

# 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

April 14, 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.

# Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- Amal Abuaita and Walaa Al-Qassis and families for the health of their families and in loving memory of their father and grandfather **Issa** Awad (1 year).
- Reema Khoury for the health of her family especially children **Samir** and **Ranya**, and grandchildren **Alyssa** and **Nadim** and in loving memory husband **Hanna** (3 year) and son **George** (5 year).
- Fares and Sahar Abdallah and Family for the health of their family especially daughter Dr. **Laila** on the occasion of her birthday ~ *May God grant her many years!*
- Khader and Lucy AbuAita for the health of their family especially sons **Raed**, **Essa**, **Tamer**, and their Families.

## **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:

- **Jowelle** Odeh ~ April 19<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**, **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 Alsaouri**, **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**; **Danial**, **Casandra**, and newborn **Isla Danial** Burbar (March 21<sup>st</sup>), and **Josh**, **Andrea**, and newborn **Suraya Hanna** Jones (March 28<sup>th</sup>); your servants **Jaden** Turner, **Evan** Sandford, and **Maria** Kirk who are in catechism (under instruction) to become members of our Orthodox Faith.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Khawleh** David (+March 6<sup>th</sup>, cousin of Iman David), **Hanna** Bannoura (+March 7<sup>th</sup>, uncle of Fouad Awad), **Mary** Abueita (+March 18<sup>th</sup>), **Inam** Bathish (+March 23<sup>rd</sup>), and **Jameela** Al-Sumairat (+March 24<sup>th</sup>, grandmother of Dania Hanna) ~ *may their memory be eternal!*
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Stephanie** and **Nadim** Burbar, **Natania** and **Rene** Hanna, & **Vera** and **Luay** Sababa.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP AND MEMORIAL BREAKFAST is hosted by *Amal Abuaita and Walaa Al-Qassis*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: May 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</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. *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.*

**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](https://antiochian.org/dashboard?name=Metropolitan%20Philip%20of%20Thrice%20Blessed%20Memory))

**ORTHODOXY 101** Not meeting again until after Pascha!

## **CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS!**

**Parents!!!** The Church School’s **Palm Sunday Bake Sale** and **Pascha Egg Hunt** are quickly approaching. If you would like to donate towards the Egg Hunt, please drop your wrapped candy or any Pascha items that can be sold at the Bake Sale to the Church School Office ASAP. Baked items need to be dropped off at the church on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm. Thank you in advance. For any questions please feel free to contact me at 810-691-0956. 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. *Janet Abueita, Church School Director*

**LENTEN POTLUCK DINNERS** Our Ladies Auxiliary is hosting a Lenten Potluck Dinner 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 17<sup>TH</sup>

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

**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 11<sup>th</sup> hour!!! 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.

**GREAT AND HOLY WEEK EXCUSE LETTER** Most of our K-12 and college students have had their “spring vacation” already; many revolving around the Western celebration of Pascha. For us, the Great and Holy Week begins on the evening of Palm Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, and goes to the morning of Great and Holy Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. This once-a-year special week is meant for all of our faithful parishioners, young and old. If your child needs to have a letter from me to be excused from school, music lessons, karate classes, or any sport activities, there are some available on the shelf by the large bulletin board in the Lounge.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) needs to be \$7,588 to meet our 2024 Budget. On Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, our offerings were \$6,821; we were SO

CLOSE, but still short \$767 😊 **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 for our salvation!

➤ **God bless our Church School students who offered \$338 in March!**



**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 18<sup>th</sup>, and continues until our celebration of **Pascha: our Lord's Resurrection** on May 5<sup>th</sup>. 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	<b>Ladies Auxiliary Meeting</b> after Church School
Monday	<b>Great Compline</b> صلاة النوم الكبرى 6pm
Wednesday	<b>Lenten Hours</b> at St. Nicholas 10am
	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> القداس السابق تقديسه & <b>Lenten Potluck Dinner</b> 6pm
Friday	<b>Little Compline and Akathist to the Virgin Mary</b> خدمة المديح (Madayeh) 6pm
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 4pm

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## **Sayings of the Saints**

*Remember, God is love. Do as much kindness as you can to save yourself by this kindness. Be modest, as God bestows mercy upon His humble servants. Repent of your sins and don't wait for tomorrow, as it is the trap of the devil. Love each other, as loveless man cannot inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.*

St. Gabriel the Confessor of Georgia



St. George  
Church School  
invites YOU to their  
**Palm Sunday  
Bake Sale**

**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Arabic Sweets, Lenten Desserts, Cakes, Pies, and Breads of all kinds!*

**This is the Church School's ONLY Fundraiser...  
Please Support Us!!!**

**CALLING ALL BAKERS!!!** We NEED YOU!!! Everything raised pays for books, supplies, incentives, and all expenses during the entire year! PLEASE bake something for the bake sale....PLEASE buy something at the bake sale....PLEASE be generous with your donation!! OUR CHILDREN ARE DEPENDING ON US!!!

Please drop off your baked goods in the Lounge  
on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> between 1-4pm.

Pick up containers for your Baked Goods during Coffee Fellowship on April 21<sup>st</sup>!



What: **Agape Vespers**

*followed by: Pascha Egg Hunt*

Who: Everyone, especially children

When: Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm

**Bring a basket to collect  
your goodies!**

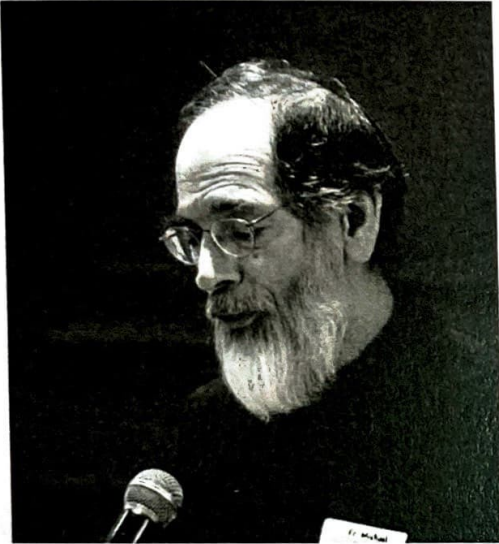
We are in need of wrapped candy for our Pascha Egg Hunt. All money donations and candy can be dropped off in the Church School Office by Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Any and all donations will be appreciated!**

# MAKING THE BEST OF IT

## INSPIRATION TO KEEP GOING

From Fr. Mike — *OCPM Volunteer and Penpal*



The journey to Heaven is never easy. Time spent in prison is a struggle, the time on parole is a struggle, the time after parole is a struggle. In fact, the journey of every Christian, in

every circumstance, in every age is a struggle. But the struggle, the journey, is joyful when done for Christ, for then it is filled with virtue, and the person on the journey, struggling alongside Christ, is trained in virtuous living.

I know a young man, now serving a 10-year parole.

At first, he lived in a shelter run by a small church, then a shared apartment. He worked long hours for low pay as a cook in fast food, but he never complained. He thought of and helped others. Sometimes his love for others, through poor choices, got him into parole trouble. But each step in his journey was a step forward. A few years down the road now, he has a good job and has just moved into his own home. Although he has not yet been able to join a church community; he has been able to receive Confession and spiritual counseling. He is patient and accepting of his circumstances. He is still on parole, still meeting with a counselor, still on a journey. His eyes are set on Christ, giving thanks to God every day, thankful for the struggle. And I give thanks every day for the inspiration he gives to me, for I too am still on a journey.