

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

January 16, 2022

Christ is in our Midst!

He is and ever shall be!

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.

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!

Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- David Merrelli and Richard Shaheen for the health of their families and in loving memory of wife and niece **JoAnn** (40 day).
- We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Protopresbyter Thomas** George (40 day, former pastor of Assumption Church), **Edward** Shadeed (+December 27th, brother-in-law of JoAnn

Hawkins), **Jim Simpson** (+December 27th, uncle of Kelly Sanderson), and **Ronna Royer** (+January 4th, mother of Fr. Bob).

- 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, **Brian, Sahar** Abdallah, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Shafiqa** Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar** and **Georgette** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsahouri, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Ranna** Esho (friend of Batoul Burbar), **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Amy** Handley (friend of Nataly Odeh), **Daisy** Isaac, **Salwa** Isaac, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother Denise Ghattas), **Nicola** Khoury, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **Rafat** Nasri, **Laura** Nassar, **Aida** Raffoul, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** and **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **Georgette** Yusuf; **Panagiotis**, **Kari**, and newborn **Anna Emilia** Mikroudis [daughter of John and Theresa Farah] (December 8th); **Ghassan**, **Jasanta**, and newborn **Sophia** Al-Khouri (January 12th).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Cassandra** and **Daniel** Burbar, **Yara** and **Mudaffer** Rishmawi, and **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet) and **John** Timm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *David Merrelli and Richard Shaheen*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: January 23rd and 30th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is in the Lounge and includes bringing whatever you wish to serve and cleaning up afterwards. St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$25. **For more information, contact Manal Abuaita** (810-577-0028).

PROCEDURES As of early December, Fadi Rishmawi, Parish Council Chairman and Fr. Joe cancelled all activities, except Divine Services, because more and more parishioners were getting the covid virus. Further, while in our church building, everyone must properly wear masks. Please remember we can venerate icons at this time by bowing (*not kissing or touching*) and the same for the priest's hand and the chalice at Holy Communion. We all want the safest place for all of our parishioners to worship. We know that combining masks, vaccines, and boosters will protect ourselves and our community against this fast-changing virus. **PLEASE FOLLOW:**

1. Everyone must wear a mask inside our church building.
2. Pews in the back of the church are for those who are not vaccinated and those who would like to be social distanced.

10TH ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX VIRTUAL DORMITION MONASTERY MICRO-RETREAT AND FUNDRAISER THIS Thursday, January 20th **WITH SPECIAL 10TH ANNIVERSARY GUEST SPEAKER: Archbishop NATHANIEL!** 4:45pm Monastery Tour Video; 5pm Vespers from Dormition Monastery followed by: Welcome & Introductions; Spiritual Talk by Archbishop NATHANIEL; 7pm expected end. All offerings support the Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction, MI. For more information and reservations, https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EQ7jhkZ8SCOmSPiDBs1cg

E-MEMO'S If you would like to receive our weekly *St. George E-Memo*, please send your e-mail address to saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com.

ARE YOU VACCINATED? DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND NEED ANSWERS? We are blessed to have many medical professionals in our parish and they want you to get the Covid-19 vaccine. There is lots of wrong information on TV and social media. Don't be fooled; it could cost you, your family, or friends in a tragic way! If you have any questions or need truthful information, please contact Dr. Lindsey (Farah) Brunner by text ONLY please at 810-908-9213. If you or someone you know needs help to make an appointment or be driven to one, please call the office 810-732-0720.

TEXTING FR. JOE? Fr. Joe does not see or use texting services. If you have texted him, that's why he has not responded. If you need to contact him, please call the church 810-732-0720, his cell 810-444-9108, or by email nja@aol.com.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS Please pick yours up (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name is not listed, let Fr. Joe know. The calendars (*please take 1 per family*) are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary ~ thank you, Ladies! **Parents**, please make sure your children get their *Offering Envelopes* in the Lounge

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.
Thursday	Pan-Orthodox VIRTUAL Dormition Monastery Fundraiser 4:45pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

Orthodoxy is Not About Ethnic Heritage ~ We Must Not Allow Ethnicity to Become a Barrier to a Life of Faith

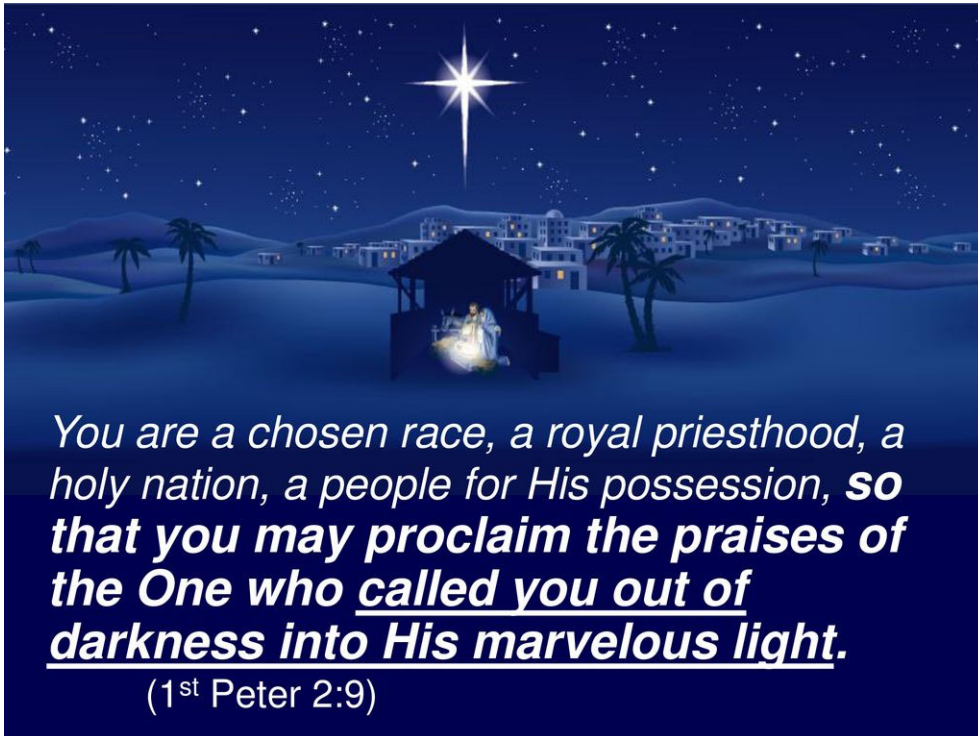
by Abbot Tryphon, head of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington

Over the years, I have heard many grief-stricken parents and grandparents lament the loss of their children and grandchildren from the Church. Sad as it may be, I'm not usually surprised, for over and over I've heard the sad truth behind this exodus from the Church. More often than not, these parents did not raise their children to be practicing Orthodox Christians. They may have baptized their infant, but the frequency of church attendance was not important, other than the need to keep those ethnic links to the "old country". Parents, unless they are serious about their faith, often look upon baptism as the moment when their child is made Orthodox, but fail to realize the Mystery of Baptism is only the beginning of a life in Christ. These same parents see childhood vaccinations against diseases as important, and they understand their child's long term health requires sound nutritional planning, exercise, and loving support for good mental health. Yet they treat baptism as though it is a magical formula that assures their child is forever connected to the ethnic heritage of the family tree.

The 10th Ecumenical Council, all but forgotten by much of the Orthodox world, classified ethno-phyletism (roughly means, a nation-state religion) as a heresy (wrong belief, because it is an attack on the very catholicity of the Church. Our Orthodoxy cannot be seen as the ethnic link to a family's history, any more than ethnic dancing and ethnic food makes one Orthodox.

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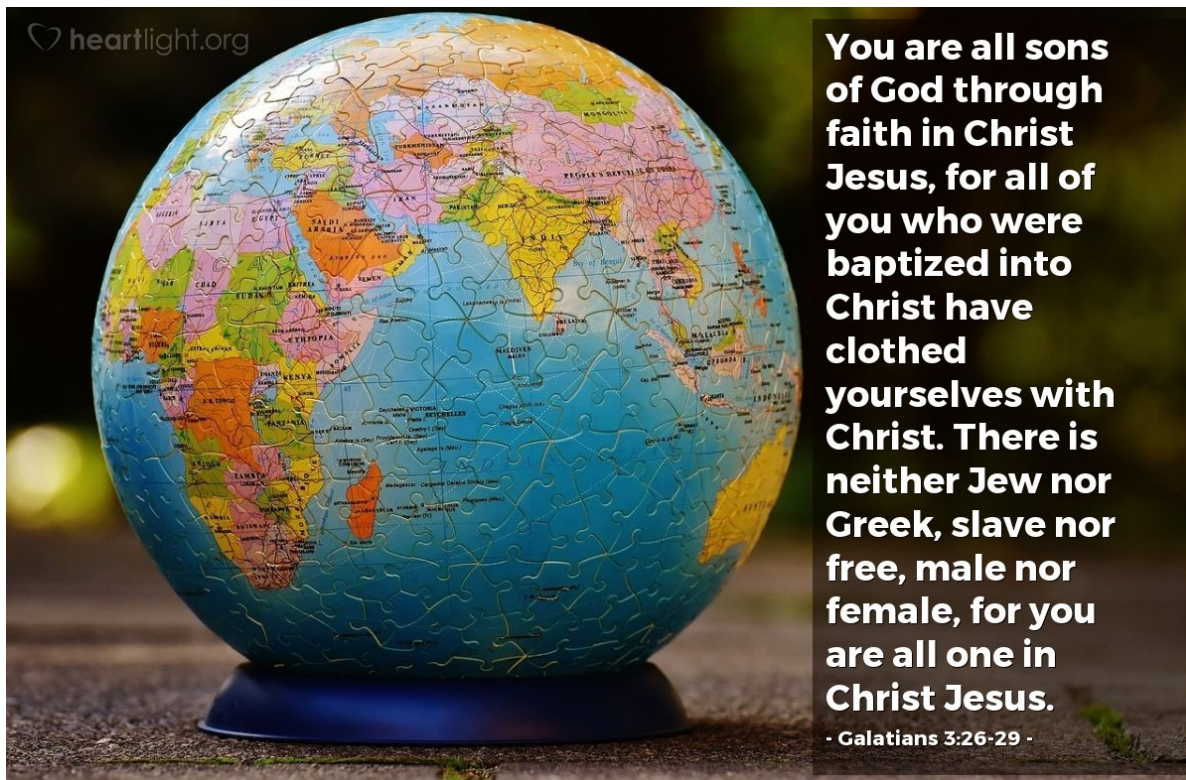
It is fine to be proud of one's ethnic heritage, and want to preserve one's ethnic language and ethnic traditions. But our ethnicity does not save us. Only Christ saves us! Being Greek or Russian or Arabic will not save us, for there is no grace (*a gift from God*) in one's ethnicity. It is only putting on Christ, and becoming One Body in Christ, that will bring about salvation. We must not link ethnic preservation to our Orthodox Faith, for in Christ there is "neither Greek nor Jew...", for in Christ, we are but ONE NATION.



*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, **so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.***

(1st Peter 2:9)

Get out your bible, find the First Letter of St. Peter, and read Chapter 2. The "living stone" is Jesus Christ and we are His people! Love, FJ



You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- Galatians 3:26-29 -