

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

July 14, 2024

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. 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*)

- **Khaled** and **Sally** Abuaita and **Jamal** and **Manal** Abuaita for their health and the health of their families on the occasion of their anniversaries of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony ~ *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:

- **Jolie** Farah and **Marla** Jaraysch ~ July 15th
 - **Ayva** Al-Atrash ~ July 16th
- **Nour** Ishak and **Julia** Rishmawi ~ July 17th
- **Nasri** Abdallah, **Liliana** Abufarah, and **Julian** Alkazaha ~ July 19th
- **Maria** AbuAita and **Tanas** Khoury ~ July 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, **Fr. Amin** and **Kh. Rena**, **Theodora**, and **Nicholas** Houli, **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-Khoury, **William** Alsaouri, **Naila** Banna, **Douglas** Coone, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Joseph** Gagne, **Elias** Gantos, **Phyllis** Good, **Daisy** Isaac, **Mila** Mitri, **Danny** Mortensen, **Karen** Mortensen, **Laura** Nassar, **Jeanette** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Nimer** Rishmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** and **Nancy** Silpoch; your servants **Jaden** Turner, **Evan** Sandford, and **Maria** Kirk who are in catechism (under instruction) to become members of our Orthodox Faith; **Elias** Hanna who is to be brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion; **Nicholas** and **Stacy** Shahin who were united in the *Sacrament of Holy Matrimony*.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Mira** Prusac (+June 14th, from St. Nicholas), **Chris** Russell (+June 22nd, friend of Fr. Michael), **Randall** Klomp (+July 4th, friend of catechumen Evan Sandford), and **Ronald** Haddad (+July 6th) ~ *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.
- Remember in your prayers all of our **Campers** who are travelling to the Antiochian Village Summer Camp, along with **Lana Abuaita** and the **Staff** at the Antiochian Village.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Jamal and Manal Abuaita*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: August 11th and 25th ~ 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. *During the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Fast (August 1st-14th) no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are to be served.*

LADIES AUXILIARY will be meeting after Divine Liturgy TODAY. All of the women of St. George are invited to attend! For more information, please see President Hiam Bathish.

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 frdnmike@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, July 7th our offerings were \$1,010; we were short \$6,578! 😞 **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.

TODAY **Ladies Auxiliary Meeting after Divine Liturgy**
 Elias Hanna Baptism 4pm

Thursday **Parish Council Dinner Meeting** 6:15pm

Saturday No Great Vespers at St. George (go to St. Mary Magdalene, see below!)
 Great Vespers at St. Mary Magdalene (2439 S. Long Lake Road, Fenton) with their
 Archbishop Alexander for their feast day 5pm

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A Healthy Soul ~ Don't React, Be At Peace

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

Each day brings on new challenges regarding the health of your soul. Those moments when a family member or coworker makes a remark that are meant to anger you, are the times you need to guard your heart. When those around you are gossiping about someone, that is an opportunity for you to keep silent. The driver who's just cut you off on the freeway; the woman who pushes her way in front of you in the check-out line; the rude neighbor; all are moments in time when you can take control and grow stronger spiritually.

Trials and temptations, when confronted with a peaceful heart, bring forth healing and make the soul that much stronger and healthier. Reacting does nothing but bring forth paralysis of the soul, binding us to our fallen nature. Receiving all these temptations with a peaceful heart and not reacting to outside negative stimuli, helps strengthen you for the next round of trial and temptation. Little by little, you will find that the Peace of Christ fills your every waking moment, bringing on a joyful spirit and a peaceful heart.

Prophet Elias (*Elijah*)

July 20th

The Holy Prophet Elias is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

St Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elias: "When Elias was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames." The name Elias (the Lord's strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen

away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elias began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elias then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elias was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1) The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent



him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elias to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elias, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elias told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elias proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elias who served the True God.

The Prophet Elias told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent.

Towards evening the holy Prophet Elias built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elias had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elias fled into the Kingdom of Judea

and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elias traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elias would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elias to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elias was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elias's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elias will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elias is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiastes 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elias conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).

Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elias for centuries. The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elias. After her Baptism St Olga (July 14) built a temple of the holy Prophet Elias in his native region, at the village of Vibuta.

In iconography the Prophet Elias is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.