

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

April 2, 2023

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

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. 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.

Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- Najwa Joubran and St. George friends for the health of their families and in loving memory of **Angelo Bastounis** (40 day, friend of parishioners).
- Reema Khoury for the health of her family especially children **Samir** and **Ranya**, and grandchildren **Alyssa** and **Nadim** and in loving memory husband **Hanna** (3 year) and son **George** (4 year).
- Issa and Adam Odeh for the health of their family especially mother and grandmother **Nusta** and in loving memory of wife and mother **Nawal** (4 year), son and brother **Jamie** (21 year), **Saman**, **Farah**, **Nassim**, **Nazeek**, **Georgette**, **Nahil**, **George**, **Katrina**, and **Odeh**.

- Elias and Asmahan Helal for the health of their family especially their twin grandchildren **Eli** and **Juliana**.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **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), **Subdeacon George** Gantous, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Reader Fouad** Abuaita, **Philip** Abuaita, **Shafiqa** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **George** and **Georgette** Abueita and **Kristo** (brother, mother, and friend of Anwar), **Jane** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alsahouri, **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Walid** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Issa** Awad (father of Amal Abuaita), **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); **Jeffrey**, **Taylor**, and newborn **Noa Hanna** Tipton (March 23rd).
- 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, **Amanda** and **Mousa** Rishmawi, and **Narmeen** and **Deeb** Shamshoum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Issa Odeh*.

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.*

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 front pew**, 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.

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 TODAY at the Church School Office or see Janet Abueita, Director. Thank you and God bless.

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 today. 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

Combined Pan-Orthodox **Presanctified Liturgy** القداس السابق تقد يسه & **Lenten Refreshments at St. George** 6pm

Friday **Little Compline and Canon of the Raising of Lazarus** / صلاة النوم الصغرى مع

قانون البار لعازر 6pm

Saturday Combined Pan-Orthodox **Preparation of Gifts/Divine Liturgy for the Raising of Lazarus** / صلاة النوم الصغرى مع قانون البار لعازر at George 9:30am

Clean and Decorate for Palm Sunday 1pm

Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

Avoid Despondency ~ When You Fall, Get Up Again

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

It is often the case that we fail to keep God's commandments and find ourselves despondent (*hopeless*), unable, as it seems, to make progress in the battle over our sins. When the same sins constantly plague us, despondency is our enemy. Despondency is the tool demons use to distract us from the goal, making us feel we will never attain holiness. The demons want us to give up the battle, and despondency is their chief ally.

Holiness requires struggle, and the despondent man is unable to see the possibility of victory, so he surrenders to despair. The first step towards victory is simple. We just get up again. If you fall a second time, get up a second time. However many times we have to get up again, we do so with keeping our gaze on Christ, through Whom we are given the grace to conquer those repetitive sins that plague us. By keeping our eyes on Jesus Christ, we are empowered to move towards holiness of life, for the good that rises up in our heart, comes from Christ. As we struggle for transformation of heart, even if we fall a dozen times, progress is made, and each step we take brings us closer to the Kingdom of God.

Mark your Calendars and Plan AHEAD!!!

THE GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

APRIL 8TH-15TH

April

| | | | |
|----|----------|--|--------------|
| 8 | Saturday | Raising of Lazarus —Combined <i>Preparation of Gifts/Liturgy at St. George</i> | 9:30 am |
| | | • <i>Cleaning and Decorating of the Church</i> ----- | 1 pm |
| | | Great Vespers for Palm Sunday and Confessions ----- | 4 pm |
| 9 | Sunday | Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem—Palm Sunday | |
| | | Matins – 8:50am Liturgy and Procession ----- | 10 am |
| | | Bridegroom Matins for Great and Holy Monday ----- | 6 pm |
| 10 | Monday | Presanctified Liturgy ----- | 9 am |
| | | Bridegroom Matins for Great and Holy Tuesday ----- | 6 pm |
| 11 | Tuesday | Presanctified Liturgy ----- | 9 am |
| | | • Confessions (Last opportunity before Pascha!) ----- | 4:30-5:30 pm |
| | | Bridegroom Matins for Great and Holy Wednesday ----- | 6 pm |
| 12 | Weds. | Presanctified Liturgy ----- | 9 am |
| | | Sacrament of Holy Unction ----- | 6 pm |
| | | • <i>Holy Unction is a Sacrament of the Orthodox Church and for Her members. Confession is required.</i> | |
| 13 | Thursday | Celebration of the Institution of the Last Supper | |
| | | Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great followed by Holy Thursday Meal ----- | 10 am |
| | | Holy Friday Matins with Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels----- | 6 pm |
| 14 | Friday | Royal Hours of Pascha ----- | 9 am |
| | | Decoration of Tomb follows. | |
| | | Vespers of the Descent of Christ from the Cross ----- | 3 pm |
| | | Vigil at the Tomb of Christ sponsored by Teen SOYO begins at 4:30pm. | |
| | | Holy Saturday Matins with the Praises at the Tomb / Procession with the Tomb | 6 pm |
| 15 | Saturday | Descent into Hades—Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil ----- | 10 am |
| | | ▪ <i>Cleaning and Decorating of the Church for Pascha follows.</i> | |

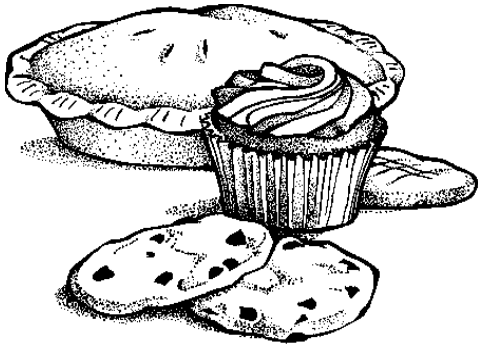
PASCHA

THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

| | | |
|-------|--|----------|
| 15/16 | Nocturnes/Paschal Matins/Paschal Divine Liturgy ----- | 11:30 pm |
| 16 | Sunday Agape (Baa'ooth) Vespers—Vespers of Love ----- | 1 pm |
| | Reading of the Gospel in Different Languages | |

THE NEW (BRIGHT) WEEK

| | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 17 | Bright Monday Paschal Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene ----- | 10 am |
| 18 | Bright Tuesday Paschal Liturgy at St. Nicholas ----- | 10 am |
| 19 | Bright Wednesday Paschal Liturgy at St. George ----- | 6 pm |
| 21 | Bright Friday Paschal Liturgy at Assumption ----- | 10 am |



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!