

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

February 4, 2024

BLESSINGS ON THE GREAT FEAST OF THE MEETING (PRESENTATION) OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE!

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*)

- Khaled and Sally Abuaita for the health of their family and the suffering **Children of Gaza**.
- Rudaina, Lubna, Aren, Amer, and Reem for the health of their families and on the occasion of mother **Hiam Bathish's** birthday ~ *may God grant her many years!*
- 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**, **Fr. Joe Abud**, **Sahar Abdallah**, **Abeer Abuaita**, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad Abuaita**, **Philip** and **Janett Abuaita**, **Rasha Abuaita**, **Sami** and **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila Abud**, **George Abueita**, **Georgette Abueita**, **Jane Abueita**, **Mary Abueita**, **Youssif Abousamra**, **William Alsahouri**, **Naila Banna**, **Vera Daoud**, **Said Farah**, **Joseph Gagne**, **Elias Gantos**, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad Gantous**, **Phyllis Good**, **Ronald Haddad**, **Daisy Isaac**, **John Joseph**, **Karen Mortensen**, **Laura Nassar**, **Jeanette Nassif**, **Adam Odeh**, **Rahmeh Rashmawi**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **Michael Silpoch**, and **Sandy Thomas**; **David**, **Gabriella** (*daughter of Joseph & Mary Jo Ghattas*), and newborn **Edward Joseph Ayyash** (January 10th); **Abdulla**, **Amira**, and newborn **Yasmine Farah** (January 10th); Dr. **Matthew**, **Christine** (*daughter of Ayman & Wafaa Elias*), and newborn **Maximus Paisios** Krinock (January 21st); **John**, **Jacqueline** (*daughter of Anwar & Janet Abueita*), and newborn **Henry John** Timm (January 24th); **Matt**, **Ambur** (*daughter of Joseph Haddad*), and newborn **Ivy Grace** Allison (January 24th); **Joseph** Gagne and **Saylor Cecelia** Jones who were brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion.
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Panayiotis** Khair (+January 12th, uncle of Husam Khair) ~ *may his memory be eternal!*
- We also pray for our expectant parents: Drs. **Lindsey** and **Ryan** Brunner, **Casandra** and **Danial** Burbar, **Andrea** and **Josh** Jones, **Kari** (*daughter of John & Theresa Farah*) and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis, & **Vera** and **Luay** Sababa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is not hosted today ☹️. Please offer a donation to help cover our costs ~ *thanks!*

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: February 18th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th ~ 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 our coordinator Manal Abuaita 810-577-9870. *Cheese-Fare Sunday is March 17th (no meat) and during the Great Fast (March 18th – May 4th) no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are to be served.*

E-MEMO'S If you do not receive emails from Fr. Joe and would like to be added to our Parishioner Email List to receive our weekly *St. George E-Memo*, and only things related to the church, please send your e-mail address to Fr. Joe at njja@aol.com.

YEAR-END STATEMENTS will be mailed next week. Please call the office if you have any questions or corrections.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) needs to be \$7,588 to meet our 2024 Budget. Last Sunday, January 28th, our offerings were \$2,880 😞 **Please keep up with your offerings!** If you have not already, please fill out your *2024 Offering Form*. You can put it in Sunday's Offering Tray or send it to the church (5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507). Thank you for supporting St. George and offering as God wants for our spiritual health!

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS



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!

The Family (and Godfamily)

We are so concerned with our children's schooling and worldly success, if only we were equally zealous in bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. This then, is our task: to educate both ourselves and our children in godliness, otherwise what answer will we have before Christ's judgement seat? Saint John Chrysostom

PLEASE HELP ~ KIDNEY NEEDED!

One of our parishioners is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. Everyone has 2 kidneys, but only need 1 to live. Both of this parishioner's kidneys are not working properly. If you are inspired to see if you could be a donor and want more information, please speak with Fr. Joe ~ *thanks!*

CAMP ST. GEORGE SUMMER CAMP Like the program at the Antiochian Village, Camp St. George serves young people ages 9-17 who come from parishes throughout our Midwest Diocese (mostly the western part). After not meeting last year, they are hoping to bring Camp St. George back in 2024. But they need help. The most critical component in making it happen is sufficient staffing, particularly counselors. Will you consider being a candidate? Applicants should be at least 18 years old, have a solid grounding in the Orthodox Faith, and be regular in Church attendance. They also need to exhibit patience while leading children in a faith-based, natural environment. Staff applications will be available at CSGlowa.org soon. Some details: Camp St. George meets June 30-July 6, 2024 at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point, Iowa. Staff arrive two days prior for training. For more information or questions, contact Camp Director Fr. Fred Shaheen at shaheenf@hotmail.com.

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.

Saturday *Great Vespers* and **Confessions** 4pm

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Call No Man Father... ~

And Do Not Be Called Teachers

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

“Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:9)

Some years ago I walked into one of the grocery stores on our island and I heard someone call out, *“Hi, Brother Tryphon”*. Looking up, I saw a young protestant minister. His having addressed me as “brother”, reminded me of a sheriff deputy who for years addressed me as “Priest Tryphon”, because he felt he would not be biblical if he addressed me as “father”.

It crossed my mind that the young minister would most likely have no difficulty allowing his own child to address him as dad (father), nor would he have any difficulty referring to anyone in his church who taught Church School, as teacher. Yet Christ did not say it was OK to call your own blood father, “father”, nor did He say you could call an instructor, “teacher”. He said, *“Do not call anyone on earth your father.... And do not be called teachers”*.

The protestant claim that calling priests, “father,” is a violation of Scripture, ignores the fact that Jesus referred to our “father Abraham” (John 8:56), and told the story of the prodigal son, using the term, “father” (Luke 15). Furthermore, Saint Paul said, *“I have become your father in Christ”*. From the beginning, the Church, from Old Testament times, called those anointed by God as “prophet”, “teacher” (rabbi), and “father.” Like the titles “reverend”, “pastor”, and “brother”, these personal titles have served to convey a certain warmth and honor to those who serve the Lord, and who serve us.

Just as love leads us to call our dad “father”, so too do we show honor and love for those who serve us by calling them “father”. That the Lord Jesus Christ warned against calling men “father” or “teacher”, was a reminder that the leaders of His people should remain pure and humble. His injunction that bishops, priests, deacons, and teachers, should maintain personal character, and godly humility, is obvious. Our Lord could have just as easily instructed his disciples to “call no one reverend, or pastor, or Mister.”

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GODPARENT “SUPER” SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 11TH

We are excited to announce our
Annual **Godparent Sunday**
sponsored by our Church
School.

This day allows our Godparents and Godchildren to “reconnect” with each other and help us understand the joy and beauty of that special relationship!

2023-24 Church School Theme

Please make note of the following:

- ❖ *Children (or parents) INVITE your Godparents to Divine Liturgy as soon as possible!*
- ❖ *Godparents INVITE your Godchildren to Divine Liturgy as soon as possible!*
- ❖ *Godparents and Godchildren should prepare themselves with Confession before February 11th so they can participate in Holy Communion together!*

⇒ An **Invitation** (to be sent by Godparents to Godchildren or Godchildren to Godparents) is on the next page or on the Narthex Table!



***This is an exciting day for Godparents, Godchildren, and our
WHOLE parish Family!***

Our Men’s Fellowship will provide a free Lunch for everyone!
(Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the meal ~ thanks!)

~~ Plan on Attending!!! ~~



2023-24 Church School Theme

Godparent “Super” Sunday February 11th

Dear _____,

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, we will be having a Godparent “Super” Sunday and Lunch at St. George Orthodox Church. It would be an extra special day if you would attend the Divine Services with me. Matins begin at 8:50am and Divine Liturgy begins at 10am. Also, if we are prepared, we can receive Holy Communion together. Confessions are available on Saturdays after Great Vespers at 4pm, by appointment during the week, or from 8:30am-9:30am on Sunday mornings.

I hope that we can be together on this special day!

Love in Christ,
