

June 24, 2018

4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Tone – 3

4th Matins Gospel {*Luke 24:1-12*}

Altar Servers: **EVERYONE** {Shane Gantos, captain}

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.

Please follow the Typika Service Book with the following special hymns.

Resurrectional Kontakion—Tone 4 on page 8 of *The Typika Service* book

Epistle Reading: *Romans 13:11-14:4* {St. John the Baptist}

Gospel Reading: *Luke :1-25, 57-68, 76, 80* {St. John the Baptist}

Holy Bread Offerings

Baptism/Chrismation Days

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

◆ **Johnathan** Abufarha – June 26th

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

- ◆ This morning we pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Robert** Mourad (+May 20th, cousin of Sue Shaheen), **Lily** Nassif, (+May 25th, mother of Samia Sadik), **George** Mitri (+May 25th, father of Elias), and **Masara** Alatrash (+May 31st, mother of Awni Alatrash).
- ◆ 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, **Androlla** Abu Aita, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Manal** Abuaita, **Abla** Abufarha, **Cesar** Banna, **Pamela Mary** Bassett, **Emil** Bathish, **Alex** and **Panayiotis** Deligorges, **Michael** Farah, **Vera** Farah, **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Roland** Haddad, **Daisy**

Isaac, **Nawal** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Michael** Khal, **Nakhleh** and **Nicola** Khoury, **Chuck** Koory, **Danny** Mortensen, **George** and **Renee** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Mary** Salim, **Widad** Salomon, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr., **Lois** Teunion, and **Vicki** Toma (sister of Fr. Joe); **Ghaida** Awad and newborn **Julianos** (May 16th).

- ◆ We also pray for those who are with child: **Rasha** (Luai) Abuaita, **Dunyah** Abufarha (Ibrahim and Eman's daughter-in-law), **Julia** Khouri, and **Rachel** Sackllah (Suheil and Abeer's daughter).

Communion Hymn (for the Lord's Day)

(Refrain) Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest.

(Verse) Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! (Refrain)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reception of Holy Communion

Please remember ONLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED THEMSELVES may partake of Holy Communion. If you have a special need or circumstance, please let one of the ushers know so we may assist you. Thank you -- St. George Ushers

If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FR. JOE — OUT-OF-TOWN Fr. Joe and other parishioners have been attending the Midwest Diocesan Parish Life Conference Toledo, OH June 20th-24th. For emergencies while Fr. Joe is away, please call Protodeacon Michael Bassett (St. George, 989-627-9580) Fr. Angelo Maggos (Assumption, 810-771-4611), Fr. Gabriel Bilas (St. Mary Magdalene, 810-750-1401), or Fr. Matthew Butrie (St. Nicholas, 810-744-0070). Please pray for everyone's safe travels.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING Everyone is asked to sing along with the choir as they lead us in the responses and hymns.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is in the Lounge and is not hosted today ☹️. Please offer a donation for your coffee and food to help cover our costs, thanks!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: July 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th -- sign-up poster is in the Hall. Hosting information is in the Lounge and includes: bringing whatever you wish to serve and cleaning up afterwards. St. George provides the coffee, cups, sugar, and cream at a charge to the host of \$25.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Your help is needed this coming Tuesday, February 27th from 9am-12:30pm! If you have questions or want to sign-up, please contact our new coordinator Goni Ishak (810-449-6599). Since our children are out of school, this is a great opportunity for the whole family to follow our Lord's command of "feeding the hungry"!

ST. GEORGE PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE After almost 2 years in planning, meetings, preparation, and inspections, God willing we will be opening soon! If you would like to see what we have been working on, see Leslee Abud or Protodeacon Michael for a tour today!

WEeping ICON The Orthodox Churches of Genesee County are blessed to have the **Miracle-working Weeping Iveron Icon of the Mother of God** from Hawaii visit us on June 29th and 30th at St. Mary Magdalene 2439 South Long Lake Road, Fenton, MI 48451 (see *flier* in Lounge). Visitation will take place all day on Friday with an anointing service from Her tears at 7pm. On Saturday, June 30th, Divine Liturgy and anointing will begin at 8:30am.

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The Apostles' (Peter and Paul) Fast began on June 4 th and continues until their feast day on June 29 th . The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, meat by-products, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is observed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; and (<i>no meat, poultry, meat by-products, eggs, dairy, and their by-products</i>) is observed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.
Tuesday	North End Soup Kitchen 9am-12:30pm
Thursday	Combined Pan-Orthodox Evening Divine Liturgy for Ss. Peter & Paul 6pm
Friday	Weeping Icon at St. Mary Magdalene – ALL DAY (see flier on Narthex Table)
Saturday	Combined Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers at Assumption 5pm St. Mary Magdalene Summer Dinner Dance follows <i>at Assumption</i>

JUNE 24TH ~ NATIVITY (BIRTH) OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, Saint Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that Saint Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

Saint Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. Saint John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon Saint Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked Saint

Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and Saint Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79).

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Saint Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

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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 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.
- **SUMMER OFFICE HOURS** Our secretary, Kelly Dotson, works on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (10am-4pm); the office is Closed on Tuesdays and Thursday. Kelly can be reached during office hours at 810-732-0720 or kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com.
- If you have an item that you would like to place in the Weekly Bulletin, please call the church office by 12 Noon of the Wednesday before.
- 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 whether you would like to have a **Memorial Service** near the end of Divine Liturgy. It is always appropriate to have this 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 are making the Holy Bread, please contact Aida Nassar 810-433-1515.

