

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

February 27, 2022

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

# Christ is in our Midst!

## *He is and ever shall be!*

### 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.

**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 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, 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!

### Holy Bread Offerings (Oblations)

- Janett and Najeb Abuaita and Families for the health of their families and in loving memory of sister **Asma** (40 day), mother **Mary**, and brother **Michel**.
- Khaled and Sally Abuaita for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Rahma** Albedd (16 year, Sally's grandmother), **Michel** (1 year, Khaled's uncle), and **Asma** (40 day, Khaled's aunt).

- Father Michael and Khouriya Pam Bassett for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Subdeacon Brian** Thabit (+January 14<sup>th</sup>, relative of Fr. Michael).
- **Issa and Vera** Daoud and Family for the health of their family especially **Daniel, Tony, Amanda, Nancy**, and Family and in loving memory of **Suad** (3 year, mother of Vera), **David** Daoud (2 year, brother of Issa), **Rabiah, Norma, Yacoub, Ramzi, Maha**, and **Issa**.

### Baptism/Chrismation Days

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

- **Cezar and Lana** Abu-Aita ~ March 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

- We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Salwa** Haddad (+January 27<sup>th</sup>), **Ellis** Salim (+February 2<sup>nd</sup>), Captain **Collin** Birnie (+February 4<sup>th</sup>, friend of Areen Bathish), **Khalil** Ibrahim (+February 8<sup>th</sup>), **Jamil** Hijazin, (+February 11<sup>th</sup>, father of Joseph), and **Salim** Haddad (+February 18<sup>th</sup>).
- 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, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar** and **Georgette** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsahouri, **Rose** Ayoub (mother of Cam Takach), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Cynthia** Brooks (sister of Fr. Michael), **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Victor** David, **Ranna** Esho (friend of Batoul Burbar), **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy** Isaac, **Salwa** Isaac, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother Denise Ghattas), **Nicola** Khoury, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **Rafat** Nasri, **Laura** Nassar, **Aida** Raffoul, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Bob** Teunion, and **Georgette** Yusuf; **Ghassan**, **Jasanta**, and newborn **Sophia** Al-Khouri and **Mudaffer**, **Yara**, and newborn **Carla** Rishmawi who will be brought back into the life of our parish through the *Prayers of Churching*.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Staci** and **Daniel** Bator, **Casandra** and **Daniel** Burbar and **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet) and **John** Timm.

*“In order to fulfill the commandments of Christ, you must know them. They are expounded in the Gospels. Read the Holy Gospels, penetrate its spirit, make it the rule of your life, act in accord with the teachings of the Gospels. This is the one light in our life.”*

St. Nikon of Optina was among the group of monastics of Optina Monastery (was the most important spiritual center of the Russian Orthodox Church in the nineteenth century) who were known as the Optina Elders. The Elder Nikon is venerated on June 25<sup>th</sup> and with all the Optina Elders on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Janett and Najeb Abuaita and Families*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: March 13<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 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, contact Manal Abuaita** (810-577-0028). *During the Great Fast (March 7<sup>th</sup> - April 15<sup>th</sup>), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are served.*

**PROCEDURES** While in our church building, everyone must properly wear masks ~ except while eating or drinking during Coffee Fellowship. Please remember we can venerate icons at this time by bowing (*not kissing or touching*) and the same for the priest's hand and the chalice at Holy Communion. We all want the safest place for all of our parishioners to worship. We know that combining masks, vaccines, and boosters will protect ourselves and our community against the Covid 19 virus.

**YES, WE ARE!** We are missing so many of our children (and parents!) who are missing out on learning about our Life in Christ as we live our Orthodox Faith. Parents, you love your children, we love your children, and most importantly, God loves your children. Come to the Divine Liturgy at 10am to partake of our Lord in Holy Communion. Come to church to show your love of God! Come and receive all the blessings He has for us as we continue our journey to the Great Fast, the Raising of Lazarus, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and our Lord's Pascha, His Resurrection on the Third Day!

**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 did to them.

### COMING EVENTS

This Week Today is **Meat-Fare Sunday**, the last day we eat *meat, poultry, and their by-products* until Pascha (April 24<sup>th</sup>). 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. *fish, wine, and olive oil are permitted.*

Monday **Bible Study: Gospel of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist** 3-5pm

**SOYO Monday** 6-8pm

Wednesday **Arabic-English Bible Study Gospel of St. Matthew** 12-2pm

Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 5pm

### **A Bird with One Wing ~ We cannot live our Christian faith without Holy Tradition**

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

The Bible can only be understood through the Church, for the Holy Scriptures came forth from the Church. That the Protestant reformers dumped the Papacy (Roman Catholic Church) only to replace that institution with themselves as the ultimate authority, turned the interpretation of the Scriptures into a debatable subject between believers, with the end result leaving Christianity with

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new denominations proliferating like rabbits. With reason and logic ruling, our protestant friends have left no room for the guidance and wisdom of the historic Church, and the guidance of the Church Fathers.

The Bible is the written account of the first Christians experience with God. This living, oral tradition inspired by the Holy Spirit, and put down in written form, has been the basis of authentic Christianity from apostolic times. To think that the Bible is open to personal interpretation, apart from the Church from which it sprang, is the cause of over forty thousand different denominations today!

The Orthodox Church has kept the early teachings and liturgical traditions precisely because She has refused to interpret Scripture apart from that which was always taught. Her Divine services connect us to the early Church precisely because they are the same liturgical services used by the early Church.

Orthodoxy is increasingly becoming known in the West, as more and more people are being drawn to Her. As we've all witnessed the proliferation of "mega-churches", and "bible believing" protestant groups, it has become abundantly clear the world needs the stabilizing and biblically grounded guidance of Apostolic Christianity like never before. Many evangelical Protestants see Holy Tradition as standing in direct contrast to Scripture, as though Tradition is always relegated to "the traditions of men". However, there are numerous references in Holy Scripture to Holy Tradition. For example:

*"Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." (Luke 1:1-4)* It must be noted that in this instance, the oral word preceded the written word, hence becoming Holy Tradition.

In John 20:30-3, it is revealed, *"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book"*, and in John 21:25, we read, *"Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written"*. One of my personal favorite passages regarding Holy Tradition is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:15, *"So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter."*

Holy Tradition is not apart from the Bible, but supports the proper interpretation of the Bible. Holy Tradition emanates from Christ Himself, and is expressed by the Apostles, the Holy Fathers, and the Church. The Fathers, in fact, are the very guardians of the Apostolic Tradition, for they, like the Apostles before them, are witnesses of a single Truth, which is the Truth of the God-man, Jesus Christ. Since Christ is one, unique, and indivisible, so also is the Church unique and indivisible. The Church is the incarnation of the incarnated God-man, Jesus Christ, and will continue through the ages, and even throughout all eternity. Without the Church we become like a bird with one wing.

## ***How far can he go? ☹️***

