

December 19, 2021

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!

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.

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!

Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- **Hiam** Bathish for her health and the health of her **children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren** and especially children **Rudaina** Srouji, **Lubna** Jones, and **Amer** Bathish on the occasion of their birthdays ~ *May God grant them many years* ~ and in loving memory of husband **Emil, Yacoub** and **Marie** Farah, and **Naif** and **Julia** Bathish.

Baptism/Chrismation Days

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

- **Laila** and **Peter** Dubon ~ December 22nd

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: **Protopresbyter Tom** George (+Dec. 6th, former pastor of Assumption Church), Dr. **Amal** Khoury (+Nov. 16th, niece of Aida Nassar), **Roza** Alied (+November 17th, grandmother of Dania Hanna), **Vera** Farah (+November 21st), **Donald** Nixon (+November 22nd, uncle of Tim Beers), **Emad** Issa Hawwash (+November 28th, uncle of Basheer Hawwash), and **JoAnn** Haddad Merrelli (+December 6th, former parishioner and niece of Richard Shaheen).
- 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), **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar**, **Janet**, and **Georgette** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsaouri, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Jennifer** Craft and **Brionna** Gorbutt (friends of Mariann Hayek), **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Ranna** Esho (friend of Batoul Burbar), **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Amy** Handley (friend of Nataly Odeh), **Daisy** Isaac, **Loretta** Karpelena (mother Denise Ghattas), **Nicola** Khoury, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **Rafat** Nasri, **Laura** Nassar, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** and **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **Georgette** Yusuf, **Ayman**, **Diana**, and newborn **Alayna** Khair (November 11th); **Rene**, **Natania**, and newborn twins **Xenia** and **Tatiana** Hanna (November 25th); **Panagiotis**, **Kari**, and newborn **Anna Emilia** Mikroudou [daughter of John and Theresa Farah] (December 8th).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury and **Yara** and **Mudaffer** Rishmawi.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Hiam Bathish*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 26th, January 2nd, 16th, 23rd, and 30th ~ 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, contact Manal Abuaita** (810-577-0028).

ARE YOU VACCINATED? DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND NEED ANSWERS?

We are blessed to have many medical professionals in our parish and they want you to get a Covid-19 vaccine. There is lots of wrong information on TV and social media. Don't be fooled; it could cost you, your family, or friends in a tragic way! If you have any questions or need truthful information, please contact Dr. Lindsey (Farah) Brunner: text ONLY please at 810-908-9213. If you or someone you know needs help to make an appointment or be driven to one, please call the office 810-732-0720.

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, please remember you must offer a confession of your sins first. During this time of preparation for **Christmas ~ the Nativity of our Lord** is a perfect opportunity. Because it is so important, for your convenience Fr. Joe and Fr. Michael will hear confessions after Coffee Fellowship TODAY Sunday, December 19th. **Blessed are those who wash their (baptismal) robes, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life (which is Jesus Christ).** (Revelation 22:14)

2022 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*) are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary. **Parents**, please make sure your children gets their *Offering Envelopes* in the Lounge

COMING EVENTS

This Week On Monday, 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 2nd period is from December 20th through 24th, when the traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products*) is observed except on Saturday and Sunday when *wine and oil* are permitted. There is no fasting from Christmas Day December 25th until January 4th.

Thursday **Royal Hours for Christmas** 6pm
Friday **Nativity Matins** 4:50pm **Nativity Divine Liturgy** 6pm
Saturday **Christ is Born! Glorify Him! المسيح وُلِد! فمجدوه!**
No Great Vespers
Next Sunday **Matins** 8:50am and **Divine Liturgy** 10am as normal

HOPE ~ The Gifts of the Lord Abound

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

If we are attentive to all the Lord does for us, we will endure those times when our prayers seem to go unanswered. That God is not always giving us just what we think we need, in no way means he does not hear us. Our days are filled with gifts from God, most often in ways we do not even notice. When we pray in the Our Father, “*give us this day our daily bread*”, we are asking God to give us that which we need. It is not required of us that we be specific in our request, for our loving Lord knows before we ask.

The Lord comes to us in the stillness of our heart, and provides for us in ways that are not even known to us. He has loved us before our conception in the womb of our mother, and is close to us even when we think He is far away. If we allow ourselves to look closely, we will see His gifts abound in every breath we take, in every flower we pick, in every child we hold. Our hope is eternal, because God’s love is eternal.

“But in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.” (1 Peter 3:15)

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Toledo and
The Midwest

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
December 25, 2021

To the beloved Clergy and faithful of our Diocese Family,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
المسيحُ وُلِد! فمجدوه!

It is instructive that Jesus Christ was born in the wilderness and in a cave.

The wilderness wanderings of the freed slaves from Egyptian tyranny and bondage required the miracle of Manna ~ the honey-like bread that God gave to nourish and strengthen. The wilderness also had a cave and a rock that when struck poured out fresh water.

Jesus is both bread and water, the water pouring out eternal life (John 4:14). *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever”* (John 6:51)

Our Savior was born in Bethlehem, the house of bread (Micah 5:2).

When Christ was tempted by the Fallen Angel to turn stones into bread, He changed the conversation from bread which cannot satisfy our hunger for eternal life and talked about Himself as the True Bread; *“man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”* (Deuteronomy 8:3).

The Holy Gifts are prepared for the Divine Liturgy under the Nativity icon. Here the Bread of Life is brought forth as the Word by which we live.

May He who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation, Christ our true God, bless you and your families always.

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY
Bishop of Toledo
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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

Midwest Diocesan Chancery
5549 Ginger Tree
Toledo, OH 43623