

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: [saintgeorgeflint.org](http://saintgeorgeflint.org)

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Attached

October 16, 2022

OCTOBER IS YOUTH MONTH THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE

**Glory to Jesus Christ!**

***Glory Forever!***

Youth Month Greeters/Ushers:

**Cezar Abuaita, Marcos Abuaita, and Raionna and Zaina Qumseya**

**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.

Youth Month Epistle Reader: **Zaina Qumseya** (English)

## **Holy Bread Offerings (Oblations)**

- Fuad and Wadia Albaba for the health of their family and in loving memory of son **Elias** (12 year), parents **Shaheen, Zani, Elias**, and **Souriya, Georgette** Hayder (sister of Wadia), **Lourice** Matta, and **Georgette** Yusef.

- Father Michael and Khouriya Pam Bassett for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Joseph** Borucki (12 year) and **Roland** Haddad (3 year).
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Jamil** Ghantous (+September 9<sup>th</sup>), **Michael** Zerka (+September 19<sup>th</sup>, uncle of Lauren Zerka), **Margaret** Abuaita (+September 29<sup>th</sup>, sister-in-law of Fouad Abuaita), and **Marjorie** Sadd (+September 30<sup>th</sup>, aunt of Kh. Leslee).
- 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, **Sally** Abuaita, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Khader** AbuAita, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Emil** Abueita, **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), **Kh. Pam** Bassett, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Victor** David, **Valland** Frangi (sister of Ron Haddad), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Denise** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy** Isaac, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Judy** Mikhail, **Laura** Nassar, **Issa** Odeh, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Norman** Thomas (friend of Steve and Kelly Sanderson); **Giovanni** Burbar (son of Benan and Haneen) who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Waad** and **Mike** Abdallah, **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khour, and **Taylor** and **Jeffrey** Tipton.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** is not hosted today ☹️. Please offer a donation to help cover our costs ~ thanks!

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: October 23<sup>rd</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is in the Lounge. Hosting includes bringing whatever you wish to serve, setting up, and then cleaning up afterwards. St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$25. **For more information, contact Tony Daoud** (810-730-1011) while Manal Abuaita is overseas. *During the Christmas Fast (November 15<sup>th</sup> - December 24<sup>th</sup>), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, or their by-products are served.*

**OUT-OF-TOWN** Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee are attending a baptism of a former parishioner's child in Orlando, FL. Fr. Joe will be back in the office on October 17<sup>th</sup>. **For emergencies only** while he is away, please call first *Fr. Michael Bassett* (St. George, 989-627-9580), then *Fr. Gabriel Bilas* (St. Mary Magdalene, 810-750-1401), or *Fr. Matthew Butrie* (St. Nicholas, 810-744-0070). Please pray for their safe travels.

Our combined, **PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB** is in the process of ordering their next book "*Shepherd of Souls: The Life and Teachings of Elder Cleopa, Master of Inner Prayer and Spiritual Father of Romania (1912 - 1998)*". If you are interested in obtaining a copy (whether you plan on joining the book club meetings or not), please contact Fr. Michael Bassett ([frdmike@gmail.com](mailto:frdmike@gmail.com) / 989-627-9580). Books will be ordered this week. After books are obtained, each person will read the book on their own for about 4-6 weeks. The date / time of a "meet in person" discussion and also a "zoom" discussion will be coordinated with all readers. We anticipate our next meeting will be at the end of November or beginning of December.

**HOLY SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION)** If you are 7 years or older, have been away from the Church, or have not had Confession in the last 2 months and desire to come back and receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion, please remember you must offer a confession of your sins first. Fr. Joe is not the only Orthodox priest in the area, or at St. George, and if you would prefer to go to Fr. Michael or one of the other local priests, feel free to do so (*please just let Fr. Joe know*): Fr. Gabriel Bilas from St. Mary Magdalene (810-750-1401) or Fr. Matthew Butrie from St. Nicholas Church (810-744-0070). **Let everyone in our St. George Family prepare and partake of our Lord in Holy Communion.** The important thing is not who hears your confession, but that you participate in this Holy Sacrament on a regular basis. **Blessed are those who wash their (*baptismal*) robes, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life (*which is Christ*).** Revelation 22:14

**PLAYGROUND BOSS IN COURTYARD** PARENTS: This can only be used by children younger than 12 years old **AND MUST** be supervised by their PARENTS. PLEASE REMEMBER, children cannot be in the courtyard by themselves ~ it is too dangerous and we do not want any accidents!



**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!

### 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:** *1<sup>st</sup> book of the bible, Genesis* 3-5pm

Wednesday **Arabic-English Bible Study:** *1<sup>st</sup> book of the bible, Genesis* 12-2pm

**Men's Fellowship** at *Khaled Abuaita's home* (8110 Carpenter Road in Flushing) 6pm

Thurs.-Fri. **Midwest Diocesan Clergy Retreat** in *Indianapolis, IN*

Fri.-Sun. **Midwest Diocesan Fall Gathering** in *Indianapolis, IN*

Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 5pm

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## Love ~ The Preeminence of Love

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

Obedience is a central theme throughout the history of salvation. Without obedience to God's commandments, there can be no salvation, for the *nous* (the eye of the soul) must be healed before we can be made whole. The role of obedience is so central, in fact, that submission to God's will must take place before the healing process can begin.

Obedience has often been misunderstood, for many associate submission as a sort of enslavement. For many, obedience is a relic of the past, when people had to bow before kings. Some parents even treat their children as though they

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were simply little friends, out of fear that obedience might stifle their child's creativity.

Children raised by permissive parents often feel unloved, for they interpret leniency as a sign their parents don't care. They sense a parent who really loves their child, would be willing to set boundaries as a way of protecting and nurturing the child.

Age and experience gives the parent an advantage, for it equips them with the needed tools to guide and protect their child. Experience is the factor that lets the parent know it is never a good idea to leave church attendance (and being on time, 10am *from FJ*) up to the child, for just as one would ever think of asking a child if an education would be something they'd be interesting in pursuing, so the parent is willing to make the decision that church attendance is needed as a way of forming them into an adulthood with a spiritual grounding that will serve them well. Love is the root of a good parent's expectation of obedience from their child.

Obedience also plays a role in our spiritual development, and our willingness to seek out spiritual guidance, and in turn, try to follow the direction we are given. The husband and wife who are obedient to one another, find true freedom in their mutual submission, for in surrendering their self-will, they open themselves to the Grace of God, and healing of the *nous* can take place.

The obedience of a monk to his abbot, and to the rule of the brotherhood, also leads to a freedom that cannot be enjoyed when he wallows in self-will. Likewise, the obedience one gives to his bishop, is ultimately liberating, for in surrendering himself in obedience, the priest gives himself over to God's will. The lives of monastic saints are filled with stories of persecution by bishops, but the monk who humbly embraces this suffering, is made holy, for holiness does not come without suffering, and ascetic struggle.

The bishop, abbot, husband, or parent, whose position is God-ordained, must rule with love. Intimidation or coercion has no place in the life of any Christian, and the husband, priest, abbot, or bishop, who rules without paternal love, betrays the love of Christ, Whose example we are called to emulate. The preeminence of love is the core of our Christian faith, and the foundation stone of our relationship with Christ. Without love, Christianity is simply philosophy.

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*Get out your bibles, find the New Testament, and go to the 1<sup>st</sup> book, the Gospel of St. Matthew, which is the first of the 4 Gospels. Find chapter 13 and read about our Lord's humility, Peter's denial of Christ, and our Lord's **new commandment**. Love, FJ*

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH

The Right Reverend  
Bishop JOHN



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

Chairman of the Temporary  
Operating Committee

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**  
OF NORTH AMERICA

Beloved Hierarchs, reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful of our Archdiocese,

Greetings in the name of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

God willing, next summer our teens will have the blessing to host and serve at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Special Olympics SOYO Sports Training Camp, providing—free of charge—a week of sports training for over 320 athletes and coaches. Once again, I ask the parishes of our God-protected archdiocese to support this worthy program generously.

The mission of Special Olympics, as described on their website, “is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.” As is true in any ministry, when we offer the love of Christ to others, we receive so much in return. Countless young people have told me how their own lives were changed in profound and beautiful ways by serving the athletes of Special Olympics. And they depend on your generous financial support to be able to make this offering of love and witness its far-reaching, transformative impact on so many lives.

As you leave church this morning, the teens will offer you a bookmark with an icon of all the saints. They offer this icon as an expression of their appreciation for your contribution and for joining them in this sacred ministry.

Asking the Lord to bless this forty-second year of our participation in Special Olympics, as well as all of you and your loved ones, I am,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bp John".

Bishop JOHN, Chairman  
Temporary Operating Committee  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238  
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

# SPECIAL OLYMPICS

## Awareness Day

AS NAC TEEN SOYO PREPARES TO SPONSOR THE 42ND ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORTS CAMP, WE ASK FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND HELP IN MAKING THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE. APPROXIMATELY 300 ATHLETES AND COACHES PARTICIPATE IN OUR CAMP EACH YEAR. TEEN SOYO MEMBERS TRAVEL FROM ACROSS OUR ARCHDIOCESE TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME, TO LIVE IN SERVICE TO OTHERS AND TO FULFILL THE CALL TO DO ALL THINGS

*"As working for the Lord, not for men." (Col. 3:23)*

This Sunday, our teens will request your financial donations to enable them to sponsor the 42nd Annual Special Olympics Sports Camp, which will be held at the Antiochian Village, in August of 2023. Your donations make it possible for every athlete to attend this event free of charge and also help Teen SOYO members travel to serve as Coaches at the camp. As an expression of gratitude for your donation to this effort, teens will be handing out bookmarks with the icon of All Saints.

Thank you for considering the support of this wonderful ministry that allows our children to be a blessing to others!

Please make checks payable to your local Teen SOYO group with "SOAD 2022" in the memo.

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

Each year, NAC Teen SOYO covers the cost of the camp, approximately \$75,000, through the generosity of our fellow parishioners. Through the years, we have hosted more than 8,500 athletes and coaches. Around 1,200 of our teens have had the unique experience of being a coach or volunteer at the camp.



**Special  
Olympics**