

December 15, 2019

HOLY FOREFATHERS OF CHRIST (2ND SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD)

صلاة السحر لأحد الأجداد القديسين

GREAT MARTYR ELEUTHERIOS OF ILLYRIA

Tone - 1 4th Matins Gospel {*Luke 24:1-12*}

Confessions
8:30-9:30am

Matins p.44
8:50am

Divine Liturgy p.91
10:00am

Memorial Service
Trisagion p.183

Welcome to St. George! Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book located in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, 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, being at peace with others, and attending the Divine Liturgy regularly. Please know everyone is invited to venerate the Holy Cross and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. John Chrysostom** {*the Golden-Mouth*},
we sing the following Special Hymns for today:

Third Antiphon (during the Little Entrance)

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 1

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud to Thee, O giver of life: Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy kingdom! Glory to Thy providence, O Thou who alone art the lover of mankind.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 1 (*same as above*)

إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ لَمَّا خُتِمَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، وَجَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ حُفِظَ مِنَ الْجُنْدِ. قُمْتَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ أَيُّهَا الْمَخْلُصُ، مَا نَحْنُ
الْعَالَمِ الْحَيَاةِ. لِذَلِكَ قَوَاتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ، هَتَفُوا إِلَيْكَ يَا وَاهِبَ الْحَيَاةِ. الْمَجْدُ لِقِيَامَتِكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ، الْمَجْدُ لِمُلْكِكَ،
الْمَجْدُ لِنَدْبِيرِكَ، يَا مُحِبَّ الْبَشَرِ وَحَدِكَ.

Troparion of the Holy Forefathers—Tone 2

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them, Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from

their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

لقد زكيت بالإيمان الآباء القديسة. وبهم سبقت فخطبت البيعة التي من الأمم. فليفتخر القديسون بالمجد. لأن من زرعهم أيع ثمراً حسيباً. وهو الأم التي ولدتك بغير زرع. فبتوسلاتهم أيها المسيح الإله خلص نفوسنا.

Troparion for St. Eleutherios—Tone 4

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes * and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, * thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; * hence never cease to intercede * for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, * thou over-thrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios.

شاركت الرسل في أخلاقهم، وخالقتهم على كراسيهم. فوجدت العمل مرقاةً إلى رؤية الإلهيات، يا ملهماً من الله. لذلك فصلت بإحكام كلمة الحق، وجاهدت عن الإيمان حتى الدم، يا إلفثيريوس الشهيد في رؤساء الكهنة. فنشفع إلى المسيح الإله، في خلاص نفوسنا.

Troparion for St. George—Tone 4

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings: Victorious Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

بما أنك للمأسورين محرر ومعتق، وللفقراء والمساكين عاضد وناصر، وللمرضى طبيب وشاف، وعن المؤمنين مكافح ومحارب، أيها العظيم في الشهداء جاورجيوس اللابس الظفر، تشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

Kontakion in Preparation for the Nativity (Birth) of Christ—Tone 3

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice O earth at the message; with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He who is from eternity God.

اليوم العذراء تأتي إلى المغارة لتلد الكلمة الذي قبل الدهور ولادة لا تفسر ولا يُنطق بها فافرحي أيتها المسكونة إذا سمعت ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة الذي سيظهر لنا بمشيئته طفلاً جديداً وهو اله قبل الدهور.

Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-18 {for St. Eleutherios}

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:16-24 {2nd Sunday before the Nativity}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Sally Joseph and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of husband, father, and grandfather **Edward** (32 years), parents **James, Adele**, and brother **Raymond Shaheen, Norman, Esther, Mildred, Dorothy, Delores, Ernest**, and **Roula Joseph**.
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Majdi** Elias Alatrash (+November 29th, Beit Sahour) and **Nayfeh** (Sawalha) Alsahouri (+November 30th).
- 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, **Bishop Alexander** (Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York), **Sahar Abdallah, Housam Abousamra, Asma Abuaita** (sister of Janett), **Georgette Abueita, Naila Banna, Emil Bathish, Levi Cooper, Vera Daoud, Alex and Panayiotis Deligorges, Vera Farah, Mariam Ghanim** (Manal's mother), **Phyllis Good, Shawna Hale, Daisy Isaac, Imad Isaac** (friend of St. George), **Nawal and Nimer Iseid, Sally Joseph, Nakhleh Khoury, Nicola Khoury, George Nassif, Adam Odeh, Aida Raffoul, Reem Ramirez, Eva Saseen** (daughter of Nicholas), **Nicholas Saseen, Elaine Shaheen, Michael Silpoch, William Sophica Jr., and Lois Teunion; Michael, Jennifer** {daughter of James and Maggie David}, and newborn **Mela Marie Habbo** (November 12th); **Noti, Kari** {daughter of John and Theresa

Farah}, and newborn **Matthew** Mikroudis (November 16th); **Adam** Hawwash who is to be brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and the reception of his First Communion.

- We also pray for those who are with child: **Renea** (Rakan) Bayouk and **Dina** (Laith) Maymoun.

Communion Hymn (for the Lord's Day)

(Refrain) Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest.

(Verse) Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! (Refrain)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reception of Holy Communion

Please remember only ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED themselves may partake of Holy Communion. *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LADIES AUXILIARY HOLIDAY BAKE SALE Our ladies are having a Bake Sale TODAY for Coffee Fellowship – Please be generous and support our ladies and their good works!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 29th, January 19th, and 26th ~ 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. For more information, see Manal Abuaita.

PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum and could not have our annual parish meeting. It has been rescheduled for January 12, 2020~please plan on attending!

RESCHEDULED 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: To better our procedures for Proxies, they are available in the church office beginning on Sunday, December 15th and must be returned back to the office by Sunday, January 5th. Proxies received after January 5th will be considered invalid. If you have any questions, please speak with a member of our **Credentials Committee** (Anwar Abueita, Fadi Rishmawi, or Fr. Joe).

ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY All Women of St. George are invited to attend this Christmas Lunch Party at the Redwood Steakhouse (5304 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507 off Hill Road and US 23) on Sunday, January 5th at 1:30pm. The cost is \$25 per person, must be paid in advance to reserve your spot, and the deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 29th. To reserve your spot or for more information, contact Hiam Bathish (810-238-2152) or Wafaa Elias (810-630-0639). There will be no gift exchange, but please donate to our Church with an extra Christmas Gift!

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) need to be \$4,792 to meet our 2019 Budget. On December 8th, our offerings were \$4,392 so we were short \$400 😞 ! Please support the good works of St. George!

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS We can make donations and purchases by Credit or Debit Card. This can be done by coming to the office or calling 810-732-0720 during Office Hours.

➤ **AUTOMATIC GIVING** Did you know most banks and credit unions offer automatic bill payment services? You can set it up so they send a check from your account to St. George for the amount you designate. This can be a onetime event or weekly/monthly. Just call or go online with your banking institution to get the form you need.

COMING EVENTS	
This Week	On Friday, November 15 th , we began 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 <u>first period</u> 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. The 2 nd period is from December 20 th through 24 th , when the traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products</i>) is observed except on Saturday and Sunday when <i>wine and oil</i> are permitted.
TODAY	Hawwash Baptism 1pm
Monday	Bible Study: <i>Gospel of John the Evangelist and Theologian</i> 6-8pm
Wednesday	Arabic/English Bible Study: <i>Gospel of John the Theologian</i> 12-2pm Christmas Fast Service 6pm SOYO Wednesday follows until 8:30pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

The Nativity Fast ~ Can we be a Christian without fasting?

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

The Nativity Fast is already in progress. During this period of prescribed fasting, we are to abstain from all meat, dairy, eggs, cheeses, and all animal products. The Church does allow for fish on the weekends during the Nativity Fast.

Fasting is so important for the Orthodox Christian that many of the Fathers tell us we cannot consider ourselves Orthodox unless we keep the fasts. The spiritual discipline of keeping the fast is invaluable to the Christian life, for it helps make us lighter, and more open to spiritual growth. We enter fasting periods because we want to go deeper into our life in Christ, and gain strength in fighting the passions.

We need to remember that fasting is not just about foods that we are to abstain from, but also about the quantity of food we eat. It is hardly a true fast if we eat the same amount of food that we would normally eat during a non-fast period. Furthermore, if we hunt for foods that are legally eaten, avoiding simple foods such as vegetables, breads and vegan soups, and eat rich foods that are just as satisfying as non-fasting foods, we miss the point of the fast. It is hardly fasting if we consume a great variety of food and in large amounts.

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The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

358 Mountain Road, Englewood, NJ 07631

Phone: 201-871-1355 Fax: 201-871-7954

E-Mail: theorder@antiochian.org

December 11, 2019

Christ is in our Midst!

During this Advent period of our Orthodox faith we prepare ourselves in joyful anticipation for the Greatest Gift of all ... our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch Governing Council, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your membership but more importantly for taking on "the responsibility" to become a part of our ministry that helps change countless lives. We pray that during this Blessed Season and throughout the year that you continue to receive God's blessings of grace, compassion and love along with His many other gifts to us that are both seen and unseen in our daily lives. May God bless you and keep you under His watchful care.

As a member of the Order and in a spirit of compassion, you not only give of what you have but you also strive to do it in a spirit of humility and love. You give without expecting anything in return and without recognition by the Order's recipients. Your gift is an unconditional, personal sacrifice. It is an act of Faith that is infinite in its effect.

In Fiscal year 2019 the impact of your gift to the Order has been felt by many and in countless ways. The Order's Fiscal Year 2019 actual expenses included \$298,573 to support our retired clergy, active clergy and seminarians. You helped fund \$384,521 for the youth of the Antiochian Archdiocese (including camp scholarships). \$254,988 was provided to support programs and departments for the development & growth of the Antiochian Archdiocese. You've also helped give \$43,000 toward outreach organizations which include but are not limited to Project Mexico, SOYO Special Olympics and the IOCC.

Clergy	\$298,573	Archdiocese Development & Growth	\$254,988
Retired Clergy Housing Allowance	\$270,000	Missions & Evangelism	\$129,996
Married Seminarian Assistance	\$14,750	Parish Development / Mission Grants	\$24,996
Clergy Symposium & Convention Assistance	\$13,823	Internet Ministry	\$99,996
Archdiocese Youth	\$384,521	Other Grants	\$43,000
Summer Camp Scholarships	\$190,000	Project Mexico	\$10,000
Youth Ministry	\$120,000	SOYO Special Olympics	\$8,000
SOYO Leadership & Youth Worker Training	\$20,425	IOCC	\$25,000
Christian Education	\$39,996		
College Conference	\$14,100		

On behalf of all the members of the Order, we thank you for accepting "the responsibility" ... to take care of each other as we commit to financially provide for and reassure our retired clergy during their golden years, to strengthen our children in their Orthodox Faith, to help share and to reveal Orthodoxy throughout North America to people of any nationality, background or socioeconomic position and to become part of the families of our married seminarians by assisting them financially so they can answer God's call. We thank you in sincere gratitude and humility.

So as you contemplate your support of the Order over the years, encourage your family and friends to become a part of the Order, or consider becoming a part of The Order's ministry for the first time, we leave you with what we believe should be in your heart. These words are what guide our work as a Governing Council and come from the teachings of St. Ignatius himself ...

"Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor."

In His service,

Roger J. David
North American Chairperson
The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch