

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

November 5, 2023

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! 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. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy.

Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion for Orthodox Christians: Orthodox Christians fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist by receiving Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command *to eat His Body and drink His Blood*. In order to be properly prepared to receive Holy Communion, the faithful should fast (no food or drink from midnight the night before), the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, being at peace with others, and striving to always love God and their neighbor. Frequent communion and regular confession are recommended for all faithful Orthodox Christians.

For other Christians: We welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately, we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (*antidoron*) which will be given when coming forward to venerate (kiss) the Holy Cross and receive the final blessing from the priest. 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*)

BAPTISM/CHRISMATION DAYS

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for our students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this coming week:

- **Maria** Abu Aita ~ November 8th

May they 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: **Jean** Parks (+September 28th, mother of Judy (Dr. Raouf) Mikhail) and **Yvonne** Holwey (+October 7th, friend of Fr. Joe and mother of Chris Holwey) ~ *may their memory be eternal!*
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Archbishop Alexander** (bishop of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Nicholas), our **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad** Abuaita, **Philip** and **Janett** Abuaita, **Rasha** Abuaita, **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Mariam** Al-Khoury, **Ola** Alqazaha, **William** Alsahoury, **Naila** Banna, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Karen** Mortensen, **Karam** Nassar, **Laura** Nassar, **Jeanette** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; **Jason** Dine who is under instruction catechism to become Orthodox; **Maroun**, **Julia**, and newborn **Mariella** Noelle Alatrash (September 23rd); **Subdeacon Salim**, **Dania**, and newborn **Elias** Hanna (October 28th); **Luciana** Al-Khoury who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and her First Communion.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Ambur** (daughter of Joseph Haddad) and **Matt** Allison, **Gabriella** (daughter of Joseph & Mary Jo Ghattas) and **David** Ayyash, **Renea** and **Rakan** Bayouk, Drs. **Lindsey** and **Ryan** Brunner, **Casandra** and **Danial** Burbar, **Andrea** and **Josh** Jones, **Christine** (daughter of Ayman & Wafaa Elias) and Dr. **Matthew** Krinock, **Kari** (daughter of John & Theresa Farah) and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis, **Vera** and **Luay** Sababa, & **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar & Janet Abueita) and **John** Timm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Ihsan and Reema Abufarha*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 3rd, 17th, and 31st ~ 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 Manal Abuaita. *During the Nativity Fast (November 15th - December 24th) no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are to be served.*

PLEASE HELP ~ KIDNEY NEEDED!

One of our parishioners is in desperate need of a kidney. Everyone has 2 kidneys, but only need 1 to live. Both of this parishioner's kidneys are not working properly. If you are interested and want more information, please speak with Fr. Joe ~ *thanks!*

WANT TO BE AN ANGEL? YOU CAN!

Our parish is again participating in the **North End Soup Kitchen Angel Tree**. **We have 31 children looking for "angels" to brighten their Christmas!** Gift range is between \$30 and \$40. 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 to the gift, and place in gift bags. All gifts must be returned by SUNDAY, December 3rd! 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 one of our coordinators May, Gabby, or Lauren Gantos. Again, thank you, and may God always bless your generosity!

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE Our Ladies Auxiliary will be having their annual Holiday Bake Sale on Sunday, November 19th. As always, thank you and God bless you for your support and prayers in all of the good works of our women!

PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB The Pan Orthodox Book Club will meet again on Tuesday, November 28th from 6-8pm at St. George Church with both in person and ZOOM. We will be finishing up "Christ in the Psalms" by Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon. All are welcome to come whether they have just started the book, read the whole thing or just want to listen in and learn more about the Psalms! Please contact Fr. Michael Bassett at frdmike@gmail.com or 989-627-9580 for more information or to be added to their distribution list!

2023 PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY is scheduled for Sunday, November 12th, immediately after Divine Liturgy. Members in good standing both spiritually (*attending church*) and in their financial stewardship (*offerings to the church*) are considered Voting Members and may speak and vote on any non-canonical matter at the meeting. Report Packets with Minutes and the Proposed 2024 Budget have been mailed. Please review the Report Packet and, most importantly, plan on attending!

- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER** is defined in our Constitution as: *all persons, regardless of sex, eighteen (18) years of age and over, who have been baptized and accepted as members of the Holy Orthodox Church according to its teachings, who accept, profess and practice the faith and discipline of the Holy Orthodox Church and who subscribe to the temporal maintenance of the Parish, through payment of such dues, pledges and assessments.*
- **General Assembly Proxies** are given to those who cannot attend the meeting because of medical treatment or illness, those confined to their homes, or those with written verification of a prior travel commitment. A VOTING member who cannot attend the meeting may have another VOTING member vote on their behalf. PLEASE NOTE: Proxies can be picked up in the church office and must be returned back to the office by THIS Sunday, November 5th. Proxies received after November 5th will be considered invalid. A proxy cannot be replaced.

ST. GEORGE DISCLAIMER: All children must be supervised by a responsible adult while attending any function on the property of St. George Orthodox Church. St. George Orthodox Church will not be liable for any damage or injury to property or person resulting from unsupervised minors.

إخلاء مسؤولية عند استئجار الصالة: يجب أن يكون جميع الأطفال برفقة شخص بالغ ومسؤول أثناء تواجدهم في أي مناسبة داخل أو خارج أي من ممتلكات كنيسة القديس جورج الأرثوذكسية. لن تكون الكنيسة مسؤولة عن فقدان اغراض خاصة أو إصابة اشخاص ناتجة عن تقصير من قبل هؤلاء المسؤولين عن مراقبة الاطفال.

COMING EVENTS

Fasting Discipline The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.

TODAY **8th-12th Grade Class** with Fr. Joe
 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting after Church School
Monday **Bible Study: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans** 1:30-3:30pm
Wednesday **Arabic Bible Study: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans** 12:30-2pm
Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

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Orthodox Witness ~ Within the Fold, but Without Love

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

That our Orthodox Church possesses the Fullness of Truth is a given, yet in our weakness as believers, the obviousness of that Truth is often invisible to others. In our weakness as sinful people, we Orthodox clergy, as well as the laity, often fail to demonstrate the love and joy that would make our faith attractive to others.

When people visit an Orthodox temple for the first time, if all they see is beautiful ritual, and a mystical interior, but are not received warmly by the Orthodox worshipers, they likely will walk away thinking this Faith has no impact on the soul. Beautiful worship and transcendent theology mean nothing if we don't live it out in love for others.

Grand services can be performed on any stage as reenactments of ancient Christian worship, complete with beautiful costumes, and authentic images of an ancient faith. Yet these rites will be nothing but empty externals, devoid of any meaning, if we Orthodox Christians make no effort to breathe in the faith, and allow Christ to change our hearts, and transform us into a holy people.

It is only when we invite God to make us His holy people that the spiritual power of the services, and the beauty of our temples, become irresistible to others, and they, by God's grace, become seekers themselves.



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 397/2023

November 1, 2023

My sons and daughters in our protected parishes, in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America,

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the blessing of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit may be with you all." (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Beloved Faithful,

Following the call of the Holy Synod of Antioch, which beckons all its children to dedicate a Sunday following the Synod's conclusion to collect aid for our brethren at the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and to partake in the relief of their suffering while demonstrating the Christian communion of humanity in times of affliction, we hereby announce that the upcoming Sunday, falling on November 12, shall be designated as the day for collecting aid throughout our Archdiocese. We kindly request all parishes to send their collections to the Archdiocesan headquarters. The Archdiocese will continue to collect aid for one month starting from November 12th.

In response to some of your questions regarding the inclusion of petitions in the Divine Liturgy for the sake of peace and mercy in the Holy Land, I would like to clarify:

The practice of introducing new petitions into the Divine Liturgy does not depend on a personal decision by a bishop or priest. Following the Holy Tradition of our Orthodox Church, at the end of the Great Entrance while processing with the Holy Gifts, the priest offers the people's supplications and mentions names and regions that are going through turbulent events. This is what we hope for from all of you in these days when humanity is in dire need of divine mercy.

Furthermore, we recommend that the service of the *Paraklesis* (Supplicatory Canon) be held in the churches to the extent possible for the faithful to offer supplications

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

and entreaties, seeking mercy and peace in the Holy Land, especially in Gaza at this time.

We hope, and as we have witnessed in every crisis, that each and every one of you will wholeheartedly contribute to this humanitarian and fraternal duty. In closing, I am sharing two prayers for you to use during these times.

May you always be guarded by God's care.

Yours in the Service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+SABA". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping stroke for the plus sign and the letters "SABA" written in a cursive, flowing style.

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

Prayer from the Akathist to the Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Mother of God – “Softener of Evil Hearts”

Who shall not call thee blessed, O Virgin full of grace! Who shall not hymn thy loving-kindness toward the race of men! We pray unto thee, we beseech thee: Leave us not to perish in misfortunes; melt our hearts with love, send thine arrow to our enemies, so that love may wound our hearts with peace toward those who persecute us. Even as the world hateth us, do thou extend thy love toward us, and even as the world persecuteth us, do thou accept us and grant us the God-given power of patience to endure without complaint the temptations encountered in this world. O Mistress! Soften the hearts of wicked men who rise up against us, lest their hearts should perish in iniquity, but, O Full of Grace, do thou entreat thy Son and our God to visit their hearts with peace, so that the devil, the father of evil, may be put to shame. And we, singing thy loving-kindness toward us, lowly and vile as we are, shall hymn thee, O most wondrous Mistress, O Virgin full of grace: Hearken unto us in this hour, as our hearts are heavy, guard us with peace and love toward one another and toward our enemies, eradicate every wickedness and hostility that we have, as we sing to thee and to thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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“A Prayer to the People of Gaza”
by His Eminence Metropolitan George (Khodr)

"O Jesus Christ, O King of Peace, our people in Gaza doth yearn for Thy abundant mercy. Take their children in Thine hands and extend Thy care to all their people. Wipe away every tear from their eyes, replacing sorrow with joy. O Lord, Thou who consolest every heart, place Thy Spirit in the troubled hearts, so they may find comfort in Thee and Thy compassion. Be a source of rest for the wounded and a healing balm. Ease their pains and deliver them from all fear. Take their burdens upon Thy shoulders and have mercy on those who have gone to Thee.

O God, cleanse their land from all defilement, and greed. Feed the people of the city with all they need, and let them not know death, oppression, or injustice, for in Thee, there is only justice and life.

Pour out upon all nations a sense of Gaza's suffering and a spirit of solidarity with them, striving for peace.

These are Thy children, all of them. Do not allow them to be displaced or struck again, so that we may live with them as brothers, building ourselves and the world with the spirit of forgiveness and tolerance.

Protect Thy Church there and shield it from torment. Put an end to this tragic ordeal, and encourage peace-loving nations to rebuild the city anew. Accept the prayers of the ancient Gazan saints who enriched the Church with deep spirituality and golden words. O God, end this war, for Thy people have grown weary. Embrace, O Lord, this martyred city until it glorifies Thee, and we glorify Thee with it as we stand in solidarity.

To Thee be honor, worship, and glory, together with Thy Father and Thy Holy Spirit. Amen."

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St. George Orthodox Church
Ladies Auxiliary
5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507 (810-732-0720)

Holiday Bake Sale

Sunday, November 19th



Our Auxiliary will be selling a variety of items including Arabic sweets! If you would like to donate sweets for our ladies to sell or if you have any questions, please contact chairwoman Sally Abuaita at sally_iaf@sbcglobal.net.

As always, thank you for your Support!