

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

December 15, 2024



5191 LENNON ROAD

FLINT, MI 48507

OFFICE: (810) 732-0720

WEB SITE: saintgeorgeflint.org

SATURDAY: VESPER SERVICE @ 400 P.M.

SUNDAY: ORTHROS @ 8:50 A.M. - DIVINE LITURGY @ 10:00 A.M.

CONFESSION BY APPOINTMENT

V. REV. FR. AMIN HOULI

CELL: (248) 709-1186

EMAIL: pastorstgf@gmail.com

REV. FR. MICHAEL BASSETT

CELL: (989) 627-9580

EMAIL: frdnmike@gmail.com

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. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy.

Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion for Orthodox Christians: Orthodox Christians fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist by receiving Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly prepared to receive Holy Communion, the faithful should fast (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 striving to always love God and their neighbor. Frequent communion and regular confession are recommended for all faithful Orthodox Christians.

For other Christians: We welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christian's believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signify-

Ing a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (antidoron) which will be given when coming forward to venerate (kiss) the Holy Cross and receive the final blessing from the priest. Again, welcome!

**HIEROMARTYR ELEUTHERIOS, BISHOP OF ILLYRIA &
SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST MARTYR
ANTHIA, MOTHER OF ELEUTHERIOS; VENERABLE PAUL OF LATRA**

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ELEUTHERIOS OF ILLYRIA IN TONE FIVE

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; * hence never cease to intercede for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios.

TROPARIAN OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Eleutherios)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint. What shall we render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us? The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:8-18) Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know Whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit Who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me. May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

كريم بين يدي الرب موت باره.

بماذا تكافىء الرب عن كل ما اعطانا؟

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية إلى تيموثاوس. (18-8:1)

يا ولدي تيموثاوس، لا تخجل بشهادة ربنا، ولا بي أنا أسيره، بل اشترك في احتمال المشقات لأجل الإنجيل بحسب قوة الله، الذي خلصنا ودعانا دعوة مقدسة، لا بمقتضى أعمالنا، بل بمقتضى القصد والنعمة التي أعطيت لنا في المسيح يسوع قبل الأزمنة الأزلية، وإنما أظهرت الآن بظهور مخلصنا الذي جعلت أنا له كارزا يسوع المسيح، الذي أبطل الموت وأنار الحياة والخلود بواسطة الإنجيل. ورسولا ومعلما للأمم. لهذا السبب أحتمل هذه الأمور أيضا. لكنني لست أخجل، لأنني عالم بمن

أَمَنْتُ، وَمُوقِنٌ أَنَّهُ قَادِرٌ أَنْ يَحْفَظَ وَدِيعَتِي إِلَى ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ. تَمَسَّكَ بِصُورَةِ الْكَلَامِ الصَّحِيحِ الَّذِي سَمِعْتَهُ مِنِّي، فِي الْإِيمَانِ وَالْمَحَبَّةِ الَّتِي فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. إِحْفَظِ الْوَدِيعَةَ الصَّالِحَةَ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ السَّاكِنِ فِيْنَا. أَنْتَ تَعْلَمُ هَذَا أَنَّ جَمِيعَ الَّذِينَ فِي أَسِيَّا ارْتَدُّوا عَنِّي، الَّذِينَ مِنْهُمْ فِيجَلُّسُ وَهَرْمُوجَانِسُ. لِيُعْطِ الرَّبُّ رَحْمَةً لِنَيْتِ أَنْيْسِيْفُورُسَ، لِأَنَّهُ مِرَارًا كَثِيرَةً أَرَا حَنِي وَلَمْ يَحْجَلْ بِسِلْسِلَتِي، بَلْ لَمَّا كَانَ فِي رُومِيَّةَ، طَلَبْتَنِي بِأَوْفَرِ اجْتِهَادٍ فَوَجَدَنِي. لِيُعْطِهِ الرَّبُّ أَنْ يَجِدَ رَحْمَةً مِنَ الرَّبِّ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ. وَكُلُّ مَا كَانَ يَخْدُمُ فِي أَفْسَسَ أَنْتَ تَعْرِفُهُ جَيِّدًا.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Holy Forefathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24) The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (24-16:14)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانٌ صَنَعَ عَشَاءً عَظِيمًا وَدَعَا كَثِيرِينَ. فَأَرْسَلَ عَبْدَهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعَشَاءِ يَقُولُ لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ: تَعَالُوا فَإِنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ قَدْ أُعِدَّ. فَطَفِقَ كُلُّهُمْ وَاحِدٌ فَوَاحِدٌ يَسْتَعْفُونَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ الْأَوَّلُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ حَقْلًا، وَلَا بُدَّ لِي أَنْ أَخْرَجَ وَأَنْظُرَهُ، فَاسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَعْفِينِي وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ خَمْسَةَ فِدَادِينَ بَقَرٍ وَأَنَا

ماضٍ لأَجْرِبَهَا، فَاسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَعْفِينِي. وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: قَدْ تَزَوَّجْتُ امْرَأَةً، فَلِذَلِكَ لَا أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَجِيءَ.
فَأَتَى الْعَبْدُ وَأَخْبَرَ سَيِّدَهُ بِذَلِكَ. فَحِينِيذٍ، غَضِبَ رَبُّ الْبَيْتِ، وَقَالَ لِعَبْدِهِ: أَخْرُجْ سَرِيعاً إِلَى شَوَارِعِ
الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَرْقِطْهَا وَأَدْخِلِ الْمَسَاكِينَ وَالْجُدَعَ وَالْعُمِيَانَ وَالْعُرْجَ إِلَى هَهُنَا. فَقَالَ الْعَبْدُ: يَا سَيِّدُ، قَدْ قُضِيَ مَا
أَمَرْتَ بِهِ، وَيَبْقَى أَيْضاً مَحَلٌّ. فَقَالَ السَيِّدُ لِلْعَبْدِ: أَخْرُجْ إِلَى الطَّرِيقِ وَالْأَسْجَةِ واضْطَرِّرْهُمْ إِلَى الدُّخُولِ
حَتَّى يَمْتَلِئَ بَيْتِي. فَإِنِّي أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَا يَذُوقُ عَشَائِي أَحَدٌ مِنْ أَوْلِيكَ الرِّجَالِ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ. لِأَنَّ
الْمَدْعُوعِينَ كَثِيرُونَ وَالْمُخْتَارِينَ قَلِيلُونَ.

Holy Oblations Offered by

The children of Edward and Sally Joseph and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of parents Edward, Sally, Norman, Esther, Mildred, Dorothy, Delores, Ernest, Roula, Jonathan, and Michael Joseph and James, Adele, and Raymond Shaheen.

Coffee Fellowship Host-Allison Joseph and Family

PRAYER LIST

Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: Sahar Abdallah, Abeer Abuaita, Reader Fouad and Soad Abuaita, Philip and Janett Abuaita, Rasha Abuaita, Sami and Shafiqah Abuaitah, Fr. Joe Abud, Laila Abud, George Abueita, Georgette Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, Basil Andoni, Naila Banna, Cynthia Brooks, Douglas Coone, Kristy Corcoran, Vera Daoud, Wafaa Elias, Said Farah, Joseph Gagne, Elias Gantos, Subdeacon George and Suad Gantous, Phyllis Good, Lee Harris, Daisy Isaac, Danny Mortensen, Karen Mortensen, Kevin Myott, Laura Nassar, George Nassif, Adam Odeh, Betty Ramsdale, Elie Sadik, Elaine Shaheen, Richard Shaheen, Michael and Nancy Silpoch; our Catechumens who are under instruction to become members of our Orthodox Faith: Maria, Kirk, Evan Sanford and Jaden Turner; our Expectant Parents: Dania and Subdeacon Salim Hanna, Watan and Karim.

Servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: Newly Departed William Alshouri (+11/19), Valerie Cowan (+11/20), the sister of Katherine Moore, Mother Apolinar-ia (+11/22) - Dormition Monastery, Genevieve Perez (+11/25) - Friend of Fr. Michael, Evelyn Afara (+Dec. 6th), aunt of May Gantos and Lina Burbar.

Church School Christmas Program!

Good job everyone !!!!!The Church School Christmas Program was on Saturday. We had a good number of children participating in either an acting, narrator or in the singing portion of the program, my wish was that all 75 children in the church school would be part of the program, it was close, good turn out, we still had those that could not or did not want to be part of the evenings event. That's ok, maybe next year. This took a commitment from both the parents to bring them to practice and the children themselves, we understand that we are all very busy. But we made it a priority. Without my Co -Chair Elena and Teadora and the many volunteers that gave up a lot of their time to be at all the practices and help out, may God bless you. I can't thank you enough, I named all of you the night of the program ☺Thanks also to our Men's Fellowship team for preparing the food and our parent coordinators for organizing the meal and activities.



Teen SOYO Wants YOU!!!

All teens of St. George are encouraged to participate in our teen group – Teen SOYO (Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations). Our group has dedicated leadership who will not be happy until all teens of St. George are participating! Whoever is reading this please pass it along to a teen in your house or to Godchildren, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, sons, & daughters. We are gathering on Tuesday, January 10. 5:00 pm –7:00 pm. If you would like to know more, come to our get-togethers, scan the QR code to sign-up, or contact President Cezar Abuaita (810-986-1434 or cezarabuaita@icloud.com).



SERVICES / STUDIES

- Akathist Service in Preparation for the Nativity, Monday Dec 16th, 2024 at 6:00 PM.
- Arabic Divine Liturgy Wednesday Dec 18th, 2024 at 6:00 PM.
- Great (Royal) Hours of the Nativity of our Lord, Monday Dec 23rd, 2024 at 6:00 PM.
- The Nativity of our Lord Tue Dec 24th, 2024. Orthros at 4:50 PM Divine Liturgy at 6:00.
- Arabic Divine Liturgy for The Nativity of our Lord Wed Dec 25th, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Hold the Date! All Women of St. George are invited to attend this Christmas Dinner Party at the Redwood Steakhouse (5304 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507) on Thursday, December 26th at 4:00pm. Further details will be announced soon.

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS

BELOVED MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF ST. GEORGE

EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. (2 CORINTHIANS 9:7)

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 below) 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! Online Donations will accept Credit / Debit Cards or ACH (transfers from a banking account) and can be set for automatic donations. Call the Church Office (810-732-0720) if you need help with this.

Automatic Giving. Did you know most banks and credit unions offer automatic bill payment services? You can set it up so they send a check from your account to St. George for the amount you designate. This can be a onetime event or done automatically weekly/monthly. Just call or go online with your banking institution to get the form you need.



SAINT OF THE DAY

On December 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Paul of Latra. On this day, we also commemorate the contest of the holy Hieromartyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Saint Anthia.

Anthia heard the Gospel from the great Apostle Paul himself and was baptized by him. Being early left a widow, she entrusted her only son to the education and service of the Bishop of Rome, Anacietus. Seeing how greatly Eleutherios was gifted and illumined by the grace of God, the bishop ordained him as bishop of Illyria at age 20. This Godly man kept his flock like a good shepherd, adding to their number from day to day. In the year 120, Emperor Hadrian, a persecutor of Christians, sent a commander, Felix, with soldiers, to seize Eleutherios. Instead, Felix became a Christian, as did the Governor Choribus. They went back to the capitol where all three men were tortured and beheaded. As Anthia held the dead body of her son, she was also beheaded.

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus. We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

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.