

February 2, 2020

GREAT FEAST OF **THE MEETING OF OUR LORD**

لعيد دخول السيد إلى الهيكل

Tone - 8 11th Matins Gospel {*John 21:15-25*}

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 the **Special Hymns** on the Bilingual sheets on the Narthex table.

Holy Bread Offerings

- The Elias Hanna, Ayman and Wafaa Elias, and Najwa Joubran Families for the health of their families and in loving memory of aunt **Adibah** Elias (3 day, Syria).
- Emil and Jamil Rishmawi for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Hanna** Rishmawi (9 day, Emil's brother-in-law and Jamil's uncle).
- Issa and Lina Burbar and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Amal** (40 day) and **Abdallah** Burbar (Issa's parents).
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Nicholas** (40 day) and **Margaret** Butrie (40 day, parents of Fr. Matthew at St. Nicholas), **Dennis** Perez (+January 8th, friend of St. George), **May** Woodward (January 9th, relative of JoAnn Hawkins), **Archpriest Patrick** Kinder (+January 14th, friend of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee), and **Harry** Aydinian (+January 19th).
- 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), **Sahar** Abdallah, **Housam** Abousamra, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Wadia** Albaba, **Naila** Banna, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Alex** and

Panayiotis Deligorges, **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Sandy Thomas), **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Elias** Gantos, **Phyllis** Good, **Shawna** Hale, **Don** and **JoAnn** Hawkins, **Daisy** Isaac, **Imad** Isaac (friend of St. George), **Nawal** and **Nimer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Eva** Saseen (daughter of Nicholas), **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** Sophia Jr., and **Lois** Teunion.

- We also pray for those who are with child: **Renea** (Rakan) Bayouk and **Dina** (Laith) Maymoun.

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).

- Since Church School is in session, please allow our Staff and then our Children to receive Holy Communion first! As always, please follow our Ushers' directions ~ thank you!
- If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion.
- If you have a special need, please let one of our Ushers know so they may assist you.
- As a reminder, please do not talk in church. We are here to pray and worship God. When people talk and greet each other, we are being rude to God while distracting those who are praying and preparing themselves for HOLY COMMUNION. Please wait until Coffee Fellowship to say hello and visit with one another. In the communion line, the only people who should be talking are those who are asking and receiving forgiveness from one another.

- فقط للتذكير بطريقة ودية: الرجاء عدم الكلام داخل الكنيسة. نحن هنا للصلاة وتقديم فروض العبادة لله. عندما نتحدث ونقدم التحية للآخرين داخل الكنيسة، فنحن نساهم في تقديم اهانة لله، ونشنت أولئك الذين يصلون ويهيئون أنفسهم لتناول القربان المقدس. يرجى الانتظار حتى الدخول الى صالة الكنيسة عندها يمكنكم تناول القهوة والقاء التحية على الآخرين، الاشخاص الوحيديين الذين يسمح لهم بالحديث هم فقط من يسألون ويقبلون المسامحة وطلب المغفرة قبل تناول.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Issa and Lina Burbar and Family*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: February 16th and 23rd ~ 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.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) need to be \$5,005 to meet our 2020 Budget. On January 26th, our offerings were \$1,990 so we were short \$3,015 😊! If you have not already, please fill out your 2020 Offering Form (on Narthex Table) and support the good works of St. George!

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.	
Monday	Bible Study: <i>Gospel of John the Evangelist and Theologian</i>	6-8pm
Wednesday	Arabic/English Bible Study: <i>Gospel of John the Theologian</i>	12-2pm
	Memorial Service for Fr. Matthew's parents at <i>St. Nicholas</i>	6pm
	SOYO Wednesday	6:30-8:30pm
Friday	Valentine GALA	7pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions	5pm
Next Sunday	GODPARENT SUNDAY!!!	

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.

- 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.
- If you would like to host our Coffee Fellowship in memory of a loved one, the occasion of a birthday, a wedding anniversary, or in thanksgiving to God, sign up on the poster in the Lounge or speak with Manal Abuaita.
- If you would like to offer Holy Bread (*Holy Oblation or Offering*) in memory of a loved one, for the health or safety of a loved one, or to commemorate a special occasion, please call the church office (810-732-0720) by 12 Noon the Wednesday before.
 - ⇒ If the offering is in memory of a loved one, please state if you would like to have a **Memorial Service**, which takes place near the end of Divine Liturgy. It is always appropriate to have a Memorial Service on the 3rd, 9th, and 40th day after one's falling asleep along with the yearly anniversary. It may also be done on the 6th month anniversary. If you would like to make the Holy Bread, please see or contact Aida Nassar 810-433-1515.

Alone ~ When God seems absent

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

We all have those moments in our lives when we feel as though God is absent ~ even perhaps nonexistent. Those times leave us feeling alone and abandoned, as though we are lost in an empty stadium. We feel as though we are on a boat that has been set adrift without an engine, floating further from shore, and heading to an uncertain future.

Such occasions in our life journey are not unlike those early days, while we were still toddlers, when mom would be holding our hands, while dad would be reaching out to us, but feet away, urging us to take our first step. We were not in any danger, but we certainly did not feel that way as we felt mom's hands separate from ours. We felt fearful, vulnerable. We felt as though we were going to fall, yet our dad's outstretched arms were reaching out, offering the security that we always had, yet encouraging us to stand on our own, taking the first steps into independence.

God is like that with us. Those periods of time when He seems distant, even perhaps a

fictional being, are moments when He is actually closer to us than our own breath. These are the moments God is drawing us out of ourselves, and into communion with Him. His outstretched arms are there, even though we do not see them. These moments strengthen us, and enable us to have a mature relationship with God, not unlike the mature relationship the child develops with his parents, after taking those first steps, alone.

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Encouragement ~ The Church must encourage her children

It deeply saddens me when I see some in the Church taking the stand that the Church must be the enforcer of God's law. In this view, the Church becomes like some arm of the military, dishing out punishment, or excluding some of her children as ill fit for anything but condemnation.

I remember a fellow high school teacher, some thirty-six years ago, who had a good list and a bad list. The good list was comprised of students he liked, the ones who consistently got their homework in on time, and whose grades were above average. Then there was the bad list. These were the students who were academically challenged, and who more often than not had a very low self-image. When this teacher wrote an A+ on an exam, it was written with a preciseness, elegance, that bespoke of his admiration for this student. Yet when he wrote a D+ or an F, you could read the anger in his style.

Students would walk out of his class with their spirits soaring, or with the knowledge that they were a total failure, even worthless, in this teacher's eyes. Many of these students would walk into my classroom the following period, and I could tell their grades from the look on their faces, and it would take considerable effort on my part to lift the spirits of the "bad" student.

An older, more experienced teacher had once shared with me her approach to grading, and I followed her grading plan. If there were twenty questions on a test, and the student got only four correct answers, I wrote 4+, with a little smiling star next to the number. I would tell the student that four correct answers was a good start, and the grades went up from there!

As the hospital for the soul, the Church should view everyone who walks through the narthex in the same light. Some people are, for whatever reason, living the Gospel, and willing to commit one hundred percent to their life in Christ. They are always early for services, make good confessions, receive the Holy Mysteries frequently, and volunteer for whatever task is set before them. Others struggle with the Christian life, and are barely identifiable as belonging to Christ. These people are stuck in patterns of living not in concert with the teachings of the Gospel. Yet both sets of people are in need of the same healing that comes in an encounter with the Living God.

If the Church loves only those who are in the first list, we will have failed, for those in the second list are in need of more attention and love than the first list. It is like the mother who once told me she loved her youngest son the most, not because he was smart, or polite, or obedient, or handsome, like her other two sons, but because her youngest son was troubled, homely, disobedient, and angry. The youngest son needed the encouragement of his mother. He needed his mother's love more than the others did.

This is why I have always loved the image of the Church as being our mother.

St. George Orthodox Church

Valentine Gala

THIS Friday, February 7, 2020

at the St. George Banquet Center

Cocktail Hour - 7pm

Dinner catered by Chef Luis Fernandes (Redwood Steakhouse) - 8pm

Dancing and Entertainment provided by Bassam Saleh

Reservations - \$100 per person

Evening Attire: Cocktail

Funds raised support the good works of St. George!

(Door Prize) \$500 Somerset Shopping Spree

(Raffle Prizes) Diamond Pendant donated by Diamond Galleria ~ Michel & Nadia Hamati

Two International Flights to the Holy Land (excluding June-August) donated by Mousa Rishmawi

Sponsorships Received as of February 1st:

DIAMOND

*The Farah Family in memory of George Farah
Sorenson Gross Construction Company*

GOLD

*Khader Abuaita and Emil Abueita & Families
Phillip Abuaita, Sons, & Families
Basil and Hiam Andoni
Dannie and Lubna Jones
Vera Farah in memory of Jerry and Sam Farah
Salim and Randa Farah in memory of Peter
The Great Put On ~ Raji and Susan Salomon*

SILVER

*Decorations for All Occasions ~ Nidal Ishaq (in kind)
Mousa Rishmawi (in kind)*

PLATINUM

*Best Western Plus: ~ Majdi and Maher Alqazaha
Diamond Galleria ~ Michel and Nadia Hamati (in kind)
Walid and Wael Hayek & Families and Saher Helal
Ziyad Ibrahim, Amjad Ishak, and Fadi Rishmawi & Families*

BRONZE

*Anwar and Janet Abueita & Family
George and Muna Abuaita
Barhoum George AbuFarha
John and Theresa Farah
Judge Joseph J. Farah
Victor Farah and Judge Robin Hudson in honor of Vera Farah
Express Auto Sales, Tire, & Service ~ Rodney and Amira Helal
Nassar Families in memory of Souheil, Jamil, and Khader
George and Jeanette Nassif
St. George Preschool and Childcare
William and Susan Shaheen*

Valentine Gala Sponsorship Levels & Benefits:

Diamond -- \$2,500:

10 tickets with Diamond Seating
Company Logo on Step & Repeat Backdrop
Company recognized on Sunday, February 9th during church's Coffee Fellowship
Company recognized from podium at event program
Company Logo on all event's prints & signage*

Platinum -- \$1,500:

8 tickets with Platinum Seating
Company recognized on Sunday, February 9th during church's Coffee Fellowship
Company recognized from podium at event program
Company Logo on all event's prints & signage*

Gold -- \$1,000:

6 tickets with Gold Seating
Company recognized from podium at event program
Company Logo on all event's prints & signage*

Silver -- \$800:

4 tickets with Silver Seating
Company Logo on all event's prints & signage*

Bronze -- \$500:

2 tickets with Bronze Seating
Company Name on all event's prints & signage*

Please note: Your contribution is tax-deductible by the maximum extent allowed by law.

Sponsorship Form

Please print name of Individual or Business as it should appear on printed materials:

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Sponsorship Level: _____ Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please charge my: Visa / MasterCard / American Express Account #: _____ Expires: ____/____

Those companies eligible for logo recognition (see Levels & Benefits), please submit your company/business logo to Office Manager Kelly Dotson.

Please mail check and send form by fax or email (kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com) to:
St. George Orthodox Church • 5191 Lennon Road • Flint, MI 48507 • Fax 810-732-0324

St. George Orthodox Church Valentine Gala Raffle

1st Prize

*Diamond Pendant donated by Diamond Galleria - 14Karat White Gold 1.501CT
Diamond (Value \$2,500) - Graciously Donated by Michel & Nadia Hamati*



2nd Prize

*Two International Airline Tickets to the Holy Land (Value \$1,500)
Graciously Donated by Mousa Rishmawi (Excluding June – August)*



3rd Prize

Summerset Salon Beauty Basket – Graciously Donated by Summer Awad

*One raffle ticket @ \$50 Or Three raffle tickets @ \$100
Drawing at 10pm on February 7th ~ need not be present to win*