

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

March 24, 2024

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!

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 Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying 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!

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.

March is ... Antiochian Women's Month!

Greeters/Ushers: Amal Abu-Aita, Rania AbuAita, Muna Abuaita, Anaam Abueita, Suhair Awwad, Areen Bathish, Mary Khoury, and Walaa Khoury

Epistle Readers: Sally Abuaita (Arabic) and Lubna Jones (English)

Holy Bread Offerings *(Oblations)*

- Hiam Bathish for the health of **her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren** and in loving memory of husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather **Emil** (4 year), **Dannie Jones, Jose Ramirez, Yacoub** and **Marie Farah**, and **Naif** and **Julia** Bathish.
- Fares and Sahar Abdallah for the health of their family especially son **Nicholas** on the occasion of his birthday ~ *may God grant them many years!*

BAPTISM/CHRISMATION DAYS

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for our students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this coming week:

- **Christa** Kardooss ~ March 25th

May they be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}

- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Archbishop Nathaniel** (Romanian Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America), our **Bishop Anthony, Fr. Joe Abud, Sahar Abdallah, Abeer Abuaita, Reader Fouad & Soad Abuaita, Philip & Janett Abuaita, Rasha Abuaita, Sami & Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila Abud, George Abueita, Georgette Abueita, Jane Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, William Alsahouri, Naila Banna, Inam Bathish, Douglas Coone, Vera Daoud, Said Farah, Joseph Gagne, Elias Gantos, Subdeacon George & Suad Gantous, Phyllis Good, Daisy Isaac, John Joseph, Danny Mortensen, Karen Mortensen, Laura Nassar, Jeanette Nassif, Adam Odeh, Rahmeh Rashmawi, Elaine Shaheen, and Michael Silpoch**; Drs. **Ryan, Lindsey**, and newborn **Cassandra Carri Brunner** (February 25th) and **Panagiotis, Kari** (*daughter of John & Theresa Farah*), and newborn **Jacob Michael Mikroudis** (February 25th); your servants **Jaden, Evan, and Maria** who are under instruction to become members of our Orthodox Faith.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Nage Qumseya** (+February 15th, cousin of Jeries Qumseya) **Yusra Al-Qassis** (+March 1st, aunt of Iman David), **Khawleh David** (+March 6th, cousin of Iman David), **Hanna Bannoura** (+March 7th, uncle of Fouad Awad), and **Mary Abueita** (+March 18th) ~ *may their memory be eternal!*
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Casandra** and **Danial Burbar, Andrea** and **Josh Jones, & Vera** and **Luay Sababa**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Fares and Sahar Abdallah*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: April 14th and 21st ~ sign-up poster and hosting information are in the Lounge. *Hosting includes bringing whatever you wish to serve, setting up, and cleaning up afterwards.* St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$30. **For more information**, please contact our coordinator Manal Abuaita 810-577-9870. *Cheese-Fare Sunday is today, March 17th (no meat) and during the Great Fast (March 18th – May 4th) no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are to be served.*

REMEMBER that food is only one part of the Great Fast! Check out the Archdiocese Website at: <https://antiochian.org/regulararticle/1494> for a number of wonderful resources for the Great Fast.

“He that feeds the hungry also feeds God and the hunger of one is the shame of all.”

+Metropolitan PHILIP of thrice-blessed memory (more on his life is at antiochian.org/dashboard?name=Metropolitan%20Philip%20of%20Thrice%20Blessed%20Memory)

PAN-ORTHODOX LENTEN RETREAT Saturday, April 6th at St Mary Magdalene Church, we welcome *Father Andrew Stephen Damick* of the Lord of Spirits podcast on Ancient Faith Radio. Register and see more information on the flier in the March VOICE. There is also a signup sheet on the Narthex Table. Please take the time during the great forty days' fast to be spiritually renewed through our annual pan-Orthodox retreat. Livestreaming will be available for those who register. The deadline to register is Friday, March 29.

ORTHODOX 101 A small group is meeting weekly after Divine Liturgy to study our faith. We are exploring the fundamentals of the Orthodox Faith and beyond. We will, at a certain point, begin reading a specific book or two but at this time we are simply discussing the weekly Lenten themes and Scripture Lessons. The group consists of several who are studying (under catechism) to become Orthodox Christians. Parishioners who want to deepen their knowledge of our faith as well as encourage our new potential members are welcome! So this is for:

- Visitors and inquirers who want to know more about the Orthodox Christian Faith
- Catechumens (those formally enrolled in a course of study to become Orthodox Christians)
- Newer members of the Orthodox Faith and those who have been for a long time!

For more information, please see Fr. Michael.

Thank you and God bless...

... **Dr. Raouf Mikhail** for donating *Two Wheelchairs* for our disabled parishioners and guests! Parents, please make sure your children do not play with them...PLEASE!

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) needs to be \$7,588 to meet our 2024 Budget. On Sunday, March 17th, our offerings were \$3,720; we were short \$3,868 😞 **Please keep up with your offerings!** If you have not already, fill out your *2024 Offering Form*: put it in Sunday's Offering Tray or send it to the church (5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507). Thank you for supporting St. George and offering as God wants for our spiritual health!



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 to the left) 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

Fasting Discipline The *Great Fast* began on, Monday, March 18th, and continues until our celebration of **Pascha: our Lord's Resurrection** on May 5th. The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on all weekdays; on Saturdays and Sundays, *wine and olive oil* are allowed. Tomorrow, Monday, March 25th, we celebrate the Great Feast of the **Annunciation** and *fish, wine, and olive oil are permitted*.

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| Sunday | Pan-Orthodox Annunciation البشارة <i>Great Vespers at Assumption</i> 2245 E Baldwin Road, Grand Blanc 6pm |
| Monday | Pan-Orthodox Annunciation البشارة <i>Liturgy at Assumption</i> 2245 E Baldwin Road, Grand Blanc 10am |
| Tuesday | Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal at <i>St. Nicholas</i> (see address below) 7-9pm |
| Wednesday | Lenten Hours at <i>St. Nicholas</i> 10am
Combined Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقد يسه & Lenten Potluck Dinner at <i>St. Nicholas</i> 2143 South Center Road, Burton 6pm |
| Friday | Little Compline and Akathist to the Virgin Mary خدمة المديح (Madayeh) 6pm |
| Saturday | Great Vespers and Confessions 4pm |

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Journey of Joyful Sorrow ~ The Journey of Joyful Sorrow in the Expectation of the Resurrection

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

The main reason Christianity spread so rapidly following the Resurrection of Christ, was the power behind the resurrection. The truth of Christ's resurrection empowered believers to joyfully embrace martyrdom, knowing that they would be joined in eternal bliss with their resurrected Savior. Although their martyrdom would involve both mental and physical anguish, they were almost joyful in their willingness to go to their deaths, rather than betray their faith. Not the kind of thing one would do just to be part of some "religion". Many contemporaries observed that these Christians were facing their martyr's death as though they were about to be married. They were not grim faced, but shown a certain light in their countenance, embracing, as they did, their crown of martyrdom.

When Saint Polycarp was sentenced by the proconsul, he responded by asking why they were delaying his death by burning. These believers were rejoicing as

they faced their imminent death, for their knowledge of the bodily resurrection of Christ was proof enough to have given them an invincible courage as they faced certain death. Grand Duchess Elizabeth and Nun Barbara were said to have been singing hymns, after having been thrown into the well, by the Bolsheviks, as they prepared for eternal life with Christ.

Early Christian apologists cited hundreds of eyewitnesses, many of whom willfully and resolutely endured prolonged torture and death rather than repudiate their testimony. Their willingness to suffer death, ruled out deception on their part. According to the historical record most Christians could have ended their suffering simply by renouncing the faith. Instead, most opted to endure the suffering and proclaim Christ's resurrection unto death.

What makes the earliest Christian martyrs remarkable is that they knew whether or not what they were professing was true. Either they saw Jesus Christ alive-and-well after His death or they did not. If it was all just a lie, why would so many Christians perpetuate a myth, given their circumstances? Why would they all knowingly cling to such an unprofitable lie in the face of persecution, imprisonment, torture, and death?

Immediately following Christ's crucifixion, His followers hid in fear for their lives. Yet following Christ's resurrection they boldly proclaimed the resurrection despite intensifying persecution. Only a true resurrection could have accounted for a sudden change that would lead believers to give up everything, including their lives, to preach Christ's resurrection.

One skeptic, Paul, was of his own admission a violent prosecutor of the early Church. Yet after an encounter with the resurrected Christ, Paul underwent an immediate and drastic change from a vicious persecutor of the Church to one of its most prolific and selfless defenders. Following his encounter with the Risen Christ, Paul suffered impoverishment, persecution, imprisonment, beatings, and finally execution for his steadfast commitment to Christ's resurrection.

The sorrow we Christians experience during our Lenten journey, is tempered with the knowledge that Christ is conquering death by His death, and that His resurrection is our resurrection. We look to the future with the same faith of the saints and martyrs that have gone on before us, and we have experienced the truth of Jesus Christ's teachings, for our hearts have been transformed by the power of His message. Our sins have been forgiven, and we can be guests at the heavenly Eucharistic Banquet, awaiting our time when the gates of paradise will be opened to us. We fear nothing, just like the martyrs, because we know the truth of the Holy Resurrection of Christ our God.

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His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 117/2024

The Sunday of Orthodoxy
March 24, 2024

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and beloved Faithful in Christ,

Greetings to you as we celebrate this glorious Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. We have just completed the difficult first week of Lent. In many ways, this one week is a microcosm of the challenges we face throughout our Christian lives, as we try to live faithfully despite weaknesses within us and trials around us. However, the Lord's words to St. Paul are a comfort to us in every season of our lives: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:19).

Each year on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we remember our seminarians, who are studying at residential seminaries and through the Antiochian House of Studies. They are preparing to take up the Cross and follow our Lord on the difficult but rewarding road of priestly ministry. Those whom God calls to ordination will become pastors in our parishes, working with the children, the elderly, and all the faithful, leading them on their journey to the heavenly kingdom. They will stand before the holy altar and offer prayers to the All-Holy Trinity on behalf of us all. They will bring divine grace into all the joys and sorrows of our earthly lives. Therefore, it is our duty to provide them with the best possible education and preparation for this sacred ministry.

Today we ask you to support our dedicated seminarians through your prayers and by making a financial gift toward their theological education. Among the Orthodox in America, our archdiocese is a leader in seminarian support. We strive to provide full scholarships to these qualified men who are studying for the priesthood, and your generous contribution will help to ensure a well-prepared clergy for our future while not burdening our future pastors with excessive debt.

Fervently praying that your Lenten journey will be filled with growth in Christ, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Saba". The signature is written in a cursive style.

✠ SABA

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 Ladies Auxiliary

Falafel Luncheon

NEXT Sunday, March 31st

at

*St. George Orthodox Church
5191 Lennon Road
Flint, MI*

Menu

*Falafel, Hummus, Tahini, Salad, Pickles, Pita Bread,
Dessert, Coffee, and Juice
\$10 - Eight years and older
\$5 - Seven years and younger*

All proceeds go to the Antiochian Women's 2024 Project,

"Clergy Widowed Wives"

➤ *Additional donations are welcome!*