

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

February 9, 2020

LEAVE-TAKING OF THE GREAT FEAST OF **THE MEETING OF OUR LORD**

لعيد دخول السيد إلى الهيكل

Tone - 1

1st Matins Gospel {*Matthew 28:16-20*}

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 **Special Hymns** (see Bilingual sheets on the Narthex table).

Holy Bread Offerings

- St. George Parish in loving memory of **Dennis** Perez (40 day, friend of St. George).
- St. George Church School for the health of our St. George Family especially all of our **Godparents** and **Godchildren** -- *May God grant them many years!*

Baptism/Chrismation Days

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

- **Lourdes** Abuaita – February 11th

May our children 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: **May** Woodward (January 9th, relative of JoAnn Hawkins), **Archpriest Patrick** Kinder (+January 14th, friend of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee), **Harry** Aydinian (+January 19th), **Hanna** Rishmawi (January 26th, Emil's brother-in-law and Jamil's uncle), **Adibah** Elias (+January 29th, Syria, aunt of Elias Hanna, Wafaa Elias, and Najwa Joubran), and Dr. **Linn** Campbell (+February 3rd, brother-in-law of Sally Joseph).

- 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**, **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**, **Aida Raffoul**, **Husam Rishmawi** (cousin of Fadi Rishmawi), **Deborah Salim**, **Eva Saseen** (daughter of Nicholas), **Nicholas Saseen**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **Michael Silpoch**, **Habib Skafi**, **William Sophiea 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.
- 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، ونشتت أولئك الذين يصلون ويهيئون أنفسهم لتناول القربان المقدس. يرجى الانتظار حتى الدخول الى صالة الكنيسة عندها يمكنكم تناول القهوة والقاء التحية على الآخرين، الأشخاص الوحيديين الذين يسمح لهم بالحديث هم فقط من يسألون ويقبلون المسامحة وطلب المغفرة قبل تناول.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GODPARENT SUNDAY BREAKFAST We are having a delicious meal today in celebration and in honor of all of our Godparents and Godchildren. Adults \$5 each; Children under 10 \$3 each. Everyone is invited!!! All profits and/or donations go to our Education Program. Have a great time!

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.

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.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) need to be \$5,005 to meet our 2020 Budget. On February 2nd, our offerings were \$5,088 so we were ahead 😊 for the 1st time this year! 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
Tuesday	Altar Society Dinner Meeting see <i>Theresa Farah for information</i> 6pm
Wednesday	Arabic/English Bible Study: <i>Gospel of John the Theologian</i> 12-2pm Little Compline 6pm SOYO Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm
Thursday	Presentation/Orientation of NEW AED (<i>Automated External Defibrillator</i>) 5:30pm Parish Council Dinner Meeting 6:15pm Any parishioner is welcome to come, observe, and make comments at the appropriate time on the Agenda.
Saturday	No Great Vespers

- 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.

Godparents ~ The role of Godparent is an awesome responsibility

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

Since many baptisms took place on Holy Saturday, it is a good idea to revisit the important role godparents play in the life of the newly baptized child. Godparents are also expected to play an important role in the religious and spiritual life of adult converts who have been received into the Orthodox Church through the Mystery of Baptism.

The institution of Godparents (sponsors) is one that dates back to the first century of the Christian Church. Anyone approaching baptism, be they infant or adult, was required to have a Godparent. In the case of an infant, it is the Godparent that speaks for the child,

answering the questions posed by the priest during the baptismal service. **But it doesn't stop there!** The Godparent is charged by the Church with the duty to make sure the newly baptized is instructed in the teachings of the Church, remains a frequent communicant within the Church, and remains active in the Church. In the case of a child, it is to the Godparents that the parents entrust their child, knowing that the Godparent will remain actively supporting the child within the life of the Church. Should something happen to the parents, it is traditionally the Godparents who will make sure the child continues to be taken to church, and remains Orthodox.

Because of the awesome responsibility of Godparents, it is all the more important that great care be taken when choosing someone who will take on this role. The Church does not allow anyone to become a Godparent who is not Orthodox, for how can one who is not himself a pious, active Orthodox Christian give witness to living a life immersed in the Orthodox faith? [Our church allows one Godparent to be Orthodox and the other a baptized Christian]. The Godparent must therefore be a person of high moral character, and able to inspire the newly baptized to fulfill their baptismal vows.

When the newly baptized approaches the holy chalice on the first Sunday following baptism, it is the Godparent who accompanies them to receive the Holy Mysteries. The Godparent must, therefore, be someone who himself/herself is a frequent communicant. Additionally, the Godparent must be someone who is active in the life of the Church, supporting the Church with their tithe (offerings), keeping the fasts, and otherwise living in all piety and holiness.

The person chosen to act as a Godparent must be someone willing to honor their commitment to the newly baptized for a lifetime, and willing to help nourish the spiritual life and development of the child throughout their life. Thus, it is a very bad idea to pick someone as a Godparent simply because they are a good friend or relative. Godparents are duty bound to continue giving support to their Godchild, even into adulthood. They must be someone who will remember to honor their Godchild on special occasions, such as a birthday or name's day. They should be a part of the Godchild's life during the great feasts of the Church, such as Pascha or the Nativity. They should commemorate the anniversary of their Godchild's baptism by giving them a Christian gift, such as a Bible, prayer book, or icon.

Everything should be done to strengthen the bond between the Godparent and Godchild throughout the ensuing years. They can take each other out to a restaurant for dinner, or receive communion together when possible (if living in different cities). Time should be allotted to cultivate a unique spiritual bond, and the Godparents should assist the Godchild's parents whenever possible – especially when doing so enhances the Godchild's commitment to their Orthodox faith.

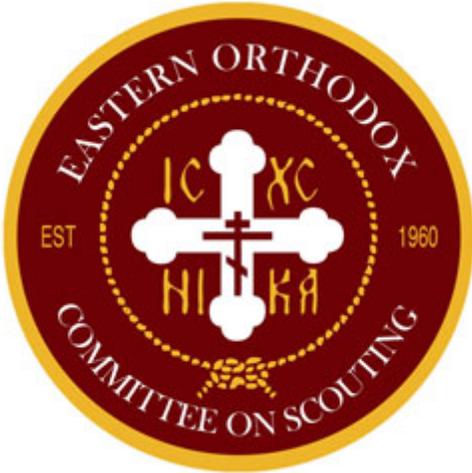
Because baptism has been called "Illumination", and brings us out of the darkness of sin and into the light of Christ, the role of the Godparent is critical. The Godparent must ensure that the Light of Christ continues to shine in the soul of the Godchild. Thus, this role as Godparent is an awesome responsibility, and is not to be considered a one-day event. If you have been asked to be a Godparent, but are unwilling to see this as a lifelong vocation, please decline the honor.

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OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2020

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 9th	 <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 16th	 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 23rd 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 MARCH 1st 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 8th	 <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 15th	 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 22nd	 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 29th	 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 5th	 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 12th 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 17th	 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 19th 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!



Orthodox Scouting Sunday, 2020 **February 9, 2020**

*By The Most Rev. Archbishop David, Bishop of
Sitka and Alaska*

Each year we come to this Sunday in February to celebrate Scouting in our communities. Throughout our country we will join in recognizing the contributions they have all made to our churches and various institutions through their hard work, dedication to duty and love of country and Faith. They have a comradery not found in any other organization. This idea of fellowship in Faith, love and respect for others is the guiding principle that makes their work so beneficial and important.

Today I address not only our Scouting Youth and Leaders who are before you, but I also address the Families, parents and children in attendance who do not yet know the values that Scouting offers.

We live in an age where it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a harmonious existence with others. Some are quick to judge those not like themselves and others simply want to avoid contact as much as they can. Neither of these options are suitable for a population to coexist. There must be an effort made to not only coexist, but to communicate with and learn from each other so that as a society we can all improve our way of life and social existence.

As our children grow, parents all ponder many questions about their future. Every effort is made to protect them from harmful situations. We all hope they will have a life more fulfilling than our own. In our pursuit for our children we enroll them in various things to aid their maturity and growth. It may be a sports team, or social club, or a hobby group of like-minded people. There is no shortage of organizations vying for their attention. These organizations have no respect for your preferences in Faith, in fact, many times practices or even games are scheduled for Sunday mornings; this leaves the parent with a very difficult choice. Sad to say more often than not, it is the church that seems to be left out. Add to this that other families involved in such organizations may have no pious life at all and it is reflected in the way their own children behave at times.

Scouting gives us all of the good behaviors we aspire our children to have, while minimizing the bad ones. In Scouting, all youth are taught the Scout Oath, which ends with this phrase, “To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.” Each and every Scout lives by this code in every aspect of their life. We can even say, the more involved they are in Scouting, the more likely they are to practice these virtues. Is this not a desire we would want for all young men and women? We can offer it to them with Scouting, BSA.

So today I offer my most heartfelt thanks to the Scouts who work so hard to deliver the good work of Scouting to your community. I extend an invitation to parents of all ages, and grandparents as well, to get involved in Scouting. To help improve the life of those you care so much about; whose futures you long to improve, to help them become the fine outstanding citizens we know they are capable of becoming. And to the youth, your future can be even brighter than you know through your participation in Scouting, BSA.

For more information on the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting and the work of scouting got to their website at <https://www.eocs.org>

God bless our Scouts and Leaders.

Your servant of Servants,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

His Eminence Archbishop David

Archbishop of Sitka and Alaska

Episcopal Liaison to the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting