

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

December 4, 2022

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Attached

Glory to Jesus Christ! *Glory Forever!*

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!

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.

Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- David Merrelli and Richard Shaheen for the health of their families and in loving memory of wife and niece JoAnn (1 year).
- Douglas and Sandy Thomas for the health of their family and in loving memory of Sandy's parents **Jean** (8 year) and **Alex** Khouri (30 year).
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Victor** David (+November 4th) and **Aida** Raffoul (+November 24th).

- 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, our local hierach **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar Abdallah**, **Reader Fouad** Abuaita, **Sally** Abuaita, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Khader** AbuAita, **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alsahouri, **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Walid** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Valland** Frangi (sister of Ron Haddad), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Denise** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy** Isaac, **Dannie** Jones, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Judy** Mikhail, **Antonia** Molina (friend of Areen Bathish), **Laura** Nassar, **Issa** Odeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **Christa** Whitehead. **Mike**, **Waad**, and newborn **Jouri** Abdallah (November 8th).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury, **Katrina** and **Gary** Gagne, and **Taylor** and **Jeffrey** Tipton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Richard Shaheen*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: January 1st, 15th, 22nd, and 29th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is in the Lounge. *Hosting includes bringing whatever you wish to serve, setting up, and cleaning up afterwards.* St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$30. **For more information**, contact our coordinator Manal Abuaita.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN ANGEL TREE: HELPING TO BRIGHTEN A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS!

Thank you for everyone who donated, participated, and were “angels” to 30 children. None of this could have happened without our coordinators. Thank you and God bless...

May, Gabriella, and Lauren Gantos

... who did so much to make sure everything went smoothly and was successful! May God continue to bless them and everyone for their love of children throughout the year.

ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY All Women of St. George are invited to attend this Christmas Dinner Party at the Redwood Steakhouse (5304 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507 off Hill Road and US 23) on Monday, December 26th at 5:30pm. The cost is \$27 per person and must be paid in advance to reserve your spot. The deadline for reservations is Saturday, December 17th. To reserve your spot or for more information, please contact our coordinators Areen Bathish (810-691-0722) or Janet Abueita (810-691-0956). There will be no gift exchange, but please donate to our Church with an extra Christmas Gift!



Our stewardship, offerings, and donations are needed. PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer your gifts! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) and donate on-line (or *use the QR code to the left*) or you can bring or mail your offerings to St. George, 5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity and love of our St. George!

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 in Holy Communion, please remember you must offer a confession of your sins first. During this time of preparation for the **Christmas ~ the Nativity of our Lord Fast** is a perfect opportunity. Fr. Joe is not the only Orthodox priest in the area, or at St. George, and if you would prefer to go to Fr. Michael or one of the other local priests, feel free to do so (*please just let Fr. Joe know*): Fr. Gabriel Bilas from St. Mary Magdalene (810-750-1401) or Fr. Matthew Butrie from St. Nicholas Church (810-744-0070).

Let everyone in our St. George Family prepare and partake of our Lord in Holy Communion. The important thing is not who hears your confession, but that you participate in this Holy Sacrament on a regular basis. **Blessed are those who wash their (baptismal) robes, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life (which is Christ).** Revelation 22:14

COMING EVENTS

Fasting Discipline On Tuesday, 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 first period is until December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products*) is observed on all days except Tuesdays and Thursdays when *wine and oil* are allowed and Saturdays and Sundays when *fish, wine, and oil* are allowed.

- Monday **NO Bible Study or SOYO Monday**
 combined Pan-Orthodox *Vespereal Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas* for the feast of **St. Nicholas** (2143 South Center Road, 1/2 mile south of Lippincott Burton) 6pm
- Tuesday **Decorating our Church for our Lord's Nativity** 5:30pm
- Wednesday **Arabic-English Bible Study: 1st book of the Bible, Genesis** 12-2pm
 Nativity Fast Prayer Service 6pm
- Saturday **Nativity Play Practice** 3pm
 Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

+++++

The Nativity Fast ~ An Opportunity to Empty Ourselves to Make Way for the Lord

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

On November 15th, 40 days before the Nativity of Christ, we began the Nativity Fast. Fasting has always been an important element in the life of Christians. The Lord Himself fasted in the desert for forty days before beginning His ministry and both the Old and New Testaments regarded fasting as an essential element of the spiritual life.

In today's society one often hears of fasting as being related to some weight loss program, with the spiritual aspects not even considered. However valuable fasting may be for weight loss, the essential purpose of fasting is to clear the way for spiritual growth. Depriving ourselves of the consumption of dairy products, eggs, meat and even dessert, is a way of bringing ourselves into a spiritual awareness that is otherwise not possible.

The periods of fasting the church has throughout the year, calls for increased effort in our prayer life and spiritual reading. Yet given all this Saint Basil the Great says, "*True fasting lies in rejecting evil, holding one's tongue, suppressing one's hatred, and banishing one's lust, evil words, lying, and betrayal of vows.*"

St. George Orthodox Church
Ladies Auxiliary
5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507 (810-732-0720)

Holiday Bake Sale

Sunday, December 11th



Our Auxiliary will be selling a variety of items including Arabic sweets! If you would like to donate sweets for our ladies to sell or if you have any questions, please contact chairwoman Sally Abuaita at sally_iaf@sbcglobal.net.

As always, thank you for your Support!



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
2143 S. Center Rd.
Burton, MI 48519
810-744-0070

Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 10, 2022
10 am - 1 pm

Ethnic Cookies and Many Other Baked Goods

*Cookies Sold at \$12 per Pound
cash or check*

Stock up your freezer for the Holidays

Hot Beverages

