

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

March 14, 2021

MARCH IS ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S MONTH

4TH PRE-LENTEN SUNDAY: SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS **أحد مرفع الجبن**

EXPULSION OF ADAM AND EVE FROM PARADISE

CHEESE FARE SUNDAY (*FAREWELL TO DAIRY UNTIL PASCHA*)

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.

Welcome to St. George! Thank you for attending today's Divine Services. 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 is invited to receive the final blessing of the priest and Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

Epistle Readers

Wafaa Elias (Arabic) and **Janet Abueita** (English)

Holy Bread Offerings

- Zahra Hayek and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Mariam** El-Hayek (3/9 day, sister-in-law of Zahra).
- Reema Khoury and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of husband, father, and grandfather **Hanna** (6 month) and son **George**.
- Issa and Lina Burbar and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Amal** (1 year) and **Abdallah** Burbar (Issa's parents).
- Carlene DeFalco (friend of St. George from St. Elias-Sylvania, OH) for the health of her family and in loving memory of daughter **Tammy** (2 year).

- Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee and Family for the health of their family especially their 1st grandchild **Julian Joseph** ~ *May God grant him many years!* ~ and in loving memory of Kh. Leslee's parents **Lester** (30 year) and **Leeresse Nicola** (5 year) and aunt **Victoria** Haddad (40 day).
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **George** Rizk (+February 19th, uncle of May Gantos and Lina Burbar), **Michel** Abuaita (+February 27th, father of Lucy Abuaita and Mary Khoury), **Malvina** Kaileh (+March 3rd, cousin of Aida Nassar), and **Reginald** Jehnsen (+March 4th, relative of Daisy Isaac).
- 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, **Anwar** Abueita, **Wadia** Albaba, **Nabil** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Evelyn** Delbridge, **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Gracyn** Haskins (granddaughter of Mike and Nancy Silpoch), **Nassem** Helal (father of Amani Helal), **Daisy** Isaac, **Danny** Isaac, **David** Jordan (cousin of Dn. Mike), **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **William** Sophiea Jr.; Dr. **Ryan**, Dr. **Lindsey** [Farah], and newborn **Leah Nicole** Brunner (February 28th); **John** [son of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee], **Nawal**, and newborn **Julian Joseph** Abud (March 2nd); **Jeffrey** (JP) and **Taylor** (Salomon) Tipton whose wedding crowns will be removed on this day.
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Haneen (Benan)** Burbar, **Jenny** [Abueita] (**Tony**) Salsa, **Rachel** [daughter of Suheil and Abeer Abuaita] (**Andrew**) Sackllah, and **Sarah (Matthew)** Thomas [son of Doug and Sandy].

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORGIVENESS VESPERS TODAY after Divine Liturgy, we celebrate this beautiful service helping us to begin the Great Fast on the right foot by asking forgiveness of each other. We cannot love each other without forgiving each other and we are ALL called to love one another as Christ has loved us (John 15:12)! As one of the vesper hymns says: *Let us set out with joy upon the season of the Fast, and prepare ourselves for spiritual combat. Let us purify our soul and cleanse our bodies; and as we fast from food, let us abstain also from every passion. Rejoicing in the virtues of the Spirit, may we persevere with love, and so be counted worthy to see the solemn Passion of Christ our God, and with great spiritual gladness to behold His Holy Pascha.* Plan on attending! **ALTAR SOCIETY MEMBERS:** During this service we change the candles and cloths to Lenten purple – please plan on attending.

WHAT IS FORGIVENESS? To stop feeling anger toward someone who has done something wrong; to stop blaming others; to stop feeling anger about something; to forgive someone for what they have done to us or ask someone to forgive us for what we did to them.

TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY On the 1st Sunday of the Great Fast, next Sunday, March 21st, we have a special procession celebrating the restoring of the Holy Icons into the Orthodox Church. Please be sure our children bring a Holy Icon from home to carry in the procession! If you do not have an icon in your home, we have many beautiful ones in our Bookstore for purchase.

BANQUET CENTER SUPERVISOR NEEDED As the pandemic is slowly beginning to improve, our Center has many rentals in the months to come. We are in need of a Rental Supervisor to be

here during rentals. Most rentals are on weekends (Friday-Sunday). Pay is up to \$75 per rental. If you are interested, please call the office 810-732-0720 and leave a message. This is a perfect part-time job for a responsible college student or young adult!

PLEASE FOLLOW OUR PROCEDURES Because of serious health concerns, **we all must wear masks at all times over our mouths and nose**. If this is difficult for you at this time, please watch our live-stream from home instead. Remember we are venerating icons by bowing (*not kissing or touching*) and the same for the priest's hand and the chalice at Holy Communion. Further, **our clergy and chanters are the only ones who should be singing at this time**. If you feel the need to sing, please do so **softly and with your mask on**.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEEDS EMAILS! We want ALL of our St. George children in our education program. To make this happen, we need email addresses for our children and their parents! Please send them to Director Janet Abueita (cooeita@aol.com) as soon as you can so none of our children are left out and they can enjoy and learn about our life in Christ. Every month, our Kindergarten - 6th Grade registered students receive a packet of fun things in the mail (an email is sent to everyone on Fr. Joe's parishioner email list). Then on the last Sunday of each month (**THIS MONTH**, March 28th) our teachers have our CS Zoom Sunday at 12 Noon! Be a part of the FUN and send your email addresses to Janet TODAY!

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS Though everyone cannot attend church due to limited capacity or other reasons, **our stewardship, offerings, and donations are still very badly needed**. PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) and donate on-line 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!

COMING EVENTS

This Week	Today is Cheesefare Sunday and the last day we eat <i>eggs, cheese, dairy and their by-products</i> until Pascha (May 2 nd). The Great Fast begins tomorrow, March 15 th and continues until our celebration of PASCHA: our Lord's Resurrection on May 2 nd . The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is observed on all weekdays. On Saturdays and Sundays, <i>wine and olive oil</i> are allowed. On the Great Feast of the Annunciation (Thursday, March 25 th) and Palm Sunday (April 28 th), <i>fish, wine, and olive oil</i> are permitted.	
Monday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى and 1st Canon of St. Andrew	6:30pm
Tuesday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى and 2nd Canon of St. Andrew	6:30pm
Wednesday	Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas 10am Presanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقد يسه 6pm	
Thursday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى and 4th Canon of St. Andrew	6:30pm
Friday	Little Compline and Akathist to the Virgin Mary خدمة المديح	6:30pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions	5pm

The Banishment of Hell ~ *The Lenten journey and the banishment of hell*

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

One of my favorite authors as a young man was Thomas Merton, the famous Trappist monk. In the introduction to his work *New Seeds of Contemplation* he wrote: *"Hell was where no one has anything in common with anyone else except the fact that they all hate one another and cannot get away from each other and from themselves."*

This very much fits with the Orthodox view of hell as being in the presence of God for all eternity, and hating it. For the one who has never loved and who is consumed in his own ego and his own passions, being with God for all eternity will be to him, hell. Without love, we cannot experience the Fire of God without being burned.

The Lenten journey is the perfect time to reconnect with God's love by strengthening love within our own heart. By reaching out with an ever expanding love and charity for everyone around us, whether they are family members, fellow believers in the parish, or strangers on the street, loving others becomes our Lenten goal. As love increases, hate and anger decrease. As Christ increases in our own heart, the power of hate and sin decreases around us, and hell is banished.



His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

March, 2021

Beloved Antiochian Woman of our God-Protected Archdiocese:

Greetings to you and your families as we both give thanks to God for all that He bestows and continues to bestow upon us and, at the same time, beseech Him for a speedy end to the ongoing pandemic that has plagued our world and our continent for more than a year. When I wrote to you last year at this time, you were undoubtedly preparing for Women's Month, thinking in your local parishes who would be reading the Epistles, doing the collections, planning your annual charity dinners or fundraisers for the national project of "Fulfilling the Vision," etc. Suddenly, just as Women's month was underway, our lives came to a crashing halt and we had to temporarily stop people from coming to the churches save a priest and chanter, stop our social functions and enter what has been a dark winter that has already lasted a year and is still not over. While we now have a vaccine that will hopefully help us get back to "normal", the question remains: What will this new "normal" be and how has your ministry changed and adapted during this time? Just last month I wrote the following to the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of the West for their newsletter:

"From time to time in the history of the Church, for various reasons like persecutions or the emigration of people from one place to another where no church exists, we have been compelled to be separated from the church community and the sacraments. Some of these reasons have even included previous pandemics. Thanks be to God you have endured this period with love and patience, doing what you can to keep the Antiochian Women connected to the churches and to each other. At other times in history, people did not have the means of communication that we have today which makes it easier to stay connected to be sure. As I wrote earlier, however, this can never replace that face-to-face contact that we hope to be able to restore before we are too far into 2021. While we are once again able to attend the services in a safe and limited way in most places, many of the older members or vulnerable members of our Antiochian Women groups are still understandably afraid, and we encourage you to continue to reach out to them and do your best to bring the Church to them during

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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this time, in a safe way. This is your new ministry for this time, before we “get back to normal”, as we often hear.”

I admonish you all to persevere in your prayer lives and fast with earnest this year, even if you cannot attend the divine services of this holy season the same way you normally would. I pray that you will use this time where you cannot see family and friends as usual to “meet” your extended family and friends, that is, the holy saints, the angels and the Mother of God through your prayers and contemplation, always keeping in mind that we are “surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses.” (Heb 12:1) Let us take this difficult time and use it for something good.

Finally, with regard to our ongoing project, I encourage you to do your best to come up with new and creative ways to support our project. The Antiochian Village needs us now more than ever. After being closed for the past year, and for likely several more months, we need to try even harder to keep this vision alive and well and give them the support they need. Therefore, do what you can, think outside the box as they say, use this time to find inspiration for new and innovative ways to raise funds. Turn a negative situation into a positive one. Let us together continue to dream dreams and realize this vision!

I pray that you all have a holy and blessed Great Fast and, despite the difficult times in which we find ourselves, I pray that, by the time I write this letter in 2022, we will speak of this pandemic in the past tense. At the same time, I pray that while shedding the bad memories of associated with the past year, we will nevertheless give glory to God for all of the hidden blessings that we keep from this time and carry forward together as strong, revitalized army of Antiochian Women!

Your Father in Christ,



+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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St. George Orthodox Church
Ladies Auxiliary
5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507

Lenten à la carte Take-Out Bake Sale

Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Pick-up between 12pm-2pm

March is Antiochian Women's Month throughout our archdiocese. Our Ladies Auxiliary will be having a Lenten Bake Sale to raise money for the National Antiochian Women's Project:
Fulfilling the Vision at the Antiochian Village

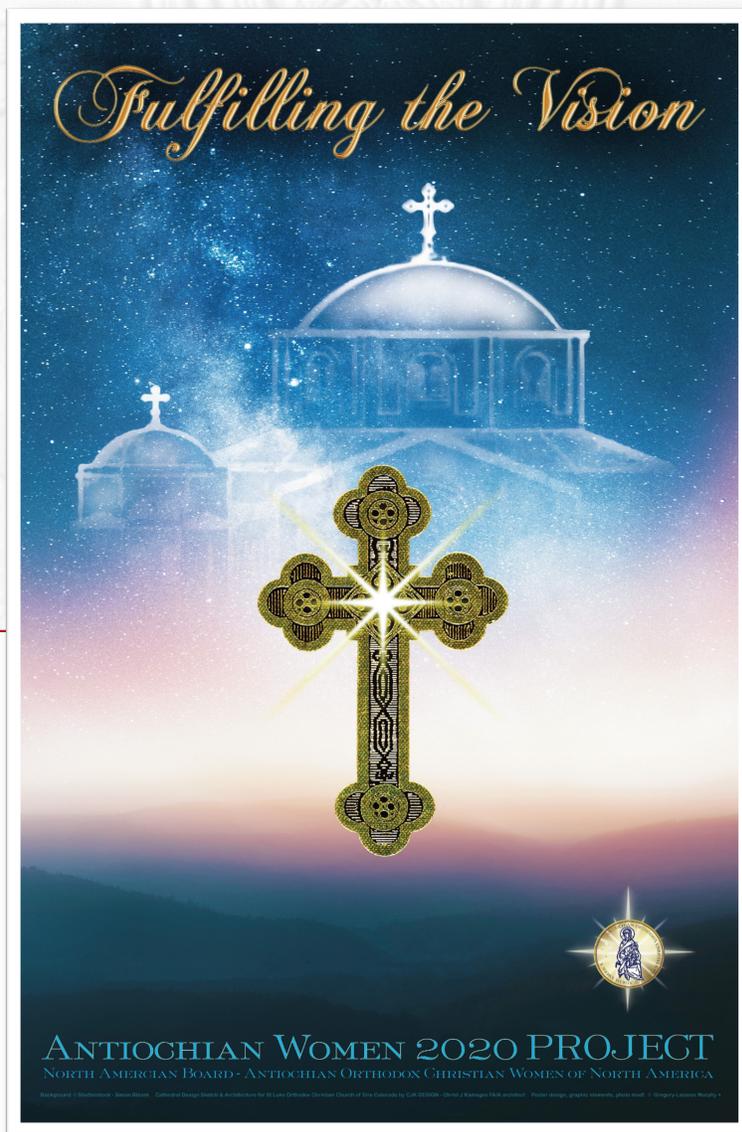
Please fill out the form below and send it to the Church with your payment or give it to any member of the Ladies Auxiliary by March 31st.

Thank you for your Support!

Order Form DEADLINE is March 31st!!!

Item	Quantity	Price per 1 item
Falafel Ready to Bake 1 ½ lb. bag (about 15 pieces)		\$10
Spinach Pies (bag of 12)		\$15
Zaatar on Pita (bag of 3)		\$ 5
Small Hummus		\$ 5
Small Lentil Soup		\$ 5
TOTAL		

Name: _____



The Antiochian Women NAB PROJECT 2021

...is a continuation of the 2020 PROJECT: "FULFILLING THE VISION"
building a cathedral at the Antiochian Village.

In spite of the closing of our churches last March due to the worldwide pandemic, the Antiochian Women still collected \$49,765.79 for our 2020 PROJECT and an additional \$11,726.85 for the 2019 NAB PROJECT.

The dream of expanding and improving our beloved Antiochian Village is still alive. This year we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the falling asleep of Fr. John Namie, the Village's first director. Metropolitan JOSEPH asks us to continue our efforts toward "fulfilling the vision" – the vision of an Archdiocesan facility of worship, camping, and fellowship that was first conceived by Metropolitan PHILIP and Fr. John Namie nearly half-a-century ago.

Let us begin anew. Let us strive to make the Antiochian Village a light in a dark world; a light set on a hill for all to see. We know it to be the "heart" of our Archdiocese, and we need to take this next step in building the physical facilities which will fulfill this purpose.

Thank you for your continued efforts in this coming year. Despite the economic and social restrictions which COVID-19 brings, let us not lose hope. We can come up with creative fundraising strategies that will move us closer to our goal of
FULFILLING THE VISION!

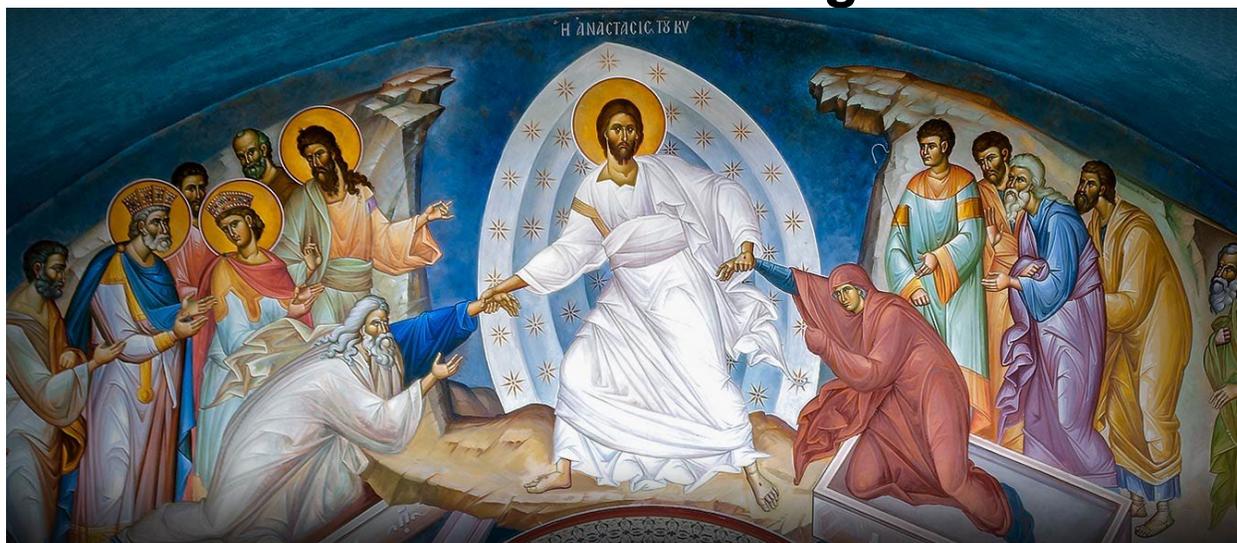
Sheryl VanderWagen

Sheryl VanderWagen, AW NAB Vice President & Project Coordinator

Orthodox Churches of Genesee County, Michigan

Assumption (Greek) 2245 Baldwin Road ❖ Grand Blanc, MI 48439 ❖ 810-771-4611
St. George (Antiochian) 5191 Lennon Road ❖ Flint, MI 48507 ❖ 810-732-0720
St. Mary Magdalene (OCA) 2439 S. Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1401
St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

2021 Great Fast and Bright Week



Pan-Orthodox Divine Services

Great Compline (*Mondays, 6:30pm*) All are welcome to celebrate every Monday night at St. George. This beautiful service along with the Lenten Hours on Wednesdays allows us to experience the Great Fast more deeply. Confessions will be available from 6pm–6:30pm and after the service.

Lenten Hours (*Wednesdays, 10:30am*) All are welcome to celebrate every Wednesday morning at St. Nicholas.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy (*Wednesdays, 6pm*) We will celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy and the Great Feast of the Annunciation together according to the schedule below. Holy Communion is given at both. To partake of Holy Communion, please be prepared with prayer and fasting (*no eating or drinking after 12 Noon*). Confessions will only be available prior to the Liturgy from 5:30pm–6pm. Unfortunately, we will not be having Potluck Lenten Meals this year.

March 6th **Pre-Lenten Retreat** led by Fr. Maximos Conostas (*more information to follow*)

March 24th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 6pm

March 25th **Great Feast of the Annunciation Divine Liturgy** at Assumption 10am

April 7th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 6pm

April 21st **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. George 6pm

April 24th **Preparation of Gifts, Raising of Lazarus Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 9:30am

Bright Week (May 2nd-8th)

May 3rd **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 10am

May 4th **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 10am

May 5th **Paschal Evening Liturgy & Feast of St. George** at St. George 6pm

May 7th **Paschal Divine Liturgy & Life-giving Font** at Assumption 10am

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A Vision of Orthodox Unity*