

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

February 19, 2023

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

Christ is in our Midst!

He is and ever shall be!

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*)

- **Nabila, Fred** (Chasity), **Andrew** (Rachel), and **Stephanie** Sackllah and their families for the health of their family and in loving memory of husband and father **Charles** Sackllah (40 day), **Fred** (14 year) and **Rose** (24 year) Sackllah, and **Jasir** Rayyan (7 months).
- John and Mariah Elias for the health of the **Elias, Schlis, Hanna, Joubran,** and **Khoshaba** families and in loving memory of **Elias** Elias (21 year), **Joselyn** Elias, **Badia** Khoury, **George** Proctor (grandfather), **Phyllis** Proctor (grandmother), and **Irene** Schlis (grandmother).
- Lucy AbuAita, Mary Khoury, and their Families for the health of their families and in loving memory of father **Michel** (2 year) and **Abouna Brahim** Qassis (7 year).

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Diana** Petropoulos (+January 10th, mother of former parishioner Shamassy Lia Blomgren), **George** Thabit (+January 12th, relative of Fr. Michael), **Habib** Skafi (+January 13th), **Atallah** (+January 23rd, uncle of Hiam Ishaq), **Iskandar** Farah (+February 9th, brother of Salim), and **Farid** Nassar (+February 15th, Lansing, nephew of Karim Nassar).
- 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, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **George**, **Georgette** Abueita, and **Kristo** (brother, mother, and friend of Anwar), **Laila** Abud, **Jane** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alsahouri, **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 and **Reuben** Reyes (friends of Areen Bathish), **Laura** Nassar, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Kameel** Srouji (son-in-law of Hiam Bathish), **Christa** Whitehead, and **Samantha** Zerka (cousin of Lauren Zerka/Goddaughter & niece of Victoria Zerka); **Ghassan**, **Jasanta**, and newborn **Luciana** Al-Khoury (February 4th).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Rania** and **Raed** AbuAita, **Jessica** and **Mejhdy** Abu Aitah, **Katrina** and **Gary** Gagne, **Narmeen** and **Deeb** Shamshoum, and **Taylor** and **Jeffrey** Tipton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Lucy AbuAita and Mary Khoury*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: March 5th, 19th, and April 23rd ~ 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 26th, no meat products are to be served. During the Great Fast (February 27th - April 15th), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are served.*

EARTHQUAKE APPEAL Per the directive of Metropolitan Antonios, all of our archdiocesan parishes are taking special collections on February 19th and 26th. There is so much devastation, suffering, and loss of life. Please be generous ~ thank you!

FORGIVENESS VESPERS Next Sunday after Divine Liturgy and Coffee Fellowship at 12:30pm, we celebrate this beautiful service helping us to begin the Great Fast on the right foot by asking forgiveness of each other. We cannot love each other without forgiving each other and we are ALL called to love one another as Christ has loved us (John 15:12)! As one of the vesper 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 or ask someone to forgive us for what we have done to them.

PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB The Book Club is reading *Great Lent* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann for our last meeting prior to the Great Fast. This is an excellent opportunity to deepen your participation in the most important 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: TONIGHT 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 or 989-627-9580. All are invited to join!



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!

COMING EVENTS

Fasting Discipline Today is **Meat-Fare Sunday**, the last day we eat *meat, poultry, and their by-products* until Pascha (April 16th). The traditional fasting discipline during this Cheese-Fare Week (*no red or white meat and poultry*) is observed on all days meaning *eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil and their by-products* may be consumed on all days.

Monday **Bible Study** last before the fast!: 1st book of the Bible, Genesis 1:30-3:30pm

Pan-Orthodox Book Club LIVE 6-8pm

SOYO Monday at Olive Garden and FJ's buying! 6pm

Tuesday **Altar Society** Dinner Meeting ~ for information see Theresa Farah 6pm

Wednesday **Arabic-English Bible Study** last before the fast!: 1st book of the Bible, Genesis 12-2pm

Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

NEXT Sunday **Forgiveness Vespers** 12:30pm

Altar Society's changing of cloths and candles follows

Becoming Whole ~ We Must Embrace Our Material Self, Together With Our Soul

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

Unlike angels, who are entirely spiritual beings, God has made each of us as creatures dwelling in a material world. To be whole, we must worship God both in body and soul. This teaching is central to our Christian faith and is an affirmation of the sacramental nature of this material world. Because of this truth icons have played a central role in Christian history, for they proclaim Jesus Christ's physical reality as God Incarnate.

Our Lord told his disciples that "*he who has seen me, has seen the Father*". Icons depicting the Holy Virgin show the Christ Child with bare feet, reminding us that he walked the earth among us.

continued ⇨

He (the Logos) through Whom all that is was brought into existence, condescended to take on our flesh and walk among us. He joined His divinity to our humanity that we might become gods.

The Lord Jesus Christ was born, lived, died and rose from the dead in this material world. He broke bread with disciples, ate fish with his friends, and invited His Disciple Thomas to feel the wound in his side, after His holy resurrection. Most of the miracles He performed were in the nature of physical healing.

At the Last Judgement the Lord's words, *"I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was naked and you clothed me, I was homeless and you gave me shelter, I was sick and you cared for me, I was in prison and you came to visit me"*, will echo in our minds. It is through our care for others that we will be judged. It is in our demonstrated love for others that we show forth our own personal love for God. The Lord asked the question, *"How can you love God Whom you've not seen, when you do not love your neighbor whom you do see?"*

Because of the Incarnation, our prayers must not be allowed to be centered in the head. Our use of icons while praying, allows us to behold the beauty of God's creation, and brings our whole nature, both body and soul, into the material world wherein we were born. This physical nature of prayer is what connects us to our true self, composed of both body and soul. This is where God reaches down to embrace us. Cutting off the physical world, with our eyes closed, does not bring us closer to God.

Icons are wonderful aides in our communion with God because they serve as bridges to Christ and links with the Holy Virgin and the saints. They are by no means necessary, for sitting on the top of a mountain, or walking on the seashore, eyes open, allows us to behold the beauty of God's creation, and His love for us, His children. The beauty of an icon and the glory of God's creation can all be windows for us into eternity.





ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America Provides Relief to Earthquake Survivors

The clergy and laity continuously offer prayers and precious dollars to save lives in Turkey and Syria.

On the morning of Feb. 6, 2023, two earthquakes of magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.5 rocked southern Turkey and northern Syria. To date, the death toll has surpassed 41,000 people in both countries and tens of thousands of people are homeless. Countless homes and houses of worship have been destroyed.

Heeding the distress call of His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East, His Eminence Metropolitan Antonios, Patriarchal Vicar, and the clergy and laity of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America immediately mobilized to express their love, firstly by lifting their prayers for the repose of the souls of the victims, the health of the survivors, and to save those who are trapped in the rubble. The following litany was offered to the divine service:

“For the preservation of all victims of the recent natural disaster in Syria and Turkey, and for the souls of all who have perished, let us pray to the Lord.”

The Archdiocese of North America wired an initial contribution of \$250,000 to the Patriarchate to aid in the relief efforts in Syria and Turkey that provide food, clothing, counseling, temporary shelter, hygiene kits, diapers, medicine and medical supplies to earthquake survivors, some of whom are staying in Antiochian churches and halls. On Feb. 14, a delegation from by His Beatitude arrived in Adana, Turkey to assess the urgent needs and to coordinate relief efforts on the ground.

Complementing the relief efforts, the Archdiocese of North America established an online donation portal at Antiochian.org/earthquake. To date, more than \$292,000 has been raised here, with generous donors often paying transaction fees to ensure 100% of their donations will reach earthquake survivors. Additionally, anonymous donors set up a matching grant of \$150,000 for online donations which has now been matched. Therefore, online donations have reached more than \$442,000 at this point.

Furthermore, the churches of the Archdiocese of North America are taking special collections (trays) for earthquake victims on Sundays, Feb. 12, 19 and 26. As this money reaches the Archdiocesan headquarters in Englewood, New Jersey, along with the online and other private donations, it will be wired regularly to the Patriarchate to sponsor relief efforts on the ground.

The Archdiocese of North America ensures that every dollar collected through its mechanisms will reach relief efforts without transactional delays.

Additionally, the Archdiocese of North America applauds the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury for easing sanctions on Syria, authorizing all transactions related to earthquake and humanitarian relief that would otherwise be hindered under the existing sanctions regulations for 180 days. This is good news in the short term that will hopefully raise awareness about the humanitarian and economic crises that have now plagued Syria for over a decade. The Archdiocese stands ready to help the U.S. government find long-term, peaceful solutions.

Keep up with the latest news on the Archdiocese of North America’s relief efforts on its online platforms. And please keep giving generously to help our suffering brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria.



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

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ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

أبرشية أميركا الشماليّة تقدم الإغاثة للناجين من الزلزال

قدم الآباء والعلمانيون الصلوات على الفور وتبرعوا لإنقاذ الأرواح في تركيا وسوريا.

في فجر السادس من شباط ٢٠٢٣، هز زلزالان بقوة ٧.٨ و ٧.٥ درجة جنوب تركيا وشمال سوريا. تجاوز عدد القتلى ٤١,٠٠٠ شخص حتى الآن في كلا البلدين وعشرات الآلاف من الأشخاص بلا مأوى. العديد من المنازل ودور العبادة قد دمرت.

تلبية لنداء الاستغاثة الذي وجهه ابونا غبطة البطريرك يوحنا العاشر، بطريرك أنطاكية وسائر المشرق، تحرك على الفور صاحب السيادة المطران أنطونيوس، الوكيل البطريركي، والإكليروس والعلمانيون من أبرشية أميركا الشمالية الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية ليعبروا عن محبتهم أولاً برفع صلواتهم لأجل راحة نفوس الضحايا ولأجل عافية الناجين ولأجل إنقاذ المحتجزين تحت الركام والجرحى والمتألمين، وقد زيدت لهذا الهدف الطلبة التالية في الخدمات الإلهية:

"من أجل حفظ ضحايا الزلزلة الأخيرة في سوريا وتركيا وعافيتهم وشفانهم، ومن أجل أرواح جميع الذين قضوا، إلى الرب نطلب."

أرسلت أبرشية أميركا الشمالية مساهمة أولية قدرها ٢٥٠ ألف دولار إلى البطريركية للمساعدة في أعمال الإغاثة في سوريا وتركيا عبر توزيع حصص غذائية وألبسة وتقديم الاستشارات النفسية والمأوى المؤقت ومستلزمات النظافة والحفاضات والأدوية والمستلزمات الطبية، التي وزعها على الناجين من الزلزال، وعلى الذين التجأوا في الرعايا الانطاكية وكنائسها وقاعاتها.

في ١٤ شباط، وصل وفد من قبل صاحب الغبطة الى أضنة في تركيا لتقييم الاحتياجات العاجلة ولتنسيق جهود الإغاثة على الأرض.

استكمالاً لدعم أعمال الإغاثة، أسست أبرشية أميركا الشمالية بوابة تبرعات عبر الإنترنت على (antiochian.org/earthquake). تم، حتى الآن، جمع أكثر من ٢٩٢ ألف دولار أمريكي، حيث قدم المتبرعون الأسخياء رسوم المعاملات لضمان وصول ١٠٠٪ من تبرعاتهم إلى الناجين من الزلزال. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، قام متبرعون لا يرغبون بالتعريف عن أنفسهم بتقديم ما يصل إلى ١٥٠ ألف دولار أمريكي في شكل تبرعات مطابقة لجميع التبرعات عبر الإنترنت والتي تم مطابقتها. وصلت التبرعات عبر الإنترنت إلى أكثر من ٤٤٢ ألف دولار في هذه المرحلة. كل هذه الأموال يتم تحويلها على الفور إلى البطريركية لدعم جهود الإغاثة على الأرض.

في نفس الخط، تخصص كنائس أبرشية أميركا الشمالية صينية خاصة لجمع التبرعات لضحايا الزلزال أيام الأحد في ١٢، ١٩، و ٢٦ شباط. بمجرد جمع هذه التبرعات في مقر الأبرشية في إنجلود، نيو جيرسي، سيتم تحويلها على الفور إلى البطريركية.

تضمن أبرشية أميركا الشمالية، من خلال آليات عملها، وصول كل دولار يتم جمعه لأجل أعمال الإغاثة دون تأخير المعاملات.

بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تنني أبرشية أميركا الشمالية على وزارة الخزانة الأمريكية لتخفيف العقوبات على سوريا لمدة ١٨٠ يوماً، والسماح بوصول جميع الحوالات المتعلقة بالزلزال والمساعدات الإنسانية، والتي كانت محظورة سابقاً بموجب لوائح العقوبات. هذه أخبار جيدة على المدى القصير ونأمل أن ترفع من مستوى الوعي حول الأزمات الإنسانية والاقتصادية التي لا تزال تعصف بسوريا لأكثر من عقد. تقف الأبرشية على أشد الاستعداد لمساعدة حكومة الولايات المتحدة في إيجاد حلول سلمية طويلة الأمد.

تابع آخر أخبار جهود الإغاثة التي تبذلها أبرشية أميركا الشمالية على صفحاتها الإلكترونية، راجيين ان تستمروا في العطاء بسخاء لمساعدة إخواننا وأخواتنا الذين يعانون في تركيا وسوريا.



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WORKPLACE GIVING/CORPORATE EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers use their resources to give back to their communities, while both encouraging and empowering you and your colleagues to do the same. When you donate, find out if you can double or even triple the impact of your donation through your employer's matching gifts program.

Encourage your employer to match gifts at <https://antiochian.org/earthquake>. It is tax deductible. You can use the email template below to submit your request to your HR team.

If your employer does not have a matching gifts program, you can still approach your HR team to make a one-time match or its own contribution.

**2023 EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

My church is raising funds to save lives after the earthquake that rocked Turkey and Syria. Hundreds of thousands of people are homeless there and in desperate need of food, clothing, temporary shelter, hygiene kits, diapers, medicine and medical supplies to rebuild their lives.

I recently donated to the [2023 Earthquake Relief Fund](#) and I want to make a greater impact by asking you to consider joining other companies in matching employee donations. My church, the [Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America](#), ensures that every dollar collected will reach relief efforts of our mother church, the [Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch](#), without transactional delays.

The mother church – one of the original Christian churches – has a [humanitarian team](#) that is distributing life-saving supplies and counseling survivors. Its charitable services transcend affiliation, serving others **regardless** of their religion, national origin, or race. It embodies faith in action. The team continues to work tirelessly to aid and relieve suffering.

Thank you for your thoughtful and compassionate consideration.

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