

November 12, 2023

# Glory to Jesus Christ!

## *Glory Forever!*

**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! 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. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy.

**Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion for Orthodox Christians:** Orthodox Christians fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist by receiving Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command *to eat His Body and drink His Blood*. In order to be properly prepared to receive Holy Communion, the faithful should fast (no food or drink from midnight the night before), the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, being at peace with others, and striving to always love God and their neighbor. Frequent communion and regular confession are recommended for all faithful Orthodox Christians.

**For other Christians:** We welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately, we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (*antidoron*) which will be given when coming forward to venerate (kiss) the Holy Cross and receive the final blessing from the priest. 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*)

- Victoria, Heather, and Alexandra Nassar for the health of their family and in loving memory of husband and father **Jamil** (6 year), **Souheil** (7 year), **Nassar, Sammy, Khader** (25 year), **Issa, Souheila, Siham, Farid, Samira, Salim, Houda, Farid, Luceille**, and **Rasmiah** (13 year).
- St. George Parish Family for the health of our families especially our Armed Forces Veterans **Elias Gantos, Ronald Haddad, Bruce Harris, Anthony Rodriguez**, and **Robert Teunion** and our departed veterans **James Delbridge, Roland Haddad, Donald Hawkins, Jose Ramirez**, and the departed **Veterans of St. George**.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Yvonne Holwey** (+October 7<sup>th</sup>, friend of Fr. Joe and mother of Chris Holwey) and **Kh. Loretta Karpelenia** (+November 6<sup>th</sup>, mother of Denise Ghattas) ~ *may their memory be eternal!*
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Archbishop Alexander** (bishop of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Nicholas), our **Bishop Anthony, Sahar Abdallah, Reader Fouad and Soad Abuaita, Philip and Janett Abuaita, Rasha Abuaita, Shafiqa Abuaitah, Laila Abud, Georgette Abueita, Jane Abueita, Mary Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, William Alsaouri, Naila Banna, Vera Daoud, Said Farah, Elias Gantos, Subdeacon George and Suad Gantous, Phyllis Good, Ronald Haddad, Daisy Isaac, John Joseph, Karen Mortensen, Karam Nassar, Laura Nassar, Jeanette Nassif, Adam Odeh, Rahmeh Rashmawi, Elaine Shaheen**, and **Michael Silpoch**; **Jason Dine** who is under instruction/catechism to become Orthodox; **Maroun, Julia**, and newborn **Mariella Alatrash** who will be brought back into the life of our parish through the *Prayers of Churching*; **Rakan, Renea**, and newborn **Jacob Bayouk** (October 24<sup>th</sup>); **Subdeacon Salim, Dania**, and newborn **Elias Hanna** (October 28<sup>th</sup>).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Ambur** (daughter of Joseph Haddad) and **Matt Allison, Gabriella** (daughter of Joseph & Mary Jo Ghattas) and **David Ayyash**, Drs. **Lindsey and Ryan Brunner, Casandra and Danial Burbar, Andrea and Josh Jones, Christine** (daughter of Ayman & Wafaa Elias) and Dr. **Matthew Krinock, Kari** (daughter of John & Theresa Farah) and **Panagiotis Mikroudou, Vera and Luay Sababa, & Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar & Janet Abueita) and **John Timm**.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is no COFFEE FELLOWSHIP today because our Parish General Assembly begins immediately after Divine Liturgy. We want everyone to be at the assembly. There will NOT be any childcare because all of our teens are at the Midwest Diocesan Basketball Tournament in Canton, OH.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> ~ 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 Manal Abuaita. *During the Nativity Fast (November 15<sup>th</sup> - December 24<sup>th</sup>) no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are to be served.*

⇒ 2<sup>ND</sup> OFFERING TRAY Per Metropolitan Saba's letter last week, we will be having a 2<sup>nd</sup> Offering Tray for all those suffering in the Holy Land ~ please be generous, thank you!

## **PLEASE HELP ~ KIDNEY NEEDED!**

One of our parishioners is in desperate need of a kidney. Everyone has 2 kidneys, but only need 1 to live. Both of this parishioner's kidneys are not working properly. If you are interested and want more information, please speak with Fr. Joe ~ *thanks!*

## **WANT TO BE AN ANGEL? YOU CAN!**

Our parish is again participating in the **North End Soup Kitchen Angel Tree**. **We have 31 children looking for "angels" to brighten their Christmas!** Gift range is between \$30 and \$40. Gift cards are OK for children 15-17 years old. Several items may be requested, but you only need to pick one or more of these items. Attach the provided gift tag that has the child's name to the gift, and place in gift bags. All gifts must be returned by SUNDAY, December 3<sup>rd</sup>! You can make an online donation [HERE](#) (under "fund", choose "Angel Tree") or send it directly to the church with the memo "Angel Tree" so our coordinators can purchase gifts. If you have any questions, speak with one of our coordinators May, Gabby, or Lauren Gantos. Again, thank you, and may God always bless your generosity!

**CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS ~ ST. GEORGE CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will take place on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> immediately following Great Vespers. Anyone is welcome if you would like to sing a solo, sing in a group choir, or play an instrument ~ BOTH adults and children are welcome. Please contact Janet Abueita or Elias Abueita for more information; practices dates will be announced soon! Mark your calendars for a wonderful activity with your St. George Family!

**HOLIDAY BAKE SALE** Our Ladies Auxiliary will be having their annual Holiday Bake Sale NEXT Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. As always, thank you and God bless you for your support and prayers in all of the good works of our women!

**PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB** The Pan Orthodox Book Club will meet again on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at St. George Church with both in person and ZOOM. We will be finishing up "Christ in the Psalms" by Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon. All are welcome to come whether they have just started the book, read the whole thing or just want to listen in and learn more about the Psalms! Please contact Fr. Michael Bassett at [frdmike@gmail.com](mailto:frdmike@gmail.com) or 989-627-9580 for more information or to be added to their distribution list!

**2023 PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY** is TODAY! Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, immediately after Divine Liturgy. Members in good standing both spiritually (*attending church*) and in their financial stewardship (*offerings to the church*) are considered Voting Members and may speak and vote on any non-canonical matter at the meeting. Report Packets with Minutes and the Proposed 2024 Budget have been mailed. Please review the Report Packet and, most importantly, plan on attending!

- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER** is defined in our Constitution as: *all persons, regardless of sex, eighteen (18) years of age and over, who have been baptized and accepted as members of the Holy Orthodox Church according to its teachings, who accept, profess and practice the faith and discipline of the Holy Orthodox Church and who subscribe to the temporal maintenance of the Parish, through payment of such dues, pledges and assessments.*

## **Thank you and God bless...**

... **Issa David** for all he has done, and continues to do, for our parish as an expert in *Information Technology* which involves the support, maintenance, repair and/or protection of data and/or computer systems!

# COMING EVENTS

**Fasting Discipline** On Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, we begin the traditional forty-day **Nativity Fast** (also called the Christmas or Advent Fast) in preparation for the **Nativity of Christ** on December 25<sup>th</sup>. The Fast is divided into two periods. The first period is until December 19<sup>th</sup> when the traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products*) is observed on all days except Tuesdays and Thursdays when *wine and oil* are allowed and Saturdays and Sundays when *fish, wine, and oil* are allowed.

TODAY	<b>Annual Parish General Assembly</b> <i>immediately after Divine Liturgy</i>
Monday	<b>Bible Study: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans</b> 1:30-3:30pm
Tuesday	<b>Altar Society</b> Dinner Meeting ~ for more information, see <i>Theresa Farah</i> 6pm
Wednesday	<b>Arabic Bible Study: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans</b> 12:30-2pm
	<b>Christmas Fast Service</b> 6pm
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 4pm

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## All About Me ~ Let My Will be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven

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

When we closely examine our heart, we must see whether we are filled with a strong sense of self-importance, or if we see ourselves as the least of all. If we think highly of ourselves, this sense of personal importance will lead us to expect everything to go exactly as we think it should. A strong sense of our own self-importance, will mean we want to control the whole of our life. This sense of entitlement (privilege) will lead us to demand everything be as we wish it, and we will have replaced God's will, with our own will.

People who feel entitlement because they are important, tend to be easily annoyed with family members, or their neighbors and coworkers. Their spouses and children are never good enough, and their friends are never sensitive enough to do the right thing in regards to their friendship. Such people are always looking for signs that others are not doing the right thing by them, and are easily offended.

Self-centered people ultimately complain to God, and are unable to see the harm they are doing to their souls, for by demanding everything be according to their own will, they fall deeper into the abyss of self, and into the land of the all-powerful ego.

If we recognize ourselves in this description, we need to make a good confession, and embark on the journey toward acquiring a humble and contrite heart. This journey requires that we put other people first, and become sensitive to their needs, before our own. When we have accomplished this, we will be able to pray, as the Lord taught us, "*Let Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven*".