

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

May 28, 2023

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

Blessings with the feast of our Lord's Ascension into heaven!

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 ready to receive Holy Communion, the faithful should fast properly (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 to 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 an 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)

- Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee Abud for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Protopresbyter Angelo Artemas** (40 day, friend).
- Carol Haddad and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of husband, father, and grandfather **Nasri** (1 year).
- Adam and Kristina Cooper for the health of their family especially **Kristina** and son **Lukas** on the occasion of their birthdays ~ *may God grant them many years!*

BAPTISM/CHRISMATION DAYS

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for their teachers and students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this coming week:

- **Ava Mitri** ~ May 28th **Lukas Cooper** ~ June 3rd

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

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Sami** Alsaouri (+April 27th) and **Michael** Khal (+May 11th) ~ *may their memory be eternal!*
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: our **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Essa** AbuAita, **Reader Fouad** Abuaita, **Philip** and **Janett** Abuaita, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **William** Alsaouri, **Naila** Banna, **Areen** Bathish, **Vera** Daoud, **Evelyn** Delbridge, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad** Gantous, **Denise** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Tatiana** Hanna, **Karen** Hargreaves, **Daisy** Isaac, **Laura** Nassar, **Adam** Odeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Sandy** Thomas, and **Christa** Whitehead; **Mejhdy**, **Jessica**, and newborn **Levi** Abu-Aitah (April 21st); **Isabelle** Brushaber (daughter of William and Dr. Olga) who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion; **Fadi** Odeh and **Miar** Abu-Aita who are to be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Rania** and **Raed** AbuAita, **Julia** and **Maroun** Alatrash, **Renea** and **Rakan** Bayouk, **Dania** and **Subdeacon Salim** Hanna, **Natania** and **Rene** Hanna, **Aziza** and **Basheer** Hawwash, **Dina** and **Laith** Maymoun, **Amanda** and **Mousa** Rishmawi, & **Narmeen** and **Deeb** Shamshoum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BANQUET CENTER RENTAL Our Center is rented today. Please be respectful to our renters and their guests by not disturbing their event ~ Thank You!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is in our Lounge and hosted by *Kristina Cooper*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: June 11th and 18th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is 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**, contact our coordinator Manal Abuaita.

E-MEMO'S If you would like to be added to our Parishioner Email List and receive our weekly *St. George E-Memo*, please send your e-mail address to saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com.

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS



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!

Midwest Diocesan 2023 Parish Life Conference

Bishop Anthony and our host parish St. Mary-Palos Heights, Illinois invite you to our Annual **Midwest Diocesan Parish Life Conference** June 28th-July 2nd. Hotel, Conference Registration, and all forms are available at their website: <http://www.antiochianevents.com/toledo.html>. Bishop Anthony and Fr. Joe encourage all of our parishioners to attend! God willing we will have parishioners in the **Bible Bowl** (Thursday night, June 29th) and **Senior Presentation** (Saturday night, July 1st) ~ come and cheer them on! Please take note of deadlines and make your reservations as soon as possible! We hope that as many of our parishioners as possible will participate.

- **HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PRESENTATION** will be held at the **Grand Banquet** on Saturday, July 1st. This annual event is when seniors from all the churches in our Diocese are presented by their parents to His Grace Bishop Anthony. Forms are in the Lounge with a deadline of June 4th.

GRAVE BLESSINGS In our tradition, we bless graves of our departed family and friends around June 3rd, the Soul Saturday before Pentecost. Please contact Fr. Joe to schedule this blessing.

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.

TODAY **Odeh/Abuaita Wedding** at St. George-Troy, MI 5:30pm
Monday **OFFICE Closed** for Memorial Day
Saturday **Soul Saturday Divine Liturgy** 10am
 Bator Baptism 2pm
 Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

Saturday of the Souls

Praying for the reposed is a crucial element of the 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 4th 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!**