

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

February 6, 2022

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

Glory to Jesus Christ! *Glory Forever!*

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*)

- The Shahin and Hawkins families for the health of their families and in loving memory of **Edward** Shadeed (40 day).

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:

- **Lourdes** Abuaita ~ February 11th

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: **Jim** Simpson (+December 27th, uncle of Kelly Sanderson), **Laurie** Crisp (+January 3rd, cousin of Lauren Zerka), **Ronna** Royer (+January 4th, mother of Fr. Bob), **Nael** Bannura (+January 13th, father of Amani Jarayseh), **Sub-deacon Brian** Thabit (+January 14th, relative of Fr. Michael), **Salwa** Haddad (+January 27th), and **Ellis** Salim (+February 2nd).
- 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, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janet), **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar** and **Georgette** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alshouri, **Rose** Ayoub (mother of Cam Takack), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Cynthia** Brooks (sister of Fr. Michael), **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** 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, **Amy** Handley (friend of Nataly Odeh), **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, and **Georgette** Yusuf; **Ghassan**, **Jasanta**, and newborn **Sophia** Al-Khouri (January 12th); **Mudaffer**, **Yara**, and newborn **Carla** Rishmawi (January 20th).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Cassandra** and **Daniel** Burbar and **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet) and **John** Timm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *the Shahin and Hawkins Families*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: February 20th ~ 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).

GODPARENT SUNDAY & MEAL IS NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH 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.

PROCEDURES While in our church building, everyone must properly wear masks. 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 this fast-changing virus. **PLEASE FOLLOW:**

1. Everyone must properly wear a mask inside our church building.
2. Pews in the back of the church are for **those who are not vaccinated** and **those who would like to be social distanced**.

E-MEMO'S If you would like to receive our weekly *St. George E-Memo*, please send your e-mail address to saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com.

HOLY WATER BOTTLES We celebrated the Theophany (Baptism) of our Lord on January 6th. As part of this celebration, water was blessed for all parishioners to take home. If you haven't picked yours up, they are in the Narthex.

TEXTING FR. JOE? Fr. Joe does not see or use texting services. If you need to contact him, please call the church 810-732-0720, his cell 810-444-9108, or by email njja@aol.com.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS Please pick yours up (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name is not listed, let Fr. Joe know. The calendars (*please take 1 per family*) are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary ~ thank you, Ladies! **Parents**, please make sure your children get their *Offering Envelopes* in the Lounge

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	Funeral of Salwa Haddad 11am Visitation for Ellis Salim 4-7pm Memorial Service for Ellis Salim 7pm
Wednesday	Arabic-English Bible Study <i>Gospel of St. Matthew</i> 12-2pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

Facing East ~ *Why We Orthodox Christians Face East in Our Worship*

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

We Orthodox Christians collectively worship facing east. Together with our bishops and priests, we all stand before the Lord in the direction of the east. Our priests are sort of like captains of a ship, looking towards the ocean and leading the crew on a voyage. The priest (and bishop) lead the people in prayer and worship not as the center of attention, for all are gazing in the same direction, together as the Body of Christ. Together we all gather as one body, while the priest offers the sacrifice of praise on our behalf, as the Divine Liturgy is served before the Lord of Hosts.

The celebrant (bishop or priest) stands before the holy table (altar), facing God, while facing the people only when reading the Gospel, delivering the sermon, or when blessing his people. This is similar to the Jewish pattern of worship and preaching, for like the Jews, we consider it rude to speak to someone with your back to them. So we would dare not face God when worshipping Him.

An Orthodox church is built facing true east when possible, but when building in an area where it would be impossible because of limitation or necessity, liturgically it still faces the East and looks toward God.

This ancient Tradition comes down to us for several reasons. Perhaps most importantly, we believe our Lord will return triumphantly from the East (Matthew 24:27 and Acts 1:11). We also recognize the Lord Jesus Christ as the Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2) is the light who illumines all mankind. Thus, because the sun rises in the East, so too will Christ.

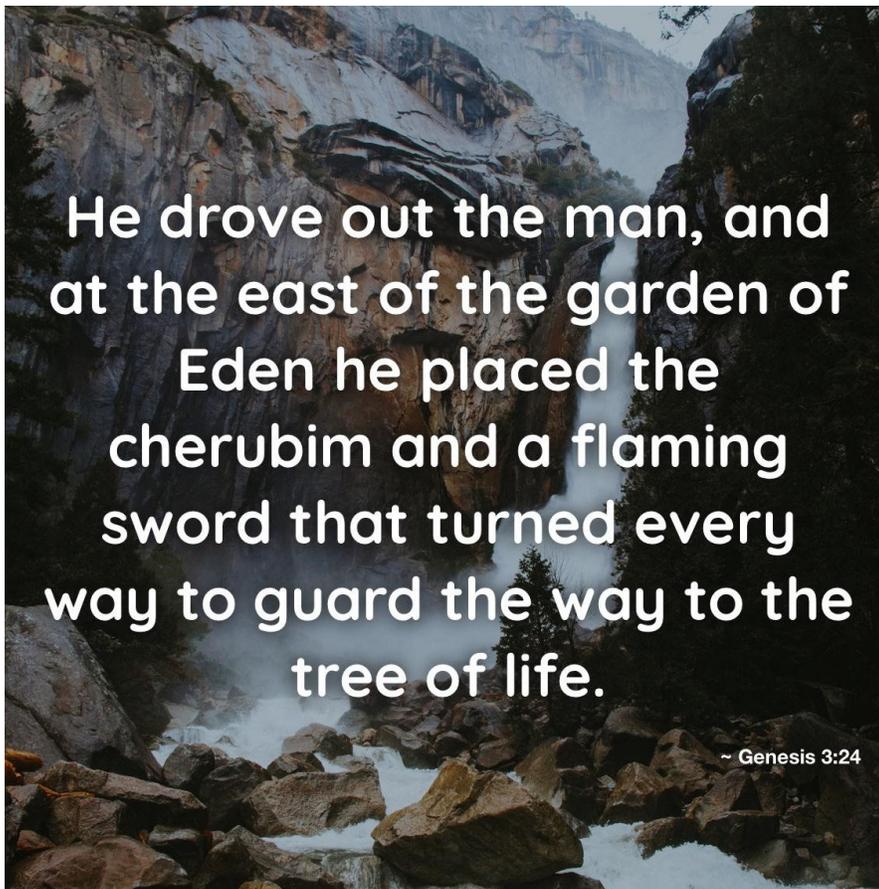
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We also recognize the paradise of Eden, is in the East (Genesis 2:8), and we remember the perfect communion Adam and Eve experienced with God there, and we look eagerly toward it every time we worship God. Even the mercy seat in the tabernacle of testimony faced East (Leviticus 16:14), and the temple of Solomon's Gate of the Lord was placed eastward.

Numerous Old Testament references toward the East clearly saw this Eastern orientation as distinguishing the Israelites from all the pagan religions, who faced other directions. Many Fathers of the early Christian Church also reference facing East during prayer and worship. Saint John of Damascus is perhaps the most well-known Father to have explained this part of our Holy Tradition. Essentially, this shows that facing East has been a uniform part of Christian worship since the beginning of the Church, something it inherited from Jewish worship.

Each time we Orthodox Christians worship facing East we do so in anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ. We know our true home is in the paradise of Eden with God. Therefore, it should not be only in our churches where we face East, but even in our homes. This is why we have the Tradition of placing our personal prayer corners in our homes facing East. We face God when we worship Him, as we eagerly await His triumphant return.

Get out your bible, find the 1st book of the Old Testament: Genesis, and read Chapter 3. This is the story of the sin of Adam and Eve and God loving them so much, He didn't want them to live forever with their sin! Love, FJ



MAN of GOD

The story of Saint Nektarios

Monday, March, 21st ONLY!

7:00pm

Imagine Theatre-Hartland, MI

Space is limited, reserve your ticket today!



Scan here to go directly to the showing
or visit
www.imagine-entertainment.com

