

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

المسيحُ وُلِدَ! فمجدوه!



Nativity (Birth in the Flesh) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

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2021 Nativity (Birth in the Flesh) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Welcome to St. George: It is a joy to have you worshipping with us as we celebrate our Savior's Nativity (*Birth*) into the world. For those who have committed themselves to the Orthodox Faith (*through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation*) it also means, if prepared, the reception of Holy Communion. Preparation includes the Sacrament of Confession within the last 2 months, prayer, and fasting {no food or drink from 12pm/noon today}. If you are new, just visiting, or have any questions, please introduce yourself to Father Joe or Father Michael. If you are not an Orthodox Christian or not prepared, please know that you are invited to venerate the Holy Cross and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

Live Streaming of Divine Services

St. George is open for all parishioners or 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.

In the **Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom** {*the Golden-Mouth*},
The **Special Hymns and Scripture Readings** are on the [Bilingual sheets from Fr. Joe's Email](#).

Nativity Poinsettia Offerings

(Remembered during the Service of Preparing the Gifts [bread and wine])

- **Fares** and **Sahar** Abdallah for the health of their family especially children **Laila**, **Crystal**, and **Nick** and in loving memory of **Hilda** and **Yacoub** Zureikat and **Sylvia** Sophia.
- **Jamal** and **Manal** Abuaita for their health and the health of children **Dr. Tamer**, **Dr. Yara**, and especially **Samer** and **Marianne** (Abulail) on their engagement to be united in the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony and in loving memory of **Mary**, **Mounir**, and **Androlla**.
- **Anwar** and **Janet** Abueita for their health and the health of **Tony**, **Chrissy**, **Haleena**, **Maliyah**, **Tony**, **Michael**, **Iliyana**, **John**, **Jacqueline**, **Tony**, **Jenny**, **Matthew**, **Lukas**, and **Georgette** and in loving memory of **Yacoub**, **Peter**, **Alice**, **Nasim**, **Basim**, **Asmahan**, **Mannah**, **Jaber**, **Raiie**, and **Afifa**.

- **Hiam** Bathish for her health and the health of her **children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren** and in loving memory of husband **Emil, Naif** and **Julia** Bathish, and parents **Yacoub** and **Marie** Farah.
- **JoAnn** Shahin Hawkins for the health of the **Shahin, Hawkins, and Rhinehart** Families and in loving memory of the departed members of the **Brackett, Hawkins, Rhinehart, and Shahin** Families
- **George** and **Hiam** Ishaq for their health and the health of **Nusta** and children **Nidá, Nidal, and Samer**.
- **Martin** and **Jennifer** Khoshaba and Family for the health of the **Khoshaba, Joubran, Hanna, and Elias Families** and in loving memory of **Salem** Hanna, **Badia** Khoury, **Joselyn** and **Elias** Elias, **Emil** Joubran, **Ghais** Hanna, **Hermiz** Khoshaba, **Tony** Seikaly, and **Joyce** Jourbran.
- **Karam** and **Aida** Nassar for the health of their family especially **Fred, Omar, Sarah, and Salam**.
- **Doug** and **Sandy** Thomas for the health of their family especially **Averie Fisher, Laney, Morgan, Jordan, and Landon** Thomas and in loving memory of **Jean** and **Alex** Khouri, **Virginia, Marvin, and Ken** Thomas.
- **Richard** Shaheen for the health of his family especially **David** Merrelli and in loving memory of **JoAnn** Merrelli, **Fred & Mamie** Shaheen, and **Harry** and **Patricia** Haddad.

Thank you and may God grant you all many years!

Holy Bread Oblations (Offerings)

- **Khaled** and **Sally** Abuaita for the health of their children **Watan, Karim, Ayham, and Majd**.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Protopresbyter Tom** George (+December 6th, former pastor of Assumption Church), Dr. **Amal** Khoury (+November 16th, niece of Aida Nassar), **Roza** Alied (+November 17th, grandmother of Dania Hanna), **Vera** Farah (+November 21st), **Donald** Nixon (+November 22nd, uncle of Tim Beers), **Emad** Issa Hawwash (+Nov. 28th, uncle of Basheer Hawwash), and **JoAnn** Haddad Merrelli (+Dec. 6th, former parishioner and niece of Richard Shaheen).
- 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 Janett), **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar** and **Georgette** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsahouri, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Jennifer** Craft and **Brionna** Gorbutt (friends of Mariann Hayek), **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), **Daisy** Isaac, **Loretta** Karpelena (mother Denise Ghattas), **Nicola** Khoury, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **Rafat** Nasri, **Laura** Nassar, **George, Jeanette, and Renee** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** and **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **Georgette** Yusuf; **Rene, Natania, and newborn twins Xenia and Tatiana** Hanna (November 25th); **Panagiotis, Kari, and newborn Anna Emilia** Mikroudís [daughter of John and Theresa Farah] (Dec. 8th).
- Those who are with child: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khouri, **Casandra** and **Daniel** Burbar, and **Yara** and **Mudaffer** Rishmawi.

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). If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Fasting December 25th until January 5th.

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 gets their *Offering Envelopes*.

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian). Caesar Augustus decreed a universal census be made throughout his Empire, which then also included Palestine. The Jews were accustomed to be counted in the city from where their family came. The Most Holy Virgin and the Righteous Joseph, since they were descended from the house and lineage of King David, had to go to Bethlehem to be counted and taxed.

In Bethlehem, they found no room at any of the city's inns. Thus, the God-Man, the Savior of the world, was born in a cave that was used as a stable. "*I behold a strange and most glorious mystery,*" the Church sings with awe, "*Heaven, a Cave; the Virgin the Throne of the Cherubim; the Manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain is laid.*" (Imros of the 9th Ode of the Nativity Canon).

Having given birth to the divine Infant without struggle, the Most Holy Virgin "*wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger*" (Luke 2:7). In the stillness of midnight (Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15), the proclamation of the Savior of the world's birth was heard by three shepherds in Beit Sahour watching their flocks by night.

The origin of this feast goes back to the time of the Apostles. In the Apostolic Constitutions (Section 3, 13) it says, "*Brethren, observe the feastdays; and first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month.*"

The Nativity of Christ has long been counted as one of the Twelve Great Feasts. It is one of the greatest, most joyful, and wondrous events in the history of the world. The angel said to the shepherds, "*Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.* Then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, glorifying God and saying: *Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*" Those who heard these things were astonished at what the shepherds told them concerning the Child. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen" (Luke 2:10-20).

Thus the Nativity of Christ, a most profound and extraordinary event, was accompanied by the wondrous news proclaimed to the shepherds and Magi (wise men). This is the cause of universal rejoicing for all because,

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COMING EVENTS

This Sunday *Matins* 8:50am *Divine Liturgy* 10am