

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

December 31, 2017

SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY

WHICH FALLS ON THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Tone – 5

8th Matins Gospel {*John 20:11-18*}

Altar Servers: **EVERYONE** {Shane Gantos, captain}

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**,
please follow the Bilingual Sheets for the special hymns.

Holy Bread Offerings

- Raed and Rania Abuaita for the health of the Khader Abuaita Family especially **Romanos** on the occasion of his 1st birthday – *May God grant him many years!*
- Fr. Joe and Leslee Abud for the health of their family especially **Bishop BASIL** (Fr. Joe's Godfather) on the occasion of his namesday and daughter **Joanna** on the occasion of her baptism day – *May God grant them many years!*
- This morning we also pray for the newly departed servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **John Takach** (+November 25th, father-in-law of Camela Takach), **Hanna Abuaita** (+December 6th), **Iyad Bannura** (+December 6th, cousin of Hiam), and **Marcella Moorman** (+December 24th, from St. Mary Magdalene).
- Prayers are offered for those who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Metropolitan Paul** and **Archbishop John** who are in captivity, **Sahar Abdallah**, **Androlla Abu**

Aita, Asma Abuaita (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Shafiq Abuaitah, Jane Abueita, Abla Abufarha, Maher Alatrash, Ceasar and Naila Banna, Emil Bathish, Alex Deligorges, Vera Farah, Mariam Ghanim** (Manal's mother), **Phyllis Good, Carol Haddad, Roland Haddad, Salwa Haddad, Daisy Isaac, Daniel Isaac, John Isaac, Nawal Iseid, Sally Joseph, Nakhleh, Nicola, and Saba Khoury, Danny Mortensen, George and Renee Nassif, Aida Raffoul, Elaine Shaheen, Mary Salim, Michael Silpoch, William Sophiea Jr.; Ola Alqazaha** and newborn **Christina** (December 12th).

- We pray for those who are with child: **Ghaida Awad**.

The Kiss of Peace

When the deacon says, *Let us love one another . . .* we greet each other with,

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

Reception of Holy Communion

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

- Please remember **ONLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS** who have **PREPARED THEMSELVES** may partake of Holy Communion. If you have a special need or circumstance, please let one of the ushers know so we may assist you. Thank you -- St. George Ushers
- Since there is no Church School, our children and their parents can receive Holy Communion together! Everyone should wait in their pew until an usher comes to dismiss you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Raed and Rania Abuaita*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: January 21st and 28th ~ 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, please see Manal Abuaita.



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

TONIGHT, December 31st beginning at 7:30pm here at St. George. There will be music, food, and a great time ringing in the civil New Year! Tickets are \$60 for adults; \$30 (12 years old and younger) and can be purchased from Shouky Zerka (810-287-1601), Elie Damouni (810-730-8959), or at the door.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDERS Please pick yours up (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name isn't listed, call the church office. The calendars (please take 1 per family) 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*.

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS We are now able to take Credit or Debit Card purchases and donations. If you would like to make a purchase or a donation, please come to the office during normal Office Hours (see below) or call to do it by phone.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly offerings need to be \$5,630 to meet our 2018 Budget. On December 24th, our offerings were \$8,710, ☺ God is good! If you haven't already, please fill out your 2018 Offering Form and support God's work at St. George!

REMINDER The Parish Council would like to remind everyone that in order for contributions to be credited to you for 2017, they must be received and/or postmarked by today, December 31st; otherwise they will need to be credited to you for 2018.



Bishop Anthony's Speaker Bureau Fund

The Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest answered the call of Bishop Anthony when he requested the establishment of a Speaker Bureau Fund. This fund enables His Grace to bring in special speakers to our Conferences and workshops throughout our Diocese. His goal is “...to witness and reach out to our communities and attract new members through education at our diocesan gatherings”. Gifts may be given by a group or individuals.

Honor His Grace Bishop ANTHONY on his Birthday & Name's Day of the Feast of St. Anthony the Great, January 17th. Send your donation to:

Bishop Anthony's Speaker Fund
c/o Mary Polson, Treasurer, Midwest Antiochian Women
416 South Fork Road
Glasgow, KY 42141

Contribute by January 1st and a Birthday & Name's Day greeting will be sent in your name to His Grace.

COMING EVENTS

THIS WEEK	NO Fasting until Friday, January 5 th which is a fasting day (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil or their by-products</i>) in preparation of the Theophany of our Lord.
Monday	Have a blessed civil New Year!
Tuesday	Pan-Orthodox Book Club at <i>St. George</i> 6-8pm
Wednesday	Church School Staff Christmas Party 5:30pm
Thursday	Becoming Truly Human at <i>St. George</i> 6-8pm
Friday	Royal Hours for Theophany 6pm
Saturday	Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Water for Theophany 10am Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

ST. JOSEPH THE BETROTHED AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF GOD

Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. In his first marriage, he had four sons and two daughters. After he became a widower, St Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity.

An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. St Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God and the newborn, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child, working as a carpenter. St Joseph died at the age of one hundred.

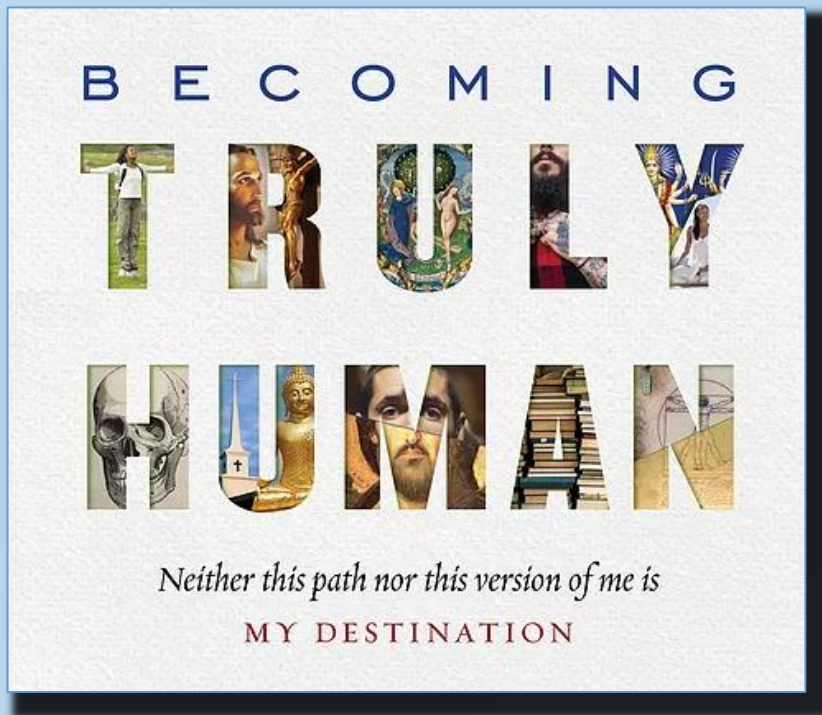
St Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, his Feast is moved to December 26. The Righteous Joseph is also commemorated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers.

The Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, was the eldest son of Joseph the Betrothed from his first marriage with Solomonia. The Apostle James is remembered after the Feast of the Nativity of Christ together with his father Joseph and the Prophet-King David, since he accompanied his family on the Flight into Egypt and lived there with the Infant Jesus, the Mother of God and Joseph. Later, he returned to Israel with them.

After the Ascension of the Lord, St James was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, gaining the great esteem not only of Christians, but also of Jews. He was thrown from the roof of the Jerusalem Temple because he had publicly preached to the people about the God-manhood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Apostle James is also commemorated on October 23.

➤ 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.

➤ **SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS FOR THIS WEEK** Our secretary, Kelly Dotson, works Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (10am-4pm). Kelly can be reached at the church office 810-732-0720 or kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com.



*Many have left “organized religion”
and no longer believe in God.*

**Yet at the same time nearly everyone is hungry
for what is mystical, transcendent, and sacred.
Come join others who are seeking something more.**

Details:

- Dates: Thursdays - January 4, 11, 25; February 8, 15
- Time: 6 – 8 PM
- Place: St. George Orthodox Church – 5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI

Format:

1. Social time and meal (provided)
2. A segment / theme from the movie “Becoming Truly Human”
3. Discussion

Contact Dn. Mike Bassett @ frdnmike@gmail.com or 810.510.0476

What’s the Catch? See the back of this flyer!

What's the Catch?

You're probably thinking that this is like one of those "free dinner" offers from an insurance company or a financial planning firm where you end up with an aggressive sales pitch and pressure to buy before you leave.

Well, relax, that's not what we're doing.

So why is does St. George Church doing this? A few reasons:

1. Many of us have been or are on the same journey and have found how wonderful (and rare) it is to connect with others who are asking the same questions. We want to offer the same beautiful experience to others.
2. We want to learn from you: What are the questions that real people are asking in the real world today, a world where scientific, social and cultural change is happening at an ever increasing pace, and every person is left on their own to make sense of a very real desire for something more than what can be touched, seen and measured.
3. Someone once told me to always make friends: "Who needs more enemies!" We'd like to meet you and maybe make a new friend.

What's the catch? There is no catch.

Just a desire to help others, and ourselves, journey to our destination.

Just Love.

Perspectives

A quote from Walter Isaacson's biography of Steve Jobs': *"I remember sitting in his backyard in his garden one day and he started talking about God," recalled Isaacson. "He said, 'Sometimes I believe in God, sometimes I don't. I think it's 50-50 maybe. But ever since I've had cancer, I've been thinking about it more, and I find myself believing a bit more, maybe it's because I want to believe in an afterlife, that when you die, it doesn't just all disappear. The wisdom you've accumulated, somehow it lives on'. Then he paused for a second and he said, 'Yeah, but sometimes I think it's just like an on-off switch. Click and you're gone.' He paused again, and he said, 'And that's why I don't like putting on-off switches on Apple devices.'"*

A quote from Garrison Keillor's review of Julian Barne's book "Nothing To Be Frightened Of" (a memoir on mortality): *"I don't believe in God, but I miss Him," the book begins. Julian Barnes, an atheist turned agnostic, has decided at the age of 62 to address his fear of death — why should an agnostic fear death who has no faith in an afterlife? How can you be frightened of Nothing?*