

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

September 3, 2023

Christ is in our Midst! *He is and ever shall be!*

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*)

- **George** and **Hiam** Ishaq for their health and the health of their family especially **Nusta**, **Nida'**, **Samer**, and **Nidal** and in loving memory of **George**, **Atallah**, **Sim'an**, **Farah**, **Nassim**, **Jamie**, **Naheel**, **Nazik**, **Georgette**, **Katrina**, and **Nawal**.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Nick** Saseen (+August 4th, brother of Jeanette Nassif), **Mother Nektaria** (+August 9th), **Khouriya Helen** White (+August 10th, friend of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee), and **Cindy** Victorson (+August 31st, friend of Fr. Joe) ~ *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** Alsahouri, **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 **Saylor Elli** Jones (August 21st); **Raed**, **Rania**, and newborn **Riyana** AbuAita (August 26th). **Nadim** and **Stephanie** Burbar whose marriage crowns will be removed today.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Julia** and **Maroun** Alatrash, **Renea** and **Rakan** Bayouk, **Dania** and **Subdeacon Salim** Hanna, **Christine** (daughter of Ayman and Wafaa Elias) and Dr. **Matthew** Krinock, **Dina** and **Laith** Maymoun, **Kari** (daughter of John and Theresa Farah), and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis, **Amanda** and **Mousa** Rishmawi, & **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet Abueita) and **John** Timm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Khouriya Leslee Abud*.

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 \$150 (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.

Thank you and God bless...

... to chair Salim Hanna, our Altar Society and Ladies Auxiliary, and all you helped with our Parish Picnic last Sunday. The weather was great, the food was delicious, and the fellowship was wonderful! If you didn't make it, you were missed ☺.

Church School Begins Next Sunday, September 10th!

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.

- Tuesday **Ladies Auxiliary Meeting** 6pm
- Thursday **Church School Staff Dinner Meeting** 5:30pm
- Friday Combined, Pan-Orthodox **Divine Liturgy** for the **Nativity (Birth) of the Virgin Mary at Assumption** (2245 E Baldwin Rd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439) 10am
- Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

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The Peacemaker

~ **Becoming the Peacemaker Rather than Saving Face**

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

As followers of Christ, we are called to wage peace, not war, for our Savior has brought us the peace that passes all understanding. As His disciples, we must renounce all violence and tumult. We Christians must become peacemakers in this world, for peace means reconciliation, and Christ is the author of peace and reconciliation.

When we Christians work for peace, it should hardly surprise us when we receive a special blessing attributed to being peacemakers, for *"they shall be called sons of God."*

continued ⇨

The message of the Sermon on the Mount is that those who seek to surrender to God, participate in God's grace as they go to their enemies to make peace, for they are seeking to do what their Father has done, loving people with His love.

As we surrender to God, and abandon the effort to get our needs met through the destruction of enemies, God comes to us in Christ to make peace with us; and we participate in God's grace as we go to our enemies to make peace. It is good to remember that no one has ever been converted by violence.

We as peacemakers speak about peace as something already victoriously won. As peacemakers we can celebrate the peace that is part of our glorious past or as something that will be won in the other world. Peacemakers must continue to point out injustice, hypocrisy, and suffering, so being peacemakers does not lead to becoming isolationists. We are peacemakers when our actions and our words bring to light problems far away from us.

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.** (Matthew 5:9)



Get out your bibles, find the New Testament, and go to the first book, The Gospel of St. Matthew. Find chapter 5 and begin reading what's called Jesus' **Sermon on the Mount**. This sermon goes from chapter 5 all the way to the end of chapter 7 ~ and IT'S AMAZING! These are the words of our Lord and Savior and they are for US!



Church School begins Sunday, September 10th!

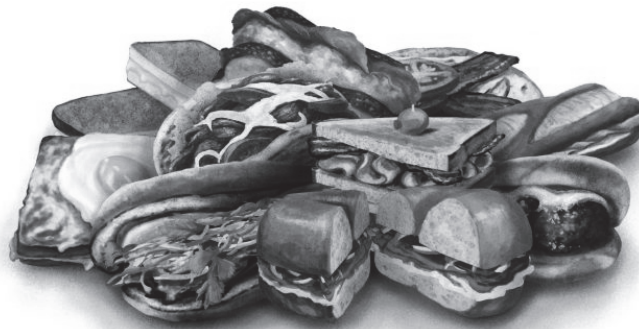
Our Church School provides an *Orthodox Christian Education* for everyone from Preschool to High School. PARENTS and GODPARENTS take advantage of this wonderful experience for your children/Godchildren to learn about God and His Holy Church while growing in our faith!

Open House for Parents

Sunday, September 10th

Church School can only work with YOUR help!
All parents are encouraged to attend!!!

Kick-Off Brunch



To kick-off the Church School year,
there is a delicious Brunch for the whole parish.
There is no cost, but donations will be accepted to educate our children!

CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

*Classes are set, our teachers are preparing,
books have been ordered ... and all we need is YOU!*

Dear Parents,

Plans are underway for a terrific Church School year! We are so excited to be able to hold in person classes! Please know we will do everything to keep our children and staff safe and healthy. Before coming to class, each staff and student will be asked to stop at the sanitizing station in the hallway to sanitize their hands. We are also asking parents do not send their child if they are experiencing a fever or are simply not feeling well.

What we are planning

We are planning to have Preschool (*age 4 and up*) through High School. Registration forms are at the church and will be available at our Open House. We must keep class sizes small in order to keep our teachers and students safe. Your child will not be allowed to attend church school if they are not REGISTERED!!! If you filled out a registration form for your child last year you will be asked to update it if any information has changed. September 10th is our first day and Parent Open House. My phone number is 810-691-0956; feel free to text, call, or email me at cooeita@aol.com. I am here to answer any questions.

We will have many opportunities to learn about the theme and our Christian faith. This is in addition to the curriculum each class will be assigned. Our teachers always work very hard to prepare for and teach their class each Sunday, as well as making every effort to develop friendships among the students in their classes. We are all a part of one family—our St. George Family! The Church School works to create a family atmosphere and to pass this on throughout the parish. We cannot do this alone! The staff and teachers need **YOU, the Parents, Godparents**, and all the rest of our St. George family!

As our programs and events are organized by our staff and parents, we will be calling on each of you to do your part. During the OPEN HOUSE, please sign-up to help with one of the many activities we do throughout the year. We hope, and need, everyone to do their share.

May God bless you and be with you always. Love,

V. Rev. Fr. Joseph M. Abud
Pastor

Janet Abueita
Church School Director

Move the Church and Church School for your children up at least one-step on your list of priorities from previous years. Put the Church and Her activities first before anything else.

**You will not regret it, your children will thank you for it, and
you will be forever blessed by God!**