

January 10, 2021

**SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY
BISHOP GREGORY OF NYSSA**

Live Streaming of Divine Services

St. George is open for all parishioners or 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.

Welcome to St. George! Thank you for attending today's Divine Services. 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. We believe Holy Communion to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Holy Communion can be given to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting (no food or drink from midnight the night before), the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, and being at peace with others. Everyone is invited to receive the final blessing of the priest and Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. John Chrysostom** {*the Golden-Mouth*},
The **Special Hymns** we sing are on the [Bilingual sheets from Fr. Joe's Email](#).

Holy Bread Offerings

- JoAnn Hawkins and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of husband **Donald** (3 day).
- The Dotson Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of wife, mother, and grandmother **Patricia** (40 day).
- Protodeacon Michael and Pam Bassett for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Evelyn** Lozon, (40 day, friend of Dn. Mike) and **Dennis** Perez (1 year).
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Darla** Harris, (+November 29th, step-mother of Lee Harris), **Khalil** Kheirallah (+December 2nd, brother of Kamal), **Lois** Teunion (+December 6th), **Diane** Ghattas (+December 7th, wife of Elie), **Georgette** Abuaita (+December 8th, aunt of Janet Abueita), **Katrina** Ayyad (+December 9th, mother of Abla Abufarha), **James** Gorr (+December 21st, father of Dr. Melissa Bathish), and **Hannan** Awad (+December 24th, sister of Wafa Alsaouri).

- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Metropolitan Paul** and **Archbishop John** who are in captivity, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Sami** and **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Anwar** Abueita, **Wadia** Albaba, **Khalid** Al-Khoury, **Nabil** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Evelyn** Delbridge, **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Sandy Thomas), **Mariam** Ghanim and **Ekram** (mother and sister of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Barbara** Gress, **Carol** Haddad, **Shawna** Hale, **Gracyn** Haskins (granddaughter of Mike and Nancy Silpoch), **JoAnn** Hawkins, **Nassem** Helal (father of Amani Helal), **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nimer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Michael** Khal, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **William** Sophia Jr; **Essa**, **Julianna**, and newborn **Natalia** Abuaita (December 17th); **Gary**, **Katrina**, and newborn **Robert** Andrew Gagne (December 18th).
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Nawal** (John) Abud [son of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee], Dr. **Lindsey** [Farah] (Dr. Ryan) Brunner, and **Jenny** [Abueita] (Tony) Salsa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Council Vacancies

- If you would like to be nominated or would like to nominate qualified (*see below*) parishioners for the 3 expiring terms on the Parish Council, please submit names to a member of the **Nominating Committee** (Habeeb Ghattas, Aida Nassar, or Fr. Joe). The deadline to be a nominee is January 13th and all nominees must attend a **Parish Council Nominee Seminar** on Monday, January 18th from 7-8pm. *If you will be attending, please let Fr. Joe know.* If this day and time does not work for you, speak with Fr. Joe to reschedule another time before this date.

Parish Council Qualifications (from our Parish Constitution)

- *No member of the Parish Council shall be under the age of 18 years of age (excluding any ex-officio member) and no Voting Member of the Parish shall be eligible to become a member of the Parish Council unless such person has been a voting member of the Parish for a period of one (1) year and has fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Orthodox faith. Further, nominees must worship at St. George at least 3 out of 4 Sundays a month (prior to the Covid-19 pandemic); shall be exemplary (model) members of St. George; participate in extracurricular ministries of the parish (such as: Fundraising, Parish Council committees, Educational, etc.); participate in the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Communion on a regular/frequent basis; has signed the yearly Offering Form; and attend a Nominee Seminar.*

9TH ANNUAL DORMITION MONASTERY VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENT! We are excited to continue this January tradition with our Genesee County Orthodox Community on January 21st! More to come SOON!

- Vespers LIVE from the monastery in Rives Junction, Michigan
- Themed talks on a subject important to our lives:
 - Two from our own local priests
 - Final talk from Mother Abbess Gabriella
- Perhaps a short Q&A session afterwards - maybe even in a panel discussion format!

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS Though everyone cannot attend church due to limited capacity or other reasons, **our stewardship, offerings, and donations are still very badly needed**. PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) and donate on-line 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!

PLEASE FOLLOW OUR PROCEDURES Because of serious health concerns, **we all must wear masks at all times over our mouths and nose**. Please remember we can venerate icons by bowing (*not kissing or touching*) and the same for the priest's hand and the chalice at Holy Communion. Further, **our clergy and chanters are the only ones who should be singing at this time**. If you want to sing, please do it **softly and with your mask on**.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS ...

... **Deacon Mike** for making St. Basil's Bread (*Vasilopita*) in honor of St. Basil the Great whom we remembered on January 1st. Congratulations and many blessings to **Gabby Gantos** and **Olga Nassar** who received the special St. Basil coins.

PARKING LOT PLEDGES: WE NEED YOU!

Our goal is \$80,000 (we have raised over \$46,992 from 2 groups and only 25 families) and we are so thankful for those who have donated and pledged. WE NEED YOU to step up so we can pay off this loan as soon as possible. **If you have not already, please pick up a form, fill it out, and send it to the church.**

Remember our donations to the Parking Lot are separate (*above and beyond*) our weekly offerings.

Jamal and Manal Abuaita	Ayman and Wafaa Elias	Samir & Nashwa Meshraky
Khader and Lucy Abuaita	John and Theresa Farah	George & Jeanette Nassif
Fr. Joe and Leslie Abud	Betty Froberg	St. George Preschool
Laila Abud	Dr. David & May Gantos	Fadi & Evette Rishmawi
Anwar and Janet Abueita	Subdeacon George and	Raji and Sue Salomon
Rose Ayoub	Suad Gantous	Bill and Sue Shaheen
Anonymous	Nasri and Carol Haddad	Elaine Shaheen
Dn. Mike & Pam Bassett	Ronald Haddad	Richard Shaheen
Hiam and Areen Bathish	Elias and Amirah Hanna	Bob and Lois Teunio
Tony Daoud	Ladies Auxiliary	Valentine Gala (2020)

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS All Adult Envelopes have been mailed ~ if you do not receive them, please call the office and leave a message including your name. The calendars can be picked up in the Lounge (*please take one per family*) and are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary, **THANK YOU, LADIES!** **Parents**, please make sure your child picks up their envelopes which are also in the Lounge.

CHURCH SCHOOL HAS BEGUN! We want ALL of our St. George children in our education program. To make this happen, we need email addresses for our children and their parents! Please send them to Director Janet Abueita (cooeita@aol.com) as soon as you can so none of our children are left out and they can enjoy and learn about our life in Christ. Every month, our registered students will receive a packet of fun things in the mail (an email is sent to everyone on Fr. Joe's parishioner email list). Then on the last Sunday of each month (this month January 31st) our teachers have our CS Zoom Sunday at 12 Noon! Be a part of the FUN and send your email addresses to Janet TODAY! If you haven't done it before, contact Janet ASAP so your children can be part of the fun!

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is also observed on Wednesday and Friday.
Thursday	Parish Council Meeting 6:15pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

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A Spirit of Correction ~ *Correcting others is like hitting them*

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

When focusing on the sins of others, we set for ourselves the mission of correcting them. We see ourselves as just the right person to help this poor unfortunate person by pointing out their sins, and telling them how they can be a better person. We are not of course being critical, but helpful. Don't take offense, we say, for we are only trying to help you see your flaws, so you can become a good person. We are pointing out your error because we love you, and as a caring person we only want what is best for you.

In truth, such a spirit of correction is likely to be counterproductive. Our corrections can be like hitting the person. Our critical analysis of their behavior, personality, or even their sins, can cause more damage than good. If we truly wish to help them, we will offer good and kind thoughts, speak with words of love and encouragement, and pray for them. We are not doing them a favor by serving as their self-appointed therapist, passing judgement on their behavior, and correcting them as though we were an official appointed by the court. Words of encouragement are far more likely to help the person change, than critical feedback.

Demonstrating the Christian life is far more profitable for those we'd like to help. For when we live in Christ, grace abounds, and others see the love we have for them, and are in turn drawn to what we have. Only Christ can change the heart, lead the sinner to repentance, and bring about healing. We can be the agent of this transformation by allowing Christ's love to shine through us ~ by demonstrating His transformational grace by how we live, and how we love, and how we do not judge.

It is the Holy Spirit that gives us the power to live for Christ, and to love others, and to be transformed. Only the grace of God can change hearts, and we must not allow our own critical spirit to hinder the world of the Holy Spirit.

Get out your Bible and look it up! Love, FJ

