

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 31, 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: Areen Bathish, Rula Alkazaha, Mary Ibrahim, and Evette Rishmawi

Epistle Readers: Aida Nassar (Arabic) and Kh. Leslee Abud (English)

Holy Bread Offerings (Oblations)

- St. George Ladies Auxiliary for the health of their families and in loving memory of their members who have fallen asleep in the Lord:

Sylvia Abdella	Vera Farah	Hillia Joseph	Nora Romley	Beatrice Shaheen
Sadie Albert	Jellilah Faris	Matilda Joseph	Norma Rynek	Madeleine Shaheen
Inam Bathish	Laura Gantos	Mildred Joseph	Sadie Salem	Zed Shaheen
Lourice Beers	Rose Gantos	Rose Joseph	Sadie Salem	Gladys Shemes
Betty Brackett	Samira Gantous	Jean Khouri	Betty Salim	Mamie Shemes
Kamelia Brackett	Lucy Ghattas	Amal Kouby	Norma Salim Lazar	Sadie Shemes
Shyka Brackett	Ann Hackim	Maria Monkaba	Nusra Salim	Emeline Shweiry
Elizabeth Farah	Patricia Haddad	Martha Newman	Sadie Salim	Sylvia Sophiea
Feroze Farah	Helen Isaac	Thelma Nickola	Vicky Salim	Catherine Touma
Marie Farah	Helen Isaac	Leeresse Nicola	Miladeh Salomon	Eva Wakim
Yosra Canasi	Pauline Jehnsen	Aida Raffoul	Widad Salomon	Gloria Ward
Evelyn Delbridge	Delores Joseph	Lucile Raffoul	Adele Samra	
Pauline Farah	Dorothy Joseph	Aida Rojas	Adel Saseen	
Shafeeka Farah	Esther Joseph	Mary Romley	Freida Seikaly	

- Khaled and Sally Abuaita for the health of their family, **Fr. Joe**, and the suffering **Children of Gaza**.

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:

- **Raionna Qumseya** ~ April 1st

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, Fr. Joe 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, Youssif Abousamra, William Alsahouri, Naila Banna, Douglas Coone, Vera Daoud, Said Farah, Joseph Gagne, Elias Gantos, Subdeacon George & Suad Gantous, Phyllis Good, Ronald Haddad, 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), **Panagiotis, Kari** (*daughter of John & Theresa Farah*), and newborn **Jacob Michael Mikroudīs** (February 25th), and **Danial, Casandra**, and newborn **Isla Danial Burbar** (March 21st); your servants **Jaden Turner, Evan Sandford**, and **Maria Kirk** who are in catechism to become members of our Orthodox Faith.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Yusra Al-Qassis** (+March 1st, aunt of Iman David), **Khawleh David** (+March 6th, cousin of Iman David), **Hanna Bannoura** (+March 7th, uncle

of Fouad Awad), **Mary** Abueita (+March 18th), **Inam** Bathish (+March 23rd), and **Jameela** Al-Sumairat (+March 24th, grandmother of Dania Hanna) ~ *may their memory be eternal!*

- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Natania** and **Rene** Hanna, **Andrea** and **Josh** Jones, & **Vera** and **Luay** Sababa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LADIES AUXILIARY FALAFEL LUNCH Everyone is invited! All proceeds will go to their 2024 National Project: *Windowed Clergy Wives* and in honor of all of their departed members. The costs: Adults/children 8 years and older \$10 each; Children 7 years and under \$5 each. Please be generous and support the wonderful and good works of our ladies!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: April 14th, 21st, May 12th, and 26th ~ 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. *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)

ORTHODOXY 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! So this is for:

- Visitors and inquirers who want to know more about the Orthodox Christian Faith
- Catechumens (those formally enrolled in a course of study to become Orthodox Christians)
- Newer members of the Orthodox Faith and those who have been for a long time!

For more information, please see Fr. Michael.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS!

Parents, we encourage you to bring your children to as many of the Lenten Services as you can. Every week I've been talking to a different class about how important it is to be on time and to come to church, so that they can feel like this is a special time of year. Many of the children say that they would love to come, but they have no one to bring them. Please reach out to friends and family to arrange getting your children to Divine Liturgy on Sunday as well as services during the week. This is a great time of

the year to get closer to God, to know His Love, and to love Him! Thank you and God bless you for all you do for your children. If you ever have any questions, please let me know. *Janet Abueita, Church School Director*

LENTEN POTLUCK DINNERS Our Ladies Auxiliary are hosting Lenten Potluck Dinners after our Wednesday celebrations 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, APRIL 3RD

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

LADIES MONTH All Ladies Auxiliary members are encouraged to participate in the Sacraments of Repentance and Communion all the time, but especially during YOUR month. If you do not do so on a regular basis, confessions are heard on Saturdays after Great Vespers, before or after most services during the Great Fast, or Sunday after Coffee Fellowship. Confessions will not be heard on Sunday mornings during Matins until Fr. Joe returns.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (REPENTANCE OR CONFESSION) Like the prodigal son, we need to return to our Heavenly Father all of the time, but especially during the Great Fast. Everyone should make a confession at least once during the Fast. Plan ahead and do not wait until the 11th hour!!! [see above]

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) needs to be \$7,588 to meet our 2024 Budget. On Sunday, March 24th, our offerings were \$1,500; we were short \$6,088 😞 **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). May God bless you for supporting His parish of St. George and offering as He wants us to for our salvation!



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 The *Great Fast* began on, 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.

Monday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى 6pm
Wednesday	Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas 10am Presanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقد يسه & Lenten Potluck Dinner 6pm
Friday	Little Compline and Akathist to the Virgin Mary خدمة المديح (Madayeh) 6pm
Saturday	Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat at St. Mary Magdalene 9:30am-4pm Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers and Confessions at St. Mary Magdalene 4pm No Great Vespers at St. George

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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ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN 2024 PROJECT

ESTABLISH AN

Endowment Fund

FOR OUR
BELOVED

Widowed Clergy-Wives

NORTH AMERICAN BOARD - ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA