

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: [saintgeorgeflint.org](http://saintgeorgeflint.org)

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

March 3, 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:** Sahar Abdallah, Anaam Abueita, and Olga Nassar

**Epistle Reader:** Manal Abuaita (Arabic) and Janet Abueita (English)

### Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- Issa and Vera Daoud and Family for the health of their family especially **Daniel, Tony, Alaa** and **Amanda, Nancy** and **Muhannad**, and their Families and in loving memory of **Suad** (5 year, mother of Vera), **David, Rabiah, Norma, Yacoub, Ramzi, Maha,** and **Issa**.
- Khaled and Sally Abuaita for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Rahma** Albedd (18 year, Sally's grandmother).
- Amjad and Elham Ishak for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Nassim** Ishak (21 year, Amjad's father).

#### **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:

- **Cezar** Abuaita ~ March 3<sup>rd</sup>                      **Marcela** Alyatim ~ March 6<sup>th</sup>

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

- 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, Sahar Abdallah, Abeer** Abuaita, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad** Abuaita, **Philip** and **Janett** Abuaita, **Rasha** Abuaita, **Sami** and **Shafiq** Abuaithah, **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, **Daisy** Isaac, **John** Joseph, **Danny** Mortensen, **Karen** Mortensen, **Laura** Nassar, **Jeanette** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; **Abdulla, Amira**, and newborn **Yasmine** Farah (January 10<sup>th</sup>); Dr. **Matthew, Christine** (*daughter of Ayman & Wafaa Elias*), and newborn **Maximus Paisios** Krinock (January 21<sup>st</sup>); **John, Jacqueline** (*daughter of Anwar & Janet Abueita*), and newborn **Henry John** Timm (January 24<sup>th</sup>); **Matt, Ambur** (*daughter of Joseph Haddad*), and **Ivy Grace** Allison (January 24<sup>th</sup>), Drs. **Ryan, Lindsey**, and newborn **Cassandra Carri** Brunner (February 25<sup>th</sup>), and **Panagiotis, Kari** (*daughter of John & Theresa Farah*), and newborn **Jacob Michael** Mikroudis (February 25<sup>th</sup>).
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Nellie** Makhlof, (+February 4<sup>th</sup>, sister of Gisele Farah), **Housam** Abousamra (+February 13<sup>th</sup>), and **Nage** Qumseya (+February 15<sup>th</sup>, cousin of Jeries Qumseya) ~ *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 *Amjad and Elham Ishak*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> ~ 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 17<sup>th</sup> (no meat) and during the Great Fast (March 18<sup>th</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>) no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are to be served.*

⇒ **SPECIAL CHEESE-FARE SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP ON MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>** An all St. George Family “dairy” Potluck. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite dairy item to share! More information next week.

## PAN-ORTHODOX LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 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 at 3 pm.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) needs to be \$7,588 to meet our 2024 Budget. On Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, our offerings were \$2,810; we were short \$4,778 😞 **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!



**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!

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](http://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](mailto: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      **Soul Saturday Divine Liturgy**      9:30am  
                  **Great Vespers and Confessions**      4pm  
                  **St. George Family Night** follows!

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## The Enemy ~ The Enemy of Faith is Pride

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

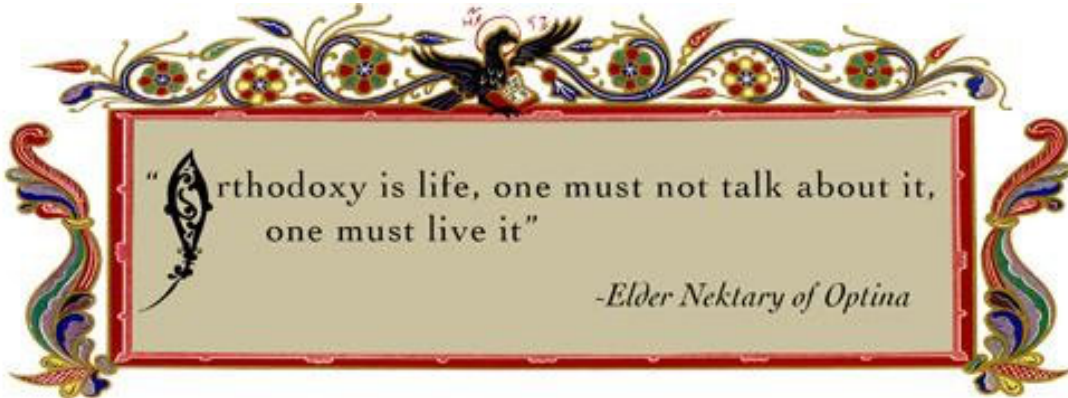
The absolute necessary element for salvation is faith. Faith alone will save us, for only faith brings us into communion with God. Faith is a free gift, for nothing we can do can save us. Good works cannot save us. Being a good person will not save us. Only faith in Christ will bring us into everlasting life.

The enemy of faith is pride, for pride destroys faith. Pride makes us believe we do not need God, and pride is what leads many into the abyss of atheism, for pride makes us believe that there is nothing beyond ourselves. Pride leads us to believe that we are all important, and that nothing exists beyond ourselves. Once pride takes hold, our heart grows hard, and faith grows cold and dies.

Repentance is the cure for pride, and only through repentance can we rekindle the grace that brings life to our faith. Humbling ourselves before God, and giving ourselves over to divine worship, brings us back into the natural relationship that was preordained for us before the fall, and faith grows as grace rebounds.

*“Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”” (John 6:29).*

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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.:** 023/2024

March 2024

Beloved Antiochian Women throughout our God-protected Archdiocese,  
Greetings and blessings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

March is Women's Month in our archdiocese, and we welcome it as a reminder of the essential role women play in our churches and archdiocese. It is also a time to celebrate the leadership and tireless work of the Antiochian Women, which last year celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. In 1973, our predecessor Metropolitan Philip (of thrice-blessed memory) founded this organization with the vision of uniting women across this land to Christ and to one another through the spirit of service. Today, this vision continues through the Antiochian Women's many activities and projects as "a sisterhood serving Christ through serving others."

This year, your North American Board is focused on the needs of our priests' widows, and I am overjoyed to bless this as your annual project. As we approach Great Lent, with its many services and other responsibilities for our priests, let us not forget how their wives make this ministry possible: the priest is able to conduct services, to teach us, to hear our confessions, and all the rest because his wife manages so many other family needs; moreover, priests' wives themselves bless our parishes as gifted choir directors, teachers, organizers, and counselors and in so many other capacities. Let us show gratitude for all these blessings by remembering these women in their retirement—all the more so, since caring for widows has been laid down as a test of true faith. For the scriptures declare this: "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:27).

Wishing you and your families a blessed Great Lent and a joyous Pascha, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "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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# Saturday of the Souls

Praying for the reposed is a crucial element of our Orthodox Christian faith. The life of a human being does not end with the dissolution of their earthly body and the separation of their soul from the body, but the person continues alive in spirit awaiting general resurrection. *"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."* (John 5: 28-29)

Christianity addresses every human being saying: *"O man, do not only say that you are from the dust and to the dust you return, but say also that you are from God and to Him you will return."*

## **Soul Saturday:**

The Orthodox Church assigns two Saturdays per year as a general memorial to those who have departed in the hope of the glorious resurrection, for some people have no one to commemorate them. It should be noted that every Saturday, according to our Orthodox tradition, is dedicated to the departed except Lazarus Saturday, Holy Saturday, and feast days. Likewise, the departed are commemorated in every Divine Liturgy during the Service of Preparing the Gifts (bread and wine), in the Great Entrance, and after the consecration of the Holy Gifts.

## **The Saturday just before the Sunday of the Last Judgment or Meat-fare Sunday.**

Judgment means the second coming of Christ, and because our dead are not yet subject to judgment, the Church commemorates the reposed in hope, and invites us to pray for the rest of their souls by the infinite mercy of God, also reminding us of the need to repent.

## **The Saturday immediately before Pentecost.**

The Holy Spirit is the source of life, grace and holiness, and hence we solicit the grace of the Holy Spirit for the comfort and rest of the reposed.

## **Note:**

There is no death in Christianity because the truly dead person is the one who rejects the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and his presence in his heart. And here we hear the Apostle Paul say: *"Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."* (Ephesians 5:14)

## **Summary:**

There is no death in Christianity, but rest and a transition to eternal life.

It is the Soul Saturday of the reposed, and not of the dead. Death is killed by the death of Christ on the Cross. When the Lord descended into hades death was defeated.

Therefore, the Creed, which is from the 4<sup>th</sup> century, does not mention the word "dead" for Christ. Rather, it says of him: *"He was crucified during the reign of Pilate Pontius, He suffered, was buried and rose on the third day."*

Our departed rest in the hope of eternal resurrection and therefore do not die. The Master and Source of life was incarnate, took our human nature, and was crucified. He arose and resurrected us with him, and death was abolished by His death. We became people of the Resurrection.

The best consolation uttered by Jesus to the sister of Lazarus, who was stinking after four days in the grave is this: *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.* (John 11:25-26). Then He stood at Lazarus' tomb and cried with a loud voice, saying, *"Lazarus, come out!"* So he came out.

**Christ is Risen! and when we are in  
Him, we will be risen also!**