

St. George Orthodox Church

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

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

December 2, 2018

27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: *PROPHET HABAKKUK*

Tone - 2 5th Matins Gospel {Luke 24:12-35} 6

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 2

When Thou did submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal one, then Thou did destroy hell with Thy Godly power! And when Thou did raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ Thou giver of Life, Glory to Thee!

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 2 (*same as above*)

عندما انحدرت إلى الموت أيها الحياة الذي لا يموت. حينئذٍ أمت الجحيم ببرق لا هوئك. وعندما أقمت الأموات من تحت الترى. صرّخ نَحْوَك جميع القوّات السّمّويين. أيها المسيحُ الإله معطي الحياة المُجدِّ لك.

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 تُفسر ولا يُنطق بها فافرحي أيها المسكونة إذا سمعت ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة الذي سيظهر لنا بمشيئته طفلاً جديداً وهو الله قبل الدهور.

Epistle Reading: *Ephesians 6:10-17* {27th Sunday after Pentecost}

Gospel Reading: *Luke 18:35-43* {14th Sunday of St. Luke}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Douglas and Sandy Thomas for the health of their family and in loving memory of Sandy's parents **Jean** (4 year) and **Alex Khouri** (26 year).
- Janett and Jamal Abuaita and Family for the health of their family especially husband/father **Philip** and daughter-in-law/wife **Manal** on their birthdays – *May God grant them many years!*
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Samira** Nassar (+November 9th, relative of the Nassar's), **Najah** Qumseih (+November 17th, daughter of Salwa Abu-Aitah), and **Jamil** Trgaman (+November 18th, nephew of Khalid Alkhoury).
- 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., **Lois** Teunion, and **Vicki** Toma (sister of Fr. Joe); **Layth** and **Dina** (Abuaita) Maymoun who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Janett and Jamal Abuaita and Family*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 9th 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, see Manal Abuaita. *During the Christmas Fast (November 15th - December 24th), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, or their by-products are served.*

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH Bring your coffee and join us in the Lounge...we'd like to tell you about a "Visitation Ministry" we learned about. Aida Nassar and Leslee Abud

Pre-Christmas Family Night ~ THIS Saturday, December 8th at 5pm
 Great Vespers, Christmas Program,
 Visit from St. Nicholas, and Lenten Potluck Dinner (see below)
ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED!

PRE-CHRISTMAS LENTEN POTLUCK Please bring what is listed below according to the first letter in your last name. If you have any questions, please see Amal Abu-Aita or Evette Rishmawi.

A-J	K-P	S-Z
Main Dish	Side Dish or Bread	Drink or Desserts

HELP TO BRIGHTEN A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS! We are participating in the **North End Soup Kitchen Angel Tree**. 29 children are looking for "angels" to brighten their Christmas. Gift range is between \$20 and \$30. Attach the provided gift tag (which has the child's name and the code number to the gift) and place in gift bags. Return the gifts by NEXT Sunday, December 9th. Pick up Angel Tree tags during Coffee Fellowship. If you have any questions, please speak with our coordinator May Gantos (586-531-8120). Thank you and may God bless your generosity!

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 30th at 1pm. The cost is \$25 per person and must be paid in advance to reserve your spot (deadline is Sunday, Dec. 23rd). To reserve your spot or for more information, contact Janet Abueita (810-691-0956) or Areen Bathish (810-691-0722).

COMING EVENTS	
This Week	On Thursday, 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.
TODAY	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting after Divine Liturgy
Monday	Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles 3-5pm
Wednesday	Arabic/English Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles 12-2pm Combined Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas 6pm <i>at St. Nicholas (2143 South Center Road, Burton 810-744-0070)</i> NO SOYO Wednesday (come to St. Nicholas!)
Thursday	Altar Society Dinner/Decorating see <i>Theresa Farah for information</i> 6pm
Friday	Pan-Orthodox Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) at St. George 7pm
Saturday	Great Vespers followed by our Parish Pre-Xmas Family Night 5pm

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).

The Struggle against the passions and our victory in Christ!

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

As we struggle with anger, gluttony, with judging others, sexual impurity, and a myriad of others passions, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless. We find ourselves feeling defeated and tempted to give up the battle. Sometimes we even tell ourselves that we have no choice, for we were born this way or our temperament is the result of an abusive household.

There is certainly a kernel of truth in all this for we were born into a fallen world and are therefore influenced by the results of our firstborn parents' (Adam and Eve) rejection of God's love. Death is all around us because of this Ancestral Sin. Our commitment to struggle with the passions is meant to return us to the Father. Yet this struggle is not about our power or strength, but simply surrendering to the Lord of Mercy, Who would save us.

This same Merciful God knows how difficult a struggle we have and has given us the strength we need to progress towards purity and holiness. He furthermore rewards us each according to our abilities and our reward is based on our willingness to commit to the struggle, a struggle that is empowered by the grace that abounds when we call upon His Holy Name.

What do we do when we seem to surrender to the same old sins over and over? Do we simply submit to defeat because we have failed to curb our anger, blaming the family members or coworkers who know how to push our buttons? Do we give in to sexual passions because we have always done so and curbing our appetite for pleasure would be too difficult? Do we gossip about others or judge them because everyone does so?

Or, do we ask God to help us with our anger and confess before a priest when we have fallen, and ask the person who "pushed our buttons" to forgive us for getting angry? Do we ask for God's forgiveness when we have given in to lust and promise to better guard our heart and our eyes, lest we fall again? Do we choose to remain silent when others around us are gossiping and perhaps even avoid those social settings where we know this will be happening?

The good news is that in our struggle with the passions, we do not have to struggle alone. Our Lord Jesus Christ has promised to help us in our quest for purity and holiness. Like the Holy Apostle Paul, we can say it is not me, but Christ in me, that we are able to do good. Transformation of the heart is the direct result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, from Whom we are given the power to change. All we have to do is approach God with a humble and contrite heart and victory will be ours.

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- If you know of a parishioner who has given birth, fallen ill, or admitted to the hospital, please call the church office or let Father Joe know.
- **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.
- If you would like to host Coffee Fellowship in memory of a loved one, the occasion of a birthday, a wedding anniversary, or in thanksgiving to God, sign up on the poster in the Lounge or speak with Manal Abuaita.

Christmas Decorations



I would like to donate _____
Poinsettia plants @ \$20.00 each.

Poinsettias = \$ _____

Other decorations = \$ _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

At the Prothesis service where the bread and wine is prepared to offer at the Christmas Liturgy (which becomes the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion), Father will remember the 'Living' and 'Departed' members of our family and friends.

Please print clearly!

For the health of:

In loving memory of:

From: _____

Deadline: Sunday, December 16th

Make checks payable to: *St. George* with the memo: *Decorations*

Please include this form and your donation in a **Pew Envelope**
and place it in the Sunday Offering Tray – Thank You!