

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

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

February 12, 2023

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

## 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. 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*)

- Lubna, Branden, and Devin Jones for the health of their family and in memory of husband and father **Dannie Jones** (40 day).
- Jamal and Manal for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Mariam** Ghanim (40 day, mother of Manal) and **Samir** Helal (40 day).
- George and Hiam Ishak for the health of their family especially **Nusta, Nida', Nidal,** and **Samer** and in loving memory of **Atallah** (+January 23<sup>rd</sup>, uncle of Hiam), **George, Abdallah, Aziza, Elias, Jamil, Siman, Nawal, Jamie, Naseem, Farah, Naheel,** and **Nazik.**

- Hiam Bathish for the health of **her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren** especially **Lubna, Branden, and Devin** and in loving memory of **Dannie Jones** (40 day), husband **Emil, Yacoub and Marie Farah, and Naif and Julia** Bathish.
- 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!*
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Connie** Molina (+January 5<sup>th</sup>, friend of Areen Bathish), **Diana** Petropoulos (+January 10<sup>th</sup>, mother of former parishioner Shamassy Lia Blomgren), **Charles** Sackllah (+January 12<sup>th</sup>, father-in-law of former parishioner Rachel Abuaita Sackllah), **George** Thabit (+January 12<sup>th</sup>, relative of Fr. Michael), and **Habib** Skafi (+January 13<sup>th</sup>).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners and their friends who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: our local hierarch **Bishop Anthony, Sahar Abdallah, Reader Fouad Abuaita, Shafiqa Abuaitah, Laila Abud, Jane Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, Danial Alghanim** (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alshahouri, **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Walid** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Valland** Frangi (sister of Ron Haddad), **Elias** Gantos, **Denise** Ghattas, **Subdeacon George** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy** Isaac, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Judy** Mikhail, **Antonia** Molina (friend of Areen Bathish), **Laura** Nassar, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Christa** Whitehead, and **Samantha** Zerka (cousin of Lauren Zerka/Goddaughter & niece of Victoria Zerka). **Ghassan, Jasanta,** and newborn **Luciana** Al-Khoury.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Rania and Raed AbuAita, Katrina and Gary Gagne, Narmeen and Deeb** Shamshoum, and **Taylor and Jeffrey** Tipton.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** is hosted by *our St. George Church School in honor of Godparents Sunday.*

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> ~ 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. *Cheesefare Sunday is February 26<sup>th</sup>, no meat products are to be served. During the Great Fast (February 27<sup>th</sup> - April 16<sup>th</sup>), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are served.*

**FREE KING BED SET:** Look on our Lounge bulletin board at a beautiful bed set which is FREE and just needs to be picked up. Call the office (810-732-0720) if interested or need more information.

**PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB** The Book Club is reading *Great Lent* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann for our last two meetings prior to the Great Fast. This would be an excellent opportunity to deepen your participation in this most significant season in the life of the Church. Our next meeting to discuss the book via both ZOOM and LIVE at St. George formats:

February ZOOM: Sunday evening, 2/19 @ 7pm LIVE: Monday evening 2/20 @ 6pm

Notes:

1. *The book can be ordered via [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or through any number of online used book sellers for a reasonable price. (we also have a couple of copies in our St. George Library!)*
2. *To register for either the ZOOM or LIVE meetings OR if you need help ordering a book please contact Fr. Michael at [frdnmike@gmail.com](mailto:frdnmike@gmail.com) or 989-627-9580. All are invited to join!*

## HOLY WATER ICON BOTTLES

There have been many questions and I hope this helps.

1. You are more than welcome throughout the year to refill your bottles from the Holy Water container in front of the Baptismal Font.
2. You are more than welcome, if you are done using them, to bring back your empty bottles to Fr. Joe.
3. You are more than welcome, if you did not receive a bottle, to get one in the Narthex today!



**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!

## 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS

Please pick up yours (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name is not listed, let Fr. Joe know. All envelopes are now here. The calendars (*please take 1 per family*) are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary ~ thank you, Ladies! Our children will receive their envelopes in Church School. **Parents**, please make sure your children get their *Offering Envelopes!*

## 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.

Monday **Bible Study:** *Genesis the 1<sup>st</sup> book of the Bible* 1:30-3:30pm

Wednesday **Arabic-English Bible Study:** *1<sup>st</sup> book of the Bible, Genesis* 12-2pm

**Men's Fellowship** 6pm

Thursday **Parish Council Dinner Meeting** 6:15pm

Saturday **Soul Saturday Divine Liturgy** 10am

**Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

## **Confession** ~ In Confession We Humble Ourselves Before Another Person

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

It is only out of delusion we believe we do not need others to see, understand, and treat our spiritual sickness. Anyone who believes that he alone can cure his spiritual diseases has isolated himself from a Mystery of the Church and will come to ruin. Only with the help of others are we saved, for within the Christian faith, salvation comes not in a self-focused void, but in the collective nature that is the Church. The Mystery of Confession, established by our Lord, is a clear sign of the biblical truth that we need the Church, and we need the Mystery of Confession.

*continued* ⇒

In confession we do not simply regret past evil but recognize the darkened vision of our own condition, in which sin, by separating us from God, has reduced us to a divided, autonomous existence, depriving us of both our natural glory and our true freedom. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”* 1 John 1:9

The Sacrament of Confession is important because on it constitutes the cure of spiritual illness. Since the goal of the Christian life is transformation in Christ, ridding ourselves of the corrupt and diseased fallen self, it must begin with the death of the ego. We humble ourselves before the priest, when we confess our sins, for it is not just that Christ hears us. Christ hears us because of our act of humility in baring our souls in front of another person. Thus, Scripture establishes confession, recounts Christ’s gift of authority to the Apostles and their successors to bestow forgiveness to penitents, and exhorts us to confess even to one another (James 5:16), since through one another we achieve humility and, mystically, this joins us to Christ.

“THEREFORE CONFESS  
YOUR SINS TO EACH OTHER  
AND PRAY FOR EACH  
OTHER SO THAT YOU MAY  
BE HEALED.”

JAMES 5:16





**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**  
**OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Prot. no.:** PV055/2023

February 7, 2023

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful,

Greetings to you in the Name of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

This week we learned with heavy hearts of the devastation wrought by the powerful earthquake in Turkey and Syria. The toll of death and destruction is only slowly coming to light, but it is clear that thousands have died and the lives and livelihoods of many have been wrecked. In these moments, as our hearts break for our fellow man—especially for our brothers and sisters in the Faith—we feel acutely what St. Paul said about the Body of Christ: “When one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it” (1 Cor. 12:26).

Brethren, the same apostle teaches us to share what we have with those who are now in need, knowing that a time may come when they can help us. He writes, “It is not that you should be burdened so that others might have it easy. Rather, out of equality, your abundance should now go toward their need, so that their abundance might someday supply your need, so that there might be equality” (2 Cor. 8:13–14). This openhearted sharing is an affirmation of our bonds with those now suffering. It is also an expression of love, which always takes the burden of the beloved upon one’s own shoulders.

I call upon all our parishes to collect contributions each Sunday throughout the month of February for the relief of those suffering as a result of this earthquake. Immediately after each Sunday, each parish should mail a check for the funds collected that Sunday to our archdiocese headquarters and email the total amount to Mr. Daniel Nehme at our headquarters ([dnehme@antiochian.org](mailto:dnehme@antiochian.org)), which will allow us to distribute the funds more quickly. Individuals can also contribute online at [antiochian.org/earthquake](http://antiochian.org/earthquake). We will forward the collected funds to His Beatitude Patriarch John X as they come in, as a demonstration of our love, to be distributed through our patriarchal relief agencies to those affected by this disaster.

With love and prayers for you as we approach the holy struggle of Great Lent, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

✠Metropolitan ANTONIOS

Metropolitan of Zahle, Baalbek, and Dependencies  
Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America

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

## Prayer before Confession

O God our Savior, who by thy prophet Nathan didst grant remission to David, repenting of his own trespasses, and didst accept the penitent prayer of Manasseh: do thou thyself, in thy love for mankind, accept this, thy *servant* N. who repents of the sins *he* has committed, overlooking all that *he* has done, forgiving *his* unrighteousness, and passing by *his* transgressions. For thou, O Lord, hast said: *'I desire not the death of the sinner, but that he turn from his way and live,'* and that sins shall be forgiven even unto seventy times seven. For as thy majesty is incomparable, so is thy mercy immeasurable. For if thou shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? For thou art the God of those who repent and unto thee do we send up glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages and ages. Amen.

يا رب يا مخلصنا , يا من بشفاعة النبي ناثان , منحت داوود غفرانا " لخطاياها لما تاب, وقبلت صلاة منسى , أنت أيها المحب البشر , اقبل عبدك (فلان) هذا التائب عن كل الذنوب التي ارتكبتها, وتغاضى عن كل ما فعله من سيئات , وسامحه . لأنك أنت قلت يا رب : " أني لا أريد موت الخاطيء , بل أن يرجع ويحيا" وايضا " : " وتلك الذنوب تغفر حتى سبع وسبعين مرة" . فانه كما أن جلالك لا مثيل له كذلك فان رحمتك لا تقاس . فانك ان كنت للاثام راصدا يارب , يارب فمن يثبت ؟ لأنك أنت اله التائبين ولك نرسل المجد أيها الاب والابن والروح القدس, الان والى دهر الدهرين . امين.

## Prayer of Absolution

May He who pardoned David through Nathan the Prophet when he confessed his sins, Peter who wept bitterly for his denial, the Harlot weeping at his feet, the Publican and the Prodigal; may the same God forgive thee all things, through me a sinner, both in this world and in the world to come, and set thee uncondemned before his fearful Judgment Seat. Now, having no further care for the sins which thou hast confessed, depart in peace in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

يا رب يا من غفر لداوود بواسطة نبيه ناثان عندما اعترف بخطاياها , ولبطرس الذي بكى بمرارة بعد انكاره لك , وللزانة التي بكت عند قدميك , وللعشار والابن الضال , أنت يا رب , اغفر لعبدك هذا كل شيء , من خلالي أنا الخاطيء , في هذا الحياة الحاضرة وفي الزمان الاتي , وليكن معتقا" من خطاياها عند حضوره أمام كرسيك العادل في يوم الدينونة المرهوب . الان حيث لم يبق لك اهتمام بالخطايا التي اعترفت بها , اذهب بسلام , باسم الاب والابن والروح القدس . امين.

# 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.

