

St. George Orthodox Church

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

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

December 9, 2018

CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY BY RIGHTEOUS ANNA

Tone - 3 6th Matins Gospel {Luke 24:36-53}

Altar Servers: **EVERYONE**

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**, we sing the following **Special Hymns**:

Third Antiphon (during the Little Entrance)

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has done a mighty act with His own arm. He has trampled down death by death and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades granting the world the great mercy.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 3 (*same as above*)

لتفرح السماويات وتبتهج الأرضيات. لأن الرب صنع عزاً بساعده، ووطئ الموت بالموت، وصار بكرًا للاموات. وأنقذنا من جوف الجحيم، ومنح العالم الرحمة العظمى.

Troparion for St. Anna—Tone 4

Today have the bonds of barrenness been loosened. God, having heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna, promised that they should give birth, against hope, to the Maiden of God; from whom He, the Infinite One was to be born, becoming man. Commanding the angel to shout to her: Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with you.

اليوم تُنحلُّ قيودُ العُقر، فإنَّ اللهَ قد استجاب صلاةَ يواكيم وحنَّة، فوَعَدَهُمَا جَلِيًّا بِأَنَّهُمَا يَلِدَانِ عَلَى غَيْرِ أَمَلٍ فَتَاةَ اللهِ، الَّتِي وُلِدَ مِنْهَا مُتَأَنِّسًا، وَهُوَ غَيْرُ مُتَحَيِّزٍ وَلَا مَحْصُورٍ، وَقَدْ أَمَرَ الْمَلَائِكَةَ بِأَنْ يَهْتِفَ نَحْوَهَا قَائِلًا: السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مُمْتَلِنَةً نِعْمَةً، الرَّبُّ مَعَكَ.

Troparion for St. George—Tone 4

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings: Victorious Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

بما أنك للمأسورين محرر ومعتق، وللفقراء والمساكين عاضد وناصر، وللمرضى طيبب وشاف، وعن المؤمنين مكافح ومحارب، أيها العظيم في الشهداء جاورجيوس اللابس الظفر، تشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

Kontakion for St. Anna—Tone 4

All the world doth celebrate with festive joy the Theotokos' conception by Anna on this day, because it came to pass through God; for by divine grace she has conceived her that beyond words conceives the Word of God.

اليوم تُعِيدُ الْمَسْكُونَةُ لِحَبْلِ حَنَّةَ، الَّذِي تَمَّ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ، فَإِنَّهَا قَدْ وُلِدَتْ التِّي وُلِدَتْ الْكَلِمَةَ، بِمَا يَفُوقُ الْوَصْفَ.

Epistle Reading: *Galatians 4:22-27* {the Conception of the Virgin Mary by Anna}

Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:10-17* {10th Sunday of St. Luke}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Kh. Suheila Qassis, George, Jalal, and Suheil Abuaita and Family for the health of the family and in loving memory of brother **Hanna** (3 day).
- George and Jeanette Nassif for the health of their family especially son **Marc** on the occasion of his 40th birthday -- *May God grant him many years!*
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Samira** Nassar (+November 9th, relative of the Nassar's), **Najah** Qumseih (+November 17th, daughter of Salwa Abu-Aitah), and **Jamil** Trgaman (+November 18th, nephew of Khalid Alkhoury).
- 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, **Bishop Alexander** (Ottawa and Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York), **Laila** and **Sahar** Abdallah, **Androlla** Abu Aita, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Manal** Abuaita, **Cesar** and **Naila** Banna, **Emil** and **Hiam** Bathish, **Alex** and **Panayiotis** Deligorges, **Vera** Farah, **Betty** Froberg, **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Roland** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nemer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** and **Nicola** Khoury, **Danny** Mortensen, **Heather** Nassar, **Karam** Nassar, **George** and **Renee** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Eva** Saseen (niece of George and Jeanette Nassif), **Michael** and **Nancy** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr., and **Lois** Teunion.
- We also pray for those who are pregnant with child: **Jenny** (Hanna) Abuaita, **Ola** (Michael) Alqazaha, Dr. **Lindsey** (Dr. Ryan) Brunner, **Walaa** (Rami) Khoury, and **Karen** (Nicholas) Shaheen {Drs. Ron and Kathy's son}.

Communion Hymn (for the Lord's Day)

(Refrain) Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest.

(Verse) Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! (Refrain)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reception of Holy Communion

Please remember only ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED themselves may partake of Holy Communion. *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks*

judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." (1 Corinthians 11:28-29). If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP MEMORIAL MEAL is hosted by *George, Jalal, and Suheil Abuaita and Family*.

TODAY Bring your coffee and join Aida Nassar and Leslee Abud in the Lounge...we'd like to tell you about a "Visitation Ministry" we learned about!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 30th, January 13th, 20th, and 27th ~ 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, see Manal Abuaita.

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT takes place THIS Friday, December 14th. Registration is at 6:30pm and play begins at 7pm. If you would like to help for a couple of hours, volunteers would be greatly appreciated. If you want to play, that's even better! Please contact our coordinator Hiam Andoni (810-813-1076 or handoni@hotmail.com) for more information.

2019 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) and 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*.

ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER All Women of St. George are invited to attend our annual Christmas Dinner at the Redwood Steakhouse (5304 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507) on Sunday, December 30th at 1pm. The cost is \$25 per person and must be paid in advance to reserve your spot (deadline is Sunday, Dec. 23rd). To reserve your spot or for more information, contact Janet Abueita (810-691-0956) or Areen Bathish (810-691-0722).

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS We can make donations and purchases by Credit or Debit Card. This can be done by coming to the office or calling 810-732-0720 during Office Hours (see below).

- **OFFICE HOURS** Our office manager, Kelly Dotson, works on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays (10am-4pm); Tuesdays and Wednesdays (1pm-4pm). Kelly can be reached during office hours at 810-732-0720 or kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com.
- 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.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT ST. GEORGE! A wonderful evening is planned! For more information or to make paid reservations, please contact Khaled Al-Khouri (810-691-8676) TODAY! Adults: \$50; 12 years and younger: \$25. Paid reservations MUST BE PURCHASED by December 25th!

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CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIPS: The importance of Christian friendships

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

In this age where secularism is on the rise, and materialism has become a major distraction from spiritual pursuits, Christian friendship has never been more important. The

pursuit of personal fulfillment, entertainment, worldly pleasure, and the acquisition of material goods, has become the dominant theme of our age. Families that once placed the life of the Church as the center of their week, have drifted away from God. Having made idols of worldly pleasures and pursuits, their family life has become focused on transitory goals, leaving them in a state of spiritual bankruptcy. Parents who once brought their children to the temple, having lost their own way, watch those children stray far from faith.

Centered on worldly pursuits, we've allowed our spiritual life to be displaced by things that are transitory in nature, no longer thinking on the things of God. Our spiritual illness has infected our youth like a virus, leaving them with little to sustain them, when times get tough. The economic, political, and social instability of our age demands that we be spiritually fit, yet we give our youth virtually nothing that will help them through the hardships ahead. The terrible storms, hurricanes, wild fires, etc., appear to be just the beginning of what many scientists see as our future, yet we continue on a path that remains focused on material gain, and personal fulfillment. Hardly the elements that can sustain the human heart during disasters, or terrible personal loss.

The life of a Christian has never been easy, but in an age that is proving to be hostile towards the things of God, Christian friendship is all the more important. We need each other. We need the encouragement that Christian friendship can give us, as we face a world that has rejected Christ. The unity we have when we receive the Body and Blood of the Savior, during every celebration of the Divine Liturgy, gives us strength to withstand whatever may be coming. When all else has failed, and our culture, economy, and material world has fallen into ruin, only faith will have the power to sustain us.

It is only our faith, supported and strengthened by our fellowship in Christ that will have the lasting power to keep us from falling into despair, as our world enters into a darkness that will seem unconquerable. Hiding from the reality of a world that has lost it's way, will no way make the future brighter. Lifting each other up, as we share our faith in the Christ Who came to make all things new, is the only hope we have. Let us not waste this life God has given us, but let us move forward in faith, together, knowing that ultimately, the gates of hell will not prevail against those who love God.

COMING EVENTS

This Week	On Thursday, November 15 th , we began the traditional forty-day CHRISTMAS FAST 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.
Monday	Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles 3-5pm
Wednesday	Arabic/English Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles 12-2pm Nativity Fast Prayer Service 6pm SOYO Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm
Thursday	Cooking Meat/Spinach Pies 10am Parish Council Dinner Meeting 6:15pm Any parishioner is welcome to come, observe, and make comments at the appropriate time on the Agenda.
Friday	Euchre Tournament 6:30pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

December 9, 2018

Choir and Chanter Appreciation Sunday

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy and Christ-loving Faithful of our Archdiocese:

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I pray you and your families are well as we prepare to receive the incarnate Lord in our midst and in our hearts.

As we make our way through this beautiful season of fasting and preparation for the Nativity of our Lord in the flesh, we cannot but feel inspired by the beautiful hymns of our Church that are an integral part of this season. The Christmas Canon, "Christ is Born, glorify Him!" and the beautiful Kontakion of this holy period, "Today the Virgin comes unto the cave" are but two of many such hymns that we love to sing and hear. For us as Orthodox Christians, these hymns give depth and meaning to the season and to what we believe about the God-man.

As we listen to these hymns and others throughout the Church year, we are so grateful to our choirs and chanters, and especially to those who lead them. The work and effort they put into preparing for the services is a labor of love. On the archdiocesan level, we have promoted the continued education of these leaders through our Sacred Music Institute so that they can become more and more educated in the music and traditions of our Church. Through such institutes and workshops, they are also able to share their experiences with others so that, together, we can build strong choirs and chanters throughout the archdiocese. To this end, we are grateful to our department chairman, Mr. Paul Jabara, and all who help him in the Department of Sacred Music.

With that in mind, we set aside one Sunday in December each year to honor our choirs and chanters. This year, that day is Sunday, December 9th. Let us use this day to honor them and say thank you for their effort to enrich our worship through the proper singing of our sacred music throughout the year. May God grant them many years!

Wishing you all a blessed remainder of the Fast and, in advance, a blessed feast, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+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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