

September 24, 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 prepare 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*)

- For the health of our St. George parishioners and in loving memory of **Bishop Antoun** (6 year) and our former clergy: **Archbishop Malatios** Swaity, **Protosyngellos Ellis** Khouri (36 year), **Archimandrite Michael** Tahan, **Archpriest John** Chromiak, **Archpriest Basil** Kalekas (36 year), **Archpriest Basil** Karpelenia, **Archpriest Hanna** Khouri, **Archpriest Nicholas** Saikley, **Priest Ellis** Hajj, **Priest Nicholas** Juerges, **Priest Anthony** Sakey, **Priest Lewis** Secabe, and **Deacon Habib** Romley.
- Khaled and Sally Abuaita for the health of their family especially **Issam** Andoni (friend of Sally).
- Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee Abud and family for the health of their family especially son **John** Abud on the occasion of his birthday -- *May God grant him many years!*

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:

- **Sharbel** Abueita, and **Annabella** and **Revan** Helal ~ September 24th

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: **Cindy** Victorson (+August 31st, friend of Fr. Joe), **Deborah** Salim (+September 7th), **Kamal** Bathish (+September 8th, brother-in-law of Hiam Bathish), **Joseph** Boufaissal (+September 9th, husband of Shefaa), and **Luceille** Nassar (+September 10th, wife of Basem) ~ *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, **Mariam** Al-Khouri, **William** Alsahouri, **Naila** Banna, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Karen** Mortensen, **Laura** Nassar, **Adam** Odeh, **Richard** Ramsdell (father of Jodie Bathish), **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **Christa** Whitehead; **Raed**, **Rania**, and newborn **Riyana** AbuAita (August 26th) who will be brought back into the life of our parish through the *Prayers of Churching*; **Branden**, **Letizia**, and newborn **Saylor Elli** Jones (August 21st); **Laith**, **Dina**, and newborn **Liam** Maymoun (September 4th). **Michael** Al-Khouri and **Sandy** Abueita who are to be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Julia** and **Maroun** Alatrash, **Ambur** (daughter of Joseph Haddad) and **Matt** Allison, **Gabriella** (daughter of Joseph and Mary Jo Ghattas) and **David** Ayyash, **Renea** and **Rakan** Bayouk, Dr. **Lindsey** and Dr. **Ryan** Brunner, **Casandra** and **Danial** Burbar, **Dania** and **Subdeacon Salim** Hanna, **Andrea** (Haddad) and **Josh** Jones, **Christine** (daughter of Ayman and Wafaa Elias) and Dr. **Matthew** Krinock, **Kari** (daughter of John and Theresa Farah), and **Panagiotis** Mikroudias, **Amanda** and **Mousa** Rishmawi, & **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet Abueita) and **John** Timm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Raed and Rania AbuAita*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: October 1st and 22nd ~ 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.

PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB Our first book of the year will be **Christ in The Psalms** by Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon. Individuals can order the book on their own or if they email me by Monday, September 25th, they can be included in a bulk order at a discount (though if individuals order used books they will probably be the best price). It is available from a number of sources new or used, kindle or physical anywhere from \$19 (new Amazon) to \$5 (used). Tentative date for our first meeting is Tuesday, October 24th at St. George beginning at 6pm. We will review the first half of the book in a combined LIVE and ZOOM gathering. For questions or more information, please contact Fr. Michael Bassett (989-627-9580 or frdnmike@gmail.com).

Thank you and God bless...

... **Basil Andoni, Yousef and Abraham Abousamra, Tony Daoud, Kelly Dotson, and Jen Mooney** for their planning, time, and hard work in renovating our *Church School Bathrooms* ~ they look great!

... **all those who baked food, made sweets, made deliveries, and attended** our *Middle Eastern Lunch and Bake Sale* which was delicious and a magnificent success!

... **Tony Daoud, Kelly Dotson, all who helped, our Golfers, and our Sponsors** in making our *Golf Classic* a wonderful success!

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.

Monday	Bible Study: <i>St. Paul's Letter to the Romans</i> 1:30-3:30pm
Wednesday	Arabic Bible Study: <i>St. Paul's Letter to the Romans</i> 12:30-2pm
Saturday	Al-Khour/Abueita wedding No Great Vespers

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Keeping the Great Commandment

~ **Whom Do We See When We Look into the Face of Another?**

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

Our world is polarized in ways not seen in many generations. This polarization is brought closer to home because we now live in a nation that is far more cosmopolitan than in the past. Even small towns across our country are now home to people from Africa, India, Pakistan, Mexico and China, to name but a few. We have communities of Sikhs with their colorful turbans, and Muslim women wearing their hijab, living among us. Our children attend

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schools with students who are members of religions that are relatively new to American shores, and the racial makeup of our country is changing.

This is certainly not the first wave of immigrants coming to make a new life for themselves on American shores. Past generations of Italians, Germans, Norwegians, Irish and Welsh, made American their home, and in doing so infused a wonderful blend of diversity, culture, food, and religion into society that greatly enhanced our nation, and contributed to making America the great nation that she is today.

That we sometimes resisted the influx of peoples from foreign shores cannot be denied, and discrimination suffered by these "foreigners" is a disgraceful part of our common history. Now that we are witnessing increased conflict in the Middle East, and attacks on our troops coming from within the ranks of supposed allies, we are tempted to look toward many of the new immigrants with suspicion, or even fear. As Christians we must make sure the present strife in our world does not become the vehicle for the virus of hate to enter our hearts.

We can not let our revulsion of Islamic violence in the Middle East become the cornerstone for internment camps in the United States. The mass expulsion of Japanese Americans from our farming communities, towns and cities on the West Coast, into such internment camps, must never be repeated again.

Nowhere in our Christian Scriptures does it suggest we must avenge our God against anyone who would insult the Holy Trinity. Nowhere does it say that anyone who has defiled our Bible, or insulted the Holy Name of Jesus, should be murdered. Nowhere in our Bible are we, as Christians, given a directive to gather in our streets with anger, and murder innocent people for any perceived insult to our Savior, Jesus Christ. That people of another faith are told by their religious leaders that they must do such things, in no way can be seen as a directive for our behavior.

The most difficult commandment Christ gave to His disciples was surely the one that we must love our enemies. If we translate that directive into the simple task of being nice to the crabby old man next door, we will have missed the point. Jesus said, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who despitefully use you, and persecute you (Matthew 5:44)." Easy? No. Possible? Yes! "And Jesus looking upon them said, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible (Mark 10:27)."

Whom do we see when we look into the face of another? It is Christ! It is either Christ glorified, or Christ crucified. That we have all been created in the image and likeness of God, means that we are all His children, and therefore brothers and sisters to one another. That some of our brothers and sisters have chosen to be our enemies does in no way lessen the truth that we are all the children of Eve, charged by Christ to love each other. If we are of Christ, we must follow His commandments.

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ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 24, 2023
Orthodox Youth Ministries Sunday

Dear Beloved in Christ,

God bless you!

This year the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America has designated September 24th as Orthodox Youth Ministries Sunday. On this occasion, we seek to raise awareness of the importance of passing on the Orthodox faith in a way that all of our young people have the opportunity to encounter Christ, become fully engaged members of His Church, and engage our communities, neighborhoods, and world with the life of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is what our youth workers seek to ignite and support in every Orthodox parish throughout North America, as they partner with clergy and parents.

As the Episcopal Liaison of the Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (www.theOYM.org), I encourage everyone to observe this day and reflect on the importance of young people in the life of the Church.

In every generation, there are unique challenges we face which seek to lead us away from the fullness of the Orthodox Church and towards a life of empty self-indulgence. The difference between a life of faithfulness and a life of failure is often perseverance. One example that we have received comes from the early fourth century when co-emperor Licinius sought to rid his portion of the Roman Empire of all Christians. Among his soldiers was a group of forty brave and distinguished men from Cappadocia who were Christians. When they were ordered to offer a sacrifice to the pagan gods, they refused. Neither threat nor flattery could persuade them to deny Christ and worship the idols. While sitting in jail, praying and praising, these men heard a voice say, “persevere until the end, then you shall be saved.”

This kind of perseverance is what is being called for from our young people as well as our parents and youth workers. Stick it out. Don’t give up. Remain faithful to Christ no matter the cost. It is to each one of us that our Lord says, “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Rev. 2:10) The 40 Martyrs of Sebaste (OYM’s patron saints) stayed in the lake through the night, enduring freezing temperatures and rejecting the temptation of a warm fire on shore, because their love for Christ far exceeded the trials that they faced. This is my encouragement to you as well, “Stay in the Lake,” for through patient endurance we too shall receive the crown of life.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Thomas (Joseph)
Episcopal Liaison to Orthodox Youth Ministries



Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Youth & Young Adult Awareness Sunday

September 24, 2023



Will you help us encourage young people to “stay in the lake”?

Approximately 60% of youth from Christian homes leave the Church as adults. But young people do stay rooted in the Orthodox church when they are inspired to do so.

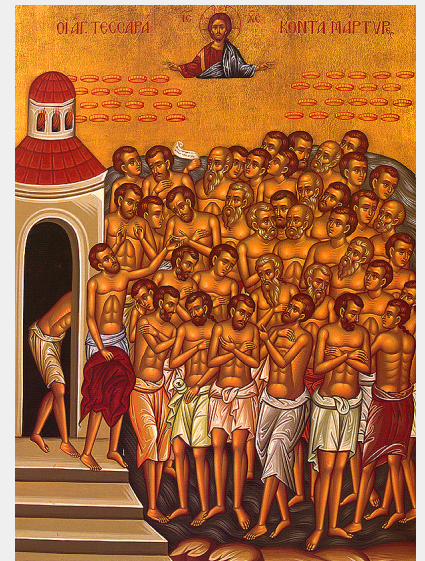
This is our mission.

Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM) works to pass on a faith where every young person **encounters** Christ, **embodies** the Church, and **engages the world** in His name.

Just as the 40 Martyrs of Sebaste sacrificed their lives for Christ by staying together in the freezing lake, OYM helps inspire young people to stay rooted in the body of Christ.

OYM comes alongside parishes to help youth and young adults become fully engaged in the life of the Church through transformative retreats, podcasts and videos, and other ministry resources.

We invite you to connect with us by subscribing to our newsletter at: www.TheOYM.org/newsletter



OYM Patron Saints
40 Martyrs of Sebaste

And we humbly ask for your support to help empower young people in the Orthodox faith. Donations can be made:

1. Online at: www.TheOYM.org/donate 3. Or scan below

2. By check to:

Orthodox Youth Ministries
6218 Georgia Ave NW, Suite 1-657
Washington, DC 20011



Learn more at:



www.theOYM.org



@TheOYMOfficial

*OYM is 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry and is an agency of the
Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.*