

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

December 10, 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*)

- Vicky, Joseph, Victor, and Vivian Farah [McGee] for the health of their families and in loving memory of mother **Vera** (2 year), father **Jerry** (Jiryis, 35 year), and uncle **Sam** (Subhi, 31 year).
- Douglas and Sandy Thomas for the health of their family and in loving memory of Sandy's parents **Jean** (9 year) and **Alex Khouri** (31 year).
- Areen Bathish for the health of her family and in loving memory of **Brendon** Fitch (10 year).
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Kh. Loretta** Karpelenia (+November 6th, mother of Denise Ghattas), **Sue** Brady-Dingo (+November 21st, aunt of Jason Dine), and **Gena** Basnett, (+November 28th, friend of Fr. Michael) ~ *may their 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**a Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **George** Abueita, **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.
- 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 *Vicky, Joseph, Victor, and Vivian Farah [McGee]*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 31st, January 14th, 21st, and 28th ~ 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.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS ~ ST. GEORGE PRE-CHRISTMAS CONCERT will take place THIS Saturday, December 16th immediately following **Great Vespers** (4pm). Anyone is welcome 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! 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!*

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. For your convenience, Fr. Joe and Fr. Michael will be hearing confessions after Divine Liturgy TODAY, Sunday, December 10th. 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, just please 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 ~ especially during the Nativity Fast!

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*)

Divine Services for the Nativity Fast and Christmas Eve

- ❖ Wednesday, December 13th **Nativity Fast Prayer Service** at 6pm
- ❖ 2nd Sunday before the Nativity, December 17th ~ **Holy Forefathers of Christ**
Matins – 8:50am **Divine Liturgy** – 10am
- ❖ Wednesday, December 20th **Nativity Fast Prayer Service** at 6pm
- ❖ Friday, December 22nd – **Royal Hours of the Nativity** – 6pm
- ❖ Sunday before the Nativity, December 24th ~ **Holy Fathers of Christ**
Matins – 8:50am **Divine Liturgy** – 10am
- ❖ **Nativity Services, Sunday night, December 24th:**
Nativity Festal Matins – 4:50pm **Nativity Divine Liturgy** – 6pm
- ❖ Nativity Day, December 25th ~ no Divine Services
This also begins the **Twelve Days of Christmas** until January 5th!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES If you cannot attend our celebration of the Nativity of our Lord on Christmas Eve, Assumption, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Nicholas will be celebrating the Nativity Divine Liturgy on Monday, December 25th beginning at 10am and you are welcome to attend:

Assumption 2245 East Baldwin Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
St. Mary Magdalene 2439 South Long Lake Road, Fenton, MI 48430
St. Nicholas 2143 Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB The Pan Orthodox Book Club will meet (in person and on Zoom) on Tuesday December 19th at 6pm at St. George. We are reading **On the Incarnation** by St. Athanasius the Great which is a perfect read as we near our celebration of our Lord's Nativity (Incarnation)! Fr. Michael will send out thoughts each week to help focus our reading). The online link for the book is at <https://www.onthewing.org/user/Athanasius%20-%20On%20the%20Incarnation.pdf>. It can also be purchased in many places or may be in your parish bookstore. This book is fairly short. Please read and come prepared to discuss. When we meet, we will also read out loud the short *Protoevangelium of James*, a legendary writing from the 2nd century which gives details of the conception, birth, and early life of the Mother of God as well as the Nativity of Christ. Anyone is welcome to attend! A Zoom link will be sent before the meeting. Please contact Fr. Michael Bassett (frdmike@gmail.com or 989-627-9580) for more information or to be added to their distribution list!

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).

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: <i>St. Paul's Letter to the Romans</i> 1:30-3:30pm
Wednesday	<i>Nativity Fast Prayer Service</i> 6pm
Thursday	Parish Council Dinner Meeting 6:15pm
Saturday	<i>Great Vespers ~ Parish Christmas Concert and Family Night</i> 4pm

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Journeying Together ~ We Are All On the Journey to God, Together

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

There is the wonderful story of a group of African children who were assembled before a large basket of fresh fruit. They were told that the first child who could reach the basket could have all the fruit for themselves. The Western adults who had set up this "test" stood in awe as the children all linked hands, and ran for the basket, together.

Arriving at the basket, the children each reached out to touch the fruit, together. When asked why they did not try to outrun the other children, and thus claim the basket of fruit for themselves, they all cried out in one voice, "*we could not enjoy the fruit unless we all could share the fruit together.*"

This is how salvation works! We are all on the journey to God, together. If we do not link our arms in love, none of us will enjoy the fruits of paradise, together, "*for he that loves not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?*" (I John 4:20).

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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.: 462/2023

December 10, 2023

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-Loving Faithful,

Today we gratefully recognize all our dedicated and faithful church musicians, who lead us in singing God's praises, filling our hearts and minds with angelic melodies.

In last Sunday's Epistle, we heard this admonition from St. Paul: "Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart" (Eph. 5:19). There is a hollow and disappointing camaraderie found in drinking parties, where people are filled with alcohol and belt out unprofitable songs. However, true joy and brotherhood come from being filled with the Holy Spirit and singing holy songs together with all our heart. Such spiritual fellowship brings us closer to God and creates edifying bonds with one another. Unlike intoxication and carousing, it truly lightens our spiritual burdens, bringing us joy and peace that will not disappoint. This is the blessing and ministry of sacred music within our archdiocese.

On this Musician Appreciation Sunday, we extend heartfelt thanks to Ms. Mareena Boosamra-Ball and all the members of our archdiocesan Department of Sacred Music, for their tireless efforts in support of this holy ministry. We also gratefully honor the dedication of all the choir directors, chanters, and choir members in parishes throughout the archdiocese, who faithfully present their time and talents, week after week, as priceless gifts to Christ and His Church.

Wishing you and your families a blessed remainder of the fast and a joyous Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SABA". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

✠ 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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Christmas Decorations



I would like to donate for Christmas

Poinsettia plants @ \$25.00 each.

Number of Poinsettias = _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

At the Prothesis service where the bread and wine is prepared to be offered at the Nativity Liturgy (*which becomes the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion*), Father Joe or Father Michael will remember the 'Living' and 'Departed' members of our family and friends.

Please print clearly!

For the health of:

In loving memory of:

From: _____

Deadline: Sunday, December 17th

Make checks payable to: *St. George* with the memo: *Decorations*

Please include this form and your donation in a **Pew Envelope** and place it in the Sunday Offering Tray – Thank You!