

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 26, 2023

MARCH IS ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S MONTH

Christ is in our Midst!

He is and ever shall be!

Antiochian Women's Month Greeters/Ushers:

Muna and Eline Abuaita, Rula Alkazaha, Olga Nassar, and Sandy Thomas

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. 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 else, including visitors, are invited to receive the final blessing of the priest and Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy. 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.

Antiochian Women's Month

Epistle Reader: **Sally Abuaita** (Arabic) and **Reem Bathish** (English)

Holy Bread Offerings (Oblations)

- Steve and Kelly Sanderson for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Donna** Stewart (4 year, mother of Kelly).
- Fares and Sahar Abdallah and Family for the health of their family especially daughter Dr. **Laila** and son **Nicholas** on the occasion of their birthdays ~ *May God grant them many years!*
- **Munther** and **Ban** Al-Kahush on the occasion of their anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and for the health of their family especially granddaughters **Sophia** and **Luciana** ~ *May God grant them many years!*
- St. George Ladies Auxiliary for the health of their families and in loving memory of their members who have fallen asleep in the Lord:

Sylvia Abdella	Jellilah Faris	Hillia Joseph	Mary Romley	Adel Saseen
Sadie Albert	Laura Gantos	Matilda Joseph	Nora Romley	Freida Seikaly
Lourice Beers	Rose Gantos	Mildred Joseph	Norma Rynek	Beatrice Shaheen
Betty Brackett	Samira Gantous	Rose Joseph	Sadie Salem	Madeleine Shaheen
Kamelia Brackett	Lucy Ghattas	Jean Khouri	Sadie Salem	Zed Shaheen
Shyka Brackett	Ann Hackim	Amal Koubty	Betty Salim	Gladys Shemes
Elizabeth Farah	Patricia Haddad	Maria Monkaba	Norma Salim Lazar	Mamie Shemes
Feroze Farah	Helen Isaac	Martha Newman	Nusra Salim	Sadie Shemes
Marie Farah	Helen Isaac	Thelma Nickola	Sadie Salim	Emeline Shweiry
Yosra Canasi	Pauline Jehnsen	Leerese Nicola	Vicky Salim	Sylvia Sophica
Pauline Farah	Delores Joseph	Aida Raffoul	Miladeh Salomon	Catherine Touma
Shafeeka Farah	Dorothy Joseph	Lucile Raffoul	Widad Salomon	Eva Wakim
Vera Farah	Esther Joseph	Aida Rojas	Adele Samra	Gloria Ward

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Farid** Nassar Nassar (+February 15th, Lansing, nephew of Karim Nassar), **Angelo** Bastounis (+February 26th, friend of parishioners), **Riyad** Hayek (+March 2nd, cousin of the Hayek Family), **Bryan** Campbell (+March 4th, brother in law of Kh. Pam Bassett), and **Gregory** Nicola (+March 16th, nephew of Kh. Leslee Abud) ~ *may their memory be eternal!*
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners and their friends who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: our local hierarch **Bishop Anthony**, **Fr. Angelo** Artemas (friend of Fr. Joe), **Sahar** Abdallah, **Reader Fouad** Abuaita, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **George** and **Georgette** Abueita and **Kristo** (brother, mother, and friend of Anwar), **Jane** Abueita, **Philip** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alsahouri, **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Walid** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Naila** Banna, **Vera** Daoud, **Valland** Frangi (sister of Ron Haddad), **Elias** Gantos, **Denise** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy** Isaac, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Nejma** Khair (mother of Esperanza Abuaita), **Michael** Khal, **Scott** Allen, **Antonia** Molina, and **Reuben** Reyes (friends of Areen Bathish), **Laura** Nassar, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Kameel** Srouji (son-in-law of Hiam Bathish), **Laura** Teunion-Smith (granddaughter of Bob Teunion), **Christa** Whitehead, and **Samantha** Zerka (cousin of Lauren Zerka/Goddaughter & niece of Victoria Zerka).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Rania** and **Raed** AbuAita, **Jessica** and **Mejhdy** Abu Aitah, **Julia** and **Maroun** Alatrash, **Katrina** and **Gary** Gagne, **Aziza** and **Basheer** Hawwash, **Dina** and **Laith** Maymoun, **Narmeen** and **Deeb** Shamshoum, and **Taylor** and **Jeffrey** Tipton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: April 23rd, May 14th and 28th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is 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**, contact our coordinator Manal Abuaita. *During the Great Fast (February 27th - April 15th), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are served.*



RECOGNIZING OUR FAITHFUL WOMEN!

March is **Antiochian Women's Month** across the Archdiocese. During this month, our ladies have served as greeters, ushers, readers, etc., in order to highlight the crucial role women have served throughout Christian history up to and including the present. Together with the women throughout the US and Canada, our Women have taken up a new project in response to the suffering people in the Patriarchate of Antioch ~ To raise funds for the victims of the recent earthquakes in Syria and Turkey. Normally during this month, our Ladies Auxiliary have a *Falafel Lunch* as a way of raising funds for their annual national project. However, it was impossible without our Banquet Center, so there is no lunch. BUT, we will have a special tray today! If

you will not be in church, you can go to our website (see 1st page) and click the donate button. From there, go to "fund" and the drop-down list, and click Ladies Auxiliary Annual Project. Thank you and may God always bless your generosity. Hiam Bathish, Ladies Auxiliary President

PASCHA EGG HUNT

We are in need of candy for our *Pascha Egg Hunt*, which takes place after Pascha Vespers on April 16th at 1pm. Money donations are also welcome to purchase items. Please drop off your donations this Sunday at the Church School Office or see Janet Abueita, Director. Thank you and God bless.

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE As we fast, we always need to remember the poor, so **please take a Food for Hungry People offering box from the narthex**, and make it a practice to put something into it as you sit down for every meal. *Please then bring back the filled boxes and canisters after Lent.* Also, please pick up a **Food for Hungry People Daily Calendar** to make it fun for your family—to engage your children in contributing something for the hungry each day. Canisters can be placed on counters in your place of business—a store, restaurant, etc.—where your customers can also put in their spare change.

BE A PART OF HISTORY!

OUR GALA IS MAY 12TH!

The excitement is building, can you feel it? The renovation of our Banquet Center is moving along and looks so different; like brand new! To celebrate the end of the renovation, we are having a **Banquet Center Renovation Grand Opening Gala** on Friday, May 12th (during the 40 day Paschal season, we do not need to fast!). Information is on the Narthex Table and online at our St. George Website (saintgeorgeflint.org) ~ you can also purchase tickets online on our website at this same link. Tickets are also available from any of our Gala Committee members: *Raghad Farah, Tony Daoud, Rula Alkazaha, Areen Bathish, Aida Nassar, Jeanette Nassif, Evette Rishmawi*, or in our church office. For more information about being a sponsor, please speak with one of our committee members.

▶▶ We are looking for major sponsors / benefactors. Our committee is dedicated to raise as much funds as possible to start paying off our \$450,000 loan. This is our house and we need everyone to step up, especially those who are capable! Please look at the sponsorship levels and be one of our benefactors with a sacrificial offering. Over 50 years ago, our St. George ancestors stepped up to build our beautiful church and complex at a cost just under \$1,000,000 (in today's dollars, \$7,872,599)! They did it because of their love of God, the love of their children, and the love of all future generations...yes, US!

Now is the time for us to show our love of God, our children, and future generations. Be a part of this major event. If you haven't seen the progress of the renovation, see Tony Daoud on Sundays for a glimpse! I'm excited and you should be too! May God continue to bless our St. George Family and enable us to produce fruit like those who built our church in 1971 did! Love, Fr. Joe



HOLY SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION) If you are 7 years or older, have been away from the Church, have not had Confession in the last 2 months or so, and desire to come back and receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion, please remember you must offer a confession of your sins first. During this time of preparation during the Great Fast is a perfect opportunity. Confessions can be heard before or after most services except after Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy and Sunday Divine Liturgy. Because it is so important and for your convenience, Fr. Joe and Fr. Michael will hear confessions after Coffee Fellowship Sunday, April 2nd. Fr. Joe is not the only Orthodox priest in the area, or at St. George, and if you would prefer to go to Fr. Michael or one of the other local priests, feel free to do so (*please just let Fr. Joe know*): Fr. Gabriel Bilas from St. Mary Magdalene (810-750-1401) or Fr. Matthew Butrie from St. Nicholas Church (810-744-0070).

Let everyone in our St. George Family prepare and partake of our Lord in Holy Communion. The important thing is not who hears your confession, but that you participate in this Holy Sacrament on a regular basis. **Blessed are those who wash their (baptismal) robes, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life (which is Christ).** Revelation 22:14



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 February 27th and continues until our celebration of **Pascha: our Lord's Resurrection** on April 16th. 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. On Palm Sunday (April 9th), the traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy*) is observed and *fish, wine, and olive oil* are allowed.

Monday **Great Compline** صلاة النوم الكبرى 6pm

Weds. **Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas** 10:30am

Presanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقد بيسه & Lenten Refreshments 6pm

Friday **Little Compline and Akathist to the Virgin Mary** خدمة المديح (Madayeh) 6pm

Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

Our Weaknesses ~ We must confront our own weaknesses

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

As we continue our Lenten journey, this is a time when the Church puts much emphasis on the role of repentance. We strive to go to confession more frequently during Great Lent, just as we've increased our level of fasting, and frequency of attending the services. Holy Week is almost upon us, and as we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel announced to the Holy Virgin that she was to bear the Son of God, let us examine how we are living our lives.

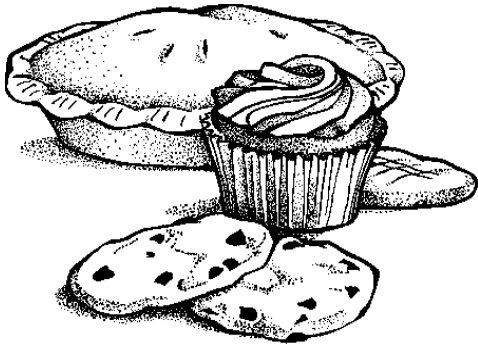
There are certain sins that have become habitual, and behavior that we would like to change, but seem to repeat, even against our will. Saint Isaac the Syrian suggested that we confront these struggles head on. *"If you bear your weakness constantly in mind, you will not overstep the bounds of caution."* Part of the problem is that we allow our guard to be down, and we find ourselves repeating the same sins over and over. If we take Saint Isaac's suggestion, we will keep vigil, watching out for those situations that bring us into moments of temptation, where we find ourselves falling into the same sins, over and over again.

continued ⇒

When we keep ourselves vigilant, we are able to avoid those very situations that cause us to stumble, and, with Christ's help, triumph over our sins. God's grace is sufficient to bring about the transformation of our heart, but we must cooperate. Just as a soldier enters into combat prepared, so too must we be vigilant, keeping watch for the enemy. Then, just as the Holy Virgin received the Son of God into her womb, becoming a living tabernacle of the Most High, so too will we receive Christ into our hearts.

On this Feast of the Annunciation of the Birth-giving of God, let us remember that this Feast reflects the fullness of Christian teaching, and touches on the mystery of God within us. The Feast is a reminder that we must also give birth to God within ourselves, by cleansing and restoring our ailing human condition through the Medicine of Immortality, wherein we take Christ into our imperfect bodies. In doing so, we allow Christ to purify us from within, as He purified His Mother, when She gave birth with the whole of Her body and being. For this pure and virgin vessel, the Prototype of our salvation, brought forth in mystery God Himself as the Archetype of Perfected Man, Who guides us by Scripture, Holy Tradition, and the example of His Pure Mother, to the fullness of life. Most Holy Theotokos, save us.





St. George
Church School
invites YOU to their
**Palm Sunday
Bake Sale**

Sunday, April 9th

Arabic Sweets, Lenten Desserts, Cakes, Pies, and Breads of all kinds!

**This is the Church School's ONLY Fundraiser...
Please Support Us!!!**

CALLING ALL BAKERS!!! We NEED YOU!!! Everything raised pays for books, supplies, incentives, and all expenses during the entire year! PLEASE bake something for the bake sale....PLEASE buy something at the bake sale....PLEASE be generous with your donation!! OUR CHILDREN ARE DEPENDING ON US!!!

Please drop off your baked goods in the Lounge
on Saturday, April 8th between 1-4pm.

Pick up containers for your Baked Goods during Coffee Fellowship on April 2nd!



What: **Agape Vespers**
followed by: Pascha Egg Hunt
Who: Everyone, especially children
When: Sunday, April 16th at 1pm

**Bring a basket to collect
your goodies!**

We are in need of wrapped candy for our Pascha Egg Hunt. All money donations and candy can be dropped off in the Church School Office by Palm Sunday, April 9th.

Any and all donations will be appreciated!