

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

February 18, 2018

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS **أحد مرفع الجبن** / EXPULSION OF ADAM AND EVE FROM PARADISE CHEESEFARE SUNDAY (*FAREWELL TO DAIRY UNTIL PASCHA*)

Tone 4 4th Matins Gospel {*Luke 24:1-12*}

Altar Servers: **EVERYONE** {Shane Gantos, captain}

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** {*The Golden-Mouth*}, we sing these special hymns:

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 4

Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen granting the world great mercy.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 4 (*same as above*)

إن تلميذات الرب تعلمن! من الملاك بشرى القيامة البهجة، و طرحن القضية الجدية و خاطبن الرسل مفتخراتٍ و قائلاتٍ قد سبي الموت و قام المسيح الإله مانحاً العالم الرحمة العظمى.

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 طبيب وشاف، وعن المؤمنين مكافح ومحارب، أيها العظيم في الشهداء جاورجيوس اللابس الظفر، تشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

Kontakion for Forgiveness Sunday—Tone 6

O Master, teacher of wisdom, bestower of virtue, who teaches the thoughtless and protects the poor;

strengthen and enlighten my heart. O Word of the Father, let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee: *'Have mercy on me, a transgressor, O merciful Lord.'*

أَيُّهَا الْمُهْدِي إِلَى الْحِكْمَةِ، وَرَازِقَ الْفَهْمِ وَالْفِطْنَةَ، وَمُؤَدِّبَ الْجَهَالِ، وَعَاضِدَ الْمَسَاكِينِ، شَدِّدْ وَقْفَهُمْ قَلْبِي أَيُّهَا السَّيِّدُ، وَأَعْطِنِي كَلِمَةً يَا كَلِمَةَ الْأَبِ، لِأَنْتِي هَاأَنْدَا لَا أَمْنَعُ شَقَّتِي مِنَ الصُّرَاخِ إِلَيْكَ: يَا رَحُومَ، ارْحَمْنِي أَنَا الْوَارِعَ.

Epistle Reading: *Romans 3:11-4:4* {4th Pre-Lenten Sunday: Forgiveness Sunday}

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 6:14-21* {4th Pre-Lenten Sunday: Forgiveness Sunday}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Dannie and Lubna Jones and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Rudy Jones** (9 day, Dannie's father).
- Ayman and Wafaa Elias for the health of their family and in loving memory of son **Elias** (15 years).
- Kh. Leslee Abud and Family for the health of their family especially **Fr. Joe** on the occasion of his birthday -- *May God grant him many years!*
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Ricky Namey** (+January 29th, cousin of Leslee Abud) and **John Isaac** (+February 13th).
- 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**, **Androlla Abu Aita**, **Asma Abuaita** (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Shafiqah Abuaitah**, **Jane Abueita**, **Abla Abufarha**, **Maher Alatrash**, **Cesar** and **Naila Banna**, **Emil Bathish**, **Alex Deligorges**, **Vera Farah**, **Mariam Ghanim** (Manal's mother), **Elaine Gejoff**, **Phyllis Good**, **Carol Haddad**, **Roland Haddad**, **Salwa Haddad**, **Daisy Isaac**, **Daniel Isaac**, **Nawal Iseid**, **Sally Joseph**, **Nakhleh**, **Nicola**, and **Saba Khoury**, **Chuck Koory**, **Danny Mortensen**, **George** and **Renee Nassif**, **Aida Raffoul**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **Deborah** and **Mary Salim**, **Michael Silpoch**, **William Sophiea Jr.**
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Dunya** Abufarha (daughter-in-law of Ibrahim and Eman) and **Ghaida** Awad.

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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is not hosted today ☹️. Please offer a donation for your coffee and food to help cover our costs, thanks!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: February 25th, March 11th, and 25th ~ 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, please see Jamal Abuaita. *During the Great Fast (February 19th – April 7th), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are served.*

FORGIVENESS VESPERS TODAY at 12:30pm, we celebrate this beautiful service helping us begin the Great Fast on the right foot by forgiving each other. We cannot love each other without forgiving each other! As one of the hymns says: *Let us set out with joy upon the season of the Fast, and prepare ourselves for spiritual combat. Let us purify our soul and cleanse our bodies; and as we fast from food, let us abstain also from every passion. Rejoicing in the virtues of the Spirit, may we persevere with love, and so be counted worthy to see the solemn Passion of Christ our God, and with great spiritual gladness to behold His Holy Pascha.* Plan on attending! [ALTAR SOCIETY MEMBERS: During this service we change the candles and cloths to Lenten purple – please plan on attending.]

WHAT IS FORGIVENESS? To stop feeling anger toward someone who has done something wrong; to stop blaming others; to stop feeling anger about something; to forgive someone for what they have done to us.

LENTEN POTLUCK DINNERS Our Ladies Auxiliary have been will be hosting Lenten Potluck Dinners after our celebration of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Please bring what is listed below according to the first letter of your last name. If you have any questions, please see or call our coordinators Anaam Abueita 810-962-1033 or Wafaa Elias 810-875-3398.

FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

A-F	G-J	K-R	S-Z
Desserts	Relish Dish or Bread	Salad or Side Dish	Main Dish

TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY Next Sunday is the 1st Sunday of the Great Fast and we have a special procession with our children in celebrating the restoring of Holy Icons into the church. Please be sure our children and Godchildren bring a Holy Icon from home to carry in the procession during this celebration. If you do not have an Icon, they may be purchased from our Bookstore.

GODPARENT SUNDAY Under the circumstances, it was a great success! Thank you to: *Nidal Ishaq* who did a great job on the Valentine's backdrop ~ we all enjoyed taking pictures; and the members of our *Men's Fellowship* did a great job in the kitchen ~ breakfast was delicious! Finally, thank you to *everyone* you made a donation towards the meal. May God bless you all!
Janet Abueita, Director and our Church School Staff and Students

BOOKS ON THE DIVINE LITURGY With the beginning of the Great Fast, we are holding off on our sermons about the "Meaning of the Divine Liturgy" until after Pascha. However, our Library has a number of books to learn more about the Divine Liturgy: A Commentary on the Divine Liturgy, An Introduction to the Divine Liturgy, Living the Liturgy, Let Us Attend-A Journey through the Orthodox Divine Liturgy, The Melody of Prayer: How to Personally Experience the Divine Liturgy, Meditations on the Divine Liturgy, and more. Check one out and have a blessed Great Fast!

PAN-ORTHODOX LENTEN RETREAT We are honored to host *Fr. Josiah Trenham* as our retreat speaker and our brothers and sisters from Assumption, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Nicholas on Saturday, March 3rd. Please see the flier posted in the lounge and on the narthex table. Our Ladies Auxiliary will be preparing lunch. You must register by calling the

office 810-732-0720 or emailing stgeorgeflint@gmail.com so we know how many people will be attending.

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

➤ **OFFICE HOURS** Our secretary, 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.

COMING EVENTS

This Week	Today is Cheesefare Sunday that is the last day we eat <i>eggs, cheese, dairy and their by-products</i> until Pascha (April 8 th). The Great Fast begins tomorrow, February 19 th and continues until our celebration of PASCHA : our Lord's Resurrection on April 8 th . The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is observed on all weekdays. On Saturdays and Sundays, <i>wine and olive oil</i> are allowed.	
Monday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى and Canon of St. Andrew	6:30pm
Tuesday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى and Canon of St. Andrew	6:30pm
Wednesday	Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas 10am Combined Presanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقد يسه & Lenten Potluck	6pm
Thursday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى and Canon of St. Andrew	6:30pm
Friday	Little Compline and Akathist to the Virgin Mary خدمة المديح (<i>Madayeh</i>)	6:30pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions	5pm

FEBRUARY 18TH ~ SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (ALSO CHEESEFARE SUNDAY)

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam and Eve's removal from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Genesis 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the eternal life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption.

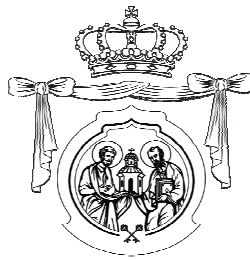
Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing or thought as a mere abstention from certain foods. Rather, it is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen sinful nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ (Holy Communion).

At Forgiveness Vespers, we sing: *"Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit..."*

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➤ 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.

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Great Fast, 2018

If you cannot remember everything, instead of everything, I beg you, remember this without fail, that not to share our own wealth with the poor is theft from the poor and deprivation of their means of life; we do not possess our own wealth but theirs.

-Saint John Chrysostom

Beloved in Christ,

Greetings and blessings to you in the Name of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ!

As we look ahead to our journey into the Great Fast on Meatfare Sunday, our Holy Orthodox Church offers us a stark and fearful reminder of the coming of Our Lord in glory to judge all the tribes and nations of the earth. He teaches in the gospel reading that He will judge us according to whether we ministered to Him by our ministering to the needy, the sick, and the imprisoned. As we begin this time of fasting and increased attendance at divine services, we are thus reminded not to forget our calling to also increase our love and care for others – especially through almsgiving.

One of the truly beautiful ministries of our Archdiocese is the *Food for Hungry Program*. During these days of the Great Fast, we can sit together with our families and make the intentional decision to do with less that we may share with others. While we learn from experience that we can indeed live more simply, we should remember – as we are exhorted by Saint John in the quotation above – that the wealth we have is truly not ours but the possession of those without. I call on all of the faithful of our Archdiocese to offer bountiful support to this grace-bestowing, life-giving program.

As we begin our journey to the Life-giving and Saving Passion and Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord, let us offer to Him a pleasing fast that is not simply a time of abstaining from foods but a time of fervent love of God and neighbor, victory over our passions, reconciliation with our enemies, and generous outreach to the needy, infirm, and imprisoned.

Praying for all of you to be granted a holy, pure, and grace-filled fast, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

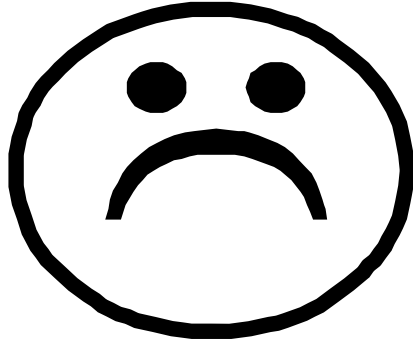
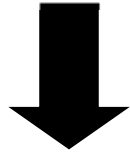
+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

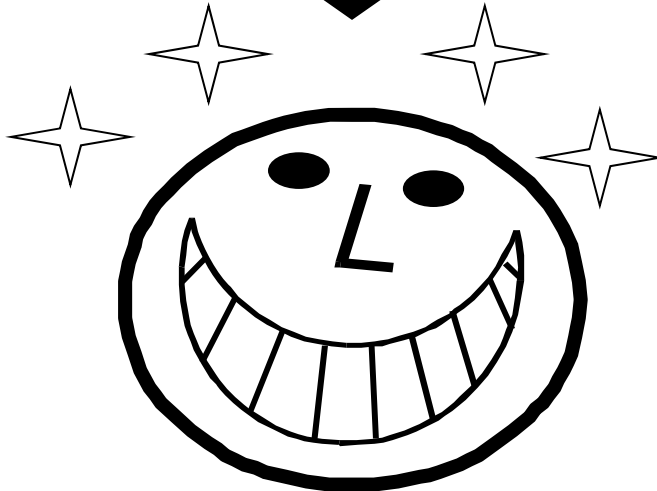
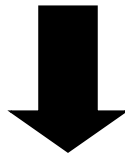
"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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Didn't Go to
Forgiveness Vespers



I Did GO!



Next Sunday
Forgiveness Vespers
at 12:30PM