

March 31, 2019

MARCH IS ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S MONTH

3RD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ADORATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

أحد السجود للصليب الكريم المحيي (الأحد الثالث من الصوم)

Tone - 3 11th Matins Gospel {John 21:15-25}

Greeters and Ushers **Amal Abu-Aita, Raeda Andoni, Suad Gantous, and Marlen Odeh**

Confessions
8:30-9:30am

Matins p.44
8:50am

Divine Liturgy p.91
10:00am

Memorial Service
Trisagion p.183

Welcome to St. George! Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book located in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, 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, being at peace with others, and attending the Divine Liturgy regularly. Please know everyone is invited to venerate the Holy Cross and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. Basil the Great** (Bilingual sheets on the Narthex table), we sing the **Special Hymns** on the Bilingual sheets on the Narthex table:

Epistle Reading: *Hebrews 4:14-5:6* {3rd Sunday of the Great Fast}

Reader: **Anaam Abueita** (Arabic) and **Leslee Abud** (English)

Gospel Reading: *Mark 8:34-9:1* {3rd Sunday of the Great Fast}

Flower Offerings 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

- Nasri and Ghada Abdallah and Family for the health of the family and in loving memory of **Michael** (Nasri's father).
- Fares and Sahar Abdallah for the health of their family especially son **Nicholas** on the occasion of his birthday ~ *May God grant him many years!*

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Joachim** Al-Khourri (+February 28th, uncle of Khaled Al-Khourri), **Suad** Andoni (+March 4th, mother of Vera Daoud), **Cesar** Banna (+March 6th, husband of parishioner Naila), **Mary** Abuaita (+March 9th, mother of Janett, Shafiq, and Najeb), **Linda** Abuaita (+March 15th, niece of Fouad and Suad Abuaita), **Martha** Abraham (+March 20th, Godmother of Fr. Joe), and **Donna** Stewart (+March 25th, mother of Kelly Sanderson).
- 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, **Bishop Alexander** (Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York), **Laila** and **Sahar** Abdallah, **Androlla** Abu Aita, **Salwa** Abu-Aitah, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Georgette** Abueita, **Khaled** and **Mariam** Al-Khourri, **Naila** Banna, **Emil** Bathish, **Vera** Daoud, **Alex** and **Panayiotis** Deligorges, **Theresa** Farah, **Vera** Farah, **Betty** Froberg, **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Roland** Haddad, **Patti** Harris, **Daisy** Isaac, **Ida** Isaac, **Nawal** & **Nimer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **Danny** Mortensen, **George** and **Renee** Nassif, **Nawal** Odeh, **Aida** Raffoul, **Elias** Rishmawi, **John** Salomon, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Eva** Saseen (niece of George and Jeanette Nassif), **Michael** and **Nancy** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr., and **Lois** Teunion.
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Ola** (Michael) Alqazaha, Dr. **Lindsey** (Dr. Ryan) Brunner, **Katrina** (Gary) Gagne, **Diana** (Ayman) Khair, **Natalie** (Shadi) Qumsieh, and **Sandy** (Raad) Qumsieh {daughter of Issa and Esperanza}.

Reception of Holy Communion

Please remember only ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED themselves may partake of Holy Communion. *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP MEMORIAL MEAL is hosted by *Nasri and Ghada Abdallah and Family*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: April 7th and May 26th ~ 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, see Manal Abuaita. *During the Great Fast (March 11th – April 27th), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are served.*

LENTEN POTLUCK DINNERS Our Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting Lenten Potluck Dinners after our combined Pan-Orthodox celebration of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Please bring what is listed below according to the first letter of your last name. If you have any questions, please see or call our coordinators Anaam Abueita 810-962-1033 or Wafaa Elias 810-875-3398.

FOR OUR COMBINED CELEBRATION ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3RD

<u>A-F</u>	<u>G-J</u>	<u>K-R</u>	<u>S-Z</u>
Main Dish	Desserts	Relish Dish or Bread	Salad or Side Dish

HOLY SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION) If you are 8 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. For your convenience, Fr. Joe will be hearing confessions after Coffee Fellowship next Sunday, April 7th. Father Joe is not the only Orthodox priest in the area and if you would prefer to go for confession to 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). **Blessed are those who wash their (baptismal) robes, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life (Christ in Holy Communion).** (Revelation 22:14)

CHILD CARE Fr. Joseph and the Parish Council respectfully request that parents keep track of their children and teens during the Divine Services and Coffee Fellowship. Children and teens, have been roaming and some running around inside and outside of the building. No children or teens should be in the Lounge by themselves AT ANY TIME during services or Coffee Fellowship! For both spiritual and security reasons, we need to keep our children and teens with us at all times! Thank You!

- As a reminder, during Divine Services the Lounge is reserved for those who have a problem with the incense or overflow. No one else needs or should be there.

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS We can make donations and purchases by Credit or Debit Card. This can be done by coming to the office or calling 810-732-0720 during Office Hours (see below).

- **AUTOMATIC GIVING** Did you know most banks and credit unions offer automatic bill payment services? You can set it up so they send a check from your account to St. George for the amount you designate. This can be a onetime event or weekly/monthly. Just call or go online with your banking institution to get the form you need.
- **OFFICE HOURS** Our office manager, Kelly Dotson, works on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays (10am-4pm); Tuesdays and Wednesdays (1pm-4pm). Kelly can be reached during office hours at 810-732-0720 or kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com.

WATER CRISIS SURVEY People are needed to participate in a survey on coping mechanisms in the aftermath of the poisoned water crisis in Flint. You must live or work in the impacted area. The survey takes approximately 20 minutes and audio recordings of open-ended questions may be made with your consent. All information is confidential and only aggregate data will be used in academic presentations and publications. This research will also help train undergraduate students at Saginaw Valley State University on how to conduct and present research, as well as raise their understanding of the water crisis. We hope that this research will also provide information that can help others cope with similar situations. Free bottled water will be provided. For more information and to sign up for the survey, please contact Dr. Rosina Hassoun at rhassoun@svsu.edu 989-964-2711.

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The <i>Great Fast</i> began on March 11 th and continues until our celebration of PASCHA: our Lord's Resurrection on April 28 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 6:30pm
Wednesday	Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas 10am Combined Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقد يسه & Lenten Potluck 6pm
Friday	Akathist to the Virgin Mary خدمة المديح (<i>Madayeh</i>) 6:30pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

- If you know of a parishioner who has given birth, fallen ill, or admitted to the hospital, please call the church office or let Father Joe know.

The Lenten Struggle

Lent is the perfect time to struggle with the ego.

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

Modern psychology has told us we must feel good about ourselves and instructed us to reject the idea of guilt and sin. Sin is seen as religion's instrument for keeping people in line, making them dependent on an institution that should be relegated to the Dark Ages. In an age where man is elevated to being his own god, religion is seen as a sort of enslavement. Up with self! Down with guilt!

Self as the new god is worshiped at the expense of community and enthroned in a position of the utmost importance. Worship of self has contributed to the downfall of families and societal stability, with careers, social and financial gain and self-fulfillment reigning supreme.

Divine love does not tolerate this elevated status of self, for the ego is the enemy of our communion with God. In an age of financial collapse, mortgage foreclosures and high unemployment, worship of self dooms us to a life of total loss.

We were created for communion with God and the worship of the ego has led us into a state of spiritual bankruptcy. The total meltdown of the economy and the destruction of the environment is the direct result of the turning away from spiritual values. The foundation of economic and environmental collapse is to be found in our spiritual bankruptcy. We need to return to the worship of God, and reject the worship of self.

The denial of guilt and sin is the ultimate example of our having accepted the lie perpetrated by the devil, the great deceiver. True happiness and true wealth come only through the fulfillment of our destiny, and that for which we were created, communion with God. The destruction of the ego begins with repentance and the acquisition of a humble and a contrite heart. The period of Great Lent is the perfect time to do battle with the ego.

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- If you would like to host Coffee Fellowship over the next few months in memory of a loved one, the occasion of a birthday, a wedding anniversary, or in thanksgiving to God, sign up on the poster in the Lounge or speak with Manal Abuaita.
- If you would like to offer Holy Bread (*Holy Oblation*) in memory of a loved one, for the health or safety of a loved one, or to commemorate a special occasion, you may phone the church office (810-732-0720) by 12 Noon of the Wednesday before.
- If in memory of a loved one, please state if you would like to have a **Memorial Service**, which takes place near the end of Divine Liturgy. It is always appropriate to have a Memorial Service on the 3rd, 9th, and 40th day after one's falling asleep along with the yearly anniversary. It may also be done on the 6th month anniversary. If you would like to make the Holy Bread, please see or contact Aida Nassar 810-433-1515.



August 12-17, 2019
Vandalia, Michigan
\$350 per camper;
transportation
available

Come as a camper

Come paddle a kayak;
Come sing by the fire;
Come get off the phone;
Come hike to the sunrise;
Come catch a fish;
Come love the church;
Come be yourself;
Come Up North

Come be on staff

Come teach;
Come mentor a child;
Come see the Lord;
Come feel the love;
Come work on a team;
Come be amazing;
Come be yourself;
Come Up North

Registration and application forms available at www.villageupnorth.com. Financial assistance available upon request. Contact thevillageupnorth@gmail.com for information.