

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 21, 2024

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

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*)

- Barbara Gress, Jacqueline Joseph, John Joseph, Stephanie Long, Allison Guerra, and their families for the health of their families and in loving memory of mother and grandmother **Sally** Joseph (40 day).
- Elias and Amirah Hanna for the health of their family especially **their children and their families** and their grandson **Elias** on the occasion of his name's day of the Prophet Elias.

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:

- **Marcos** Abuaita ~ July 25th

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, Teodora, and Nicholas Houli, Sahar Abdallah, Abeer Abuaita, Reader Fouad & Soad Abuaita, Philip & Janett Abuaita, Rasha Abuaita, Sami & Shafiq Abuaitah, Laila Abud, George Abueita, Georgette Abueita, Jane Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, Khaled Al-Khoury, William Alsahouri, 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 was 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 at the Antiochian Village Summer Camp, along with **Lana Abuaita** and the **Staff** at the Antiochian Village.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Elias and Amirah Hanna*.

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.*

OUT-OF-TOWN Fr. Joe and Fr. Michael will be attending the **Clergy Symposium at the Antiochian Village** from tomorrow until Friday. **For emergencies** while Fr. Joe and Fr. Michael are away, please call *Fr. Peter Bistolrides* (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 their safe travels.

UOFM-FLINT, KETTERING, AND MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS We are starting an **Orthodox Christian Fellowship** (OCF) local chapter. Students (or parents), please let Fr. Michael (989-627-9580 or frdnmike@gmail.com) know if you are at any of these schools ~ thanks!

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 14th our offerings were \$1,680; we were short \$5,908! 😞 **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	Yara Abuaita / Sameh Shoukry Wedding 4pm
Mon-Fri.	Clergy Symposium at the Antiochian Village in Pennsylvania
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 4pm

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When Prayer Becomes Dry

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

When we find ourselves struggling with prayer, and feel that it has become dry and lifeless, we are sometimes tempted to stop praying. When our prayer has become a struggle, it is good to remember that God knows our needs, and even knows what we want to say when we don't seem to know. This is the time we need to just pray without worrying about it. When we find we can't keep our minds focused on the formal morning and evening prayers, as found in our prayer book, it is perfectly acceptable to simply sit quietly before our icons, and let silence be our voice.

God wants to enter into our heart, and requires only our permission and cooperation. This relationship does not require an emotional response, for, like all relationships, we are not always open to an emotional response. Being real with God is far more important than being emotional, since emotions can be contrived and fleshly. As in all relationships, there are times when we do feel moved by emotions, but the lack of such feelings in no way represents a lack of love for God, because God cares for us, and God knows we love him, even when suffering in those dry times.

Great Martyr Christina

July 24th

The Martyr Christina lived during the third century. She was born into a rich family, and her father was governor of Tyre. By the age of 11 the girl was exceptionally beautiful, and many wanted to marry her. Christina's father, however, envisioned that his daughter should become a pagan priestess. To this end he placed her in a special dwelling where he had set up many gold and silver idols, and he commanded his daughter to burn incense before them. Two servants attended Christina.

In her solitude, Christina began to wonder who had created this beautiful world. From her room she was delighted by the stars of the heavens and she constantly came back to the thought about the Creator of all the world.

She was convinced, that the voiceless and inanimate idols in her room could not create anything, since they themselves were created by human hands. She began to pray to the One God with tears, entreating Him to reveal Himself. Her soul blazed with love for the

Unknown God, and she intensified her prayer all the more, and combined it with fasting.

One time Christina was visited by an angel, who instructed her in the true faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. The angel called her a bride of Christ and told her about her future suffering. The holy virgin smashed all the idols standing in her room and threw them out the window. In visiting his daughter Christina's father, Urban, asked her where all the idols had disappeared. Christina was silent. Then, having summoned the servants, Urban learned the truth from them.

In a rage the father began to slap his daughter's face. At first, the holy virgin remained quiet, but then she told her father about her faith in the One True God, and that she had destroyed the idols with her own hands. Urban gave orders to kill all the servants in attendance upon his daughter, and he gave Christina a fierce beating

and threw her in prison. Having learned about what had happened, St Christina's mother came in tears, imploring her to renounce Christ and to return to her ancestral beliefs. But Christina remained unyielding. On another day, Urban brought his daughter to trial and urged her to offer worship to the gods, and to ask forgiveness for her misdeeds. Instead, he saw her firm and steadfast confession of faith in Christ.

The torturers tied her to an iron wheel, beneath which they lit a fire. The body of the martyr, turning round on the wheel, was scorched on all sides. They then threw her into prison. An angel of God appeared at night, healing her wounds and strengthening her with food. Her father,

seeing her unharmed, gave orders to drown her in the sea. An angel sustained the saint while the stone sank down, and Christina miraculously came out of the water and reappeared before her father. In terror, the

torturer imputed this to sorcery and he decided to execute her in the morning. That night he himself suddenly died. Another governor, Dion, was sent in his place. He summoned the holy martyr and also tried to persuade her to renounce Christ, but seeing her unyielding firmness, he again subjected her to cruel tortures. The holy martyr was for a long while in prison. People began to flock to her, and she converted them to the true faith in Christ. Thus about 300 were converted.

In place of Dion, a new governor Julian arrived and resumed the torture of the saint. After various torments, Julian gave orders to throw her into the furnace and lock her in it. After five days they opened the furnace and found the martyr alive and unharmed. Seeing this miracle take place, many believed in Christ, and the torturers executed St Christina with a sword.

