

# 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 7, 2024

# Glory to Jesus Christ!

## *Glory Forever!*

**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.

# Adoration of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross

- (Flower Offering) The Drs. Ron Shaheen and Kathy Kudray Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of parents **George** and **Beatrice** and brother **Kenneth**.

## Holy Bread Offerings (Oblations)

- Issa and Adam Odeh for the health of their family especially mother and grandmother **Nusta** and in loving memory of wife and mother **Nawal** (5 year), son and brother **Jamie** (22 year), **Saman**, **Farah**, **Nassim**, **Nazeek**, **Georgette**, **Nahil**, **George**, **Katrina**, and **Odeh**.
- Steve and Kelly Sanderson for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Donna** Stewart (5 year, mother of Kelly).
- Khaled and Sally Abuaita for the health of their family especially daughter **Watan** Assaad on the occasion of her birthday ~ *may God grant her many years!*, **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:

- **Zaina** Qumseya ~ April 11<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; Drs. **Ryan**, **Lindsey**, and newborn **Cassandra Carri** Brunner (February 25<sup>th</sup>), **Panagiotis**, **Kari** (*daughter of John & Theresa Farah*), and newborn **Jacob Michael** Mikroudīs (February 25<sup>th</sup>), **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 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 1<sup>st</sup>, aunt of Iman David), **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.

*"To repent is not to look downwards at my own shortcomings, but upwards at God's love, it is not to look backwards with self-reproach but forward with trustfulness, it is to see not what I have failed to be, but what by the grace of Christ I might yet become."*

+ St. John Climacus

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** is hosted by *Issa and Adam Odeh*.

**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** 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!!! The Church School's **Palm Sunday Bake Sale** and **Pascha Egg Hunt** are quickly approaching (*see flier*). Being that our Western Christian brothers and sisters celebrated our Lord's Resurrection last week, everything is on sale ~ yah! 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 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 OUR COMBINED PAN-ORTHODOX CELEBRATION ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10<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>
Main Dish	Desserts	Relish Dish or Bread	Salad or Side Dish

**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.



**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.

Monday **Great Compline** صلاة النوم الكبرى 6pm

Wednesday **Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas** 10am

**Combined Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy** القداس السابق تقد يسه

& **Lenten Potluck Dinner at St. George** 6pm

Friday **Little Compline and Akathist to the Virgin Mary** خدمة المديح (Madayeh) 6pm

Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

# Peace be with you!

Accept this “peace” that the Bishop or Priest gives you at every service!

Be at peace, “*in peace, let us pray to the Lord*”

Our “peace” is our Lord Jesus Christ!

Take Him, hold on to Him, and never let Him go!

# The Easy Road and the Hard Road ~

## Which Road Are You Traveling?

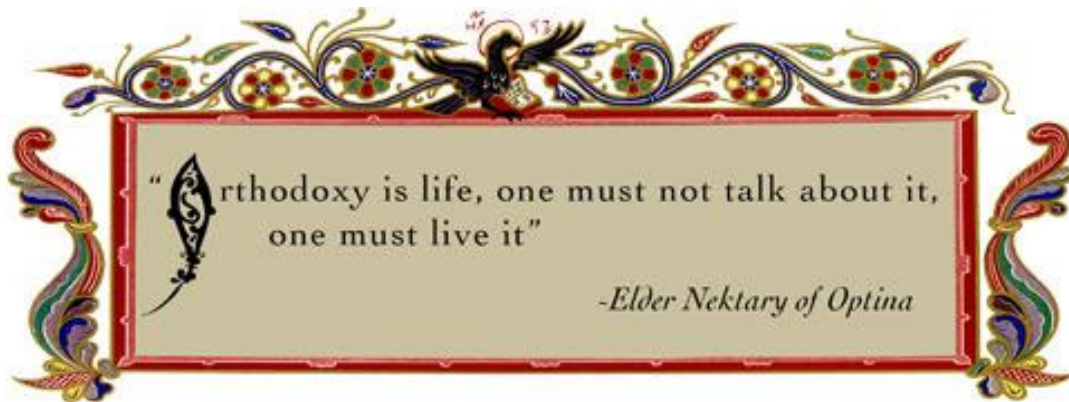
*by Abbot Tryphon, head of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington*

There are two types of Christians. There are those who can say with the Apostle Paul, "I have been crucified with Christ: it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). And then there are those Christians who believe Christ was crucified so that we do not have to crucify ourselves. The first type are part of a Christianity of sacrifice, and the second are given over to the ego.

The Christian who believes he must be crucified with Christ will constantly call upon the Lord for help, but will be ever willing to take up his own cross and follow Christ. He does not expect to have an easy road, nor is he easy on himself. This type of Christian is ever looking at his own sins, his own fallen nature, and seeing how far he has fallen short of the glory of God.

The second type of Christian expects the road to be easy, sees himself as more spiritual than most, and is constantly looking to see the error in his neighbor and offer correction. He rarely calls upon the Lord for help, for he expects an easy road and only prays for help when facing an unpleasant situation. He does not take up his cross since he sees no value in suffering. This second type of Christian fails to notice that refusing to judge another brings down God's mercy on himself.

The Lord tells both types of Christians, "If a man comes to me and does not bear his cross, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). Only the first type of Christian notices those words, and heeds them.



"Orthodoxy is life, one must not talk about it,  
one must live it"

*-Elder Nektary of Optina*

Once a man was asked,  
"What did you gain by  
regularly praying to God?"

The man replied, "Nothing..  
But let me tell you what I lost:  
*Anger, Ego, Greed, Depression,  
Insecurity, and Fear of Death."*



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!**