

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

June 19, 2022

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor
Father Michael Bassett, Attached

Christ is in our Midst!
He is and ever shall be!

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!

Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- Zahra Hayek and Family for the health of their family especially **Zahra, Walid, Wael, Amal, Kholoud, Jackleen, Mirvat, Naila, Hunida, Cassandra, Daniel, Michael, Evan, Steven, Mariann, Reem, Qusta,** and **Matthew** and in loving memory of husband **Qusta** (19 year), **Naji, Attalah, Dahabieh, Michael, George, Hanna, Najia, Mariam,** and **Olga.**
- Karam and Aida Nassar for the health of her their family especially son **Fred** and niece **Heather** on the occasion of their birthdays ~ *May God grant them many years!*

Baptism/Chrismation Days

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

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

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

- We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Larry** Sisk (+May 14th, brother of Carol Haddad), **Jill** Price (+May 14th, friend of Rose Ayoub), **Louise** Shaheen (+May 15th, cousin of Elaine Shaheen), **Nasri** Haddad (+May 23rd), **Sahar** Abu Aita (+May 29th, son of Tawfiq), and **Georgette** Yusuf (+June 4th).
- 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, **Sally** Abuaita, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Khader** AbuAita, **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **Daniel** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alsahouri, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Douglas** Coone, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Victor** David, **Kelly** Dotson, **Elias** Gantos, **Christopher** George, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Jamil** Ghantous, **Denise** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy** Isaac, **Dannie** Jones, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Judy** Mikhail, **Laura** Nassar, **Aida** Raffoul, **Jose** Ramirez (known to Reem Bathish), **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Vicki** Toma (sister of Fr. Joe), and **Michael** Zerka (uncle of Lauren Zerka); **Daniel**, **Staci**, and newborn **Phoebe Caroline** Bator (May 18th).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **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

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is in our Lounge and is hosted by *Zahra Hayek*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: June 26th, July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st ~ 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).

BIKE NEEDED A parishioner is in need of a bicycle for local transportation. If you have one you would like to donate or would like to donate monies toward its purchase, please see Father Michael ~ as always, thank you for your generosity!

OUR ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX PICNIC AND SOFTBALL GAME, JULY 10TH!

(flier in the Lounge) Please contact our coordinator Anwar (Andy) Abueita at 810-394-2918 or andydollar007@aol.com to help with the picnic or if you would like to play. Thank you to Fr. Anthony Strouse and St. Pius X Catholic Church for extending their hospitality to our Orthodox faithful!



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 (*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 **Apostles' Fast** (sometimes called the Peter and Paul Fast) always begins on the Monday (tomorrow) following All Saints Sunday (today). During this Fast, we observe the traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, meat by-products, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with *fish, wine, and olive oil* allowed on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday until the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul on Wednesday, June 29th.

Tuesday	Altar Society Dinner Meeting ~ <i>for more information see Theresa Farah</i>	6pm
Weds-Sun.	Midwest Diocesan Parish Life Conference in <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions	5pm

Wrongly Executed ~ Frank Atwood, who was Tonsured A Monk with the name Ephraim, has been executed by the State Of Arizona

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

For eight years I served as the Orthodox chaplain in two State of Washington prisons, eventually stepping down to begin my eighteen years of service to our island's fire department, as well as the King County Sheriff's Department. During those eight years I ministered to many prisoners, a few of whom I came to believe were wrongfully imprisoned for crimes they did not commit.

Frank Atwood, who was convicted of kidnapping and killing an 8-year-old girl named Vicki Lynn Hoskinson in September 1984, always claimed to have been innocent of the crime. While in maximum security prison, he converted to Orthodoxy and was baptized with the name Anthony through Saint Anthony's Monastery in Arizona. He has studied and prayed and been in correspondence with well-known Orthodox figures in Greece, such as Metropolitan Athanasios of Limassol, who visited him in prison a few years ago but was not allowed to see him, as well as Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos. Anthony recently issued the following statement prior to his upcoming execution by lethal injection. Let us all pray for him, at his request, and the request of the Metropolitan.

"My name is Frank Atwood, and I am scheduled to be executed by the State of Arizona at 10:00am, on June 8, 2022. I am sentenced to die for a crime I did not commit, but I will let the evidence, supported by experts, and arguments advanced by my attorneys speak to my innocence.

I will at long last experience freedom from the earthly bonds that have crippled my body and caused me excruciating pain. And I will no longer live in a world in which others are caused pain by my very existence.

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To the family of Vicki Lynn Hoskinson, I can honestly say that while I know you will never believe that I did not take her ... I did not! That, however, does not change the fact that your pain is as real as anything possible in this lifetime can possibly be, and my profound prayer is that my death will give you and yours some form of relief and closure from your unending misery and torment."

I watched a press briefing following Anthony's execution. Arizona public officials described the final moments leading up to the execution, and how Anthony was calm and at peace to the last moment. Although most convicts struggle against the restraints, Anthony did not. In fact he cooperated with his executioners, to the last moment. A priestmonk from Saint Anthony's Monastery stood with his hand on Anthony's head, to the very end, something that is unheard of. From the very beginning, the whole process was viewed by some forty people gathered to witness the execution by lethal injection.

Usually the prisoner is prepared for execution behind a closed curtain, but in this case everyone witnessed him being lifted out of his wheelchair, placed on the gurney, strapped down, and IV's inserted in both arms. This meant that everyone, including the little girl's family, saw a man at peace, a man cooperating with his executioners. That officials would not see this as the act of an innocent man, is beyond my comprehension. Although Anthony voiced his hope that his execution would bring peace to the little girl's family, the fact that he did not admit to having murdered her, speaks volumes. As Orthodox Christians, we know that our only hope of entering the Gates of Paradise rests in being truly repentant. If he were guilty, I have no doubt he would have admitted it at the last moment.

Anthony was wearing a monastic scoffa with a cross on the front, and was given the name Ephraim. The peace and serenity on his face was a bone of contention for the public figures, for they saw it as his missed opportunity to apologize to the little girl's parents, and help bring closure for them, suffering all those many years as they did, wanting justice for their beloved daughter. My heart goes out to the family of Vicki Lynn, and I ask that all of you pray for them. But I would also ask that you pray that the real killer of this innocent child be exposed, and brought to justice, and that this betrayal of justice ultimately lead to the State of Arizona removing the death penalty. The real killer of this child is now guilty of two murders, that of little Vicki Lynn, and Monk Ephraim.

Repent, then, and turn to God,
so that your sins may be wiped
out, that times of refreshing
may come from the Lord.

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