

# St. George Orthodox Church

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Web Site: [saintgeorgeflint.org](http://saintgeorgeflint.org)

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Rev. Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

December 5, 2021

**Christ is in our Midst!**

*He is and ever shall be!*

## 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*)

- Basheer and Aziza Hawwash for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Emad** Issa Hawwash (3/9 day, uncle of Basheer).
- Robert Teunion and Family for the health of his family and in loving memory of wife **Lois** (1 year).
- Zahra Abuaita and Family for the health of her family and in loving memory of husband **Hanna** (4 year).

- Douglas and Sandy Thomas for the health of their family and in loving memory of Sandy's parents **Jean** (7 year) and **Alex** Khouri (29 year).
- Janett and Jamal Abuaita and their Families for the health of their families especially husband/father **Philip** and daughter-in-law/wife **Manal** on the occasion of their birthdays ~ *May God grant them many years!*
- Atallah and Anaam Abueita for the health of their family especially son **Ramy** on the occasion of his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday ~ *May God grant him many years!*
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Matthew** Handley (+October 28<sup>th</sup>, friend of Nataly Odeh), Dr. **Amal** Khoury (+November 16<sup>th</sup>, niece of Aida Nassar), **Roza** Alied (+November 17<sup>th</sup>, grandmother of Dania Hanna), **Vera** Farah (+November 21<sup>st</sup>), and **Donald** Nixon (+November 22<sup>nd</sup>, uncle of Tim Beers).
- 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, **Anwar** and **Georgette** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alshahouri, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Debbie Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Jennifer** Craft and **Brianna** 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, **Nicola** Khoury, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **Rafat** Nasri, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Juliette** Qumseya, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** and **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; **Ayman**, **Diana**, and newborn **Alayna** Khair (November 11<sup>th</sup>); **Rene**, **Natania**, and newborn twins **Xenia** and **Tatiana** Hanna (November 25<sup>th</sup>).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khouri, **Kari** and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis [daughter of John and Theresa Farah], and **Yara** and **Mudaffer** Rishmawi.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Basheer and Aziza Hawwash*.

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

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN ANGEL TREE: HELPING TO BRIGHTEN A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS! Thank you for everyone who donated, participated, and were "angels" to 32 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 smooth and was successful! May God continue to bless them and everyone for their love of children throughout the year.

**ARE YOU VACCINATED? DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND NEED ANSWERS?** We are blessed to have many medical professionals in our parish and they all 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.

### **COMING EVENTS**

This Week	On Monday, November 15 <sup>th</sup> , we began the traditional forty-day <b>Nativity Fast</b> (also called the Christmas or Advent Fast) in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25 <sup>th</sup> . The Fast is divided into two periods. The <u>first period</u> is until December 19 <sup>th</sup> 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.
Monday	<b>Bible Study: Gospel of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist</b> 3-5pm <b>SOYO Monday</b> 6-8pm
Tuesday	<b>Nativity Decorating of Church</b> 5pm
Wednesday	<b>Arabic-English Bible Study Gospel of St. Matthew</b> 12-2pm <b>Nativity Fast Prayer Service</b> 6pm
Thursday	<b>Parish Council Dinner Meeting</b> 6:15pm
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm <b>Parish Christmas Program</b> <i>follows</i>

## **THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY ~ *And the importance of the Domestic*** (home) **Church**

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

We have all experienced power outages that leave our homes without power, waiting for their power to be restored. In an age when most depend on electricity for warmth, light, and cooking, these outages are particularly devastating.

Knowing the history of lengthy power outages on Vashon Island, our monastic brotherhood plans ahead for such events. We have a propane fireplace in our library, as well as smaller propane heaters in the cells, which provide heat. We have kerosene lanterns and candles, and a propane stove top for cooking our meals. We also have a large generator that automatically turns on the power for our kitchen, dining room, and two bathrooms.

Less than a hundred years ago, most everyone across the world would have relied upon wood and coal burning stoves for heating and cooking, and kerosene lamps for light. Prior to electricity and central heating, most families gathered in parlors, spending evenings reading, sewing, and family conversations. The notion that everyone would retreat to bedrooms, kitchens, or dens, separating themselves from other family members, was unthinkable.

*continued* ⇨

The communal nature of the family was natural. I can remember, as a child (this really dates me), sitting together with my brother and my parents, listening to radio dramas. Before the coming of television, families would gather for evenings in the living room, where children would play with Lincoln Logs, or board games with their parents.

Evenings spent together as a family are important, for these moments not only build a bond between parents and their children, but serve as important times in which to share family values. The old saying, "*a family that prays together, stays together*" was a truism that is often forgotten in this day and age. I remember a Catholic family living next to us in Spokane, that had a small family chapel, complete with altar, statues, and candles, where they would gather every evening to pray the rosary. That chapel left a permanent imprint on my mind, even though I was only six years old at the time, and a Lutheran.

Family meals are also important for building strong moral and spiritual foundations in children. Sitting around the dinner table is a great time for parents to develop strong bonds of trust with their children. Dinner is a perfect time for talking to your children about their friends or school activities. Family members that disperse throughout the house for the evening are likely to function as autonomous entities, and family bonds are unlikely to be developed.

The domestic (home) church, which has been such an important part of Orthodox Church tradition, cannot be developed in a family where meals, prayer, and social life are all in separate parts of the home. This Nativity season is the perfect time for us all to restart these family traditions, and build up strong family ties that will rebuild all the good that has been traditionally found in strong Christian families.

