

December 22, 2019

**HOLY FATHERS OF CHRIST (SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OR THE GENEALOGY OF CHRIST)**  
**صلاة السحر لأحد الذي قبل عيد الميلاد (والمعروف بأحد النسبة)**

Tone - 2 5<sup>th</sup> Matins Gospel {Luke 24:12-35}

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 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. حينئذ أمت الجحيم بيزق لاهوتك. وعندما أقمت الأموات من تحت الثرى. صرخ نحوك جميع القوات السماويين. أيها المسيح الإله معطي الحياة المجد لك.

**Troparion of the Forefast of the Nativity—Tone 4**

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the Divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen a foretime.

استعدي يا بيت لحم فقد فتحت عدن للجميع. تهياي يا إفراتا لأن عود الحياة قد أزهر في المغارة من البتول.

لأنَّ بطنَهَا قد ظَهَرَ فِرْدَوْساً عَقِلياً فِيهِ الغرس الإلهي. الذي إذْ نَأكَلُ منه نَحْيَا ولا نموْتُ مثلَ آدم. المسيحُ يوَلدُ مُنْهَضاً الصُورَةَ التي سَقَطَتْ منذَ القَدِيمِ.

### Troparion of the Sunday before Christmas—Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

عَظِيمَةٌ هي تقويَمَاتُ الإيْمَانِ. لأنَّ الثَلَاثَةَ الفَتِيَّةَ القَدِيسِينَ. قد ابْتَهَجُوا في يَبْعُوعِ اللّهِيبِ كَأَنَّهُمْ على مَاءِ الرَاحَةِ. والنَّبِيُّ دَانِيَالُ ظَهَرَ رَاعِياً للسَّبَاعِ كَأَنَّهَا غنم. فبِتوسلاتِهِم أَيُّهَا المسيحُ الإلهُ ارحمنا.

### 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 وشافع، 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.

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

**Epistle Reading:** *Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40* {Sunday before the Nativity}

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 1:1-25* {Sunday before the Nativity}

### Holy Bread Offerings

- Ric and Martha Shahin on the occasion of their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony ~ *May God grant them many years!* ~ for the health of the **Shahin, Moore, Hawkins, and Rhinehart Families** especially in thanksgiving to God for sons **Peter** and **Nicholas** and in loving memory of the departed members of the **Shahin, Moore, Brackett, Hawkins, Ojile,** and **Rhinehart** families.
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Majdi** Elias Alatrash (+November 29<sup>th</sup>, Beit Sahour), **Nayfeh** (Sawalha) Alsahouri (+November 30<sup>th</sup>), and Judge **Anthony** Mansour (+December 10<sup>th</sup>, friend of St. George).
- 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, **Eva** Saseen (daughter of Nicholas), **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr., and **Lois** Teunion; **Noti**, **Kari** {daughter of John and Theresa Farah}, and newborn **Matthew** Mikroudīs (November 16<sup>th</sup>); **Adam** Hawwash who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and the reception of his First Communion; **David** Ayyash and **Gabriella** Ghattas who are to be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

- 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).

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** is hosted by *Ric Shahin and Family*.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: December 29<sup>th</sup>, January 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<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.

### **CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**

- Thank you to everyone that helped with the Parish Christmas Program and Family Night, especially Amal Abu Aita and Evette Rishmawi. This year the children sang Christmas carols in the church, then we all went to the hall for a delicious potluck dinner. Once dinner was over, we had a very special visit from "St. Nicholas" and our children received treats from him. 'Gordon the Magician' then entertained us (thank you to those who donated towards his cost!). Last but not least, 24 goodie bags were put together for the residents of Woodhaven Senior Community. They were so excited and appreciative. God Bless you all. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. *Janet Abueita, Director*

**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 15<sup>th</sup> and must be returned back to the office by Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Proxies received after January 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

29<sup>th</sup>. 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 15<sup>th</sup>, our offerings were \$1,555 so we were short \$3,237 ☹ ! 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 <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 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. There is no fasting from Christmas Day December 25 <sup>th</sup> until January 4 <sup>th</sup> .
Monday	<b>Royal Hours for Christmas</b> 6pm <b>Christmas Matins</b> 4:50pm <b>Christmas Divine Liturgy</b> 6pm
Wednesday	<b>Christ is Born! Glorify Him!</b> <b>المسيح وُلِد! فمجدوه!</b>
Friday	<b>Abuaita Baptism</b> 5pm
Saturday	<b>Ghattas Wedding at the Basilica of St. Mary-Livonia, MI</b> No Great Vespers

## **True Love ~ The willingness to suffer with the other person**

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

What does it mean to truly love another person? It means we carry the other person in our heart. If we do not bring the other person into our hearts, we do not really love them. If we are unwilling to help another person when they are in need of our care, do we really love them?

If we really love the other person, we will embrace them, and even carry them in our dreams. If they are suffering, we will give them comfort. If they are lonely, we will bring them close to us. If they are sick, we will become an angel of mercy for them. If we truly love them, we will hold them up before the Lord, in our prayers.

We must also remember that love brings pain when we cannot do anything for the person we love, and we must, out of that love, be willing to suffer that pain.

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➤ **SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS** This week, the office will be open on Monday and Friday (10-4pm) and closed on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>.