

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

July 4, 2021

Glory to Jesus Christ! *Glory Forever!*

Welcome to His Grace Bishop Anthony!

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. 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 is invited to receive the final blessing of the priest and Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

Holy Bread Offerings

- Deacon Michael and Susan Schlaack for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Heidi** Schlaack (40 day, sister of Dn. Schlaack).
- Ayman and Wafaa Elias for the health of their family especially **Matthew** and daughter **Christine** Krinock on the occasion of their 6th anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony ~ *May God grant them many years!* ~ and in loving memory of daughter **Joselyn** (7 year).
- Najwa Joubran for the health of her family and in loving memory of husband **Emil** (10 year) and niece **Joselyn** Elias (7 year).

- Ellis and Elaine Salim for the health of their family and in loving memory of son **Norman Paul** (51 year), **Kamelia** Brackett, **Edy** and **Nellie** Hourani (Elaine's parents) and **Norman** and **Betty** Salim (Ellis' parents).
- **Khaled** and **Sally** Abuaita on the occasion of their and **Jamal** and **Manal**'s 30th anniversaries of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and **Protodeacon Michael** and **Shamassy Pam** Bassett on the occasion of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood ~ *May God grant them many years!*
- Karam and Aida Nassar for the health of their family and **Protodeacon Michael** and **Shamassy Pam** Bassett on the occasion of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood ~ *May God grant them many years!*
- St. George Parish Family for the health of their families and **Protodeacon Michael** and **Shamassy Pam** Bassett on the occasion of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood ~ *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 their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this week:

- **Maximus** Abuaita – July 8th • **Andrew** and **Mark** Abu Aita – July 10th
- May they be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}*

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Thomas** Morrow (+May 23rd, father of Christina Joseph), **Catherine** Verbosky (+May 31st, sister of Dn. Mike), and **Charles** Darany (+June 5th, friend of Laila Abud).
- 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, **Amal** Abu-Aita, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Anwar** Abueita, **Wadia** Albaba, **William** Alsayouri, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Thuraya** Elias (mother of Ayman), **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Gracyn** Haskins (granddaughter of Mike and Nancy Silpoch), **Daisy** Isaac, **Lubna** Jones, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** and **Elise** Sophiea Jr.; **Matthew**, **Sarah**, and newborn **Landon** Thomas [June 10th, grandson of Doug and Sandy].
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Mirna** and **Tamer** Abuaita [son of Khader and Lucy], **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury, **Haneen** and **Benan** Burbar, **Natania** and **Rene** Hanna, **Kari** and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis [daughter of John and Theresa Farah], **Elise** and **Jarrett** Lane [daughter of Habeeb & Denise Ghattas and Jill Smith], and **Rachel** and **Andrew** Sackllah [daughter of Suheil and Abeer Abuaita].

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW COVID-19 PROCEDURES Based on the quickly changing directives and guidance from Metropolitan Joseph, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and our state government, our Parish Council has NEW PROCEDURES. We all want the safest place

for all of our parishioners to worship. **PLEASE FOLLOW:**

1. Those who are vaccinated may wear a mask, **but are not required to.**
2. If you are not vaccinated because of medical or other reasons, **you must wear a mask and maintain social distancing.**
1. Pews in the back of the church are for **those who would like to be social distanced and those who are not vaccinated.**

2. **Our first meal together** will take place on July 4th honoring Bishop Anthony's visit and celebrating the Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Deacon Michael Bassett. Our live-stream will continue. Remember we are venerating icons by bowing (*not kissing or touching*) and the same for the Bishop / priest's hand and the chalice at Holy Communion.

ARE YOU VACCINATED? DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND NEED ANSWERS? We are blessed to have a number of medical professionals in our parish and all of them want you to get your Covid-19 vaccine as soon as possible. There is lots of wrong information on TV and social media. Don't be fooled; it could cost you or your family and friends in a sad way! If you have any questions or need truthful information, please contact Dr. Lindsey (Farah) Brunner: text ONLY, please 810-908-9213 or lnfarah2009@hotmail.com. **If you or someone you know needs help making an appointment or need to be driven to one, please call the church 810-732-0720.**

COMING EVENTS

This Week	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 Wednesday and Friday.
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

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TRUE SHEPHERDS ~ Bishops and Priests are Living Icons of Christ

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

Misty Isle Farms, the largest privately owned property on Vashon Island with more than three hundred acres, sponsors an annual Sheep Dog Trials every autumn. The dogs are judged according to their ability to quickly herd sheep through fence gates, and around obstacles. Like many Vashon Islanders, I've found this annual event to be fascinating, and have been attending the event for some years now. Especially interesting, is to observe the synergy between the dogs and their handlers.

For those of you who have never watched such an event, the dogs dart back and forth, herding the sheep, and, by intimidation, keep the sheep together. This is quite different from the herding that takes place when a shepherd is involved. Shepherd's herd their sheep in a completely different way. A shepherd will make little sounds, particular to himself, and recognized by his sheep. The hearing of these familiar sounds has a comforting and calming effect upon the sheep, and they willingly follow their shepherd.

In the Gospels, Christ describes Himself to his disciples as "The Good Shepherd," Who willingly lays down his life for His sheep. Like any good shepherd, Jesus lovingly calls his

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sheep, and bids us to come forth, follow Him, and enter into the “green pastures” of eternal life. There is no intimidation, as with the sheep dogs, but only the loving sounds of a shepherd, whose sheep recognize a voice that is comforting, and draws them into a safe place.

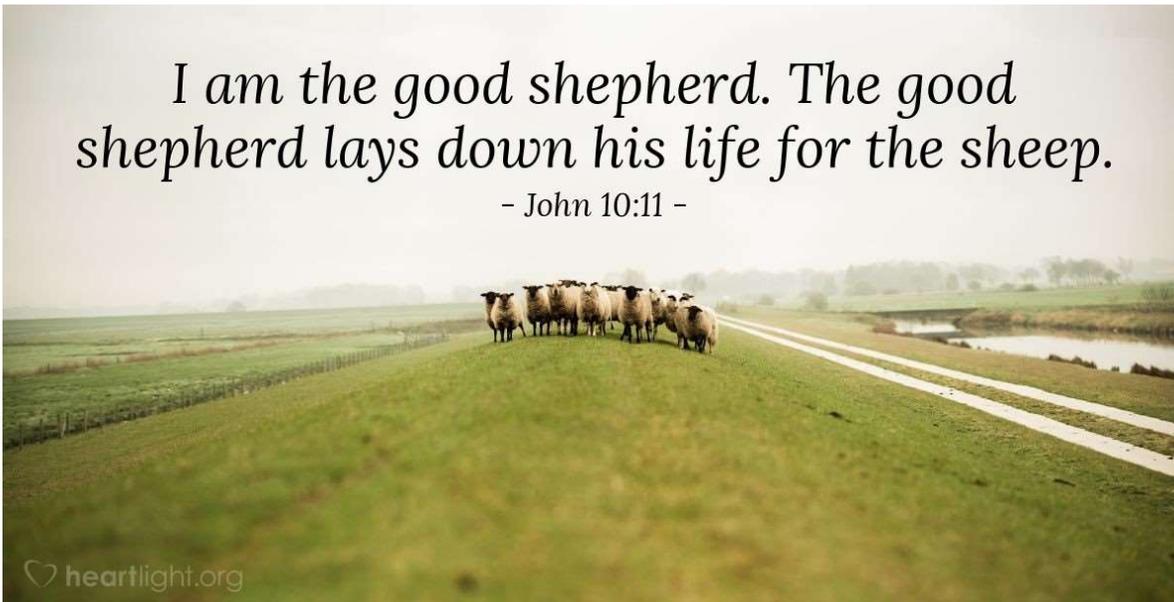
Bishops and priests, as representatives of the Good Shepherd, are called, as icons of the Christ they serve, to act in the very same manner. Bishops and priests are not, if they are true to their vocations, to lead by intimidation, but with pastoral love and gentle shepherding. There is no place in the Theology of Priesthood in the Orthodox Church for shepherding by intimidation. Bishops, abbots, and priests in the Orthodox Church have never been, as was common in the Latin Church during the Middle Ages, “Lords” over their people, but, rather, servants and loving shepherds.

In Orthodox monasteries, where the abbot occupies his office for life (much like a bishop,) his rule is one of fatherly leadership. The abbot does not give commands to his monks to do this or that, but, rather, suggests. The obedience of the monks is, therefore, not one of obedience as to an overlord, but obedience to a loving father, because the monk is loved by his abbot, and, in return, loves his abbot.

Christ even directed husbands to love their wives in much the same manner, for he told husbands they must love their wives just as Christ has loved His Church. No medieval lordship over an Orthodox Christian wife. Husbands, like bishops, abbots, and priests, are to follow Christ’s example and imitate the Good Shepherd. Within Orthodoxy, there is no room for abusive husbands, tyrannical bishops, and clericalist priests.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

- John 10:11 -



Get out your bible and find the Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews, Chapter 7. Here is the explanation of why all bishops and priests are ordained according to the order of Melchizedek! If you do not understand, one of Fr. Michael’s upcoming sermons will help explain! Love, FJ