

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

February 5, 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*)

- Ziyad and Mary Ibrahim for the health of their family especially daughter **Isabella** on the occasion of her 15th birthday and **Nadia** (Ziyad's mother) ~ *May God grant them many years!*

BAPTISM/CHRISMATION DAYS

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

- **Lourdes** Abuaita ~ February 11th

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

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Samir** Helal (+December 31st, cousin of Asmahan Helal), **Dannie** Jones (+January 3rd), **Mariam** Ghanim (+January 4th, mother of Manal Abuaita), **Connie** Molina (+January 5th, friend of Areen Bathish), **Diana** Petropoulos (+January 10th, mother of former parishioner Shamassy Lia Blomgren), **Charles** Sackllah (+January 12th, father-in-law of former parishioner Rachel Abuaita Sackllah), **George** Thabit (+January 12th, relative of Fr. Michael), and **Habib** Skafi (+January 13th).
- 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** Alsaouri, **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).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Rania** and **Raed** AbuAita, **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khouri, **Katrina** and **Gary** Gagne, **Narmeen** and **Deeb** Shamshoum, and **Taylor** and **Jeffrey** Tipton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Ziyad and Mary Ibrahim*.

- ⇒ Our **Banquet Center Renovation** is underway! We still want, and need, to have time to be with each other and have fellowship! Coffee Fellowship will take place in the Lounge.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: February 19th, March 5th, 19th, and 26th ~ 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 16th), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are served.*

GODPARENT SUNDAY NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

Invitations for Godchildren to send to their Godparents (and *vice-versa*) are available on the narthex table. Please pick up an invitation to send to your Godchild (or Godparents). It will be a wonderful day and we want everyone to be here! Godchildren may bring their Godparents to their Church School class. When you know who will be attending, please RSVP to Janet Abueita at cooeita@aol.com by February 5th.

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.

OUT-OF-TOWN Fr. Joe will be out-of-town February 7th-10th. **For emergencies** while he is away, please call first *Fr. Michael Bassett* (St. George, 989-627-9580), then *Fr. Gabriel Bilas* (St. Mary Magdalene, 810-750-1401), or *Fr. Matthew Butrie* (St. Nicholas, 810-744-0070). Please pray for his safe travels.

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 or 989-627-9580

All are invited to join! Any questions or if you would like more information, contact Father Michael Bassett frdnmike@gmail.com or 989-627-9580.

BOOKS ON THE DIVINE LITURGY Our St. George 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 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 No fasting this week following the Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican.

Monday **Bible Study: Genesis the 1st book of the Bible** 1:30-3:30pm

SOYO Monday 6-8pm

Wednesday **NO Arabic-English Bible Study**

Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm (note time change until further notice!)

Candles ~ The Candles Represent the Light of Christ

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

The Orthodox Church from its very inception has always used oil lamps (or *lampadas*) and candles during its worship and prayers. The burning of candles and oil lamps have always been the traditional source of lighting in God's churches, and we must forgo the artificial light that comes from electricity.

Candles and oil are offered to God from material goods that He has given us, as pure beeswax, because bees make the wax by collecting the pollen from various flowers. For this reason, some of the saints have taught that a candle reminds us of not only how hard-working the bee is but also the fact it collects the good and rejects the polluted. Furthermore, the Church has taught that the use of pure beeswax candles produced by virgin bees represents the human nature of Christ which came from the Holy Virgin Mary.

But first and foremost, the candle represents the Light of Christ in our midst, because, as it burns, it illuminates the darkness. Candles represent the deification of our souls because the candle is mixed with fire, representing the Light of Christ. They represent the love and peace which are attributes each Christian should have because the candle burns and comforts everyone with its light in the darkness. Lighting a candle reminds us we must remember to live in the light we received with our baptism.

This light is renewed every time we participate in the Divine Liturgy, every time we receive the Holy Mysteries, and every time we offer prayers. At the end of every celebration of the Divine Liturgy we sing: *"We have seen the True Light! We have received the Heavenly Spirit! We have found the True Faith! Worshiping the Undivided Trinity, Who has saved us."* The candle also reminds us of how Fire, that is, the Triune Deity Himself, unites with the malleable soul and then softens and illuminates both it, and all those who come into contact with it.

When we as Christians sacrifice ourselves for the love of God, we enlighten our fellow human beings and show them the way of salvation. And just as the candles we light at the baptism represent the spiritual light received by the newly baptized person, so too the candles we hold and light during funerals, at memorial services, and those placed on the tomb of the reposed represent the light of Christ, which we wish the deceased receive.

Just as we light candles for the living and the departed we should always accompany them by offering words of prayer. For the living we ask for God's mercy and protection. For those who have fallen asleep in Christ, we ask for God's compassion and eternal rest.











Let your light so
shine before men,
that they may see
your good works,
and glorify Your
Father which is
in heaven

Matthew 5:16



OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 5th	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 12th	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 19th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 26th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 5th	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 12th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 19th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 26th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 2nd	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 9th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 14th	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 16th NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

التريودي-الصوم الأربعيني المقدس-الأسبوع العظيم-الفصح المقدس



الزمن الفصحى-الصعود-العنصرة-عيد الرُّسل لعام ٢٠٢٣



الأحد ٥ شباط: بداية التريودي - أحد الفرّيسيّ والعشار (لا يُصام في هذا الأسبوع يوميّ الأربعاء والجمعة - أسبوع المُخالفين)

الأحد ١٢ شباط: أحد الإبن الشاطر

السبت ١٨ شباط: سبت الأموات (سبت الرّاقدين)

الأحد ١٩ شباط: أحد مرفع اللّحم (أحد الدّينونة)

الأحد ٢٦ شباط: أحد مرفع الجبن (أحد الغفران)

الإثنين ٢٧ شباط: بداية الصوم الأربعينيّ المقدّس

الأحد ٥ آذار: الأحد الأوّل من الصوم - أحد الأرثوذكسيّة - أحد رفع الأيقونات المقدّسة

الأحد ١٢ آذار: الأحد الثاني من الصوم - أحد القديس غريغوريوس بالاماس

الأحد ١٩ آذار: الأحد الثالث من الصوم - أحد الصّليب الكريم المحيي

السبت ٢٥ آذار: عيد بشارة والدة الإله الدائمة البتوليّة مريم العذراء (مسموح فيه بأكل السمك)

الأحد ٢٦ آذار: الأحد الرّابع من الصوم - أحد أبينا البار يوحنا السّلمي

الأحد ٢ نيسان: الأحد الخامس من الصوم - أحد أمنا البارّة مريم المصريّة

أحد ٩ نيسان: أحد الشعانين (يسمح بأكل السمك)

الإثنين ١٠ نيسان: بداية الأسبوع العظيم

أحد ١٦ نيسان: أحد الفصح المقدّس

الأحد ٢٣ نيسان: أحد توما

الأحد ٣٠ نيسان: أحد حاملات الطيب

الأحد ٧ أيار: أحد المخلع

الأحد ١٤ أيار: أحد السّامريّة

الأحد ٢١ أيار: أحد الأعمى

الأربعاء ٢٤ أيار: وداع عيد الفصح المقدّس

الخميس ٢٥ أيار: خميس الصّعود

الأحد ٢٨ أيار: أحد آباء المجمع المسكونيّ الأوّل المجتمعين في نيقية

الأحد ٤ حزيران: أحد العنصرة العظيم (السّبت ٣ حزيران سبت الرّاقدين)

الأحد ١١ حزيران: أحد جميع القديسين

الإثنين ١٢ حزيران: بداية صوم الرُّسل

الأربعاء ٢٩ حزيران: عيد هامتيّ الرُّسل بطرس وبولس

الخميس ٣٠ حزيران: تذكّار جامع للرُّسل الإثني عشر - عيد الرُّسل



أرثوذكس Orthodox