

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

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

December 16, 2018

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

## HOLY FOREFATHERS OF CHRIST (2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD)

### صلاة السحر لأحد الأجداد القديسين

Tone - 4 7<sup>th</sup> Matins Gospel {John 20:1-10}

Altar Servers: **EVERYONE**

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**, we sing the following **Special Hymns**:

### Third Antiphon (during the Little Entrance)

#### **Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 4**

Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen granting the world great mercy.

### Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

#### **Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 4** (*same as above*)

إن تلميذات الرب تعلمن! من الملاك بشرى القيامة البهجة، و طرحن القضية الجدية و خاطبن الرسل مفتخراتٍ و قاتلاتٍ قد سبي الموت و قام المسيح الإله مانحاً العالم الرحمة العظمى.

#### **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 القدماء. وبهم سبقت فخطبت البيعة التي من الأمم. فليفتخر القديسون بالمجد. لأن من زرعهم أبتع ثمر حسيب. وهو الأم التي ولدتك بغير زرع. فبتوسلاتهم أيها المسيح الإله خلص 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 وشفاف، 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 تُفسر ولا يُنطق بها فافرحي أيتها المسكونة إذا سمعت مع الملائكة والرعاة الذي سيظهر لنا بمشيئته طفلاً جديداً وهو الله قبل الدهور.

**Epistle Reading:** *Colossians 3:4-11* {2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before the Nativity}

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 14:16-24* {2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before the Nativity}

### Holy Bread Offerings

- The Isaac and Silpoch Families for the health of their families especially **Evelyn** Delbridge on the occasion of her birthday -- *May God grant her many years!*
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Samira** Nassar (+November 9<sup>th</sup>, relative of the Nassar's), **Najah** Qumseih (+November 17<sup>th</sup>, daughter of Salwa Abu-Aitah), **Jamil** Turjman (+November 18<sup>th</sup>, nephew of Khaled Al-Khoury), and **Hanna** Abuaita (+December 6<sup>th</sup>, brother of Kh. Suhela Qassis, George, Jalal, and Hanna Abuaita).
- 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** (Ottawa and Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York), **Laila** and **Sahar** Abdallah, **Androlla** Abu Aita, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Manal** Abuaita, **Cesar** and **Naila** Banna, **Emil** and **Hiam** Bathish, **Alex** and **Panayiotis** Deligorges, **Vera** Farah, **Betty** Froberg, **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Roland** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nemer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** and **Nicola** Khoury, **Danny** Mortensen, **Heather** Nassar, **Karam** Nassar, **George** and **Renee** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Eva** Saseen (niece of George and Jeanette Nassif), **Michael** and **Nancy** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr., and **Lois** Teunion.
- We also pray for those who are pregnant with child: **Jenny** (Hanna) Abuaita, **Ola** (Michael) Alqazaha, Dr. **Lindsey** (Dr. Ryan) Brunner, **Walaa** (Rami) Khoury, and **Karen** (Nicholas) Shaheen {Drs. Ron and Kathy's son}.

### 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). If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion.

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## **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 30<sup>th</sup>, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<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. For more information, see Manal Abuaita.

**2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS** Please pick yours up (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name is not listed, let Fr. Joe know. The calendars (please take 1 per family) and are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary, THANK YOU, LADIES! Our children will receive their envelopes in Church School. Parents, please make sure your child gets their *Offering Envelopes*.

**ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER** All Women of St. George are invited to attend our annual Christmas Dinner at the Redwood Steakhouse (5304 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507) on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The cost is \$25 per person and must be paid in advance to reserve your spot (deadline is Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>). To reserve your spot or for more information, contact Janet Abueita (810-691-0956) or Areen Bathish (810-691-0722).

**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 (see below).

➤ **OFFICE HOURS** Our office manager, Kelly Dotson, works on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays (10am-4pm); Tuesdays and Wednesdays (1pm-4pm). Kelly can be reached during office hours at 810-732-0720 or [kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com).

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT ST. GEORGE!** A wonderful evening is planned! For more information or to make paid reservations, please contact Khaled Al-Khouri (810-691-8676) TODAY! Adults: \$50; 12 years and younger: \$25. Paid reservations **MUST BE PURCHASED** by December 25<sup>th</sup>!

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**FAITH IN THE SECULAR WORLD:** Living as Orthodox Christians in a non-Christian world

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

In this pluralistic society, there are many Orthodox individuals who've found themselves sharing their lives with non-Orthodox family members. Sometimes these families are not even practicing Christians, so the struggle to keep to the traditions and practices of the Orthodox Faith can be difficult. The lenten periods can be especially hard when the whole family is eating meat, eggs and dairy, while the Orthodox member is required by the Church to fast.

Even the blessing prayers before each meal can be awkward when other members of one's household are not believers. There are also those Sunday mornings or feast days when other members of one's family want to head for the beach, but you're needing to be in church for the Divine Liturgy. The difficulty of being true to one's faith can be even more difficult if your family members hold to anti-religious sentiments.

I remember an uncle who was so hostile towards religion that he forbade my aunt and

cousins to attend church. Although he was an extreme example, there are many Orthodox Christians who struggle to live their faith in an environment that is not conducive to the spiritual life. This hostility towards our Orthodox Christian faith can also even carry over into the workplace. A good number of employers do not let Orthodox Christians take time off for holy days, or even major feast days such as the Nativity of Christ.

When we are committed to Christ, we must not allow others to keep us from practicing our faith. Although it is not necessary to be in their face about our faith, it is important that we remember the example of the early Christians. They were so committed to Christ that they willingly faced martyrdom rather than deny their faith, or compromise Christian principles.

It has been my experience that many individuals who deny the importance of religion in their lives have, in reality, simply been turned off to religiosity. They have seen a form of Christianity that is disingenuous and have therefore discounted Christianity all together. Others see Christians as judgmental and self-righteous, and are therefore turned off to any religious expression.

What to do? First of all we must not hide our faith under any circumstances. This does not mean that we are preachy or self-righteous. A Christian who is grateful for their faith is also compassionate toward those who have no faith. Giving a loving witness to Christ while following the dictates of our Orthodox traditions is a good starting point.

If we are seated at the dinner table with unbelievers, it is important that we not be showy about our faith, but also important that we not hide the fact that we are Orthodox Christians. Making a simple sign of the cross over ourselves before we eat expresses not only our gratitude towards God for our food, but gives quiet witness to our willingness to truly live our lives in open love of our Savior. The Lord said if we deny Him before men, He would deny us before the Father. Keeping the traditions of our faith, staying true to the fast periods and making an effort to attend Liturgy on a weekly basis is absolutely necessary if we are to grow spiritually.

Most important, our dedication to our faith and a willingness to give witness to our love of Christ can have a huge impact on those around us. If our love of the Savior translates into love of family and neighbor, those around us will see that our God is real, and our Orthodox faith is truly a way of life, one that actually transforms our nature. When people see that we are filled with joyous living and not judging others, they in turn will want what we have. The Pearl of Great Price can be theirs as well!

### COMING EVENTS

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|-----------|--|
| This Week | On Thursday, November 15 <sup>th</sup> , we began the traditional forty-day <b>CHRISTMAS FAST</b> 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. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> period is from December 20 <sup>th</sup> through 24 <sup>th</sup> , 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. |
| Monday    | <b>Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles</b> 3-5pm   |
| Wednesday | <b>Arabic/English Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles</b> 12-2pm<br><b>Nativity Fast Prayer Service</b> 6pm<br><b>SOYO Wednesday</b> 6:30-8:30pm   |
| Friday    | <b>Royal Hours for Christmas</b> 6pm   |
| Saturday  | <b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm   |