

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

November 26, 2023

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*)

- Sahar Abdallah and family for the health of their family especially husband and father **Fares** on the occasion of his birthday and for **Abdallah** Abdallah (father of Fares) ~ *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:

- **Luka** Mitri ~ November 26th

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

- 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, **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, **Samer** Ishaq, **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; **Rakan**, **Renea**, and newborn **Jacob** Bayouk who will be brought back into the life of our parish through the *Prayers of Churching*; **Subdeacon Salim**, **Dania**, and newborn **Elias** Hanna (October 28th); **Milo** Abuaitah who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion; **Evi** Kosrow 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, **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

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Sahar Abdallah*.

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.*

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS ~ ST. GEORGE PRE-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; practice dates will be announced soon! Mark your calendars for a wonderful activity with your St. George Family!

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!*

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 NEXT Sunday, December 3rd! You can make an online donation on our website at <https://app.easytith.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!

THE SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION)

If you have not had Confession in the last 2 months and desire to return to the life of the Church and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, please remember you and your children (8 years old and up) must offer a confession of your sins first. During this time of the **Nativity** (Christmas) **Fast** is the perfect opportunity. Fr. Joe and Fr. Michael are not the only Orthodox priests in the area and if you would prefer to go to one of the others, feel free to do so, please just inform Fr. Joe: *Fr. Peter Bistorides* (Assumption Church: 810-771-4611), *Fr. Gabriel Bilas* (St. Mary Magdalene: 810-750-1401), or *Fr. Matthew Butrie* (St. Nicholas Church: 810-744-0070). The important thing isn't who hears your confession, but that you participate in this Holy Sacrament on a regular basis.

Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have the right to the Tree of Life (*Christ in Holy Communion!*). (*Revelations 22:14*)

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 Wednesday, 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 Sunday, December 17th. 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 THIS 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!

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.

Monday **Bible Study: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans** 1:30-3:30pm
Wednesday **Nativity Fast Prayer Service** 6pm
Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

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We Must Cast Aside Estrangement ~ In Our Love for God We Must Set Aside All Estrangement

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

Faith is a gift that requires us to work diligently. We are not simply saved in that moment we've committed ourselves to the Lord, but must see it as the very first important step. This gift from God requires our cooperation. It requires us to focus our eyes on Christ, and invite Him to fill the whole of our being with His presence.

Our cooperative response begins when we commit to increasing our time in prayer, both in the corporate liturgical prayer of the Church, and in our private prayer. It is the corporate prayer of the Church which brings us into contact with the Holy Mysteries, the very Body and Blood of our Savior which feeds our souls.

Our faith is further increased by the hearing of God's Word, and bowing before the Lord with a repentant heart. Like the bride who responds to the touch of her husband, so too does our soul respond to the love of God.

Just as the husband who never tells his wife of his love, so too our love for God must be communicated if it is to grow. Our soul responds to our tenderly expressed love of Christ, and our faith has grown stronger, with all estrangement cast aside. Only then can our faith save us.

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Once a man was asked,
"What did you gain by
regularly praying to God?"

The man replied, "Nothing..
But let me tell you what I lost:
Anger, Ego, Greed, Depression,
Insecurity, and Fear of Death."

A decorative border of watercolor illustrations surrounds the central text. It includes various autumn-themed items: pumpkins, gourds, pears, apples, and several different styles of flowers and leaves in shades of orange, red, and green.

TEEN SOYO

JOIN US FOR THANKSGIVING
FUN, CHRISTMAS PARTY
DETAILS, & WINTER EVENT
PLANNING

NOV

SUNDAY

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AFTER CHURCH
SCHOOL

2023

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH