

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Rev. Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

November 21, 2021

## Blessings on the great feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple!

### 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*)

- Sally Abuaita and Family for the health of their family especially husband and father **Khaled** on the occasion of his birthday ~ *May God grant him many years!*
- 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), **Matthew** Handley (+October 28<sup>th</sup>, friend of Nataly Odeh), Dr. **Amal** Khoury (+November 16<sup>th</sup>, niece of Aida Nassar), and **Roza** Alied (+November 17<sup>th</sup>, grandmother of Dania Hanna).
- 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** Alsaouri, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Jennifer** Craft and **Brionna** 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), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of 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>); **Ayman**, **Diana**, and newborn **Alayna** Khair (November 11<sup>th</sup>); **Abdulla**, **Amira**, and newborn **Selena** Farah who were brought back into the life of our parish through the *Prayers of Churching*; **Robert Andrew** Gagne who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and his First Communion;

- 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

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Sally Abuaita and Family*.

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.

### CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD BLESS ...

... our **Teen SOYO Basketball Teams**: both the younger and older team won 1<sup>st</sup> Place! Also, thank you and God bless our chaperones: Anwar and Elias Abueita and Fadi Rishmawi!

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!

# CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS!

**Christmas Program Update!** Because of the lack of interest and commitment from our students, we have asked them to sing a Christmas song or play an instrument ~ please RSVP to me with their choice today. We need to make sure it is appropriate to be sung or played in the church. Also, the children attending the program on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> will sing a group song; the music will be given to them this Sunday. A wonderful *Family Night* in the Banquet Center immediately follows Great Vespers and short program; who knows, we may even have a special visitor! Please contact me [cooeita@aol.com](mailto:cooeita@aol.com) or 810-691-0956 with any questions. *Janet Abueita, Director*

## 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.
Monday	<b>Bible Study:</b> <i>Gospel of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist</i> 3-5pm <b>SOYO Monday</b> 6-8pm
Thursday	<b>ALWAYS GIVE THANKS TO GOD IN ALL THINGS!</b>
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

## Heaven and Hell ~ *The River of Fire is "an all-consuming fire and an illuminating light"!*

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

Upon Christ's Second Coming, everyone who has ever lived will see Him in His uncreated light, forever. For *"those who worked good deeds in their lifetime will go towards the resurrection of life, while those who worked evil in their lifetime will go towards the resurrection of judgment."* (John 5:29) All will be separated at the moment of the final judgement, with the good experiencing paradise as exceedingly good, and radiant, while those who have rejected His love, and whose lives ended without repentance, will look upon Christ as hell, the "all-consuming fire" spoken of in Hebrews 12:29.

It is from Christ's Second Coming that the river of fire will flow forth. For the saints this river of fire will be a golden light, encompassing them as an eternal joy. Whereas, for the demons and the unrepentant, it will be as a burning hell fire. For this is the very reason we read in Luke 2:34, that Christ is *"as the fall and the resurrection of many"*.

*continued* ⇨

For those who reject the healing that has been offered, Christ will be their hell, their separation from the eternal bliss. For the believers, Christ will be their resurrection into eternal life. This is why Saint John of the Ladder wrote that the uncreated light of Christ is *"an all-consuming fire and an illuminating light"*. This is why we say heaven and hell are not about location, but about our relationship with God. Heaven and Hell are within the same realm, which is in the presence of God.

*Get out your bible, find the Gospel of St. Matthew, and read Chapter 25 where read a number of things our Lord tells us about the Final, Last Judgement ~ Love, FJ*



*"Watch therefore, for you  
know neither the day nor  
the hour in which the  
Son of Man is coming."  
Matthew 25:13*