

# 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

June 4, 2023

## Blessings on the Feast of Pentecost!

**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)

- Jana Zouaiter and Hana Stacy and their families for the health of their families and in loving memory of mother **Georgette** Yusuf (1 year), **Asaad, Latifee, Elias, Nick, Mike, and George** Nemer, **Laurice** Matta, **Jamal** Skaff, **Elias** Al-Baba, and **Ali** Yusuf.
- Khader and Lucy AbuAita for the health of their family on the occasion of their anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and **Khader's** birthday ~ *May God grant them many years!*
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Sami** Alsaouri (+April 27<sup>th</sup>), **Michael** Khal (+May 11<sup>th</sup>), **Samer** Alsaouri (+May 14<sup>th</sup>, brother of William), and **Kh. Martha** Lynch (+May 24<sup>th</sup>, Godchild of Kh. Leslee Abud) ~ *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** 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; **Alexander, Raghda** (Ishaq), and newborn **Iliana Marina** Wayne (May 30<sup>th</sup>). **Phoebe** Bator who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion; **Fadi** and **Miar** (Abu-Aita) Odeh who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and whose marriage crowns will be removed today.
- 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 *Khader and Lucy AbuAita*.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: June 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> ~ 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.

## 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 28<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 29<sup>th</sup>) and **Senior Presentation** (Saturday night, July 1<sup>st</sup>) ~ 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 TODAY.

**GRAVE BLESSINGS** In our tradition, we bless graves of our departed family and friends this weekend of Pentecost. Please contact Fr. Joe to schedule this blessing.

## COMING EVENTS

**Fasting Discipline** There is no fasting the week following Pentecost.

Tuesday **Ladies Auxiliary Meeting** 6pm  
Saturday Combined Pan-Orthodox **Great Vespers** at St. Nicholas with Archbishop Alexander (2143 S Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519) 5pm

## The Divine Liturgy ~ Where Communion With God Is Restored

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

At the Mystical Supper in the Upper Room Jesus gave a dramatically new meaning to the food and drink of the sacred meal. He identified Himself with the bread and wine: *“Take, eat; this is my Body. Drink of it all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant”* (Matthew 26:26-28). Food had always sustained the earthly existence of everyone, but in the Eucharist, the Lord gave us a distinctively unique human food – bread and wine – that by the power of the Holy Spirit, has become our gift of life.

Consecrated and sanctified, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. This change is not physical but mystical and sacramental. While the qualities of the bread and wine remain, we partake of the true Body and Blood of Christ. In the Eucharistic meal God enters into such a communion of life that He feeds humanity with His own being, while still remaining distinct. In the words of St. Maximos the Confessor, Christ, *“transmits to us divine life, making Himself eatable.”* The Author of life shatters the limitations of our createdness. Christ acts so that *“we might become sharers of divine nature”* (2 Peter 1:4).

From the moment Christ instituted this Mystery, the Eucharist became the center of the Church’s life, and her most profound prayer. The Eucharist is both the source

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and the summit of our life in Christ. It is in the Eucharist that the Church is changed from a mere human community into the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and the People of God. The Eucharist is the pre-eminent sacrament, as it completes all the others and recapitulates the entire economy of salvation. Through the Eucharist our new life in Christ is renewed and increased. The Eucharist imparts life and the life it gives is the life of God.

The Church is that place where heaven and earth are united, and where we can live as we were meant to be, as before the Fall. The Church's Divine Liturgy is that place where the disunity that came with the Fall is put aside, and communion with God is restored. Our participation in the Divine Liturgy is the moment when we are restored to the Garden of Eden, and God and man walk together. The Divine Liturgy unites us to the Heavenly Banquet which is taking place before the Throne of God.

The Divine Liturgy transcends time, and space, uniting believers in the worship of the Kingdom of God along with all the heavenly hosts, the saints, and the celestial angels. To this end, everything in the Liturgy is seen as symbolic, yet also not just merely symbolic, but making the unseen reality manifest in our midst.

We do not attend the Divine Liturgy, but participate in the Divine Liturgy, for in communing with God, we receive the Bread of Life. The Liturgy lifts us up above the disordered and dysfunctional world, and we are placed on the path to restoration and wholeness, healed by the self-emptying love of Christ, and communion with God is restored.

