

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: [saintgeorgeflint.org](http://saintgeorgeflint.org)

July 17, 2022

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Attached

## Glory to Jesus Christ! *Glory Forever!*

### 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*)

- Ronald Haddad for the health of his family and in memory of sister **Rhoda** Wheatt (9 day).
- Laila Abud, Fr. Joe, Kh. Leslee, and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of daughter/sister **Vicki** Toma (9 day, sister of Fr. Joe).
- Jana Zouaiter and Hana Stacy and Families for the health of their family and in loving memory of mother **Georgette** Yusuf (40 day), **Asaad**, **Latifee**, **Ellias**, **Nick**, **Mike**, and **George** Nemer, **Laurice** Matta, **Jamal** Skaff, **Elias** Al-Baba, and **Ali** Yusuf.
- George and Jeanette Nassif for the health of their children and grandchildren especially daughter **Renee** on the occasion of her birthday ~ *may God grant her many years!*

- **Khaled** and **Sally** Abuaita and **Jamal** and **Manal** Abuaita for the health of their families on the occasion of their anniversary 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 their teachers and/or students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church:

- **Nour** Ishak ~ July 17<sup>th</sup>                      • **Julian** Alkazaha and **Nasri** Abdallah ~ July 19<sup>th</sup>
- **Maria** AbuAita and **Tanas** Khoury ~ July 20<sup>th</sup>

*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: **Althea** Kresbach (+June 23<sup>rd</sup>, aunt of Kh. Pam Bassett), **Jose** Ramirez (+June 24<sup>th</sup>, known to Reem Bathish), **Stojan** Prusac (+June 25<sup>th</sup>, from St. Nicholas, friend of parishioners), **Charles** Thabet (+June 28<sup>th</sup>, uncle of Fr. Michael), **Issa** Ishaq (+July 5<sup>th</sup>, relative of parishioners), and **Imad** Isaac (July 6<sup>th</sup>, friend of St. George).
- 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, **Shafiq** Abuaith, **Laila** Abud, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alshouri, **Danny** Andoni, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Kh. Pam** Bassett, **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, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Judy** Mikhail, **Laura** Nassar, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Valland** Frangi (sister of Ron Haddad), and **Michael** Zerka (uncle of Lauren Zerka); newborn **Phoebe Caroline** Bator; **David**, **Joselien** [daughter of Issa and Esperanza], and newborn **Mariah** Khoury (June 24<sup>th</sup>); **Daniel**, **Casandra**, and newborn **Ezra Daniel** Burbar (July 1<sup>st</sup>); **Veda Joanna** Newsome who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion; **Sami** and **Hadil** [Habbas] Kashou who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-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 *Jana Zouaiter and Hana Stacy and Families*.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: August 28<sup>th</sup>, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> ~ 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).

## **THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS ...**

- ❖ **Everyone** who called, left messages, emailed, or sent cards (if you texted, unfortunately I did not see it because I do not have texting services) on the falling asleep in the Lord of my sister *Vicki Toma*. You don't know how you touched my heart with the outpouring of your love and prayers. I pray for our parish family every day and I ask you to pray for me. Love, Fr. Joe

**OUT-OF-TOWN** Fr. Joe will be attending the Clergy Symposium and National Antiochian Women's meeting at the Antiochian Village July 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Joe will be back in the office on July 26<sup>th</sup>. **For emergencies only** while he is away, please call *Fr. Michael Bassett* (St. George, 989-627-9580). Please pray for Fr. Joe's safe travels.



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

Saturday Combined Pan-Orthodox **Great Vespers at St. Mary Magdalene** (2439 S. Long Lake Road, Fenton) 5pm

## **Oxygen- The Church, Like a Forest, Provides Needed Oxygen**

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

Growing up in Northern Idaho, I was surrounded by mountains and forests. I don't remember a time when forests did not tug at my heart and fill my imagination with thoughts of adventure. As a small child my parents took my brother Dwayne, and me, on annual camping trips to a state park on the far northeast side of Lake Pend Oreille. There my dad would make us small toy canoes, complete with sails, out of bark. This state park is virtually unchanged since that time, and I try to visit the campground every summer, when I go fly fishing with my brother.

As a high school student I regularly went hiking in the mountains around Sandpoint, Idaho, together with my best friend (now a retired professor of theology and philosophy in Scotland). Jim and I would climb to the highest point of a given mountain, and pray together. We could understand the Prophet Moses meeting God on Mt. Sinai, for we too felt the presence of God on the mountain. To this day I feel closer to God when hiking in a forest, and the grandeur of the mountains that surround the Puget Sound inspire me, and lift up my soul.

When we first cleared the land to build the monastery, we cut down as few trees as possible, desiring as we did to have the buildings appear as though cupped like a kitten in the hands of God. We even named our forest after Saint Seraphim of Sarov, who himself sought solitude in a forest. Our forest not only provides that needed solitude, but gives us oxygen, allowing us to breathe. Like the forests throughout the whole world, ours provides good air to breath, and fills our lungs with the sweet odor that only a forest can provide. Is it any wonder I consider myself a conservationist?

*continued ⇨*

Monks have always had a special place in their hearts for forests. Coptic and Ethiopian monks have been known to plant trees on desert mountains whereupon monasteries have been built, and calling these places, "holy forests". Russian monks sought their solitude in the Northern Thebaid, forests that became their desert.

For me, forests and mountains have always been associated with prayer. My first chapel was at the end of a hidden trail, in a forest that was just a short walk down the beach from our home on Lake Pend Oreille. I'd constructed a small altar out of driftwood, and nailed a cross made out of tree branches on a tree behind the altar. When in college, my first encounter with an icon took place during the very summer I'd visited the Redwood Forest of Northern California, for the first time.

Our temples are like forests in many ways. When we enter into an Orthodox temple we are encompassed in the living presence of God, and our spiritual lungs are filled. It is oxygen for the soul that we breathe in, and the forest that surrounds us is none other than the cloud of witnesses, the saints, who join us in worship before the Throne of God. The oxygen we breathe in is God's Grace that flows out to all who would seek the safety and sanctuary that awaits us in God's Holy Temple.

