

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 Pastor

March 27, 2022

MARCH IS ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S MONTH

Christ is in our Midst!

He is and ever shall be!

Antiochian Women's Month Greeters/Ushers

Anaam Abueita, Areen Bathish, Carri and Theresa Farah

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.

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 in our Banquet Center! 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!

Antiochian Women's Month Epistle Readers

Sally Abuaita (Arabic) and Kh. Pam Bassett (English)

Flower Offering for the Adoration of the Holy Cross

- The Shaheen Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of parents **George** and **Beatrice** and brother **Kenneth**.

Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- Philip Abuaita and Zahra Abuaita and families for the health of their families and in loving memory of sister **Elaine** Alqassis (40 day).
- Emil and Eline Abueita for the health of their family and in loving memory of aunt **Elaine** Alqassis (40 day)
- Steve and Kelly Sanderson for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Donna** Stewart (3 year, mother of Kelly).
- 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 Sadie Albert Lourice Beers Betty Brackett Kamelia Brackett Shyka Brackett Elizabeth Farah Feroze Farah Marie Farah Yosra Canasi Pauline Farah Shafeeka Farah Vera Farah	Jellilah Faris Laura Gantos Rose Gantos Samira Gantous Lucy Ghattas Ann Hackim Patricia Haddad Helen Isaac Helen Isaac Pauline Jehnсен Delores Joseph Esther Joseph Hillia Joseph	Rose Joseph Jean Khouri Amal Koubty Maria Monkaba Martha Newman Thelma Nickola Leerese Nicola Lucile Raffoul Aida Rojas Mary Romley Nora Romley Norma Rynек Sadie Salem	Sadie Salem Betty Salim Norma Salim Lazar Nusra Salim Sadie Salim Vicky Salim Miladeh Salomon Widad Salomon Adele Samra Adel Saseen Freida Seikaly Beatrice Shaheen Madeleine Shaheen	Zed Shaheen Gladys Shemes Mamie Shemes Sadie Shemes Emeline Shweiry Sylvia Sophiea Catherine Touma Eva Wakim Gloria Ward
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- We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Salim** Haddad (40 day), **Ibrahim** Rishmawi (+February 20th, uncle of Salim and Fadi Rishmawi), **Irma** Cena (+February 23rd, mother of Mary Jo Farah), **Salwa** Isaac Selby (+March 2nd), and **George** Kardoos (March 3rd, uncle of Cam Takach).
- 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, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsaouri, **Rose** Ayoub (mother of Cam Takach), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Cynthia** Brooks (sister of Fr. Michael), **Douglas** Coone, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** and **Victor** 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, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy** Isaac, **Dannie** Jones, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Nicola** Khoury, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **Rafat** Nasri, **Laura** Nassar, **Sarah** Nassar, **Aida** Raffoul, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Georgette** Yusuf, and **Michael** Zerka (uncle of Lauren Zerka).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Staci** and **Daniel** Bator, **Casandra** and **Daniel** Burbar, **Joselien** (daughter of Issa and Esperanza) and **David** Khoury, **Sandy** (daughter of Issa and Esperanza) and **Raad** Qumsieh, and **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet) and **John** Timm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LADIES AUXILIARY FALAFEL LUNCH The cost for TODAY's lunch: Adults \$10 each; Children 7 and under \$5 each. Everyone is invited!!! All proceeds will go to their National Project: *The Antiochian Village Project: Reflecting on the Past ~ Building for the Future*. Please be generous and support the wonderful and good works of our ladies!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: May 1st, 15th, and 29th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is in the Lounge and includes bringing whatever you wish to serve and cleaning up afterwards. St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$25. **For more information, contact Manal Abuaita** (810-577-0028).

YES, WE ARE! We are missing so many of our children (and parents!) who are missing out on learning about our Life in Christ as we live our Orthodox Faith. Parents, you love your children, we love your children, and most importantly, God loves your children. Come to the Divine Liturgy **at 10am** to partake of our Lord in Holy Communion. Come to church to show your love of God! Come and receive all the blessings He has for us as we continue our journey to the Great Fast, the Raising of Lazarus, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and our Lord's Pascha, His Resurrection on the Third Day!

WHEN WE HAVE LENTEN SERVICES there are often times for people to help with the readings. If you are reading, we ask you to keep the following in mind: come up near the microphone while the previous reading/prayer/hymn is being done, have your mouth within fractions of an inch from the microphone and project your voice. This is particularly beneficial for those who are viewing our stream of the service, but also assists all of us to hear better.

HOLY SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION) If you are 7 years or older, have been away from the Church, or have not had Confession in the last 2 months and desire to come back and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, 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 and Sunday Divine Liturgy. Fr. Joe is not the only Orthodox priest in the area, or at St. George, and if you would prefer to go for confession to Fr. Michael or one of the other local priests, feel free to do so (*please just let Fr. Joe know*): Fr. Jarrod Russell from Assumption Church (810-771-4611), 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 Jesus Christ*). (*Revelation 22:14*)

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE We are very fortunate to have several scholarships available to those who wish to further their education. Some applications are in the Lounge and others are located at: <https://antiochian.org/regulararticle/386>. Please note THE DEADLINES!

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE (FFHP) We have begun our annual Archdiocesan program to feed the hungry. Boxes for your home and businesses are on the front pew. **Parents:** please come to church so your children can get their box and calendar and they can help feed the hungry too! Information is

available on the Archdiocesan Website for ways to make this a **family Lenten activity**
<https://www.antiochian.org/dashboard?name=Food%20For%20Hungry%20People>

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS Though you might not come to church, **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 (use the QR code to the right) 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	The <i>Great Fast</i> began on March 7 th and continues until our celebration of Pascha: our Lord's Resurrection on April 24 th . 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.
Monday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى 6pm
Wednesday	Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas 10:30am <i>Combined Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy</i> القداس السابق تقد يسه & Lenten Potluck at St. Nicholas 6pm
Friday	Little Compline and Akathist to the Virgin Mary خدمة المديح (Madayeh) 6pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

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Sycophants ~ Cooperating in the Devil's Attack Against the Church

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

There is a new movie that is having a great impact upon the whole world, a movie that I was blessed to see while in Northern Idaho, as the speaker for the Women's Tea at Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Post Falls, Idaho. *Man of God* is a profound movie not only because it tells the story of one of the greatest saints in history, but because it demonstrates the powerful impact suffering can have on behalf of the Church. Saint Nectarios was Metropolitan of the throne of Pentapolis, a man of great humility, and perhaps one of the most believed and honored bishops of the Church.

The movie, which was nine years in production, is one that every Orthodox Christian should see, for it demonstrates the dangers that often befall Christ's Church. That the Church of Christ is hated by the Evil One should be of no surprise. That the devil has often warred against the Church from within is a reality that we must all be aware of, for the best way to attack the integrity and holiness of the Church, is from within. That the Church is the Hospital of the Soul, is it any wonder that the physicians of this hospital would be the target for the Devil's attacks? That some bishops of the Church should be the target of hatred and rage against Christ, only makes sense, even though we know from scripture that "*the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church*" (Matthew 16:18-19).

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The love and admiration of the people for Metropolitan Nectarios turned to his disadvantage. Because of the spotless life that he led, because of his holy sermons, and his inspiring writings, he stood out among his fellow bishops, all Metropolitans of the See of Alexandria. They did not like Saint Nectarios because he was different from them. For this reason these bishops slandered him to Patriarch Sophronios, saying that he had his eye upon the Patriarchal Throne, because he had this "false show of piety," as they called it. Not wanting to recognize his true virtue and unmatched spiritual beauty, they said that all his virtue was only a show so that he would be considered holy by the people. They accused him of using his popularity with the people to dethrone the Patriarch. Since he was so popular with the people, the Patriarch was easily convinced that his position as Patriarch was in danger. Little did they understand that Saint Nectarios was not a proud man and not ambitious, as they were. He was, unlike them, not interested in positions of power and glory. The Saint made no attempt to justify himself but placed all his hope in the promise of Christ who has said: *"Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account"* (Matthew 5:11).

Because they were threatened by him, they suspended their fellow bishop as Metropolitan of Pentapolis. The Patriarch, who had been a very great "friend" of Metropolitan Nektarios, wrote an ambiguous letter of suspension, which later became the cause of much scandal, saying that for "reasons known to the Patriarchate" he was suspended from the Metropolis of Pentapolis, but that he was allowed to remain at the Patriarchate and to eat at the common table. Saint Nectarios was essentially deprived of all means of lodge and shelter.

Although he was not defrocked per say, nor was he suspended from ecclesiastical functions, he was taken away from his throne to be without position. He humbly endured these slanders and the suspension from his throne, but because he was popular with the people there were grumbings and intrigues that arose, with the people demanding to know why he was suspended. Not wanting to cause further disturbance in the Church of Alexandria, Saint Nectarios secretly left for Greece, but the letter of dismissal he received only complicated matters, since those against him knew that they would be embarrassed if the truth were known about the true matter of his dismissal. Therefore, they sent letters, both anonymous and signed, to influential people in Greece, slandering him as being unethical and immoral, and that this was the reason he was suspended from his position.

Alone and despised, he embarked for Athens. He faced many days without food, as he kept nothing for himself and gave all the little that he had to the poor. When the Saint appeared in Athens with this paper of suspension, many believed there must have been a cause for his suspension. Because he was removed, "for reasons known to the Patriarchate," many chose to believe he must truly be an evil man. When evil rumors go around about someone, outsiders to the situation usually fall victims of believing them. Thus, both the State and the Church authorities refused to give him a position in the Church of Greece. Saint Nectarios was left without means of support, a stranger amongst his own, without lodging, without food, without even the simplest means of survival.

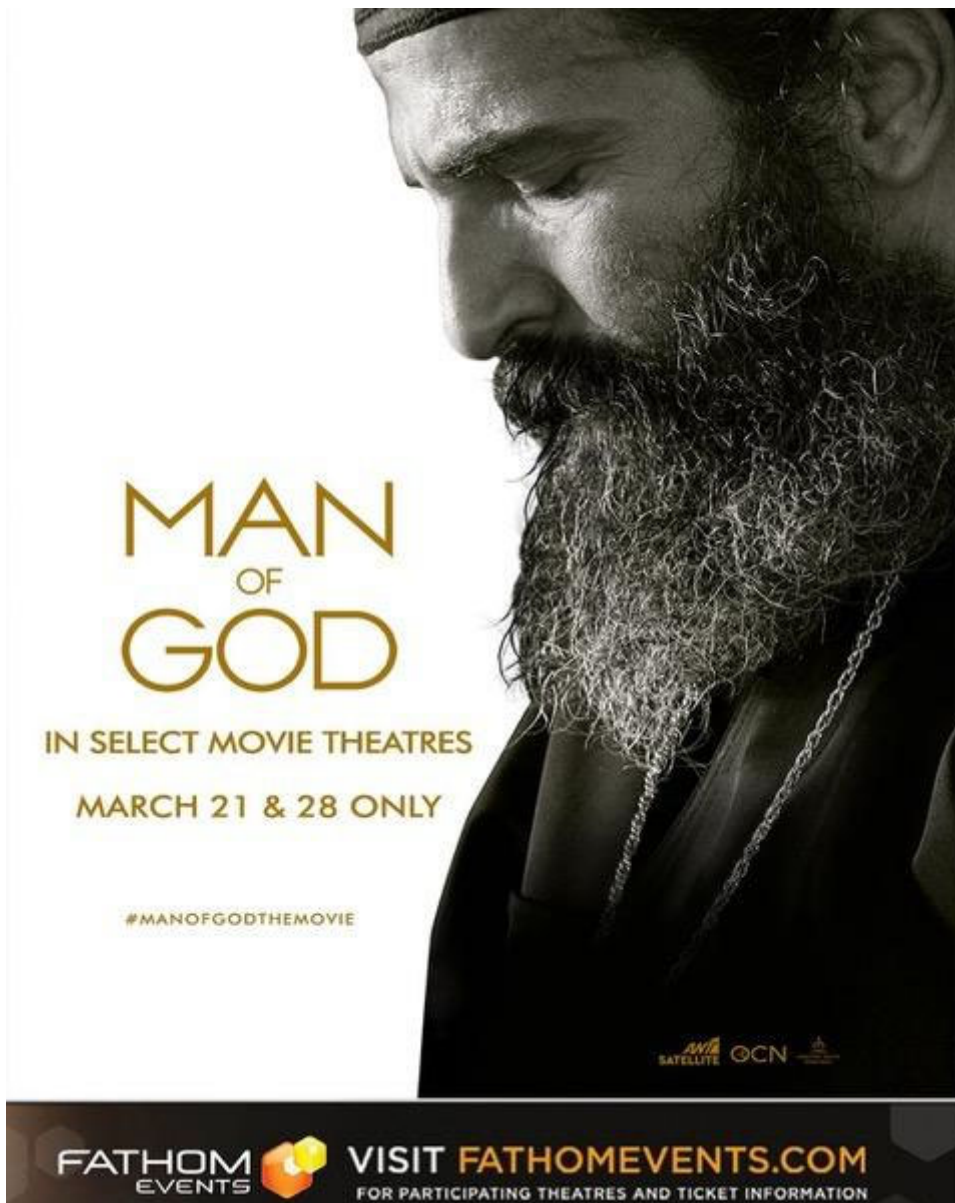
Every day he would go to the office of the Minister of Religion so that something might be done for him and every day he was turned away. He thought about going to Mount Athos for monastic retreat, but gave up the idea as he wanted to help others more than he wanted to help himself.

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This movie will be shocking to many Orthodox Christians, for seeing bishops of the Church behaving in such an evil manor, even to the point of becoming sycophants (a *sycophant* is a person who tries to win favor from wealthy or influential people by flattering them. Also known as brown-nosers, teacher's pets, or suck-ups.) to fellow bishops, desiring as they did to enjoy favor among them, is truly scandalous. But if we look closely at such behavior, we will see ourselves, for we have often been guilty of slandering others for the sake of gaining favor from those who have power over us. If we are truthful, most of us have been guilty of slandering another for self-promotion and potential personal gain.

Upon the death of Saint Nectarios, a cloth that had been covering him in his hospital bed, was placed upon the bed of a man sharing the small room. The man had been in a terrible accident, and had lost the ability to walk, or even to move his arms. As the saint reposed in the Lord, the man stood up, completely healed. Shortly after his repose, many miracles happened throughout the land, and upon hearing proof of his sanctity, he was reappointed as Metropolitan of Pentapolis, and within a short period of time, glorified as a saint of the Universal Church.

Saint Nectarios is one of the Patron Saints of our monastery, primarily because of the experience I had with him. In 1989 I made a pilgrimage to the Holy Mountain of Athos, and while in Greece I made my way to the Island of Aegina, so I could pray before his holy relics. During my visit to the convent founded by him, there was a special service asking for his heavenly intercession. I wrote on a piece of paper that was placed on a platter that was set under his holy relics, asking that he heal me of my dyslexia. I walked away, having been healed.



MAN
OF
GOD

IN SELECT MOVIE THEATRES
MARCH 21 & 28 ONLY

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