

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

January 15, 2023

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

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 in our Banquet Center! 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 else, including visitors, are invited to receive the final blessing of the priest and Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy. 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*)

- Lubna, Branden, and Devin Jones for the health of their family and in memory of husband and father **Dannie** Jones (9 day).
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Samir** Helal (+December 31st, cousin of Asmahan Helal) and **Mariam** Ghanim (+January 4th, mother of Manal Abuaita).

- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: our local hierarch **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar Abdallah**, **Reader Fouad Abuaita**, **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila Abud**, **Jane Abueita**, **Chelsy Abufarha**, **Youssif Abousamra**, **Danial Alghanim** (father of Dania Hanna), **William Alsahouri**, **Sanaa Alqassis** (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Walid Andoni** (brother of Vera Daoud), **Sharon Ballreich** (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Levi Cooper**, **Vera Daoud**, **Valland Frangi** (sister of Ron Haddad), **Elias Gantos**, **Denise Ghattas**, **Phyllis Good**, **Ronald Haddad**, **Nadia Ibrahim** (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy Isaac**, **Loretta Karpelenia** (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Judy Mikhail**, **Antonia Molina** (friend of Areen Bathish), **Karam Nassar**, **Laura Nassar**, **Deborah Salim**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **Michael Silpoch**, **Christa Whitehead**, and **Samantha Zerka** (cousin of Lauren Zerka and Goddaughter and niece of Victoria Zerka).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Rania** and **Raed AbuAita**, **Jasanta** and **Ghassan Al-Khour**, **Katrina** and **Gary Gagne**, and **Taylor** and **Jeffrey Tipton**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is in our Lounge and is hosted by *Lubna, Branden, and Devin Jones*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: January 22nd, February 12th, 19th, and 26th ~ 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 Tony Daoud as our coordinator Manal Abuaita is overseas. *Cheesefare Sunday is February 26th, no meat products are to be served.*

⇒ Our **Banquet Center Renovation** is underway! We still want, and need, to have time to be with each other and have fellowship! Coffee Fellowship will take place in the Lounge.

11TH ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX DORMITION MONASTERY FUNDRAISER DINNER Thursday, January 19th at *Assumption Church in Grand Blanc* beginning at 5pm with **Vespers** sung by the Nuns; **Social Hour** with *Gift Shop from the Monastery*; **Dinner and Presentations** with the **Benediction** at 8:30pm. The suggested offering/donation is \$35 for Adults and \$25 for Students. All offerings support the Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction, MI. See the flier on narthex table for more information and how to make reservations and/or donations. **Deadline, TODAY!** Any questions, please contact Fr. Michael **TODAY!**

PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB The Book Club will be reading *Great Lent* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann for our last two meetings prior to the Great Fast. This would be an excellent opportunity to deepen your participation in this most significant season in the life of the Church. We will meet twice to discuss the book via both ZOOM and LIVE formats at *St. George* as follows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p><u>January</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZOOM: Sunday evening, 1/29 @ 7pm • LIVE: Monday evening, 1/30 @ 6pm | <p><u>February</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZOOM: Sunday evening, 2/19 @ 7pm • LIVE: Monday evening 2/20 @ 6pm |
|--|--|

Notes:

1. *The book can be ordered via [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or through any number of online used book sellers for a reasonable price. (we also have a couple of copies in our St. George Library!)*
2. *To register for either the ZOOM or LIVE meetings OR if you need help ordering a book please contact Fr. Michael at frdmike@gmail.com or 989-627-9580*

All are invited to join! Any questions or if you would like more information, contact Father Michael Bassett frdmike@gmail.com or 989-627-9580.



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!

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS Please pick up yours (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name is not listed, let Fr. Joe know. All envelopes are now here. The calendars (*please take 1 per family*) are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary ~ thank you, Ladies! Our children will receive their envelopes in Church School. **Parents**, please make sure your children get their *Offering Envelopes*!

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:** *1st book of the Bible, Genesis* 1:30-3:30pm
- Tuesday **Altar Society** Dinner Meeting ~ *for more information see Theresa Farah* 6pm
- Wednesday **Arabic-English Bible Study:** *1st book of the Bible, Genesis* 12-2pm
- Thursday **Pan-Orthodox Dormition Monastery Fundraiser** (*see above*) 5pm
- Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm (note time change until further notice!)

+++++

Lust ~ Waging War Against The Flesh

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

Since the eyes and the ears are the doors of the soul, an Orthodox Christian must not leave the body without attention. Unlike the religion of Gnosticism, which teaches the separation of soul and body, with the physical world being evil and something to be overcome, historic Christianity teaches the unity of the body and soul, with the physical world being transformed and made anew in Christ. This means that, while caring about one's soul, an Orthodox Christian must not leave the body without attention.

The body is given over to temptation, which is rooted in the mind. As Christians, we know that we must never play with temptations, for in doing so we have already fallen half-way. Thus, an Orthodox Christian who takes their salvation seriously should not partake in seductive dances, or enter into flirtation as though it were a sport, for they would know this to be a dangerous game.

Temptations gain hold when we entertain dirty thoughts and ideas, sometimes by allowing our eyes and ears to entertain things that can overcome our will, causing us to fall. It is much easier to stop a temptation in the beginning, than to do battle with a seductive idea once it has gained entry. A person who wants to prevent a burglary

continued ⇒

makes every effort to prevent a burglar from gaining entrance in the first place. Like taking precautions that will prevent a burglary, we must never allow ourselves to entertain temptations, for that would be like inviting a criminal into your home with the intent of trying to talk him out of stealing from you.

Many are convinced that sexual needs are so insurmountable in strength, as to make it impossible to resist. This is only the case when we habitually give in to the passions, and avoid using the tools given to us by the Church to bring our body into submission. If we observe the periods of fasting, especially the Wednesday and Friday days of abstinence, eat moderate amounts of food, avoid the overuse of alcohol, and say no to drugs, we will have taken a big step forward in our struggle with lust. Remember, a healthy body contributes to the health of the soul.

Finally, it is good to take to heart the advice of Saint Ephraim of Syrian, *“Think about the good so as not to think about the bad.”* Guard against spending time with people whose jokes and story-telling are occasions for sinful thoughts, and avoid bad company, for *“Bad company corrupts good character”* (1 Corinthians 15:33).”

“Don’t be fooled. “Bad company ruins good character.” Come to your senses! Live righteously and stop sinning! There are some people who lack knowledge of God — I say this to your shame.”

1 Corinthians 15:33-34