

St. George Orthodox Church

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Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

December 26, 2021

Christ is Born! *Glorify Him!*

المسيحُ وُلِد! فمجدوه!

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*)

- We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Protopresbyter Tom** George (+Dec. 6th, former pastor of Assumption Church), **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** and **Georgette** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsahouri, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Jennifer** Craft and **Brionna** Gorbitt (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** Karpelenia (mother Denise Ghattas), **Nicola** Khoury, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **Rafat** Nasri, **Laura** Nassar, **George**, **Jeanette**, and **Renee** 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** Mikroudis [daughter of John and Theresa Farah] (December 8th).

- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury, **Casandra** and **Daniel** Burbar, and **Yara** and **Mudaffer** Rishmawi.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is not hosted today ☹️. Please offer a donation to help cover our costs, thank you!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: 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.

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~ thank you, Ladies! **Parents**, please make sure your children gets their *Offering Envelopes* in the Lounge

COMING EVENTS

This Week	There is no fasting from Christmas Day December 25 th until January 4 th .
Saturday	No Great Vespers

DIVIDED LOYALTIES ~ We only think we can be of Christ AND of the World

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

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24) One should always be mindful of where we place our priorities. Are we of Christ, or are we of the world? Do we serve God, or do we submit to this temporal world which shall one day come to an end?

Do you think you can divide your loyalties in this life, serving your spouse or boss during the week, while serving God only on weekends, or perhaps even just major holy days? Do you think of God only when in church or with religious people? When working at your job, do you think of God, or are you disconnected from your spiritual life because you've compartmentalized it? Jesus says this is impossible, because *“No one can serve two masters”*.

The Apostle Paul taught in I Timothy 3:15, the Church is the pillar and ground of Truth, and it is to this Church the Apostles entrusted the Faith, once and for all delivered to the saint as its guardian and protector (Jude v. 3). Thus, the Church's services, Liturgies, prayers and sacraments are all essential if we are to be authentic as people of faith.

“In accordance with the Apostolic faith delivered to us by tradition from the Fathers, I have delivered the tradition, without inventing anything extraneous to it. What I have learned, that I inscribed, comfortably with the Holy Scriptures.” (Saint Athanasios the Great)

It is through this Tradition that we bind ourselves to Christ, serving only Him. All else must be secondary. When the Lord says *“You cannot serve God and mammon,”* He is referring to things of a materialistic nature (mammon is the Aramaic word for “god of wealth”). He asks us all to declare whom we serve, God or mammon? And the way to determine who or what you love the most is to see where your loyalties lie. When you are faced with choices between God, and anything else, what will be your choice?

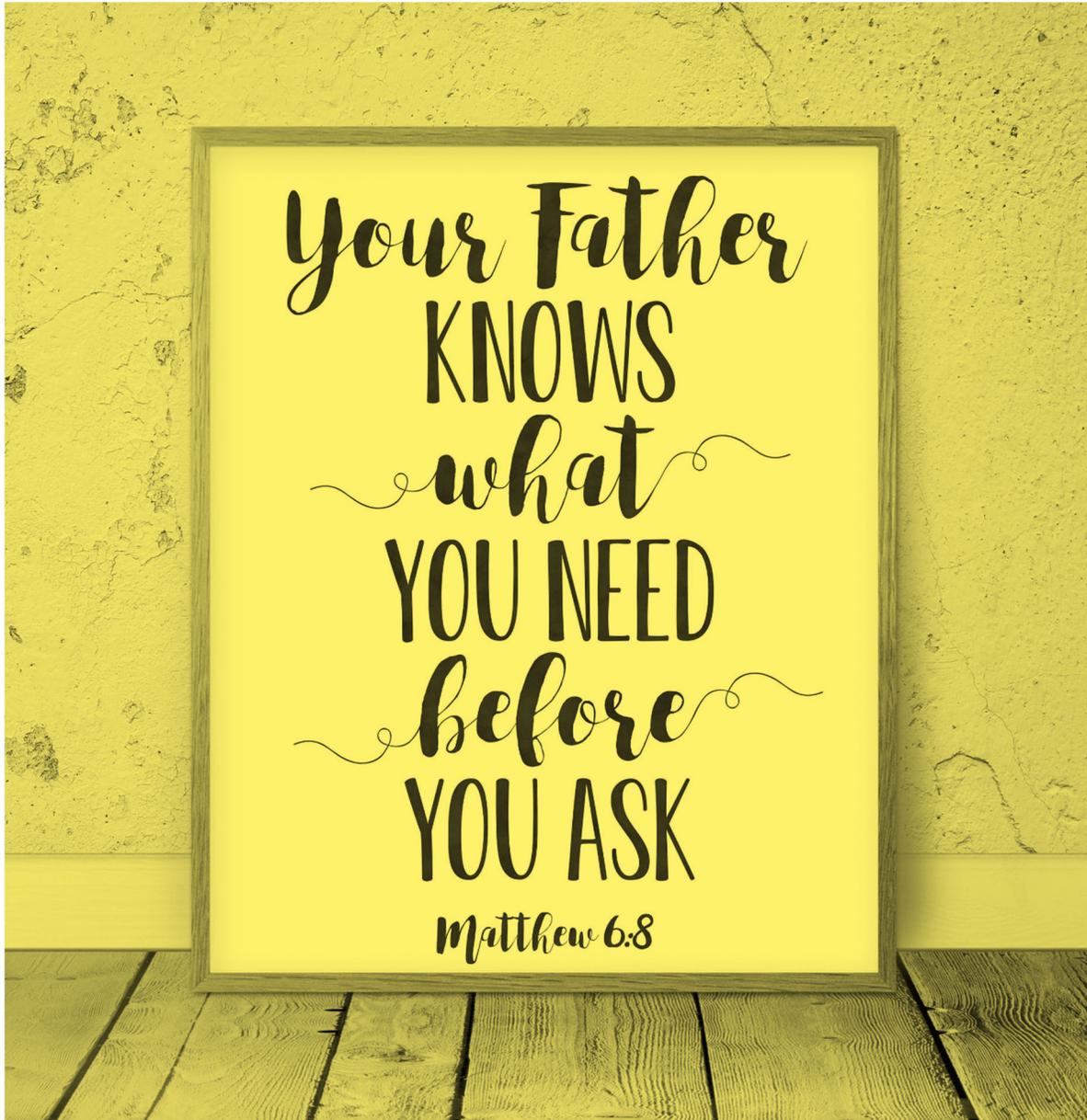
Do you choose to attend church on Sunday or do you choose to sleep in? Do you prioritize your life around your relationship with God, or do sporting events, vacations, family outings, entertainment, or friends take center stage? Does prayer, reading the bible, serving others, financially supporting the church and its mission, and giving alms serve as your central theme, or do you choose personal gain and pleasure as central to your life?

Are you more concerned about money, your popularity, or the home you own, or do these things take a back seat to Jesus Christ? If God be your master, you will be able to honestly say that none of these worldly things are anywhere near as important to you as your relationship with Christ.

continued ⇒

Christ said, *“Be not therefore like them: for your Father knows what things you have need of, before you ask him.”* (Matthew 6:8) If we serve only God as our master, all else that we need will be provided.

Get out your bible, find the Gospel of St. Matthew, and read Chapter 6 which is in the middle of what’s called the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7)! Love, FJ



His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Nativity 2021

From the heights our Savior, Christ, the Dayspring of the East, is come to visit us. And behold! we, who once were in the shadow and the dark, have now found the truth. For from a holy Virgin, the Lord hath been born today.

—The Exapostelation of the Nativity of Christ

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Even today, the light of Christ comes to warm and brighten a world haunted by spiritual shadow and darkness. His birth is celebrated each year as a joyful reminder that God has not abandoned us. In the person of His Son, He visited us in our wounded human condition, and He visits us still. Like a spiritual Sun, He rises each day to enlighten our minds, warm our hearts, and energize our spirits. As we glorify His descent into our midst, may each of us find healing, guidance, and help, in the bright rays of His love.

With prayers and best wishes for a most joyous feast, I remain,

Yours in the service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a large, stylized cross symbol.

+JOSEPH
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

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