

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

November 13, 2022

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Attached

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*)

- Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee Abud for the health of their family and in memory of aunt **Marjorie** Sadd (40 day).
- Khaled and Sally Abuaita for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Saher** Abu Aita (6 month).
- **Timothy** Beers on the occasion of his birthday ~ *May God grant him many years!* ~ for the health of his family especially **Victoria** and **Shirley** Zerka and in loving memory of **George**, **Lourice**, **Sam**, **Sadie**, **Handoumi**, **Harry**, **Fred**, and **Louise**.

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **George** Frangi (+October 16th, brother-in-law of Ron Haddad), **Chrysoula** Bastounis (+October 19th, friend of parishioners), **David** Gould (October 17th, husband of former parishioner Julie [Khouri]), and **Victor** David (+November 4th).
- 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, **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Sally** Abuaita, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Khader** AbuAita, **Shafiqa** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Emil** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alshahouri, **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Walid** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** 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, **Dannie** Jones, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Judy** Mikhail, **Laura** Nassar, **Issa** Odeh, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **Christa** Whitehead; **Jalal** and **Mirna** Abuaita who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Waad** and **Mike** Abdallah, **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khouri, **Katrina** and **Gary** Gagne, and **Taylor** and **Jeffrey** Tipton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP today because of our annual *Parish General Assembly* which begins immediately after Divine Liturgy. Our Teen SOYO will be taking care of our children during the Assembly. If you are not staying for the Assembly, please pickup your children from Church School immediately after Divine Liturgy.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: November 27th and December 18th ~ 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 our coordinator Manal Abuaita. *During the Christmas Fast (November 15th - December 24th), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, or their by-products are served.*

WANT TO BE AN ANGEL? Our parish is again participating in the **North End Soup Kitchen Angel Tree**. Thirty (30) children are looking for “angels” to brighten their Christmas. Gift range is between \$30 and \$50. 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, the code number to the gift, and place in gift bags. All gifts must be returned by December 4th! The *Angel Tree* with tags can be picked up after Divine Liturgy in the Banquet Center or by contacting May Gantos (810-869-4012). You can make an online donation 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 our coordinators May, Gabby, or Lauren Gantos. Again, thank you, and God bless your generosity!



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!

PLAYGROUND 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!

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

COMING EVENTS

Fasting Discipline On Tuesday, November 15th, we began the traditional forty-day **Nativity Fast** (also called the Christmas or Advent Fast) in preparation for the feast of the **Nativity of Christ** on December 25th. The Fast is divided into two periods. The first period is until December 19th 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. There is no fasting on Thanksgiving Day.

- Monday **Bible Study: 1st book of the Bible, Genesis** 3-5pm
- Tuesday **Nativity Fast Prayer Service** 6pm
- Wednesday **Arabic-English Bible Study: 1st book of the Bible, Genesis** 2-4pm (note time!)
- Thursday **Men's Fellowship ~ Bowling at Galaxy Lanes in Grand Blanc** 6pm
- Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 5pm

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Evangelical and Apostolic Doctrine ~

Just Whose Recipe is it, Anyway?

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

One of the most powerful reasons for embracing Orthodoxy is to be found in the Church's insistence that she holds to the evangelical and apostolic doctrine of the Ancient Church. In an age when everything is up for change, there is a certain security and stability when one institution (the Church) stands firm in her Apostolic Authority, and refuses to allow popular culture or political correctness to influence her rightful role as hospital for the soul.

"It is not lawful to differ even by a single word from the evangelical and apostolic doctrine, or to think otherwise than as the blessed Apostles and our fathers learned and taught concerning the Holy Scriptures." (Saint Leo the Great)

We know from the very foundations of the Church, set down in the Gospels, and in the Apostolic Canons, that the Church exists, not to judge, but to bring healing. Her mission

continued ⇨

is to make whole those who would enter into her gates, as entering into a hospital. She forces no one, for one who is forced is not open to healing. Yet the Church is also aware that sin is not really a private matter, for all sin affects everyone. She knows that even private sins have an effect on the whole of the cosmos. Therefore, the Church continues, as she has from ancient times, to give witness to the commandments of God, the hope that is found in the Gospel of Christ, and the forgiveness and healing that can lead to wholeness.

The Church may seem to be a backward looking institution, irrelevant for our times, a view that has caused many of the denominations to alter basic foundational teachings in order to please a more liberally leaning society. This has led numerous of the denominations to allow their churches to enact laws that have forced these religious institutions to ordain women as clergy, perform same-sex marriages, and bow down to modern views on abortion that have led to the death of thousands of innocents.

As an Orthodox monk who stands out in appearance, with my long white beard and black robe, I demonstrate that I am attempting to live a faith that is not of this world. Like all Orthodox clergy, I teach by my presence in a modern and fallen world, that my faith is an ancient one, and that changing the faith is not necessary, for the faith of our fathers is just as relevant today, as it was two thousand years ago. What the Church has to offer today, is just as effective in bringing about the healing of the soul, as in ancient times.

The sad state of American Christianity has as its basis, a constant attempt to conform to an ever changing society, and with each change, there is less and less of authentic, ancient Christianity to be seen. It could be compared to using an old family cake recipe, dropping one ingredient, or changing another, with each passing generation. In the end, is it really great-great grandmother's cake recipe, or is it something else?



Jesus Christ the same
yesterday, and today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:8