

# St. George Orthodox Church

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V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Rev. Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

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

November 14, 2021

**Glory to Jesus Christ!**

*Glory Forever!*

## 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*)

- **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**, **Louise**, **Albert**, **Vicki**, **David**, and **Richard** Salim.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Najeh** Elias (+October 18<sup>th</sup>, brother of Ayman), **Georgette** Hayder (+October 21<sup>st</sup>, sister of Wadia Albaba), and **Matthew** Handley (+October 28<sup>th</sup>, friend of Nataly Odeh).
- 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, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Anwar** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsahouri, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Jennifer** Craft and **Brianna** Gorbutt (friends of Mariann Hayek), **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Ranna** Esho (friend of Batoul Burbar), **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Amy** Handley (friend of Nataly Odeh), **Gracyn** Haskins and Dr. **Michelle** Borg (granddaughter /daughter of Mike and Nancy Silpoch), **Daisy** Isaac, **Nicola** Khoury, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Juliette** Qumseya, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** and **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; **Jarrett**, **Elise** [daughter of Habeeb & Denise Ghattas and Jill Smith], and newborn **James Michael** Lane (October 25<sup>th</sup>).

- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury, **Natania** and **Rene** Hanna, **Kari** and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis [daughter of John and Theresa Farah], and **Yara** and **Mudaffer** Rishmawi.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There is no **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** today because the 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.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup> ~ 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. *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.*

**ARE YOU VACCINATED? DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND NEED ANSWERS?** We are blessed to have many medical professionals in our parish and they all want you to get a 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 sad way! If you have any questions or need truthful information, please contact Dr. Lindsey (Farah) Brunner: 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.

## **CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS!**

The Church School Parish Thanksgiving Dinner was a big success due to everyone working together. A Big Thank you goes out to those that worked in the kitchen, coordinated the craft, stepped in to help the children prepare their part of the meal, donated their time and talents, made turkeys, and to everyone who donated to help offset the cost of the food. We were so proud to host this dinner for our parish family AND to donate meals to the Owosso Soup Kitchen!!! A little over \$500 was donated for the education of our students/children. May God continue to bless us, so we can continue our ministry.

Thank you, again and always for all you do! May God bless us as we work with you in this ministry for your children's growth in their life in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Janet Abueita, Director*

**WANT TO BE AN ANGEL?** Our parish is again participating in the **North End Soup Kitchen Angel Tree**. Thirty-two (32) 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 5<sup>th</sup>! The *Angel Tree* with tags can be picked up after Divine Liturgy in the Banquet Center or by contacting May Gantos (810-869-4012). If you would like to make an online donation or send it directly to the church with the memo *Angel Tree* so our coordinators can purchase gifts, thank you! If you have any questions, please speak with our coordinators May, Gabby, or Lauren Gantos. Again, thank you and God bless your generosity!

### **COMING EVENTS**

This Week	On Monday, November 15 <sup>th</sup> , we begin the traditional forty-day <b>Nativity Fast</b> (also called the Christmas or Advent Fast) in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25 <sup>th</sup> . The Fast is divided into two periods. The <u>first period</u> is until December 19 <sup>th</sup> when the traditional fasting discipline ( <i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products</i> ) is observed on all days except Tuesdays and Thursdays when <i>wine and oil</i> are allowed and Saturdays and Sundays when <i>fish, wine, and oil</i> are allowed. There is no fasting on Thanksgiving Day.
TODAY	<b>Parish General Assembly</b> <i>immediately after Divine Liturgy</i>
Monday	<b>Bible Study:</b> <i>Gospel of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist</i> 3-5pm <b>SOYO Monday</b> 6-8pm
Wednesday	<b>Arabic-English Bible Study</b> <i>Gospel of St. Matthew</i> 12-2pm
Saturday	Combined Pan-Orthodox <b>Great Vespers for Entrance of the Virgin Mary into the Temple</b> at Assumption (2245 E Baldwin Rd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439) 5pm

## **The Eternal Banquet ~ The Importance of Frequent Communion for EVERYONE!**

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

Eternity is an everlasting banquet (the Divine Liturgy) that takes place in the heavenly realm. Every time we participate in the Divine Liturgy we are transported into a place where there is neither time nor space, and participate in that very banquet. As we receive the Holy Mysteries (Christ’s very Body and Blood), we receive the healing medicine for that which ails us. Our brokenness in both body and soul are given the healing medicine that we so very much need.

God is everywhere present and fills all things. There is no place where He is not. Hell fire is none other than the Fire of God, burning those who are unloving and unresponsive to His invitation to commune with Him. God does not send anyone to hell, for we sentence ourselves. Eternity with God necessitates a transformation of our souls, that we be purified in order to be engulfed by God’s uncreated light. Without transformation the fire of God burns us, not because He desires we be burned, but because our fallen nature cannot withstand the presence of God without having been purified.

*continued ⇨*

The Eucharist is the very medicine that God designed for this transformation. Our response should be one of humble submission to this invitation to commune with the very God Who created us. Holy Communion is meant to be the very agent that changes us, making us whole. The Holy Mysteries give us life. Frequent confession and communion are the means we have for change.

The Eucharist is both mystical and symbolic and is understood to be the genuine Body and Blood of Christ, precisely because bread and wine are the mysteries and symbols of God's true and genuine presence and His manifestation to us in Christ.

The Holy Eucharist defies analysis and explanation in purely rational and logical terms, precisely because it is a mystery. The Eucharist, as is Christ himself, is a mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven which, as Jesus has told us, is "not of this world." The Eucharist, because it belongs to God's Kingdom, is truly free from the earth-born "logic" of fallen humanity.

Saint John of Damascus says, *"If you enquire how this happens, it is enough for you to learn that it is through the Holy Spirit ... we know nothing more than this, that the word of God is true, active, and almighty, but in its manner of operation unsearchable"*.

Before the reception of Holy Communion the following prayer is generally recited by the priest on behalf of all. It is each person's act of personal commitment to Christ, their promise of faith in Him and the Sacred Mysteries of His Church.

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who didst come into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief (or, "first", 1 Timothy 1:15). And I believe that this is truly thine own immaculate Body, and that this is truly thine own precious Blood. Wherefore I pray Thee, have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance; and make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thine immaculate Mysteries, unto remission of my sins and unto life everlasting. Amen.

Of Thy Mystic Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant: for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither will I give Thee a kiss as did Judas; but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom.

Not unto judgment nor unto condemnation be my partaking of Thy Holy Mysteries, O Lord, but unto the healing of soul and body.

Let us commit ourselves to receiving the Holy Mysteries on a frequent basis. In these difficult times, we all need the Lord's Body and Blood as never before.

*Get out your bible, find the Gospel of St. Matthew, and read Chapter 26 where the below verse comes from ~ Love, FJ*

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, *"Take, eat; this is my Body."* And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, *"Drink of this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."*