

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

March 17, 2024

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.

March is ... Antiochian Women's Month!

Greeters/Ushers: Lucy AbuAita, Eline Abueita, Marlene Odeh, and Miar Odeh

Epistle Readers: Kholoud Hayek (Arabic) and Reem Bathish (English)

Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- Youssif and Salwa Abousamra for the health of their family and in loving memory of son **Housam** Abousamra (40 day).
- St. George Parish for the health of their families and in loving memory of our **Father and Metropolitan Philip** (2 year).
- Elias Hanna, Najwa Joubran, Feryal Joubran, Wafaa Elias, and their families for the health of their families and in loving memory of father **Salim** Hanna (36 year).
- Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee Abud for the health of their family especially **Fr. Joe** and in loving memory of Leslee's parents **Lester** (33 year) and **Leeresé** Nicola (8 year), and nephew **Gregory** Nicola (1 year).
- Khaled and Maysaa Al-Khouri for their health and the health of their children **Ghassan, Michel, Karim**, and their families and **Miriam** (Khaled's mother).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Archbishop Nathaniel** (Romanian Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America), our **Bishop Anthony, Fr. Joseph** Abud, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Abeer** Abuaita, **Reader Fouad & Soad** Abuaita, **Philip & Janett** Abuaita, **Rasha** Abuaita, **Sami & Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **George** Abueita, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Mary** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **William** Alsahouri, **Naila** Banna, **Inam** Bathish, **Douglas** Coone, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Joseph** Gagne, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George & Suad** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Daisy** Isaac, **John** Joseph, **Danny** Mortensen, **Karen** Mortensen, **Laura** Nassar, **Jeanette** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; Drs. **Ryan, Lindsey**, and newborn **Cassandra Carri** Brunner (February 25th) and **Panagiotis, Kari** (*daughter of John & Theresa Farah*), and newborn **Jacob Michael** Mikroudis (February 25th).
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Nellie** Makhoulf, (+February 4th, sister of Gisele Farah), **Nage** Qumseya (+February 15th, cousin of Jeries Qumseya) **Yusra** Al-Qassis (+March 1st, aunt of Iman David), **Khawleh** David (+March 6th, cousin of Iman David), and **Hanna** Bannoura (+March 7th, uncle of Fouad Awad)~ *may their memory be eternal!*
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Casandra** and **Danial** Burbar, **Andrea** and **Josh** Jones, & **Vera** and **Luay** Sababa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Youssif and Salwa Abousamra* & Cheese-Fare Potluck.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: April 14th and 21st ~ 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 today, 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.*

REMEMBER that food is only one part of the Great Fast! Check out the Archdiocese Website at: <https://antiochian.org/regulararticle/1494> for a number of wonderful resources for the Great Fast.

“He that feeds the hungry also feeds God and the hunger of one is the shame of all.”

+Metropolitan PHILIP of thrice-blessed memory (more on his life is at antiochian.org/dashboard?name=Metropolitan%20Philip%20of%20Thrice%20Blessed%20Memory)

PAN-ORTHODOX LENTEN RETREAT Saturday, April 6th at St Mary Magdalene Church welcoming *Father Andrew Stephen Damick* of the Lord of Spirits podcast on Ancient Faith Radio. Register and see more information on the flier the March VOICE. There is also a signup sheet on the Narthex Table. Please take the time during the great forty days' fast to be spiritually renewed through our annual pan-Orthodox retreat. Livestreaming will be available for those who register. The deadline to register is Friday, March 29.

ORTHODOX 101 A small group is meeting weekly after Divine Liturgy to study our faith. We are exploring the fundamentals of the Orthodox Faith and beyond. We will, at a certain point, begin reading a specific book or two but at this time we are simply discussing the weekly Lenten themes and Scripture Lessons. The group consists of several who are studying (under catechism) to become Orthodox Christians. Parishioners who want to deepen their knowledge of our faith as well as encourage our new potential members are welcome! For more information, please see Fr. Michael

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS!

Thank God things are going great! Attendance is up with 88 children on this year's roster, and we're getting an average of 40 kids each Sunday!!! Keep it up parents, and for those of you that have missed a few weeks, the doors are always open and we are waiting for you and your children. Last Saturday, we hosted a Family Night. We had a wonderful time with games for the children, and lots to do to keep them busy; the burgers and Koegel hotdogs were delicious! Some were concerned that it was too loud in our Banquet Center, so God willing for our next Family Night, we'll make sure we tone it down! Thank you to all who helped cook, clean, and setup ~ we couldn't do it without you. Thank you to *Samer Kokaly* and *Joseph Hijazin* for your gracious donation of the handmade Candle Basket which was raffled with the proceeds going to our Church School. God bless you and if you ever have any question, please let me know. *Janet Abueita, Church School Director*

LENTEN POTLUCK DINNERS Our Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting Lenten Potluck Dinners after our celebration of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Please bring what is listed below according to the first letter of your last name. If you have any questions, please see or call our coordinators Anaam Abueita 810-962-1033 or Wafaa Elias 810-875-3398.

FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH

<u>A-E</u>	<u>G-J</u>	<u>K-R</u>	<u>S-Z</u>
Desserts	Relish Dish or Bread	Salad or Side Dish	Main Dish

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) needs to be \$7,588 to meet our 2024 Budget. On Sunday, March 3rd, our offerings were \$4,495: we were short \$3,093 ☹️ **Please keep up with your offerings!** If you have not already, fill out your *2024 Offering Form*: 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!

➤ God bless our Church School students who offered \$315 in February!



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!

COMING EVENTS

Fasting Discipline Today is **Cheese-Fare Sunday** (March 17th) and is the last day we eat *eggs, cheese, dairy, and their by-products* until Pascha (May 5th). The **Great Fast** begins tomorrow, Monday, March 18th, and continues until our celebration of **Pascha: our Lord's Resurrection** on May 5th. The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on all weekdays; on Saturdays and Sundays, *wine and olive oil* are allowed.

TODAY	Forgiveness Vespers أحد مرفع الجبن	12:30pm
Monday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى	and 1 st part of the Canon of St. Andrew 6pm
Tuesday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى	and 2 nd part of the Canon of St. Andrew 6pm
Wednesday	Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas	10am
	Presanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقد يسه	& Lenten Potluck Dinner at St. George 6pm
Thursday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى	and 4 th part of the Canon of St. Andrew 6pm
Friday	Little Compline and Akathist to the Virgin Mary خدمة المديح (Madayeh)	6pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions	4pm

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Sayings of the Saints

"Today is such a time when we know a lot about prayer, but we pray little. We eat fasting food, but do not fast. We confess sins, but do not repent! We go to the church and stand through the service, yet our soul does not humble itself before the Creator! All this is because the heart is closed ... It needs to be opened so that Christ can dwell in it."

+ St. Paisios of Mount Athos

Forgiveness Sunday Homily

Fr. John Parker, Dean of St. Tikhon Seminary
South Canaan, Pennsylvania

If anyone be devout and loves God,
Let him commence this radiant fast with joy!
If anyone be a wise servant,
Let him, rejoicing, enter into the school of repentance.

We who have wallowed long in sin,
Let us now begin our return.
If anyone has strayed from the first hour,
Let him today repent with zeal.
If anyone has sinned from the third hour,
Let him with gratitude embrace the fast.
If anyone has fled God from the sixth hour,
Let him have no misgivings about his prompt return;
Because he shall in nowise be turned away therefore.
If anyone has indulged the flesh since the ninth hour,
Let him draw near, fearing God alone and trusting in His mercy.
And if anyone has turned away only at the eleventh hour, Let him also not hesitate
to turn back with haste.

For the Lord, who is longsuffering and full of compassion and mercy, will accept the
last even as the first.

He restores him who repents at the first hour,
As He does him who turns back at the eleventh.

And He shows mercy upon the last,
And cares for the first;
And to the one He gives,
And upon the other He bestows gifts.
And He both accepts the confession,
And welcomes the intention,

And honors the contrite heart and rejoices in the return.

Wherefore, enter all of you into the holiness of your Lord;
Offer your repentance,
Both the last, and likewise the first.

You rich and poor together, repent, for today we stand outside the closed gates of
paradise.

You sober and you heedless, prostrate yourselves before your King!
Return to the Lord today, both you who have sinned with knowledge and those who
have done so in ignorance.

Your pantries are full; empty them to the hungry.
The belly enslaves us, let no one be dominated thereby.

Enter all of you into the Great Fast;
Stripped of heavenly wealth by sin, all draw near to God's rich loving-kindness!
Let no one despair in his sinfulness,
For the Bridegroom comes at midnight.
Weep all of you for your iniquities,
And draw near to the life-giving Cross of our Lord.
Let no one put confidence in the flesh,
For the Devil has deceived us all thereby, and therewith enslaves us to sin.

By turning from God, we are made captives.
We have called good evil and evil good, and put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.
And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry:
Woe to those who put darkness for light, and light for darkness!

We are embittered, for we are banned from Eden.
We are embittered, but it is we who have mocked God.
We are embittered, for now we shall surely die.
We are embittered, for we have succumbed to the serpent.
We are embittered, for we are fettered in chains.
We partook of a fruit, and met the deceiver.
We were entrusted with paradise, but we chose Hell.
Our eyes were opened to see the nakedness of sin.

Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver us!
O Lord, make haste to help us!

This is the acceptable time, let us repent!
This is the day of salvation, let us crucify the passions!
The end is at hand and destruction hangs over us!
The end draws nigh, let us come again to our senses!
The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, what first-fruit shall we offer?
Let us delay not, lest we remain dead in the grave, sold under sin!
For God desires not the death of the sinner, but that he should turn from his
wickedness and live!
So, let us choose life, and live, for the mercy of God endures forever!
To Him be glory and dominion
Unto ages of ages. Amen.

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**Begin the Great Fast with our first Divine Service ~  
Forgiveness Vespers at 12:30pm**

**If you have never experienced it, come and you will know  
WHY you need it and will always come back!**

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.:** 049/2024

Great Lent, 2024

Beloved Hierarchs, Clergy, and Faithful of our Archdiocese,

Greetings in the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ!

During this holy season of repentance, we strive with renewed focus to live rightly, being “doers of the word and not just hearers” (James 1:22). Along with increasing our prayers and abandoning self-indulgence, we especially focus on caring for the needs of others. As we hear on Meatfare Sunday, we will be judged by God on how we have responded to the sufferings of the “least of these” (Matthew 25), so we must strive to give attention to their needs as we would to Christ’s.

Although our Lord Jesus Christ taught and exemplified this law of love in the most perfect way, it is also beautifully stated in the Old Law, where God commands, “If one of your brothers happens to be in need . . . , you will not harden your heart nor shut your hand to your needy brother. You will surely open your hands to him” (Deuteronomy 15:7–8). Such giving is not just some humanitarian project but a relational act: opening our hearts and hands to our brothers and sisters. It is a determination to actually see the homeless woman we pass on the street and to remember the friend or acquaintance who has fallen on hard times. Although the magnitude of suffering in the world tempts us to insulate ourselves against the needs of others, the law of love reminds us that each person is a treasure and that his need is not a problem but an opportunity to embrace him.

As we have for 50 years now, we again encourage you to open your hearts and hands to the needy by contributing to our Food for Hungry People program this Lent. We appeal to your well-known generosity and ask the blessing of Almighty God on all who participate in this worthy effort.

With prayers for an edifying and enriching Great Lent and a glorious celebration of Pascha, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

✠ 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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# Prayer to enroll a catechumen

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** O Lord our God, we pray unto thee, and we beseech thee, that the light of thy countenance may be shown upon thy servant(s), N.; and that the Cross of thine Only-begotten Son may be graven in *his/her/their* heart and *his/her/their* thoughts; that *he/she/they* may flee from the vanity of the world and from every evil snare of the enemy, and may follow after thy commandments. And grant, O Lord, that thy Holy Name may remain unrejected by *him/her/them* and that *he/she/they* may be united, in due time, to thy holy Church; and that the fearful mysteries of thy Christ may be administered unto *him/her/them*; That having lived according to thy commandments, and preserved without flaw the Seal, *he/she/they* may receive the bliss of the elect in thy Kingdom; through the grace and love towards mankind of thine Only-begotten Son, with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. <sup>[1]</sup>

*At this point the inquirer has made a definitive decision to become an Orthodox Christian forever. He knows that this commitment is not a denominational switch, but an approach to the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. It is a commitment to faithfully serve God as a member of the Orthodox Church no matter where one lives on this earth. The catechumen is engaged to the Church, and will complete this engagement with the spiritual marriage which is holy baptism. It is expected at this juncture that the new catechumen inform in writing any religious body in which he was previously a member his desire to be removed from the membership of said body. The catechumen is numbered amongst a class of catechumens that belongs to the particular parish, and will begin the formal process of catechesis. From this point the catechumen self-identifies to the outside world as an Orthodox Christian. Should the catechumen die before reception into the church, he will be buried as an Orthodox Christian.*

<sup>[1]</sup> From *Starting Down the Royal Path: How to Become an Orthodox Christian* by Archpriest Josiah Trenham, Ph.D. Footnotes from that document: It is suggested that this enrollment be prayed publicly during the divine service so that the faithful can take note of the new catechumen, and begin to assist the catechumen in their formation. A nice place to do this is after the sermon in the Sunday Divine Liturgy just prior to the Litany of the Catechumens. This prayer is the Prayer for Naming a Child on the 8<sup>th</sup> Day after birth through which prayer the child of an Orthodox family becomes a catechumen until the day of his baptism.



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.:** 112/2024

**Letter to the Youth on the Occasion of the Orthodox Youth Day**

**Sunday, March 17, 2024**

My beloved sons and daughters in Christ, the children of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America:

I convey to you my paternal blessing and my perpetual prayers for continued earthly and heavenly blessings.

Our Holy Fathers have often compared the Church to a ship sailing on the salty sea of this world. By the “salty sea,” they indicate the storms, waves, and winds that hit and attack this ship. The Church of Christ constantly faces all kinds of wars waged by demons because Satan does not want to see it strong and growing—destroying his power in this world and saving the souls of many whom he wants to destroy. As for the Lord of the Church, He often allows turmoil and persecution in order to discipline His faithful children and purify His Church.

Loud is the voice of those who view and consider the Church as an institution of this age rather than the living Body of Christ, composed of believers seeking to sanctify their lives. We may find some who sow doubts and spread unreliable opinions and teachings with their unsubstantiated words, which strengthen the spirit of division and attack and stir the soul with anger and hatred. In this way, the fires of doubt are fueled, and the spirit of discord and division is sown.

In times of distress and turmoil, devout believers resort to prayer for divine mercy, enlightened minds, and calm hearts, so that their actions will lead to solutions that please the true God and save the Church—its people and institutions—from what the sins of believers themselves (first and foremost) are causing. Indeed, the Apostle Paul described the dangers of the Church as “wars without and fears within” (2 Cor 7:5).

Don’t let the stumbling blocks trip you up; they have always been there. The Church is a community of “repentant people,” and repentant people are sinners, not angels. Stumbling blocks have always been the result of the sins of Church members before

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

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anyone else. Look up to Christ and imitate Him; pray for your spiritual fathers, that God will inspire them to do what is good for His Church and, therefore, for you; and help them to do so.

I encourage you to pray, turning to God and asking for His light and inspiration. Rest assured that inasmuch as you purify yourselves, the Church will be purified. Do not separate yourselves from it—the Church is you, and you are the Church.

St. John of Kronstadt teaches us that “prayer is an expression of the unity of the Church. By praying for each other, we participate in each other’s lives and share in each other’s burdens.”

My beloved, the Church can only be built with a spirit of prayer, peace, wisdom, and patience. Whoever seeks to make the Church a bride of Christ, without blemish or wrinkle, must be patient, peaceful, humble, and wise, knowing how to think and plan, and willing to be nailed to the cross. My hope is that you will have these qualifications whenever you discuss ecclesiastical and spiritual issues. This is how you will invoke the Lord’s grace and blessings on you and the Church.

I encourage you to love, to pray, and to dialogue constructively, and I ask for your prayers,

I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Saba". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**+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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ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 112/2024

رسالة إلى الشبيبة في عيد الشبيبة الأرثوذكسية

الأحد 17 آذار 2024

الأحبة، أبنائي وبناتي بالمسيح، في أبرشية أميركا الشمالية الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية:

أهديكم بدءاً بركتي الأبوية ودعائي الدائم لكم بدوام العافية والبركات الأرضية والسماوية.

كثيراً ما يشبه آباؤنا القديسون الكنيسة بسفينة تُبحر في بحر هذا العالم المالح. ويقصدون بالبحر المالح العواصف والأمواج والرياح التي تضرب هذه السفينة وتهاجمها. كنيسة المسيح معرّضة دوماً لكل أنواع الحروب التي تشنها الشياطين عليها، لأنّ الشيطان لا يقبل بأن يراها تتقوى وتنمو محطّمةً سلطته في هذا العالم، ومخلّصةً نفوس الكثيرين ممّن يريد إهلاكهم. أمّا ربّ الكنيسة فكثيراً ما يسمح بالاضطرابات والقلائل تأديباً لأبنائه المؤمنين وتطهيراً لكنيسته.

يعلو، دوماً، صوت الذين ينظرون إلى الكنيسة ويتعاملون معها باعتبارها مؤسسة من هذا الدهر، لا باعتبارها جسد المسيح الحيّ المؤلّف من مؤمنين يسعون إلى تقديس حياتهم. وقد نجد بعضاً ممّن يزرعون الشكوك وينشرون الأقاويل غير الموثوقة بكلامهم غير المستند إلى أدلّة، ما يقوّي روح التفرقة والتهميم ويثير النفوس ويشحنها بالغضب والحقد. وهكذا تتأجج نيران الشكّ وتبدر روح الشقاق والانقسام في النفوس.

أمّا المؤمنون الأتقياء، فيلجؤون في أوقات الشدة والاضطراب إلى الصلاة طلباً للرحمة الإلهية واستنارة العقول وهدوء القلوب كي تأتي تصرفاتهم بحلول تُرضي الله الحقّ وتنقذ الكنيسة، شعباً ومؤسسةً، ممّا تسببه لها خطايا مؤمنيتها قبل غيرهم. حقاً وصف الرسول بولس أخطار الكنيسة بقوله "حروب في الخارج ومخاوف في الداخل" (2كو 7: 5).

لا تدعوا العثرات تسوقكم، فلطالما كانت موجودة في أوساطنا. الكنيسة "جماعة تائبين" والتائبون خطاة لا ملائكة. ولطالما كانت العثرات نتائج خطايا أبناء الكنيسة قبل غيرهم. تطلّعوا إلى المسيح وتمثّلوا به، وصلّوا من أجل آباءكم الروحيين ليُلهمهم الله ما فيه خير كنيسته وتالياً خيركم أنتم، وساعدوهم على القيام بذلك.

أوصيكم بالصلاة واللجوء إلى الله وطلب نوره وإلهامه. تأكدوا بأنكم كلّما طهّرتُم نواتكم ونقيتموها تطهّرت الكنيسة وتنقّت. لا تصلّوا أنفسكم عنها، فهي أنتم، وأنتم هي.

يعلّمنا القديس يوحنا كرونستادت بأنّ "الصلاة هي تعبير عن وحدة الكنيسة. وأنّه بصلاتنا بعضنا لأجل بعض، يشترك كلّ منّا في حياة الآخر ويشاركه في حمل أثقاله."


*"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)*

لا تُبنى الكنيسة، يا أحبّتي، إلا بروح الصلاة والسلام والحكمة والصبر. من يسعى إلى جعل الكنيسة عروساً للمسيح لا شائبة فيها ولا تجعد، عليه أن يكون صبوراً، سلامياً، متواضعاً، حكيماً، مفكراً ومحللاً ومخطّطاً، وقابلاً بأن يُعلّق على الصليب. رجائي أن تتحلّوا بهذه الصفات في مناقشة قضاياكم الكنسيّة والروحيّة. هكذا تستمطرون نعمة الرب وبركته عليكم وعلى الكنيسة.

أوصيكم بالمحبّة والصلاة والحوار البناء وأطلب صلواتكم،

الداعي لكم،

بالمسيح،



+سأبا

رئيس أساقفة نيويورك ومتربوليت أميركا الشمالية للكنيسة الأنطاكيّة الأرثوذكسيّة

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

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