

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: [saintgeorgeflint.org](https://www.saintgeorgeflint.org)

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

December 6, 2020

NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA

Live Streaming of Divine Services

St. George is open for all parishioners or 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.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. John Chrysostom** {*the Golden-Mouth*},
The **Special Hymns** we sing are on the Bilingual sheets from Fr. Joe's Email.

Holy Bread Offerings

- Zahra Abuaita and Family for the health of her family and in loving memory of husband **Hanna** Abuaita (3 year).
- **William** and **Susan** Shaheen for the health of their family especially their children and grandchildren and the members of the **Shammas, Shaheen, and Lakis Families**.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Neama** Kokaly (+November 15th, grandmother of Amal Abu-Aita), **Alex** Deligorges (+November 26th), **Patricia** "Patsy" Dotson (+November 27th, mother-in-law of our office manager Kelly Dotson), **Evelyn** Lozon, (+November 28th, friend of Dn. Mike), and **Khalil** Kheirallah (+December 2nd, France, brother of Kamal).
- 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), **Sami** and **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Fr. Joseph** Abud, **Anwar** Abueita, **Wadia** Albaba, **Nabil** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Kendall** Ayoub (brother of Cam Takach), **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Evelyn** Delbridge, **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Sandy Thomas), **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Diane** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Barbara** Gress, **Carol** Haddad, **Ronald** Haddad, **Shawna** Hale, **Gracy**n Haskins (granddaughter of Mike and Nancy Silpoch), **Donald** and **JoAnn** Hawkins, **Nassem** Helal (father of Amani Helal), **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nimer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Michael** Khal, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr, **Paul** Takach (husband of Cam), and **Lois** Teunion.
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Juliana** (Essa) AbuAita, **Nawal** (John) Abud [son of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee], Dr. **Lindsey** [Farah] (Dr. Ryan) Brunner, **Katrina** (Gary) Gagne, and **Jenny** [Abueita] (Tony) Salsa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN ANGEL TREE! Thank you for everyone who participated and were "angels" to these children. None of this could have happened without our coordinators, **May, Gabriella, and Lauren Gantos** who did so much to make sure everything was smooth and successful!!! May God continue to bless everyone for their love of children throughout the year.

CHURCH SCHOOL HAS BEGUN! We want ALL of our St. George children in our education program. To make this happen, we need email addresses for our children and their parents! Please send them to Director Janet Abueita (cooeita@aol.com) as soon as possible so none of our children are left out and they can enjoy and learn about our life in Christ. Be a part of the FUN and send your email addresses to Janet TODAY!

COMING EVENTS

This Week	On November 15 th , we begin the traditional forty-day <i>CHRISTMAS FAST</i> in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25 th . The Fast is divided into two periods. The <u>first period</u> is until December 19 th 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.
Wednesday	Baking Kaak 10am <i>Christmas Fast Service</i> (Arabic/English) 6pm The Relationship Project 8pm
Thursday	Parish Council Meeting 6:15pm
Saturday	<i>Great Vespers and Confessions</i> 5pm

PARKING LOT PLEDGES: WE NEED YOU!

Our goal is \$80,000 (we have raised over \$46,000 from only 2 groups and 25 families) and we are so thankful for those who have donated and pledged. WE NEED YOU to step up so we can pay off this loan as soon as possible. If you have not already, please pick up a form, fill it out, and send it to the church. Remember our donations to the Parking Lot are separate (above and beyond) our weekly offerings. Again, thank you to our donors!

Jamal and Manal Abuaita
Khader and Lucy Abuaita
Fr. Joe and Leslee Abud
Laila Abud
Anwar and Janet Abueita
Rose Ayoub
Anonymous
Dn. Mike & Pam Bassett
Hiam and Areen Bathish
Tony Daoud

Ayman and Wafaa Elias
John and Theresa Farah
Betty Froberg
Dr. David & May Gantos
Subdeacon George and
Suad Gantous
Nasri and Carol Haddad
Ronald Haddad
Elias and Amirah Hanna
Ladies Auxiliary

Samir & Nashwa Meshraky
George & Jeanette Nassif
St. George Preschool
Fadi & Evette Rishmawi
Raji and Sue Salomon
Bill and Sue Shaheen
Elaine Shaheen
Richard Shaheen
Bob and Lois Teunion
Valentine Gala (2020)

Community in Dark Times ~ *The light of Christ, the True*

Light, is on the horizon!

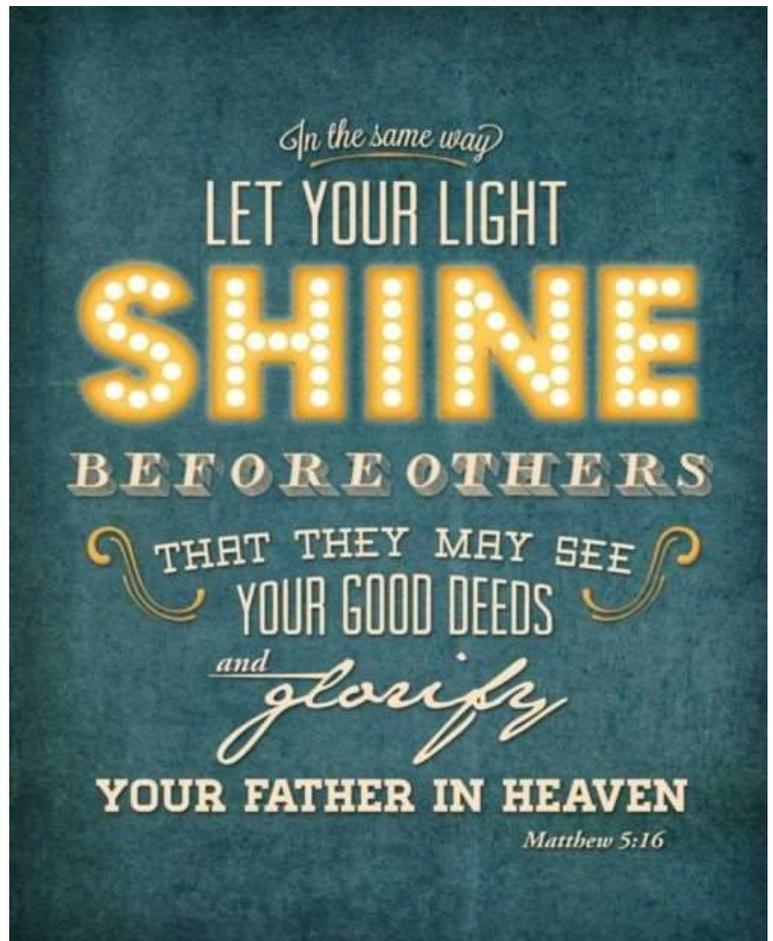
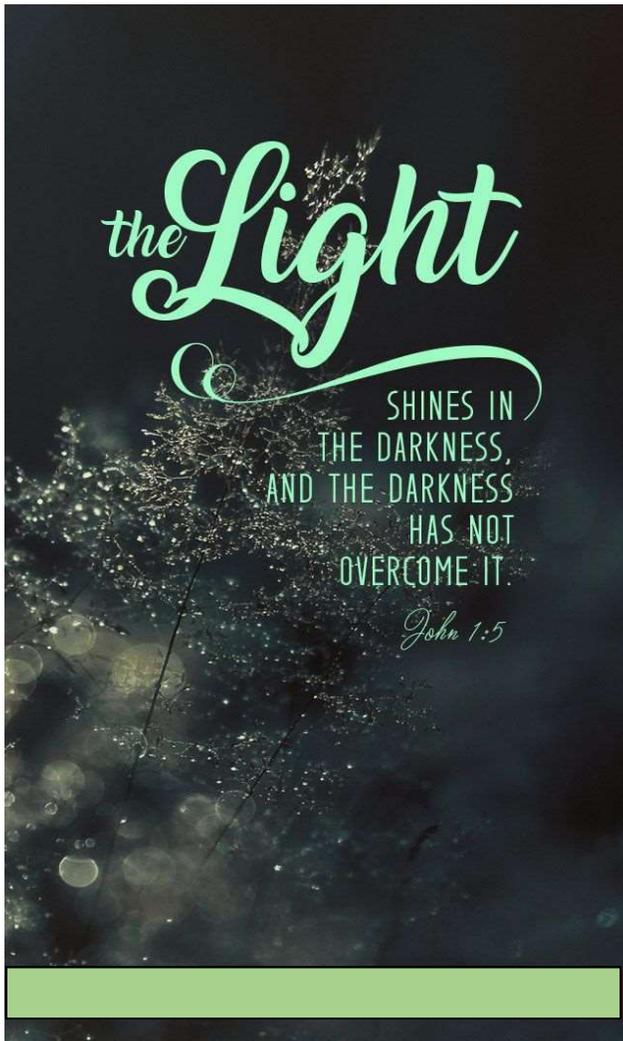
by Abbot Tryphon, head of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington

Times like ours call for us to become spiritually fit, so we can be beacons of light among those who have lost all hope. The challenges that face all of us during this pandemic are not for the faint of heart. The spiritually fit can triumph over anything, and we must continue trying to encourage this new generation of young people, to be prepared for whatever may be coming. We have before us many challenges, and hardships. Those who have developed a strong faith must be willing to share their faith-based strength with those who are on the edge.

A study of history can show us that we are not the only people who've faced pandemics and civil unrest, and we will not be the last. What is missing, it seems to me, is the sense of community, of a people who are united to find solutions, and not simply war with each other. The present political climate in the United States, with its polarization of good people, seriously interferes with the solutions we need to turn things around. What is needed is for people of faith to step forward and help those who have lost homes, jobs, and hope, offering help in whatever way we can. Walling ourselves off from those who've fallen through the cracks will not make things better.

During times like these we must refocus our attention on the things that build up community. Even though we find ourselves sequestered in our homes, forced to keep friends and family at bay, we can still reach out with telephone calls, letting those close to us know that we are thinking of them, and counting the days until we can all join together around the table, or in church. We can let those who cannot join us for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas know that we are thinking of them, and that we'll make up for the separation as soon as we are able.

continued ⇨



We can let the sick relative know they are in our prayers, and even perhaps use zoom to let them see us. We can facetime friends, passing on a kiss over the internet, and let them see our smile. We can let our friends and neighbors know that, even though we are separated by orders set down by our governors and city overlords, our friendships will endure.

It is important that we don't let our separation from others lead to depression, for all of this will be but a fading memory, given time. Meanwhile, we smile through our masks, remembering that others can see a smile through our eyes. We can lift other people's spirits by cracking a joke, or even complimenting them on the design of their mask. We can even remind them that we are praying for them, and that God loves them.

Whatever we can do to introduce the love of Christ to others in the midst of these dark times, will make a difference, and will most certainly make a difference in our own hearts. Remembering that these dark times will pass, we bring the light of Christ, the True Light on the horizon, into the midst of this darkness, and in doing so, we dispel all sadness and despair among those who encounter us.



His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Choir and Chanters Appreciation Sunday
The Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
December 6, 2020

Beloved in Christ,

We greet you on this holy feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, as we honor our choir members and chanters.

This beloved saint, who is revered throughout the world, inspires the essence of what this holy season embodies, giving to the poor and serving as a model of humility and abstinence. St. Nicholas was not one of those great and learned theologians who left us volumes to read. Rather, he was one who through meekness and sacrificial love led by example. He defended the faith against Arianism, one of the ancient heresies that plagued the early Church. The words from his apolytikion (troparion), *“by humility you received exaltation and by your meekness wealth”* serve as a reminder of his way of life and as an example for all of us to emulate. That very apolytikion became a model hymn for all hierarchs. The great love and devotion of the faithful for St. Nicholas is expressed by the many churches dedicated to his patronage throughout the world. Within the Archdiocese, we first established the mother cathedral in Brooklyn, NY, and then soon after the cathedral in Los Angeles, CA, with a number of parishes dedicated to him in between. May he continue to intercede for us!

As Orthodox Christians, we are called upon to defend the truth of our faith at every possible opportunity. While our calling to do so today is unlike that of St. Nicholas many centuries ago, we all the same find occasions to do so in a variety of ways, one of which is through church hymnography. Sacred music is a means by which we can communicate Orthodox theology thereby helping the faithful to understand complicated dogma in palatable way.

It is with this in mind that we set aside the first Sunday of December every year to say “thank you” to our choirs and chanters. Together with our clergy, Sunday School teachers, youth workers and others, our choir members and chanters *teach* us the faith

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

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

through chanting the ancient hymns of our Church via various musical traditions that we have inherited from all over the world.

This year in particular, we are especially grateful to our choir members and chanters for their perseverance and faithfulness in the midst of the pandemic that has hovered over us since March. These months have indeed been unlike any others we have ever experienced. Instead of large beautiful choirs, we have been limited to a small handful of singers; and even just one or two people responding to the priest in the early months of the pandemic. As the summer came and things improved, we were able to return in some way or another to a limited sense of normalcy with regard to our choirs, depending on the local circumstances. Now, it seems once again, we may be called to endure more as cases increase-may God give us strength!

Nevertheless, God, in his mercy and infinite wisdom, has provided ways and means for us to not only get by, but has even inspired us with new ideas to teach our choirs during this time. Thanks be to God, through the direction of our capable chairlady of the Department of Sacred Music, Ms. Mareena Boosamra Ball, we have found ways to keep everyone involved and reach even more people. We had a very successful Sacred Music Institute last summer on “Zoom” that had a record of 357 registrants. Because of that great success they have continued offering weekly “Zoom” classes in Western Music Theory, Byzantine Chant and Voice Lessons taught by the department faculty. The department is also planning a virtual archdiocesan-wide Christmas concert this month on December 22nd at 8:00 PM on YouTube and many parishes are following their lead by doing similar things on the local level. May God continue to guide them as they navigate through these troubling times and encourage them to continue to inspire all of us! So once again let us say “thank you” and, more importantly let us pray for our choir members and chanters, especially those who have not been able to “sing to the Lord” during this time, with the fervent prayer that their collective voices may once again lift up our prayers to the heavens and fill our churches with songs of praise.

With paternal love and appreciation,



+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

Christmas Decorations



I would like to donate _____
Poinsettia plants @ \$20.00 each.

Poinsettias = \$ _____

Other decorations = \$ _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

At the Prothesis service where the bread and wine is prepared to offer at the Christmas Liturgy (which becomes the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion), Father will remember the 'Living' and 'Departed' members of our family and friends.

Please print clearly!

For the health of:

In loving memory of:

From: _____

Deadline: Sunday, December 20th
Make checks payable to: *St. George* with the memo: *Decorations*

Please include this form and your donation in a **Pew Envelope**
and place it in the Sunday Offering Tray. You may also donate online at:
<https://app.easytithes.com/app/giving/saintgeorgeflint> ~ Thank You!