

# St. George Orthodox Church

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V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

Web Site: [saintgeorgeflint.org](http://saintgeorgeflint.org)

March 28, 2021

MARCH IS ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S MONTH

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONIKA

وأحد القديس غريغوريوس بالامس أسقف تسالونيكي

## 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 for Antiochian Women's Month  
Sally Abuaita (Arabic) and Camela Takach (English)

## Holy Bread Offerings

- Steve and Kelly Sanderson for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Donna** Stewart (2 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

**Jellilah** Faris

**Laura** Gantos

**Rose** Gantos

**Samira** Gantous

**Lucy** Ghattas

**Ann** Hackim

**Patricia** Haddad

**Helen** Isaac

**Helen** Isaac

**Pauline** Jehnsen

**Delores** Joseph

**Esther** Joseph

**Hillia** Joseph

**Rose** Joseph

**Jean** Khouri

**Amal** Koubty

**Maria** Monkaba

**Martha** Newman

**Thelma** Nickola

**Leereese** Nicola

**Lucile** Raffoul

**Aida** Rojas

**Mary** Romley

Nora Romley	Norma Salim Lazar	Widad Salomon	Madeleine Shaheen	Emeline Shweiry
Norma Rynck	Nusra Salim	Adele Samra	Zed Shaheen	Sylvia Sophiea
Sadie Salem	Sadie Salim	Adel Saseen	Gladys Shemes	Catherine Touma
Sadie Salem	Vicky Salim	Freida Seikaly	Mamie Shemes	Eva Wakim
Betty Salim	Miladeh Salomon	Beatrice Shaheen	Sadie Shemes	Gloria Ward

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **George Rizk** (+February 19<sup>th</sup>, uncle of May Gantos and Lina Burbar), **Michel Abuaita** (+February 27<sup>th</sup>, father of Lucy Abuaita and Mary Khoury), **Malvina Kaileh** (+March 3<sup>rd</sup>, cousin of Aida Nassar), **Reginald Jehnsen** (+March 4<sup>th</sup>, relative of Daisy Isaac), **Mariam El-Hayek** (+March 8<sup>th</sup>, sister-in-law of Zahra Hayek), and **Juliette Farah** (+March 24<sup>th</sup>, sister-in-law of Gisele Farah).
- 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), **Philip**, **Janett**, **Jamal**, and **Manal Abuaita**, **Shafiq**, **Anwar Abueita**, **Wadia Albaba**, **William Alshoury**, **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), **Issa Ibrahim**, **Daisy Isaac**, **Danny Isaac**, **David Jordan** (cousin of Dn. Mike), **John** and **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 28<sup>th</sup>); **John** [son of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee], **Nawal**, and newborn **Julian Joseph Abud** (March 2<sup>nd</sup>).
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Mirna (Tamer) Abuaita** [son of Khader and Lucy], **Haneen (Benan) Burbar**, **Jenny** [Abueita] (**Tony**) Salsa, **Rachel (Andrew) Sackllah** [daughter of Suheil and Abeer Abuaita], and **Sarah (Matthew) Thomas** [son of Doug and Sandy].

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE MINISTRY** We are looking for a special person to lead our Preschool & Childcare Ministry. The Preschool has been in operation since 2018 and has had over 30 children in attendance. Though currently closed and without a Program Director we have a valid Child Care License. With proper staffing and leadership it could be reopened at any time. Dn. Michael, Kh. Leslee, Kelly (our Church Office Manager) and others are ready to assist you! We have a list of previous clients as well as a growing list of families looking for the intimate, faith based setting that we offer. Rooms are set up, in place, and waiting for children! Curriculum is purchased, learning centers are in place, and there is plenty of outdoor play space! This is an excellent opportunity for the right person to provide a needed service / ministry to the community and help generate revenues for St. George Church and have nearly full autonomy with minimal risk. If you are interested or you know someone who might be, contact the Preschool at 810-732-1500, [stgeorgeschool17@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeschool17@gmail.com), or talk with Dn. Michael or Kh. Leslee.

**GREAT NEWS!** The Antiochian Village will be having in-person camp sessions this coming summer! For those who were registered last year, you will have the opportunity to still have a spot this year. If you are new to the camp program, please visit [AVCamp.org](http://AVCamp.org) for information on how to register. Registration is NOW OPEN!

**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>

**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](mailto: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 - 6<sup>th</sup> 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 SUNDAY**, March 28<sup>th</sup>) 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	The <b>Great Fast</b> began on March 15 <sup>th</sup> and continues until our celebration of <b>PASCHA: our Lord's Resurrection</b> on May 2 <sup>nd</sup> . 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 (March 25 <sup>th</sup> ) and Palm Sunday (April 28 <sup>th</sup> ), <i>fish, wine, and olive oil are permitted.</i>
Monday	<b>Great Compline</b> صلاة النوم الكبرى 6:30pm
Wednesday	<b>Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas</b> 10am <b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> القداس السابق تقد يسه 6pm
Friday	<b>Little Compline and Akathist to the Virgin Mary</b> خدمة المديح 6:30pm
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

**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.**

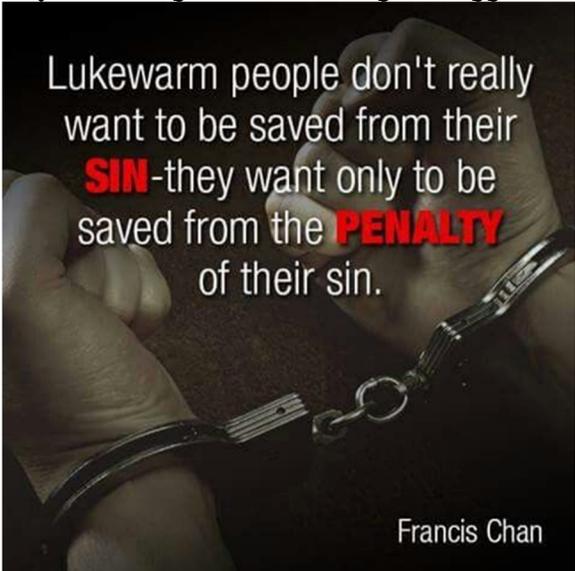
## Ascetic Struggle ~ *Living our lives in total commitment*

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

Christianity is a religion of asceticism, instructing us to store up our treasures in heaven, where the benefits have eternal value. Throughout the New Testament we read of the importance of struggle, where focus on the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart is paramount to what it means to be a Christian. The Lord Jesus Christ tells us that if we are to be worthy of Him, we must be willing to take up our cross and follow Him. We are to be a people whose true homeland is Christ's Kingdom, which is within. Christ Himself calls us to holiness, and this change of heart can only be brought about through struggle.

**So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth.**

**—Revelation 3:16**



Lukewarm people don't really want to be saved from their **SIN**-they want only to be saved from the **PENALTY** of their sin.

Francis Chan

Our world places a great deal of emphasis on being comfortable, and we tend to avoid anything that does not bring pleasure. If being open about our Christian faith invites ridicule, we remain silent. If keeping the fasting rules of the Church prevents us from enjoying evenings out with our friends, we ignore the fast. If voicing disapproval when hearing our Christian faith being trashed, makes us appear less cool, we choose to go the route of the politically correct. Is it any wonder we are therefore unprepared to stand firm when faced with real trials that come our way, having avoided the very things that would transform us into strong, committed Christians?

If we embrace Christianity with dedication of heart and mind, we will receive the power to live in this world, filled as it is with temptations and disappointments, yet remaining true to our vocation as a holy people. Committing ourselves to being full time Christians, empowers us to live our lives in such a way we give glory and witness to the very Christ Whom we worship. If, however, we avoid ascetic struggle, and choose to keep our Christian faith sidelined, and reject real commitment, we will ultimately be Christian in name only.

For those who, out of laziness or personal selfishness, choose to relegate fasting, private prayer, and even church attendance, as something done only when we feel "in the mood", we will stand before the Throne of God, in the end, with a darkened heart that cannot withstand the power of God, and eternity will be for us, a lake of fire.