salim, Dania**, and newborn **Elias** Hanna (October 28th); **Milo** Abuaitah who will be brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion.
- 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, **Andrea** and **Josh** Jones, **Christine** (daughter of Ayman & Wafaa Elias) and Dr. **Matthew** Krinock, **Kari** (daughter of John & Theresa Farah) and **Panagiotis** Mikroudias, **Vera** and **Luay** Sababa, & **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar & Janet Abueita) and **John** Timm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY! LADIES AUXILIARY HOLIDAY BAKE SALE Our ladies are having a *Bake Sale* for Coffee Fellowship ~ Please be generous and support our ladies and their good works!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 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.*

⇒ **LAST WEEK'S 2ND OFFERING TRAY** THANK YOU to all who offered for those suffering in the Holy Land. Out of your love and generosity, we collected \$643 ~ thank you!

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!*

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES ~ NOVEMBER 2023!

November 20th at 6pm *Evening Divine Liturgy* for Entrance of the Theotokos at Assumption Church
Special visitor – Bishop Earl Boyea of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing

WANT TO BE AN ANGEL? YOU CAN!

Our parish is again participating in the **North End Soup Kitchen Angel Tree**. We have 31 children looking for “angels” to brighten their Christmas! Gift range is between \$30 and \$40. Gift cards are OK for children 15-17 years old. Several items may be requested, but you only need to pick one or more of these items. Attach the provided gift tag that has the child's name to the gift, and place in gift bags. All gifts must be returned by SUNDAY, December 3rd! You can make an online donation on our website at <https://app.easytithethe.com/app/giving/saintgeorgeflint> (under "fund", choose "Angel Tree") or send it directly to the church with the memo "Angel Tree" so our coordinators can purchase gifts. If you have any questions, speak with one of our coordinators May, Gabby, or Lauren Gantos. Again, thank you, and may God always bless your generosity!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS ~ ST. GEORGE CHRISTMAS CONCERT will take place on Saturday, December 16th immediately following Great Vespers. Anyone is welcome if you would like to sing a solo, sing in a group choir, or play an instrument ~ BOTH adults and children are welcome. Please contact Janet Abueita or Elias Abueita for more information; practices dates will be announced soon! Mark your calendars for a wonderful activity with your St. George Family!

ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY All Women of St. George are invited to attend this Christmas Dinner Party at the Redwood Steakhouse (5304 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507 off Hill Road and US 23) on Monday, December 27th at 4pm. The cost is \$27 per person and must be paid in advance to reserve your spot. The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, December 20th. To reserve your spot or for more information, please contact our coordinators Areen Bathish (810-691-0722) or Janet Abueita (810-691-0956).

PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB The Pan Orthodox Book Club will meet again on Tuesday, November 28th from 6-8pm at St. George Church with both in person and ZOOM. We will be finishing up the book “Christ in the Psalms” by Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon. All are welcome to come whether they have just started reading, are finished, or just want to listen in and learn more about the Psalms! Please contact Fr. Michael Bassett at frdmike@gmail.com or 989-627-9580 for more information or to be added to their distribution list!

ST. GEORGE GIFT CARDS

They are on sale TODAY! Place your order and pickup cards next Sunday, November 26th ~ see Kh. Leslee Abud during Coffee Fellowship. Donating a gift to the Angel Tree? Buy it with a gift card!

COMING EVENTS

Fasting Discipline On Wednesday, November 15th, we began the traditional forty-day **Nativity Fast** (also called the Christmas or Advent Fast) in preparation for the **Nativity of Christ** on December 25th. The Fast is divided into two periods. The first period is until December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products*) is observed on all days except Tuesdays and Thursdays when *wine and oil* are allowed and Saturdays and Sundays when *fish, wine, and oil* are allowed. There is no fasting on Thanksgiving Day.

- Monday Combined, Pan-Orthodox **Evening Divine Liturgy** for the **Entrance of the Virgin Mary into the Temple at Assumption** (2245 E Baldwin Rd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439) 6pm
- Tuesday **Men's Fellowship** 6pm
- Thursday **Give Thanks to the Lord in All Things!** (*Office closed Thursday & Friday*)
- Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm
Baptism of Milo Abulaitah 5pm

Giving Thanks ~ Remembering to Give Thanks, Frequently!

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

"We thank thee, O Christ our God, that thou hast satisfied us with thy earthly gifts, deprive us not of thy Heavenly Kingdom; but as thou entered into the midst of thy disciples, O Savior, and gave them peace, enter also among us and save us. Amen."

This prayer is one of my personal favorites, for it recognizes in concise words my need to remember to give thanks to God for all He has given me. It connects me to the ancient Church, for it allows me to recount the Lord's coming in the midst of His disciples, and granting them the peace I so desire. It keeps me focused on the goal, and remembering, throughout my day, that the Lord is to be my focus.

This is the prayer many Orthodox Christians pray at the end of meals, yet also a prayer that can be offered whenever we are feeling a certain gratefulness of heart, or desiring God's loving mercy.

Prayers like this are easily memorized, allowing us to express our gratitude to God without being wordy. The Lord knows our needs, and there is no need to "spell it out" for God. What is necessary is that we remember to give thanks to God, and let the Lord hear from us throughout the day. Such short little prayers are perfect for keeping ourselves spiritually focused because they express our desire to make communion with God the central part of our day.

This is a wonderful prayer to say with children just before tucking them in for the night, ending their waking hours by calling down God's peace into their hearts. It is a wonderful prayer to offer as we've arrived safely to our destination, following the morning commute.

Our prayers need not be long, but they should be frequent. Just as an old couple who've shared a long life together don't need to say a lot of words in order to demonstrate their love for one another, so too, our prayers don't need to be long and formal in order to let God know we love Him, but they do need to be frequent.

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A Thanksgiving Prayer

A prayer before your Thanksgiving meals

O God, Who at all times and in every hour, in heaven and on earth, is worshipped and glorified; Who is long suffering, merciful, and compassionate, and Who loves the just and shows mercy upon the sinner, on this special day of Thanksgiving, we bow our heads in prayer and pray for peace in this troubled world. For it is only Your Peace, the Prince of Peace, Your son Jesus Christ, that has the power to sustain us and the whole world. O Lord of Hosts; do not abandon Your humanity and do not forsake us, Your children. In Your eyes, O Lord, all creation is the work of Your hand, and we are all counted together as your Holy children. We pray for our nation and that Your peace will reign over us. We ask that you remember our loved ones who have passed into everlasting life. No matter how many times we thank You for Your blessings and gifts, unworthy recipients that we are, we cannot thank You enough, but humbly ask You to bless the food and drink which have been prepared for us so we can always give thanks to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

