

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

November 27, 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*)

- Ronald Haddad for the health of his family and in memory of brother-in-law **George** Frangi (40 day).
- Tawfiq, Midhat, and Nida Abu Aita and Family for the health of their families and in loving memory of son and brother **Saher** (6 month) and wife and mother **Androlla** Abu Aita.
- Zahra Abuaita and Family for the health of her family and in loving memory of husband **Hanna** (5 year).
- **Elias** Gantos and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of son, brother, and uncle **Shane** Gantos (24 year).

- Lucy Abuaita, Mary Khoury, and their Families for the health of their families and in loving memory of father **Michel** Abuaita.
- Raed and Rania Abuaita for the health of their family especially children **Rubina** and **Romanos**.
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **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, our local **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Sally** Abuaita, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Khader** AbuAita, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Emil** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alsahouri, **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. **Mike**, **Waad**, and newborn **Jouri** Abdallah (November 8th).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury, **Katrina** and **Gary** Gagne, and **Taylor** and **Jeffrey** Tipton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Raed and Rania Abuaita*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: 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**. **As of today, we have over 45 tags that no one has claimed.** The 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 [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 our coordinators May, Gabby, or Lauren Gantos. **If you want to do this, do it TODAY; there's less than 1 week to go ~ call May or make a donation online [HERE](#).** Again, thank you, and may God always 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!

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.

- Monday **Bible Study:** *1st book of the Bible, Genesis* 1:30-3:30pm
- Wednesday **Arabic-English Bible Study:** *1st book of the Bible, Genesis* 12-2pm
- Nativity Fast Prayer Service** 6pm
- Saturday **Women's Tea ~ all St. George women invited!** 3-5pm
- Great Vespers and Confessions** 5pm

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Thanksgiving ~ A Time to be Grateful for All the Right Things

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

The United States is one of the world's few countries to have established a national day in which to give thanks to God for all He has given us. This day may have become a purely secular excuse, for some, to overeat, but for the serious Christian it is still a time for giving thanks.

When Saint Tikhon of Moscow was serving as Archbishop of San Francisco, he arranged a Thanksgiving Moleben service for the eve of the American Thanksgiving. This great hierarch was deeply moved that his adopted country had set aside this day as a national day of thanksgiving.

Sometimes we forget that being thankful for all the blessings we've received from God is not about our attachment to things. We may be grateful for our nice house, good job, the abundance of good food, our friends and family, and a myriad of other things, but our gratitude should not be focused on material things.

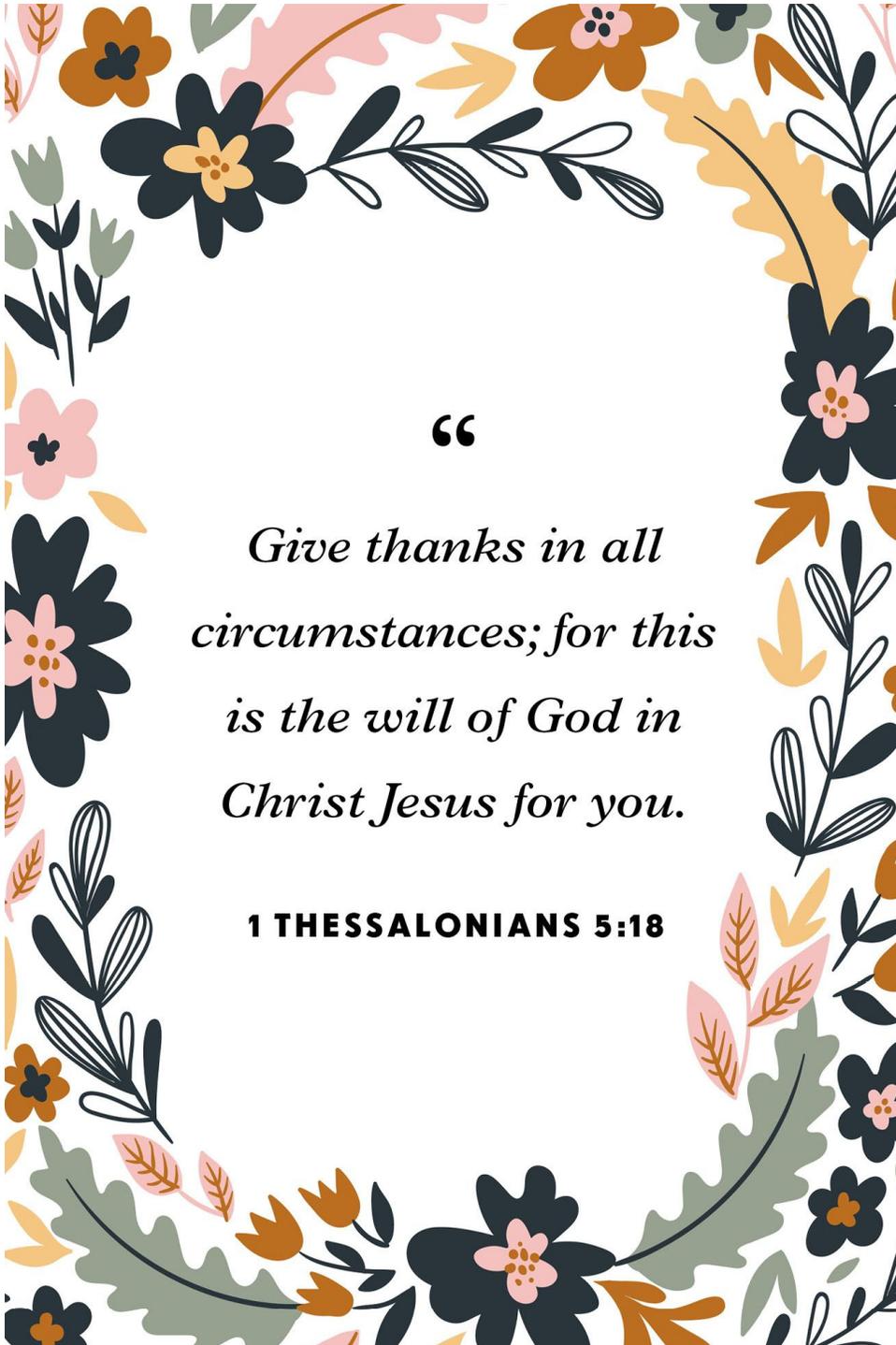
If we've become too attached to these blessings, true gratitude will not endure, for we will begin to think we could not possibly be happy without these things. We could even begin to think that gratitude to God is impossible, unless we continue to be blessed with

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all these things. We could even entertain fearfulness at the possibility of losing what we think makes us happy.

The real treasure that must be received with gratitude is not material, or even relational in nature, but that which is eternal. Our faith is the greatest treasure we have, and the utmost reason for us to give thanks to God. As a nation, our forefathers knew that although we never established a State Church, we nevertheless, as a people, had declared from the very conception of our great nation, that we are a people, under God, blessed with freedom and abundance, and that all of this has come to us from a God Who loves us.

Because of this, we as a nation, like the great Patriarch Saint Tikhon, can rejoice that we live in a country that has set aside a day for the collective gathering of families, and faith communities, to thank the Lord of Lights, for all He has given us.



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*Give thanks in all
circumstances; for this
is the will of God in
Christ Jesus for you.*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18