

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

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

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

February 11, 2024

## 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! 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. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy.

**Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion for Orthodox Christians:** Orthodox Christians fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist by receiving Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command *to eat His Body and drink His Blood*. In order to be properly prepared to receive Holy Communion, the faithful should fast (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 striving to always love God and their neighbor. Frequent communion and regular confession are recommended for all faithful Orthodox Christians.

**For other Christians:** We welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately, we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (*antidoron*) which will be given when coming forward to venerate (kiss) the Holy Cross and receive the final blessing from the priest. 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*)

- St. George Church School for the health of our St. George Family, especially all of our **Godparents** and **Godchildren** ~ *May God grant them many years!*

## **BAPTISM/CHRISMATION DAYS**

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for our students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this coming week:

- **Lourdes** Abuaita ~ February 11<sup>th</sup>

*May they be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}*

- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: our **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Abeer** Abuaita, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad** Abuaita, **Philip** and **Janett** Abuaita, **Rasha** Abuaita, **Sami** and **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **George** Abueita, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Mary** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **William** Alsahouri, **Naila** Banna, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Joseph** Gagne, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Daisy** Isaac, **John** Joseph, **Karen** Mortensen, **Laura** Nassar, **Jeanette** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; **David**, **Gabriella** (*daughter of Joseph & Mary Jo Ghattas*), and newborn **Edward Joseph** Ayyash (January 10<sup>th</sup>); **Abdulla**, **Amira**, and newborn **Yasmine** Farah (January 10<sup>th</sup>); Dr. **Matthew**, **Christine** (*daughter of Ayman & Wafaa Elias*), and newborn **Maximus Paisios** Krinock (January 21<sup>st</sup>); **John**, **Jacqueline** (*daughter of Anwar & Janet Abueita*), and newborn **Henry John** Timm (January 24<sup>th</sup>); **Matt**, **Ambur** (*daughter of Joseph Haddad*), and newborn **Ivy Grace** Allison (January 24<sup>th</sup>).
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Panayiotis** Khair (+January 12<sup>th</sup>, uncle of Husam Khair) ~ *may his memory be eternal!*
- We also pray for our expectant parents: Drs. **Lindsey** and **Ryan** Brunner, **Casandra** and **Danial** Burbar, **Andrea** and **Josh** Jones, **Kari** (daughter of John & Theresa Farah) and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis, & **Vera** and **Luay** Sababa.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GODPARENT SUNDAY LUNCH** We are having a delicious meal hosted by our Church School today in celebration and in honor of all of our Godparents and Godchildren. Thank you to our Men's Fellowship for making the lunch! Everyone is invited to have a great time! Donations can be made to our Education Program ~ *thank you!*

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: February 18<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> ~ sign-up poster and hosting information are 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**, please contact our coordinator Manal Abuaita 810-577-9870. *Cheese-Fare Sunday is March 17<sup>th</sup> (no meat) and during the Great Fast (March 18<sup>th</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>) no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are to be served.*

**OUT-OF-TOWN** Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee will be on a long-planned vacation February 12<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. **For emergencies** while Fr. Joe is away, please call first Fr. Michael Bassett (St. George, 989-627-9580), then *Fr. Peter Bistolarides* (Assumption, 810-771-4611), *Fr. Gabriel Bilas* (St. Mary Magdalene, 810-750-1401), or *Fr. Matthew Butrie* (St. Nicholas, 810-744-0070). Please pray for Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee's safe travels.

**E-MEMO'S** If you do not receive emails from Fr. Joe and would like to be added to our Parishioner Email List to receive our weekly *St. George E-Memo*, and things only related to the church, please send your e-mail address to Fr. Joe at [nija@aol.com](mailto:nija@aol.com).

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) needs to be \$7,588 to meet our 2024 Budget. Last Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, our offerings were \$3,005, we were short \$4,583 😞 **Please keep up with your offerings!** If you have not already, please fill out your *2024 Offering Form*. You can put it in Sunday's Offering Tray or send it to the church (5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507). Thank you for supporting St. George and offering as God wants for our spiritual health!

➤ God bless our Church School students who offered \$249 in January!

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS**



**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!

### **The Family (and Godfamily)**

*We are so concerned with our children's schooling and worldly success, if only we were equally zealous in bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

*This then, is our task: to educate both ourselves and our children in godliness, otherwise what answer will we have before Christ's judgement seat? Saint John Chrysostom*

## **PLEASE HELP ~ KIDNEY NEEDED!**

One of our parishioners is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. Everyone has 2 kidneys, but only need 1 to live. Both of this parishioner's kidneys are not working properly. If you are inspired to see if you could be a donor and want more information, please speak with Fr. Joe ~ *thanks!*

**CAMP ST. GEORGE SUMMER CAMP** Like the program at the Antiochian Village, Camp St. George serves young people ages 9-17 who come from parishes throughout our Midwest Diocese (mostly the western part). After not meeting last year, they are hoping to bring Camp St. George back in 2024. But they need help. The most critical component in making it happen is sufficient staffing, particularly counselors. Will you consider being a candidate? Applicants should be at least 18 years old, have a solid grounding in the Orthodox Faith, and be regular in Church attendance. They also need to exhibit patience while leading children in a faith-based, natural environment. Staff applications will be available at [CSGlowa.org](http://CSGlowa.org) soon. Some details: Camp St. George meets June 30-July 6, 2024 at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point, Iowa. Staff arrive two days prior for training. For more information or questions, contact Camp Director Fr. Fred Shaheen at [shaheenf@hotmail.com](mailto:shaheenf@hotmail.com).

## COMING EVENTS

**Fasting Discipline** The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.

Thursday      **Parish Council** Dinner Meeting 6:15pm  
 Saturday      **Great Vespers** and **FAMILY NIGHT** (see flier) 4pm  
 NEXT Sunday **Teen SOYO Valentine's Party** (see flier)

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# Fertile Ground ~

## A Grateful Heart is Fertile Ground

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

When we strive to interact with members of our family, our friends, our coworkers, and all others, with respect, humility, and dignity, we lay the groundwork for the abundance of Grace needed to quicken our heart for the things of God.

When you open your heart to others, with gratitude, the path is prepared for a relationship with Jesus Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit will fill you with the power to live a life that is transformed by God's Grace. You will be filled with heartfelt gratitude for all God's gifts, and inner peace will be yours.

The preparation for sowing the seeds of the love of God begins with responsive gratefulness. The Apostle Paul writes, "*Remember, it is not you that holds up the root, but the root that holds you up.*" (Romans 11:18) Any relationship with God, must begin with a grateful heart, and is cultivated by kindness, and goodwill towards others. When you are grateful, you respond toward God and others by enacting other virtues.

The constant and cultivated feeling of deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for others quickens the soul to feel the inner need to freely and thankfully respond to God's invitation to commune with Him. The soil is prepared for the planting of seeds that allow us to respond to God's grace, for a grateful heart is fertile ground for the things of God.

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# A Prayer for Godparents

**O** Lord Jesus Christ Our God, we thank You for all good things that You have shown upon us from above, blessings seen and unseen and for the sacred task that You have placed before us as Godparents of our spiritual children.

Recalling Your words to let the little children come unto You, and it is not the will of our heavenly Father that one of these little ones should perish, we beg You to look upon our spiritual children and have mercy on them.

**G**rant them the grace to know You and the desire to serve You. Inscribe their names in Your Book of Life. Let no evil thought find a place in their hearts and become a passion that brings destruction. Rather surround our Godchildren with Your heavenly angels. Having been baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire, guide them toward Your blessed commandments and burn up the weeds of all their offenses.

**F**orgive us, Lord, for all of the ways in which we have neglected, in thought, word or deed, to set an example of repentance and devotion for our spiritual children to follow. Enlighten our hearts and minds with the will and knowledge, from this moment forward, to fulfill our holy calling as the sponsors of their birth on high. Amen.



*DATE: FEB 17TH, 2024*

*TIME: FOLLOWING GREAT VESPERS 5PM*



# ST. GEORGE FAMILY GAME NIGHT



ENJOY MOVIE & POPCORN FOR THE KIDS

**COME & JOIN US  
FOR GAME NIGHT!**

Enjoy a fun night with food and drinks while playing board games, cards and activities for the kids!

**FEEL FREE TO BRING ANY BOARD GAMES /CARDS YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY !**


**SPONSORED BY ST. GEORGE CHURCH SCHOOL**



Valentine's  
SOYO  
*Party*



Join us for  
Valentine's day  
fun!



**FEBRUARY 18**  
**AFTER CHURCH SCHOOL**



ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH