

August 27, 2023

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.

Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- Fr. Michael Bassett and our St. George Parish for the health of our families and in loving memory of **Mother Nektaria** (+August 9th).

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:

Amany Rishmawi ~ August 28th

• **Elias** Mitri ~ August 30th

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: **Nick** Saseen (+August 4th) and **Khouriya Helen** White (+August 10th, friend of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee) ~ *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, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad** Abuaita, **Philip** and **Janett** Abuaita, **Rasha** Abuaita, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **William** Alshahouri, **Naila** Banna, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Natania** and **Rene** Hanna, **Daisy** Isaac, **Karen** Mortensen, **Laura** Nassar, **Adam** Odeh, **Richard** Ramsdell (father of Jodie Bathish), **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **Christa** Whitehead; **Branden**, **Letizia**, and newborn **baby girl Jones** (August 21st).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Rania** and **Raed** AbuAita, **Julia** and **Maroun** Alatrash, **Renea** and **Rakan** Bayouk, **Dania** and **Subdeacon Salim** Hanna, **Christine** (daughter of Ayman and Wafaa Elias and **Matthew** Krinock), **Dina** and **Laith** Maymoun, **Kari** (daughter of John and Theresa Farah), and **Panagiotis** Mikroudīs, **Amanda** and **Mousa** Rishmawi, & **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet Abueita) and **John** Timm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP today. We hope to see everyone at our **Parish Picnic** at the Davison Township Park and Recreation-Lake Callis which begins at 12pm!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: September 17th and 24th ~ 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 Manal Abuaita.

OUT-OF-TOWN Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee are on vacation. Fr. Joe will be back in the office on September 1st. **For emergencies** while Fr. Joe is away, please call first *Fr. Michael Bassett* (St. George, 989-627-9580), then *Fr. Peter Bistolarides* (Assumption, 810-771-4611) or *Fr. Matthew Butrie* (St. Nicholas, 810-744-0070). Please pray for Fr. Joe's and Kh. Leslee's safe travels.

MIDDLE EASTERN COMMUNITY **DINE IN!** LUNCH AND BAKE SALE

This is for our community, family, and friends on Thursday, September 21st from 11am-2pm. Dine-In, Take-out or delivered (8 meals or more) are available. Tickets are available from any member. Everyone is asked to help – all profits benefit our church! Drivers are needed for deliveries, see Tony Daoud. For more information, please contact Manal Abuaita (810-577-0028) or Anaam Abueita (810-962-1033). If you would like to make sweets for the bake sale, contact Sally Abuaita (810-965-1046). Donations are welcomed to offset our costs.

ST. GEORGE GOLF CLASSIC



September 23rd at Flushing Valley Golf Club.

The Classic is for fellowship, fun, and to raise money for our church. Hole Sponsorships are needed, which is great for remembering a loved one, health of your family, or publicity for a business for only \$125 (see flier on Narthex Table). Donations of prizes, gift cards and/or money to buy gifts are also needed ~ you do not need to be a golfer to support this wonderful event. If you are interested or need more information, contact chairman Tony Daoud 810-730-1011 or the church 810-732-0720.

BAKING OF HOLY BREAD! Aida Nassar is our coordinator. She is very attentive to making sure we have enough Holy Bread every week and what might be frozen is used quickly. If you would like to bake Holy Bread, you must let Aida know 810-342-9713. *Thank you and may God bless the hands of all of those who bake Holy Bread ~ which becomes the Body of Christ in Holy Communion ~ every Divine Liturgy!*

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.

Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

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The Dark Side

~ When We Experience the “Dark Side” of the Church

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

For those who have experienced what has been called the “dark side” of the Church, the struggle to remain faithful to the Orthodox Faith can seem daunting. The dark side is the result of the sinful, fallen nature of all of us who make up the Body of Christ. It is that part of each of us that is yet to have been transformed and made whole. This is especially difficult for pious believers when that dark side rears its ugly head through those who serve the Church as her clergy. But if we see this dark side for what it is, and know that it is not actually coming from the Life of the Church, but from the great Enemy of our souls, we realize that our common fallen nature is vulnerable to the attacks of Satan, the enemy of God. Satan attacks those who serve the Church with an especially hardened hatred. When priests and bishops are seen as operating in a shameful way, and we see no love in them, we can find

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ourselves wondering if there is anything to the Church. When the Church fails us, be it her clergy, or fellow members of a parish, we can feel especially betrayed, and wonder why we remain at all.

Like all human institutions, the Church can fall short of her calling, and her special vocation as hospital of the soul can appear no different than any other human institution. Rather than receiving the needed love, and the resulting healing of the soul, the parishioner may feel as though they've been abused. Parish intrigue can turn the hospital into an insane asylum, and we come away feeling hurt and disrespected. We look at political organizations, businesses, institutions of higher education, and other human based organizations, and see this dark side of the human condition. We can see that this dark side is really not about the divinely instituted Church, nor her clergy, but about the Evil One.

When we look at our common enemy, we see that this dark side is really not about the Church, but about ourselves, and our own common failure to submit our whole selves, and all our life, into the hands of Our Savior. It is in this submission to Christ, that healing will take place, and we will be made whole. That is the point in which we can stop blaming our clergy, or our bishops, and take the blame upon ourselves. The dark side is coming from within our own fallen nature, and it is we who are in need of acting according to the gospel message. We are the enemy of Christ, and it is our sin that is responsible for the dark side that resides within the life of Christ's Church.

When we confront our own fallen nature, and blame only ourselves for the debilitating dark side, we usher in the Light of Christ, and all is made whole. When we've done that, we are no longer able to see the sin of others, and we look upon everyone that seems to have failed us in a new light. We look at them as Christ. Be it Christ crucified, or Christ glorified, we see only Christ. It is then that we emerge out of the long, dark tunnel, having been purified by the action of the Holy Spirit. We are made whole (holy), and the failures of others are no longer noticed by us, and we see only the love of Christ in the faces of our brothers and sisters. The dark side is transformed, and we are made stronger for having suffered as we did, and we will have experienced the truth in the saying that God allows difficulties, humiliations, and hardships, as the way to draw us closer to Him, and make us stronger.

When this happens, we will know that God is Our Father, and He desires His children to grow in wisdom and strength. Because of His great love for us, He allows us to experience pain and rejection, knowing it will make us stronger. Just as an earthly father knows an overprotected child does not grow in wisdom and strength, God, as the good father, changes us into loving, compassionate, and giving persons, and the darkness shall be no more.

The light shines
in the darkness,
and the darkness
has not overcome it.

John 1:5





ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



2023 College Student Sunday Encyclical
August 27, 2023

Beloved Clergy and Faithful,

We greet you with joy as we announce the date for **College Student Sunday**, benefiting **Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)**. To support the incredible efforts of our students, College Student Sunday will be the fourth Sunday of August, running in conjunction with OCF's Back to School campaign. This year the date falls on **August 27**.

We are asking that a special collection be taken on College Student Sunday in support of the good work of OCF, and we encourage the entire faithful family – clergy, parents, grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles, and friends of our treasured college students – to be generous in your offering of support to this ministry on their behalf. If August 27 is not a good date for your parish, please make the collection on another Sunday in September. Donations may be sent to **OCF National Office, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445** or offered online at www.ocf.net/college-student-sunday/. Use this link as well to download printable bulletin inserts and a speaking outline to highlight OCF and our work with students.

In addition, a poster is included with this mailing. **Please consider a highly visible location where this can be placed** to facilitate awareness of OCF for college & high school students, parents, and the parish community in general.

The vision of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship is to be the loving presence of Christ and the Orthodox Church on college campuses; to be an integral part of students' spiritual formation by challenging them to explore the Faith; and to inspire students to commit to living an Orthodox Christian way of life daily.

We are grateful for both your prayers and support. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ who calls all of us to contribute to the ministry of His Church guide and strengthen our cherished and beloved college students.

Working in His Vineyard with much love,

+Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa
Liaison to OCF for the Assembly of Canonical
Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America
bishopgregoryofnyssa@gmail.com

Dn. Marek Simon
OCF Executive Director
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College Student **SUNDAY** AUGUST 27, 2023

Orthodox Christian Fellowship offers college students rich community in Christ, inspiring a life-long love of God and neighbor. Through national programs, weekend retreats, virtual gatherings, and over 250 on-campus chapters, OCF is an invitation to thrive during school.



DONATE TODAY AND HELP OCF OFFER COLLEGE STUDENTS AN INVITATION TO THRIVE DURING THEIR TIME IN SCHOOL.

Scan the QR code or visit OCF.net to give.

@OCFministry



www.OCF.net