

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

November 22, 2020

NOVEMBER IS **IOCC** (*INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES*) MONTH

SUNDAY AFTER THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

Live Streaming of Divine Services

St. George is open for all parishioners or 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.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. John Chrysostom** *{the Golden-Mouth}*,
The **Special Hymns** we sing are on the [Bilingual sheets from Fr. Joe's Email](#).

Holy Bread Offerings

Baptism/Chrismation Days

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for their teachers and/or students who celebrated their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this week:

- **Laila** Mitri – November 26th

May our children be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Alyess** Qusta Khoury (+October 16th, sister of Catherine Khoury and aunt of Khalid Al-Khouri) and **Lila** Abud (+October 21st, aunt of Fr. Joe).
- 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), **Zahra** Abuaita, **Sami** and **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Fr. Joseph** Abud, **Anwar** Abueita, **Wadia** Albaba, **Nabil** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Kendall** Ayoub (brother of Cam Takach), **Naila** Banna, **Emil J.** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Evelyn** Delbridge, **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Diane** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Barbara** Gress, **Carol** Haddad, **Ronald** Haddad, **Shawna** Hale, **Donald** and **JoAnn** Hawkins, **Nassem** Helal (father of Amani Helal), **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nimer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Michael** Khal, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr, **Paul** Takach (husband of Cam), and **Lois** Teunion.
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Juliana** (Essa) AbuAita, **Nawal** (John) Abud [son of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee], Dr. **Lindsey** [Farah] (Dr. Ryan) Brunner, **Katrina** (Gary) Gagne, and **Jenny** [Abueita] (Tony) Salsa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP TO BRIGHTEN A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS! For Christmas, our parish is participating in the **North End Soup Kitchen Angel Tree** this year. Thirty 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 6th, the feast of St. Nicholas!** The *Angel Tree* with tags can be picked up after Divine Liturgy in the Lounge 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. Thank you and may God bless your generosity!

CHURCH SCHOOL HAS BEGUN! We want ALL of our St. George children in our education program. To make this happen, we need email addresses for our children and their parents! Please send them to Director Janet Abueita (cooeita@aol.com) as soon as possible so none of our children are left out and they can enjoy and learn about our life in Christ. Be a part of the FUN and send your email addresses to Janet TODAY!

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS Though everyone cannot attend church due to limited capacity or other reasons, **our stewardship, offerings, and donations are still very badly needed.** PLEASE help our/your parish by continuing to bring or send your offerings to St. George. You can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) and donate on-line 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!

PLEASE FOLLOW OUR PROCEDURES Because of serious health concerns, **we all must wear masks at all times.** Please remember we can venerate icons by bowing (*not kissing or touching at this time*) and the same for the priest's hand and the chalice at Holy Communion. Further, **only our clergy and chanters may sing.** When you come to church, the front is roped off so the singing of the clergy and chanters can keep everyone safe (*singing, like sneezing and coughing, can propel air droplets 20 feet!*) ~ If you want to sing, please do it **softly and with your mask on.**

COMING EVENTS

This Week	On November 15 th , we begin the traditional forty-day CHRISTMAS FAST in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25 th . The Fast is divided into two periods. The first period is until December 19 th 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.
Wednesday	Akathist of Thanksgiving 6pm The Relationship Project 8pm
Thursday	Have a Blessed Thanksgiving giving thanks to God in all things!
Saturday	No Great Vespers

PARKING LOT PLEDGES: WE NEED YOU!

Our goal is \$80,000 (we have raised over \$46,000) and we are so thankful for those who have donated and pledged. If you have not already, please pick up a form, fill it out, and send it to the church. Remember our donations to the Parking Lot are separate (above and beyond) our weekly offerings. Again, thank you to our donors!

Fr. Joe and Leslee Abud
Rose Ayoub
Dn. Mike & Pam Bassett
St. George Preschool
Jamal and Manal Abuaita
Khader and Lucy Abuaita
Anwar and Janet Abueita
Laila Abud
Anonymous

Ladies Auxiliary
Tony Daoud
Ayman and Wafaa Elias
John and Theresa Farah
Betty Froberg
Dr. David & May Gantos
Subdeacon George and
Suad Gantous
Ronald Haddad

Elias and Amirah Hanna
Samir & Nashwa Meshraky
George & Jeanette Nassif
Fadi & Evette Rishmawi
Raji and Sue Salomon
Bill and Sue Shaheen
Elaine Shaheen
Richard Shaheen
Bob and Lois Teunion

Broken ~ *What must we do when we feel broken?*

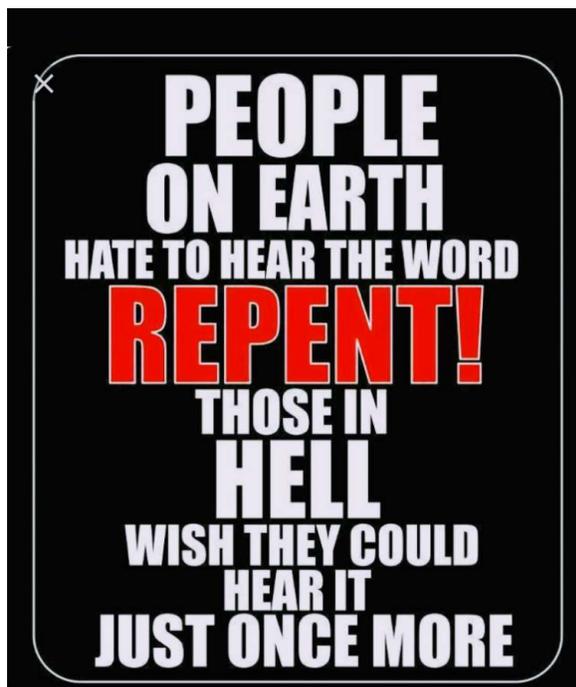
by Abbot Tryphon, head of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington

It is only human to become despondent when we have failed in keeping to our moral, ethical and spiritual standards, succumbing, instead, to temptation. Our Orthodox Faith teaches that we must be compassionate towards others, loving, quick to forgive, exemplar in our Christian living, and always demonstrating to the world that we belong to Christ. Yet we also know we fail, most of the time, in living up to the standards of the Gospels, appearing no different than the pagans.

We look to the example of the saints, and wonder why we seem so far removed from their Christ-like example of living the Gospels. Over and over, we sink in the muck and mire of sin, becoming broken, downtrodden, and sick. In our brokenness we betray the Gospels, our own standards of behavior, and the expectations of others. We know the truth of the words, *"There is none good but One, that is, God"* (Matthew 19:17), because we fail, over and over, in our own seeming inability to live as we believe.

We know we have been called to holiness by Christ, and that He gives us the strength, courage, and even the ability to live our lives out in holiness. Yet, try as we might, we find ourselves utterly failing to live the Gospels, failing in our witness before others, and letting down our friends and family, with behavior that is anything but an example of Gospel living. We are broken, bordering on despair.

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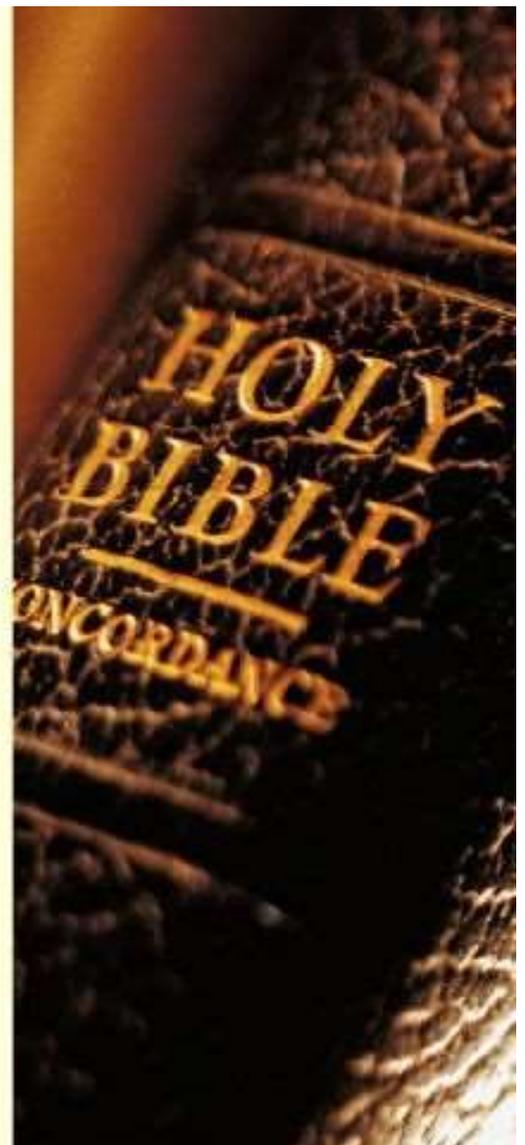
Nevertheless, even as we struggle with our sins, we must remember that we were specifically created by God for participation in His Divinity. We have been called by Him, and have become a Royal people, specifically created to participate and share fully in the life of God. The key to this life in God is to be found in repentance. Even in our brokenness, we must not give in to despondency, for our Savior is quick to forgive.

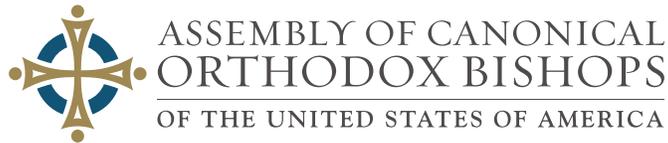
When we have found ourselves falling short of the glory of God, we must turn toward this very God in repentance, knowing that He is quick to forgive.

When we are broken, despair is the enemy, and should be seen as an emotion that has come from the Evil One. Hope and forgiveness are the gifts that come from God. During those times when we have failed in our Christian vocation, we must embrace the hope that comes with a repentant heart, and see, in our brokenness, the reminder that we are to always keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge that we have a God Who is quick to forgive. Despair is the enemy of our salvation, because in despair, the Evil One would have us believe there is no hope, and therefore no salvation. In our brokenness we must turn our gaze towards our Co-Suffering Savior, the One Who lifts us up, out of our brokenness, making us whole, and granting us forgiveness and life.

“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

Matt. 4:17





— Office of the Secretariat —

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

— 1 John 4:11

To the Most Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and
Devout Faithful of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the United States:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each Sunday before Thanksgiving, Orthodox faithful in the United States give thanks to God for His many blessings and for the privilege of serving Christ by serving others. The Assembly of Bishops has designated this Sunday to mark the ministry of International Orthodox Christian Charities, or IOCC, whose mission is to serve people in need worldwide.

In a year when we have been unable to gather as we normally do in our parishes, when so many have been touched by heartache, anxiety, isolation, and a deep disruption of our lives, the challenges we face are perhaps a reminder of how firmly we must hold to our faith. In the midst of uncertainty, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We remain His Church, and He calls us to love and service.

This is IOCC’s work. As the humanitarian and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States, IOCC is a way for Orthodox Christians to extend to others the great mercy that Christ shows each of us. Since it began in 1992, IOCC has served people facing war, famine, natural disasters, and economic hardship so that they may have the means to live with dignity, respect, and hope. And the work continues, even amid a global pandemic.

In fact, here in the United States, IOCC has created its Care Calls program as a response to the pandemic: a way for each one of us to reach out to and connect with others, who may be struggling, offering the love of Christ in a trying, stressful time. At a moment when many of us are isolated, IOCC reminds us that we must care for each other, in great and small ways.

over

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With the generous gifts of people like you, IOCC works tirelessly amid crisis, offering practical assistance as communities near and far build resilience. Cleanup after US disasters; nutritious meals for preschoolers in Gaza; counseling for Syrian families who have survived unspeakable trauma; training to help small businesses in Greece flourish; a new science lab at a rural Church-run school in Uganda; hot meals after the devastating explosion in Lebanon's capital; training so farmers in Georgia can sell more at market and feed their families – these are only a few examples of the service IOCC offers in the spirit of Christ's love.

As an agency of the Assembly, IOCC belongs to all Orthodox Christians, reflecting our shared calling to serve Christ by serving others. St. John asks us to love one another because we know God's love for us: with IOCC, we can do precisely that, remembering the incarnate Lord's request that we feed, clothe, and serve one another for His sake. As we thank God for His blessings, seen and unseen, let us also give as we are able to serve our brethren in need.

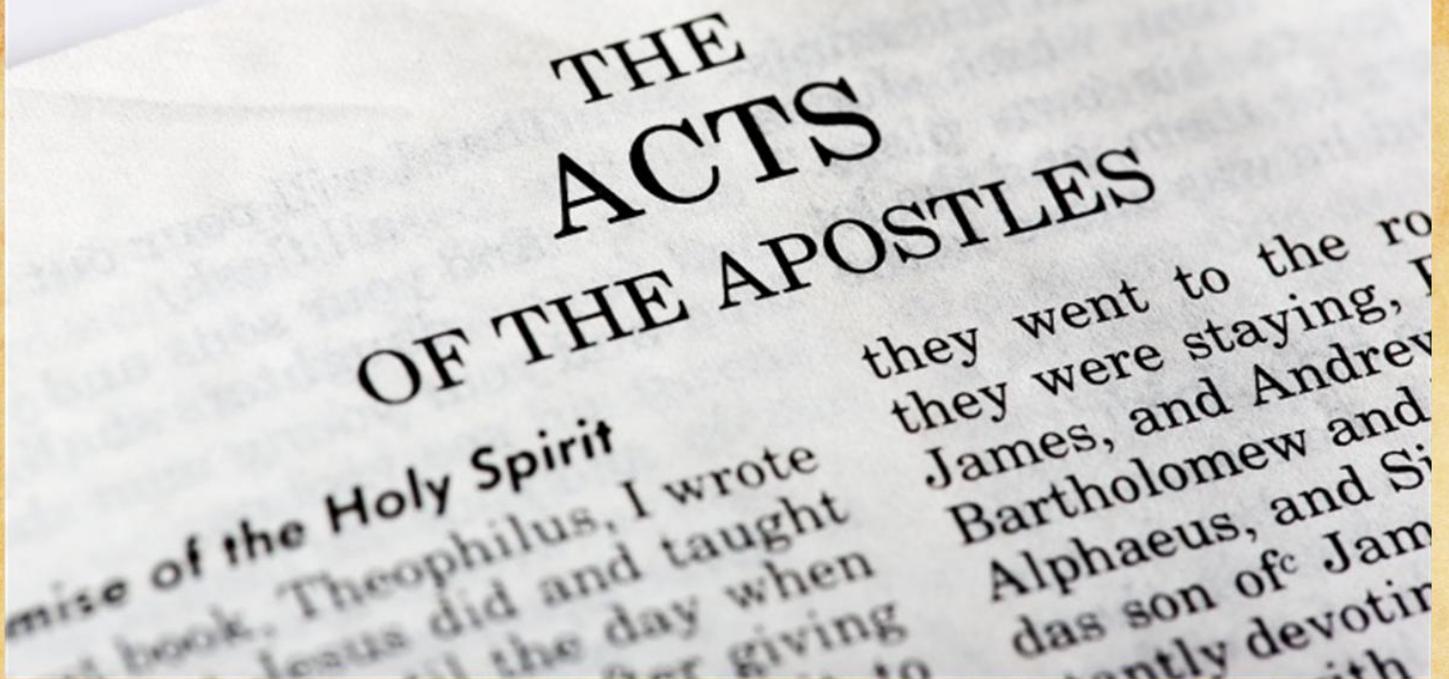
May the Lord shine His mercy upon you and your families this blessed Nativity season, and may His peace fill your homes and your hearts!

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

+Metropolitan NICOLAE of the
Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas
*Liaison for IOCC from the Assembly of Canonical
Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America*

"Early Roots"

The First Days of Christianity



Advent Three Part Lecture Series

Class 1, December 2nd, 6:30 PM:

The Apostolic Fathers, What did the Church Look Like After The Book of Acts

Class 2: December 9th, 6:30 PM:

Fighting for Truth: Defending Against
Heresy

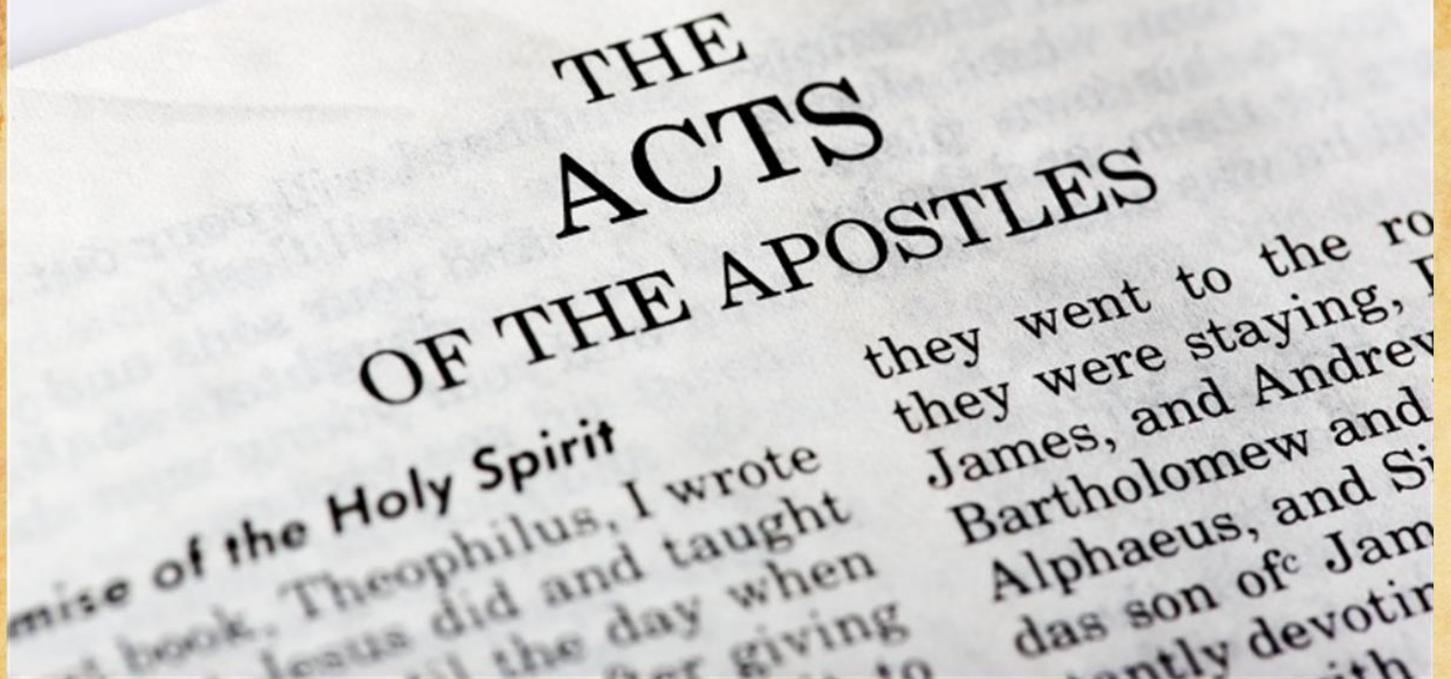
Class 3: December 16th, 6:30 PM:

Where Did the Bible Come From? With Guest Speaker, Fr. Stephen De Young



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Where Did the Bible Come From?



Advent Lecture—The Pan Orthodox Churches of Genesee County

December 16th, 6:30 PM: Where Did the Bible Come From? With Guest
Speaker, Fr. Stephen De Young

Rev. Dr. Stephen De Young is the Priest of Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church in Lafayette, Louisiana. He holds a PhD in Biblical Studies from Amridge University. Fr. Stephen is also the host of the Whole Counsel of God podcast from Ancient Faith and author of the Whole Counsel Blog. He co-hosts the live call-in show and podcast Lord of Spirits with Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick.

