

St. George Orthodox Church

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Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

June 9, 2024

Christ is Risen! *Indeed He is Risen!*

المسيح قام! حقا قام!

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)

- Youssif and Salwa Abousamra and family for the health of their family and in loving memory of son **Housam** Abousamra.

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:

- **Christiaan** Burbar ~ June 9th

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**a 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; **Liam** Maymoun who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Georgiana** Daugherty (+May 10th, friend of Fr. Michael) and **Sally** Joseph (+May 26th) ~ *may their 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 in our Lounge and hosted by *Youssif and Salwa Abousamra*.

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 have finished the 4th Round of Chemo and 30 radiation treatments a couple of weeks ago. I ended up in the hospital for 5 days with pneumonia, but thank God slowing doing better. I have an MRI on my Brain and a PET Scan next week. I see my oncologist the following 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 sign up, 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 2nd, our offerings were \$2,565; we were short \$5,023! 😞 **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 During this Paschal Season, it is the Antiochian Practice to not fast until the **Ascension of our Lord into Heaven** (40 days after Pascha) on June 13th.

- Monday **Cooking Spinach Pies** for Community Lunch 10am
- Wednesday **Preparation and Dropping off Sweets** for Community Lunch 10am
- Thursday Combined Pan-Orthodox *Divine Liturgy* for the **Ascension of our Lord** at *St. Mary Magdalene* (2439 S. Long Lake Road, Fenton) 10am
- Middle Eastern Community Lunch and Bake Sale** 11am-2pm
- Saturday **Great Vespers and Confessions** 4pm

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Bodily Suffering ~ The Role of Bodily Suffering in the Salvation of Humankind

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

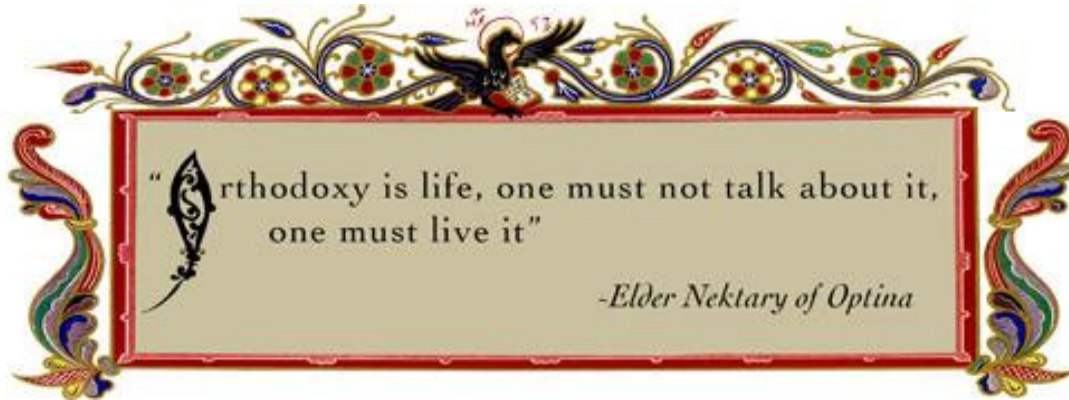
Elder Ambrose of Optina Monastery said, *“We should not forget that in our age of ‘sophistication’ even little children are spiritually harmed by what they see and hear. As a result, purification is required, and this is only accomplished through bodily suffering ... You must understand that the bliss of Paradise is granted to no one without suffering.”*

A person has salvation not only by his good deeds, but also by his patient suffering of various griefs, illnesses, misfortunes, and failures (Luke 16:19-31, Mark 8:31-38, Romans 6:3-11, Hebrews 12:1-3, and Galatians 6:14). Jesus Christ gives us the power which is needed for transformation, and prepares us to live with strength under the most difficult conditions, preparing us for the peace that is eternal.

Heaven and Hell are a condition of relationship with God that is either in communion with Him or punishment. The lake of fire and heaven occur within the same realm, both being not about places, but about relationships. For one who hates God such a place as in the presence of God, will be eternal suffering. The Orthodox Church teaches that Heaven and

Hell are in the same realm, and that Hell is not separation from God symbolically or physically, Hell is a place chosen.

Without suffering, we cannot join ourselves to the cross, and when we do take up our cross in suffering, it is with our Co-Suffering Savior. Sickness and suffering are not given to us by a wrathful and punitive God because we have sinned, but rather allowed by this loving God who co-suffers with us. It is Western misconceptions concerning sin which has tended to distort a proper recognition of suffering and its connection to sin.



Once a man was asked,
"What did you gain by
regularly praying to God?"

The man replied, "Nothing."ⁱ
But let me tell you what I lost:
*Anger, Ego, Greed, Depression,
Insecurity, and Fear of Death."*

"Hell can't be made attractive, so the devil makes attractive the road that leads there." + St Basil the Great

"A true friend prays to God for his friend. A true friend cares about the salvation of a friend's soul. To draw a friend back from false ways and set him on the true path – that is precious friendship. The Saints of God are man's greatest friends."

+ St Nikolai Velimirovic