

St. George Orthodox Church

5191 Lennon Road • Flint, MI 48507 • (810) 732-0720

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

December 18, 2022

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Attached

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 in our Banquet Center! 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. We believe Holy Communion to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Holy Communion can be given to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting (no food or drink from midnight the night before), the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, and being at peace with others. Everyone else, including visitors, are invited to receive the final blessing of the priest and Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy. 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*)

- Elizabeth David and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of husband **Victor** (40 day).
- **Wael** and **Kholoud** Hayek on the occasion of their anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, the health of their family, especially **Mariann** on her graduation from the University of Michigan, and the birthdays of **Mariann**, **Reem**, and **Matthew** ~ *May God grant them many years!*
- Essa and Julianna AbuAita for the health of their family especially daughter **Natalia** on the occasion of her 2nd birthday ~ *May God grant her many years!*

- Hiam Bathish for the health of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren especially **Dannie** Jones and for **Rudaina**, **Lubna**, and **Amer** on the occasion of their birthdays ~ *May God grant them many years!* ~ and in loving memory of husband **Emil**, **Yacoub** and **Marie** Farah, and **Naif** and **Julia** Bathish.
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Aida** Raffoul (+November 24th).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Metropolitan Paul** and **Archbishop John** who are in captivity, our local hierach **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Reader Fouad** Abuaita, **Sally** Abuaita, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Khader** AbuAita, **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alsahouri, **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Walid** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Valland** Frangi (sister of Ron Haddad), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Denise** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy** Isaac, **Dannie** Jones, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Judy** Mikhail, **Antonia** Molina (friend of Areen Bathish), **Karam** Nassar, **Laura** Nassar, **Issa** Odeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Christa** Whitehead, and **Samantha** Zerka (cousin of Lauren Zerka and Goddaughter and niece of Victoria Zerka); **Mike**, **Waad**, and newborn **Jouri** Abdallah who will be brought back into the life of our parish through the *Prayers of Churching*.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury, **Katrina** and **Gary** Gagne, and **Taylor** and **Jeffrey** Tipton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is in our Lounge and is hosted by *Wael and Kholoud Hayek*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: January 15th, 22nd, and 29th ~ 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 our coordinator Manal Abuaita.

- ⇒ Our **Banquet Center Renovation** has begun! We still want, and need, to have time to be with each other and have fellowship! It will be crowded, but we will be having it in our Lounge.
- ⇒ **COATROOM** Much of our coatroom is being used for storage. Please keep your coat, and your children's coats, with you in church ~ thank you!

Divine Services for the Nativity Fast and Christmas Eve

- ❖ Sunday before the Nativity, TODAY December 18th:
Matins – 8:50am **Divine Liturgy** – 10am
- ❖ Friday, December 23rd – **Royal Hours of the Nativity** – 6pm
- ❖ Nativity Services, Saturday evening, December 24th:
Nativity Festal Matins – 4:50pm
Nativity Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great – 6pm
- ❖ No Divine Service on Christmas Day ~ **Christ is Born!** *Glorify Him!* **المسيحُ وُلِد! فمجّدوه!**
- ❖ The Nativity of Christ begins the **Twelve Days of Christmas** (no fasting) until January 5th!

NATIVITY SERVICES Since there are many family commitments, customs, and work obligations, 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 Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day, December 25th:

Assumption (10am) 2245 East Baldwin Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
St. Mary Magdalene (10am) 2439 South Long Lake Road, Fenton, MI 48430
St. Nicholas (10am) 2143 Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519



Our stewardship, offerings, and donations are needed. PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer your gifts! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) and donate on-line (or use the QR code to the left) or you can bring or mail your offerings to St. George, 5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity and love of our St. George!

HOLY SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION) If you are 7 years or older, have been away from the Church, or have not had Confession in the last 2 months and desire to come back and receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion, please remember you must offer a confession of your sins first. During this time of preparation for the **Christmas ~ the Nativity of our Lord Fast** is a perfect opportunity. Because it is so important and for your convenience, Fr. Joe and Fr. Michael will hear confessions after Coffee Fellowship THIS Sunday, December 18th. Fr. Joe is not the only Orthodox priest in the area, or at St. George, and if you would prefer to go to Fr. Michael or one of the other local priests, feel free to do so (*please just let Fr. Joe know*): Fr. Gabriel Bilas from St. Mary Magdalene (810-750-1401) or Fr. Matthew Butrie from St. Nicholas Church (810-744-0070).

Let everyone in our St. George Family prepare and partake of our Lord in Holy Communion.

The important thing is not who hears your confession, but that you participate in this Holy Sacrament on a regular basis. **Blessed are those who wash their (baptismal) robes, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life** (*which is Christ*). Revelation 22:14

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS Please pick up yours (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name is not listed, let Fr. Joe know. Unfortunately, we did not receive our full order. A list of those missing is on the table, but will be coming soon. The calendars (*please take 1 per family*) are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary ~ thank you, Ladies! Our children will receive their envelopes in Church School. **Parents**, please make sure your children get their *Offering Envelopes*!

COMING EVENTS

Fasting Discipline On Tuesday, November 15th, we began the traditional forty-day **Nativity 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. The 2nd period is from December 20th through 24th, when the traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products*) is observed except on Saturday and Sunday when *wine and oil* are permitted. There is no fasting from Christmas Day December 25th until January 4th.

Monday **SOYO Monday** 6-8pm

Friday **Royal Hours for the Nativity of our Lord** 6pm

Saturday **Nativity Matins** 4:50pm **Nativity Divine Liturgy** 6pm

Sunday **Christ is Born! Glorify Him!** **المسيح وُلِد! فمجدوه!**

The Incarnation ~ God Himself Has Appeared in the Flesh

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

We Orthodox Christians who keep the old Church Calendar are celebrating the Nativity of Christ Our Lord on January 7th. The new calendar churches celebrate on December 25th. On this day, we gather together in monasteries, chapels, churches, and cathedrals, to celebrate the Liturgy of the Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. The very incarnation (*one who puts on flesh*) of the Son of God and His coming into the world is singularly one of the greatest events in the history of humankind. That God Himself would take on our image, and join His Divinity to our humanity, is one of the great mysteries of our faith.

A Virgin, who by her humility was obedient to the will of God, agreeing to become a living tabernacle of the very God who created her, and who by her obedience became the first disciple of the Lord, and the New Eve, ushered in our salvation.

By His condescension, salvation entered our world, and the power of death was overcome. The very Word of God, by Whom the whole of the cosmos came into being, became a little child, born of a woman. At that moment the demons trembled, knowing they already lost their battle, and their rebellion against God had seen its end.

Let us prepare ourselves for the reception of the Holy Mysteries, that as we partake in the Body and Blood of Our Lord during the Nativity Liturgy, we may give birth, anew, to Christ in our hearts. Let us be reborn in the spirit, transformed and made whole by the living God of Lights. Together with the angels, and all the heavenly hosts, let us sing:

*Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are filled with Thy glory!*

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Get your bibles, find the New Testament, and then the 1st book which is the Gospel of St. Matthew. Find chapter 1, and start reading at verse 18 and continue until the end of chapter 2. Here you will read about the Nativity (Birth) our Lord Jesus Christ. The how, when, and where things happened. It's beautiful and it's the beginning of our salvation!

If you want to learn more about our Lord becoming like one of us when He put on flesh, go to the 3rd book in the New Testament with is the Gospel of St. Luke. Find chapter 2 and read the whole chapter. Here we learn why Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, about the shepherds in the fields (later called Beit Sahour), about our Lord's Presentation into the Temple, which we celebrate on February 2nd, 40 days after His birth, and about the only story we have of Jesus when he was 12 years old. Besides His birth and this story, the rest of our Lord's earthly life as expressed in the 4 Gospels, begins when He is 30 years old and ends with His Passion, Death, Resurrection, 11 stories after He rose from the dead, and his Ascension into Heaven. Enjoy! Love, FJ



The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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December 12, 2022

Christ is in our Midst!

During this Advent period of our Orthodox Faith, we are called to focus on our words, deeds, and thoughts. We prepare, in joyful anticipation, for the Greatest Gift of all ... the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During this time of year, we all reflect on the blessings we have received and are thankful to God that He has blessed us according to His endless grace, mercy, and love. As the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch Governing Council, we are thankful for all of you that selflessly and unconditionally give to support the ministry of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch. You help us change the lives of countless people we will never come to know personally.

For almost 50 years, you, and those before you made a conscious decision to put the needs of others ahead of your own. During the uncertainty and fear of a global pandemic, The Order prepared for an estimated 25% to 30% reduction in member gifts during 2020 and 2021. However, your gifts during that time represented a "True Act of Faith" and The Order realized less than a 3% fall in member gifts. Because of you, children were able to attend camp throughout North America. Retired clergy and their wives continued to receive the financial assistance they depend on during their golden years. Mission parishes throughout North America, were able to worship and share the Orthodox Faith. Our youth were able to remain connected and provide love and support for one another even without being in each other's physical presence. Your "Act of Faith" made this possible.

For the past 5 fiscal years from 2017 through 2021, the impact of your gift to the Order has been felt by countless people and in many ways. During that time, **\$1,456,173** was given to support our active and retired clergy as well as married seminarians. You helped provide **\$1,607,562** for the youth of the Antiochian Archdiocese (including camp scholarships which were reduced in 2020 and 2021 due to fewer campers for safety protocols). **\$1,253,691** was provided to support programs and departments for the development & growth of the Antiochian Archdiocese. You also helped give **\$301,140** toward various outreach organizations. The annual financial commitments of The Order have always been and will always be strictly-focused on the long-standing needs of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese as well as grant-eligible organizations based on guidelines and by-laws of the Governing Council and for no other purpose. We are also thankful to share that only 7.7% and 7.2% of total income went to administrative expense in FY 2021 and the past 5 fiscal years respectively.

Clergy	\$1,456,173
Retired Clergy Allowance	\$1,327,500
Married Seminarian Assistance	\$62,145
Clergy Symposium & Convention Assistance	\$66,528
Archdiocese Development & Growth	\$1,253,691
Department of Missions & Evangelism	\$639,147
Parish Development & Mission Grants	\$122,897
Internet Ministry	\$491,647
Other Grants	\$301,140
Project Mexico	\$40,000
IOCC	\$70,000
Syrian Relief	\$55,000
Other Archdiocese Projects & Grant Requests	\$136,140

Archdiocese Youth	\$1,607,562
Summer Camp Scholarships	\$680,487
Youth Ministry	\$590,000
SOYO Special Olympics	\$16,000
SOYO Leadership & Youth Worker Training	\$65,328
Christian Education	\$196,647
College Conference	\$59,100

Figures in the table represent only **a portion** of the expenses for the last 5 Fiscal Years ending in 2021.

So, as you contemplate your support of the Order over the years, encourage your family and friends to become a part of the Order, or consider becoming a part of The Order's ministry for the first time, we leave you with what we believe should be in your heart. These words are what guide our work as a Governing Council and come from the teachings of St. Ignatius himself ...

"Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor."

In His service,

Roger J. David

North American Chairperson, The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

Gratitude

The Order of St. Ignatius Supports
The Retired Clergy Allowance

... you help give comfort and financial assurance to our retired clergy and their families. You express your gratitude to your beloved priest, faithful counselor and comforting friend who's been with you during your times of need, joy and sorrow.

We Need Your Help To Do More ...

We are so thankful for the unconditional gifts from the members of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch for over 46 years. Since the *Order's inception in 1976*, Order members have provided over \$45 million in annual and one-time gifts to support the many essential departments, projects and charitable gifts of the Antiochian Archdiocese. We want to do more. As our Archdiocese has grown exponentially since 1976, the needs of the Archdiocese and its people have as well. We need to increase the Order's current \$270,000 annual contribution toward The Retired Clergy Allowance to support our retired clergy and their wives. It is essential to expand our programs for the youth to help strengthen their Faith as they make their way in this secular world. Those necessary programs will require more than the current estimated \$380,000 annual budgeted amount. These are only two of the sizeable annual needs of the Archdiocese that depend on your support as a member of the Order. See how you may help us do more ...

\$500 or \$1,000 in 2022 just
Doesn't Go As Far As It Did in 1976

It takes
\$1,557 today
to maintain
the purchasing power of
\$500 in 1976

It takes
\$3,114 today
to maintain
the purchasing power of
\$1,000 in 1976



NOTE: Calculations are based on a 2.5% inflation rate over a 46 year period and are for illustrative purposes only.



The Order of
Saint Ignatius
of Antioch

Annual Gift Increase

Increase your gift of
\$500/yr. or \$41.67/mth
as a Knight or Dame
to
\$1,000/yr. or \$83.33/mth
as a Knight or Dame Commander

Life & Metropolitan Upgrade

The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program

You can upgrade to Life Member or
Metropolitan Member for a gift of
\$10,000 or \$20,000
paid over a 2-year or 3-year period.
See reverse side for details and requirements

Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor.
- Saint Ignatius of Antioch

How You Can Support the Ministry Of The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch



We are not merely to call ourselves Christians;
we are asked to be Christians through our deeds.
- Saint Ignatius of Antioch

Your Unconditional Gift Changes People's Lives

Knight & Dame

- \$500 Annually
- \$41.67 Monthly
- \$1.37 Daily

Junior Knight & Dame

Ages 18-26 Only

- \$300 Annually
- \$25 Monthly
- \$0.82 Daily
- At age 27, converts to Knight or Dame

Knight Commander Dame Commander

- \$1,000 Annually
- \$83.33 Monthly
- \$2.73 Daily

Life

- \$15,000 Total Gift
- 100% Lump Sum or \$5,000 Over 3 Consecutive Years
- Life Upgrade*

Metropolitan

- \$30,000 Total Gift
- 100% Lump Sum or \$10,000 Over 3 Consecutive Years
- Metropolitan Upgrade**

Life and Metropolitan gifts are invested in an endowment and only the earnings are spent each year making it a gift that will live on into perpetuity.

***Life Upgrade:** The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program: Any Knight/Dame, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members); or any Commander, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members) can upgrade to Life Member for \$10,000 paid over a two-year period.

****Metropolitan Upgrade:** The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program: Any Knight/Dame, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members); or any Commander, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members) can upgrade to Metropolitan Member for \$20,000 paid over a three-year period. Life members who have fulfilled their initial Life member gift may upgrade to the Metropolitan level for \$10,000 paid over a 2-year period.



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- Saint Ignatius of Antioch