

June 16, 2024

Blessings with the feast of our Lord's Ascension into heaven!

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. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy.

Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion for Orthodox Christians: Orthodox Christians fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist by receiving Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command *to eat His Body and drink His Blood*. In order to be properly prepared to receive Holy Communion, the faithful should fast (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 striving to always love God and their neighbor. Frequent communion and regular confession are recommended for all faithful Orthodox Christians.

For other Christians: We welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately, we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (*antidoron*) which will be given when coming forward to venerate (kiss) the Holy Cross and receive the final blessing from the priest. 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)

- Father Michael and Khouriya Pam Bassett for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Georgiana Daugherty** (40 day, friend of Fr. Michael).
- Nicholas, John, Nawal, Julian, and Joanna Abud for the health of their family especially **Fr. Joe** and **Kh. Leslee** on the occasion of their 40th anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony ~ *May God grant them many years!*
- St. George Parish for the health of all of the **Faithful of St. George** especially our **Fathers, Grandfathers, Great-grandfathers, and Godfathers** ~ *May God grant them many years!*

BAPTISM/CHRISMATION DAYS

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for our students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this coming week:

- **Isabella Ibrahim** and **Christina Rishmawi** ~ June 20th

May they be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}

- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Archbishop Nathaniel** (Romanian Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America), our **Bishop Anthony, Fr. Joe Abud, Sahar Abdallah, Abeer Abuaita, Reader Fouad & Soad Abuaita, Philip & Janett Abuaita, Rasha Abuaita, Sami & Shafiq Abuaitah, Laila Abud, George Abueita, Georgette Abueita, Jane Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, Khaled Al-Khouri, William Alsahouri, Naila Banna, Douglas Coone, Vera Daoud, Said Farah, Joseph Gagne, Elias Gantos, Phyllis Good, Ronald Haddad, Daisy Isaac, John Joseph, Mila Mitri, Danny Mortensen, Karen Mortensen, Aida Nassar, Laura Nassar, Jeanette Nassif, Adam Odeh, Nimer Rishmawi, Elaine Shaheen, and Michael Silpoch**; your servants **Jaden Turner, Evan Sandford, and Maria Kirk** who are in catechism (under instruction) to become members of our Orthodox Faith.
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Sally Joseph** (+May 26th) ~ *may her memory be eternal!*
- We also pray for our Expectant Parents: **Liana and Hanna Abuaita, Stephanie and Nadim Burbar, and Natania and Rene Hanna.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *The Children of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee Abud.*

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: June 30th, July 7th, 14th, and 28th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information are 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**, please contact our coordinator Manal Abuaita 810-577-0028.

FR. JOE UPDATE I did an MRI on my Brain and a PET Scan last week. I see my oncologist this week to go over the results ~ God willing, the cancer will be gone! I want you to know my Immune System

is compromised which means I need to stay away from everyone so I don't catch anything which my body cannot fight off. This is why I leave church early, when I'm here, wearing a mask as to not start hugging and kissing you all ~ which I want to do, but right now I can't. Please don't take it personally as I love you all and am so thankful for all of your love and continued prayers. May God bless and be with you always! Love, Fr. Joe

CATECHISM (INSTRUCTION) CLASSES: Mondays, 3:30–5pm. These classes are for those who are under instruction to become Orthodox ~ basically an introduction to the Orthodox Faith. All are invited to participate to learn or refresh your knowledge of our faith. The book which is being used is [The Orthodox Faith, Worship and Life by Hieromonk Gregorios of Mt. Athos](#). For more information or to signup, please contact Fr. Michael (989-627-9580 or frdmike@gmail.com)

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) needs to be \$7,588 to meet our 2024 Budget. On Sunday, June 9th our offerings were \$2,220; we were short \$5,368! 😞 **Please keep up with your offerings during the summer months!** If you have not already, fill out your 2024 Offering Form, put it in Sunday's Offering Tray or send it to the church (5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507). May God bless you for supporting His parish of St. George and offering as He wants for our salvation!

COMING EVENTS

Fasting Discipline The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.

- Wednesday **Church School 2024-25 Preparation Meeting** 1pm
- Thursday **Parish Council Dinner Meeting** 6:15pm
- Saturday **Saturday of the Souls *Divine Liturgy*** 10am
Great Vespers and Confessions 4pm

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Saturday of the Souls

Praying for the reposed is a crucial element of the Christian faith. The life of a human being does not end with the dissolution of their earthly body and the separation of their soul from the body, but the person continues alive in spirit awaiting general resurrection: *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”* (John 5: 28-29)

Christianity addresses every human being saying: *“O man, do not only say that you are from the dust and to the dust you return, but say also that you are from God and to Him you will return.”*

Soul Saturday:

The Orthodox Church assigns two Saturdays per year as a general memorial to those who have departed in the hope of the glorious resurrection, for some people have no one to commemorate them. It should be noted that every Saturday, according to our Orthodox tradition, is dedicated to the departed except Lazarus Saturday, Holy Saturday, and feast days. Likewise, the departed are commemorated in every Divine Liturgy during

the Service of Preparing the Gifts (bread and wine), in the Great Entrance, and after the consecration of the Holy Gifts.

The Saturday just before the Sunday of the Last Judgment or Meat-fare Sunday.

Judgment means the second coming of Christ, and because our dead are not yet subject to judgment, the Church commemorates the reposed in hope, and invites us to pray for the rest of their souls by the infinite mercy of God, also reminding us of the need to repent.

The Saturday immediately before Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit is the source of life, grace and holiness, and hence we solicit the grace of the Holy Spirit for the comfort and rest of the reposed.

Note:

There is no death in Christianity because the truly dead person is the one who rejects the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and his presence in his heart. And here we hear the Apostle Paul say: *"Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."* (Ephesians 5:14)

Summary:

There is no death in Christianity, but rest and a transition to eternal life.

It is the Soul Saturday of the reposed, and not of the dead. Death is killed by the death of Christ on the Cross. When the Lord descended into hades death was defeated.

Therefore, the Creed, which is from the 4th century, does not mention the word "dead" for Christ. Rather, it says of him: *"He was crucified during the reign of Pilate Pontius, He suffered, was buried and rose on the third day."*

Our departed rest in the hope of eternal resurrection and therefore do not die. The Master and Source of life was incarnate, took our human nature, and was crucified. He arose and resurrected us with him, and death was abolished by His death. We became people of the Resurrection.

The best consolation uttered by Jesus to the sister of Lazarus, who was stinking after four days in the grave is this: *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."* (John 11:25-26). Then He stood at Lazarus' tomb and cried with a loud voice, saying, *"Lazarus, come out!"* So he came out.

Christ is Risen! *and* when we are in Him, we are risen also!

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 255/2024

June 10, 2024

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful of our Archdiocese,

Christ is risen!

Since my arrival as your Metropolitan, I have been concerned that two dioceses of our vast archdiocese are without a bishop to oversee them: Los Angeles and the West, and Wichita and Mid-America. Although we are not yet ready for an election of new bishops, I want to ensure that these dioceses have the attention and care they need.

In particular, during my recent travels in the West, I saw firsthand that our clergy and parishes there need an experienced bishop, since they have for a long time been without a local bishop who permanently resides among them. Therefore, I have asked His Grace Bishop Anthony—who has served well and faithfully for many years—to move to Los Angeles and serve as Bishop in the West. We are grateful that he has taken this diocese's needs to heart and accepted this assignment, which will be effective August 1, 2024.

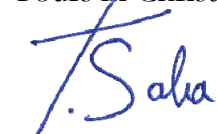
With His Grace's transfer to Los Angeles, I am assigning the Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Jeremy (Davis) as Archiepiscopal Vicar for the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest. Additionally, I am assigning the Rev. Hieromonk Calinic (Berger) as Archiepiscopal Vicar for the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America—God-willing, I will elevate him to the rank and dignity of Archimandrite this Thursday, on the Feast of the Ascension. Finally, I am assigning the Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Paul (Matar) as Archiepiscopal Vicar for the Diocese of New York and Washington, D.C., so that these parishes can have special care and attention as I can focus on archdiocesan matters. All of these assignments will also be effective August 1, 2024.

As archiepiscopal vicars, these archimandrites will fulfill, in their respective dioceses, the same pastoral and administrative role as our bishops: for example, visiting parishes, providing guidance and permissions to the diocesan clergy, addressing parish issues that cannot be solved at the local or deanery level, providing recommendations for seminary and ordination candidates, and presiding over diocesan organizations and events (Archimandrite Paul will assist His Grace Bishop Thomas with the Eastern Dioceses' shared organizations and events, for example, the Antiochian Women of the East and the PLC). Archimandrites Jeremy and Calinic will be relocating to the Toledo and Wichita chanceries, respectively. Archimandrite Paul will continue in his role at our archdiocese headquarters.

The holy apostle Paul has instructed us that “all things should be done decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40). Just as we rely on our priests to ensure that their parishes function harmoniously in this way, so do we rely on our bishops—and now our archiepiscopal vicars—to lead their dioceses toward the same goal. In this light, I have full confidence in His Grace Bishop Anthony, Archimandrite Jeremy, Archimandrite Paul, and (soon to be) Archimandrite Calinic as they embark on these new ministries. We hope that, with God’s help and everyone’s cooperation and goodwill, these plans will prove to be fruitful for the future of our God-protected archdiocese.

Wishing you much joy as we complete the Paschal season and celebrate Holy Pentecost, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Saba". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and "S".

✠ SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 224/2024

May 28, 2024

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful of this Archdiocese,

Christ is risen!

Ten years ago, our young adults gathered for the first Orthodox Young Professionals Conference in San Diego. They initiated this project themselves, in order to keep our Faith at the center of their lives and to strengthen their relationships within the Church. This year, they will gather in Anaheim, California, July 25–28, for the same purpose. The weekend includes prayer, speaker sessions, and time for fellowship with one another. Father Evan and Presbytera Stacy Armatas will be the keynote speakers, focusing on “Love & Relationships—God’s Greatest Gift.” Young adults aged 21+ are welcome, whether single or married.

We are so glad when our young adults prioritize faith in Christ and make it the foundation of their lives—building their house upon the rock, as our Lord Jesus said in His parable (Matthew 7:24–25). Moreover, we are encouraged by their camaraderie and love for one another, since those networks of relationships across the archdiocese bind us all together and foster collaboration in our sacred mission. Therefore, I would love to see as many of our young adults as possible attend this year’s conference, and I urge our pastors to spread the word and encourage those in their communities to attend.

Again, this year’s conference will be held July 25–28, at the JW Marriott Resort in Anaheim, California. Find more information and register at www.oypc.org.

Wishing you a joyous continuation of the Paschal season, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Saba". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

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