

# 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 9, 2022

OCTOBER IS YOUTH MONTH THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE

## Christ is in our Midst!

### *He and ever shall be!*

Youth Month Greeters/Ushers:

**Marcos Abuaita, Lucia and Angela Qazaha, and Raionna 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: **Cezar Abuaita** (English)

### Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- Father Michael and Khouriya Pam Bassett for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Christopher** Petropoulos (21 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, **Shafiqa** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alsahouri, **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **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, **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 is to be 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-Khouri, 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 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</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).

**OUT-OF-TOWN** Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee are attending a baptism of a former parishioner's child in Orlando, FL October 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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

**NEW PLAY STRUCTURE IN COURTYARD** PARENTS: Only children younger than 12 **and** adult supervision with their child are allowed to use it ~ thanks!



**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	<b>Bible Study:</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> book of the bible, Genesis</i> 3-5pm
	<b>SOYO Monday</b> 6-8pm
Tuesday	<b>Altar Society Dinner Meeting</b> ~ <i>for more information see Theresa Farah</i> 6pm
Wednesday	<b>Arabic-English Bible Study:</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> book of the bible, Genesis</i> 12-2pm
Thursday	<b>Parish Council Dinner Meeting</b> 6:15pm
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

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## Theosis ~ The Meaning of Salvation in the Ancient Church

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

According to Protopresbyter George Metallinos, Dean of the Athens University School of Theology, *“For us Orthodox the unique and absolute goal of life in Christ is Theosis, our union with God, so that man – through his participation in God’s uncreated energy – may become “by the Grace of God” that which God is by nature (without beginning and without end). This is what “salvation” means, in Christianity.”*

As Christians we know that salvation is an ongoing process that, as believers, we are called to cooperate in. We are instructed to *“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (Matthew 4:17). The Apostle Paul made clear the necessity of human cooperation when he told us to *“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”* (Philippians 2:1–13)

Our salvation is a process by which we become more and more like Christ. Our faith is a free gift from God, not dependent upon anything we can do, but this life-long process of salvation requires that we cooperate with God’s grace, that we might be transformed by the Holy Spirit, and made holy. If we are to spend eternity with God, transformation must take place.

The sole purpose of the Church is the salvation of every human person, whereby we are united to Christ, and transformed by Him in all holiness, and prepared

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for eternal life. Through the Church we hear the Good News, that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, and that he rose from the dead, and because of this we have eternal life. This work of salvation is a gradual, life-long process by which Christians become more and more like Christ. Our salvation begins the moment we commit ourselves to Christ, and within the abounding grace of the Holy Spirit, we are ever drawn closer in communion with God.

*Theosis* goes far beyond the simple restoration of people to their state before the Fall. Because Christ united the human and divine natures in his person, it is now possible for us to experience closer fellowship with God than Adam and Eve initially experienced in the Garden of Eden. Some Orthodox theologians go so far as to say that Jesus would have become incarnate for this reason alone, even if Adam and Eve had never sinned.

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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 17 and read about our Lord's Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor. Here, we see how Jesus was transformed in His Glorified Body. He shows us we will be on the same path, to do the same, the closer we are to Him. "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" Matthew 3:2! Love, FJ

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12<sup>th</sup> century Orthodox Icon of the Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor



# 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)*

Next Sunday, October 16th, 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**