

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

August 2, 2020

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY RELICS OF THE PROTOMARTYR STEPHEN THE ARCHDEACON

Live Streaming of Divine Services

St. George is closed and services are served only with the clergy, an altar server, chanters, and a camera person. Please view our livestream at:

YouTube ~ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpLWfxMIJK4uQOV41ekE6Wg>

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.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. John Chrysostom** *{the Golden-Mouth}*,
The **Special Hymns** we sing are on the [Bilingual sheets from Fr. Joe's Email](#).

Holy Bread Offerings

- Zahra Hayek and Family for the health of their family especially **Zahra, Walid, Wael, Amal, Kholoud, Jackleen, Mirvat, Naila, Hunida, Cassandra, Daniel, Michael, Evan, Steven, Mariann, Reem, Qusta**, and **Matthew** and in loving memory of husband **Qusta** (17 year), **Naji, Attalah, Dahabieh, Michael, George, Hanna, Najia**, and **Olga**.

Baptism/Chrismation Days

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for their teachers and/or students who celebrated their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this week:

- **Julius** Andoni – August 4th
- **George** and **Mariana** Yacoub– August 8th

May our children 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: **Olga** Abuaita (+June 23rd, Luai's aunt), **Adriano** Fadool (+June 26th, Kh. Suheila Qassis, George, Jalal, and Suheil Abuaita's great nephew), **Alex** Mathews (+July 1st, Cam Takach's nephew), **Michael** Simpson (+July 9th, Kelly Sanderson's uncle), and **Enrique** Rojas (+July 13th, former parishioner).
- 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, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Reader Fouad** Abuaita, **Anwar** Abueita, **Wadia** Albaba, **Nabil** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Naila** Banna, **Emil J.** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Sandy Thomas), **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Elias** Gantos, **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Shawna** Hale, **Donald** Hawkins, **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nimer** Iseid, **Michael** Khal, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr, **Lois** Teunion; **Josh**, **Andrea** [daughter of Nasri and Carol Haddad], and newborn **Lincoln** Jones (June 25th).
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Juliana** (Essa) AbuAita and **Katie** (Philip) Quackenboss [daughter of Bill and Sue Shaheen].

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, AND DONATIONS Though everyone cannot attend church due to limited capacity or other reasons, our stewardship, offerings, and donations are still needed. PLEASE help our parish by continuing to send your offerings to St. George. This can simply be done by going to our website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) or by mailing your offerings to St. George, 5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507.

PARKING LOT PLEDGES Our goal is \$80,000 (we have raised over \$41,000 so far including half of the Valentine Gala profits) and we are so thankful for those who have donated and pledged. If you have not already, please pick up a form, fill it out, and send it to the church. Remember our donations to the Parking Lot are separate (above and beyond) our weekly offerings. Again, thank you to our donors!

Fr. Joe and Leslee Abud
Dn. Mike and Pam Bassett
St. George Preschool
Jamal and Manal Abuaita
Khader and Lucy Abuaita
Anwar and Janet Abueita

Laila Abud
Anonymous
Ladies Auxiliary
Tony Daoud
Ayman and Wafaa Elias
John and Theresa Farah

Betty Froberg
Dr. David and May Gantos
George and Jeanette Nassif
Bill and Sue Shaheen
Richard Shaheen
Bob and Lois Teunion

Thank you and God bless

... **Aida Nassar**, and **Jeanette & George Nassif** for kicking off the summer beautification of St. George! They provided flowers to welcome us back to Church! Now we are sorely in need of weeding and clean-up! Anyone looking for an outdoor activity? Please help! The past few years, we hired a gardener to keep up things...but not this year! Please share your time and talent with the Church. Please contact Kh. Leslee Abud (laabud@aol.com) if you can help.

GRIEF & LOSS

Support Group

At Catholic Charities, we understand grief and loss is difficult. We hope you will find healing, support, hope, strength, and understanding interacting with others who have had similar experiences.

OPEN TO EVERYONE
THURSDAYS
5 PM - 6 PM
FREE

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
901 CHIPPEWA STREET

Contact Linda Itson to reserve your spot.
810-232-9950 ext. 250

www.CatholicCharitiesFlint.org

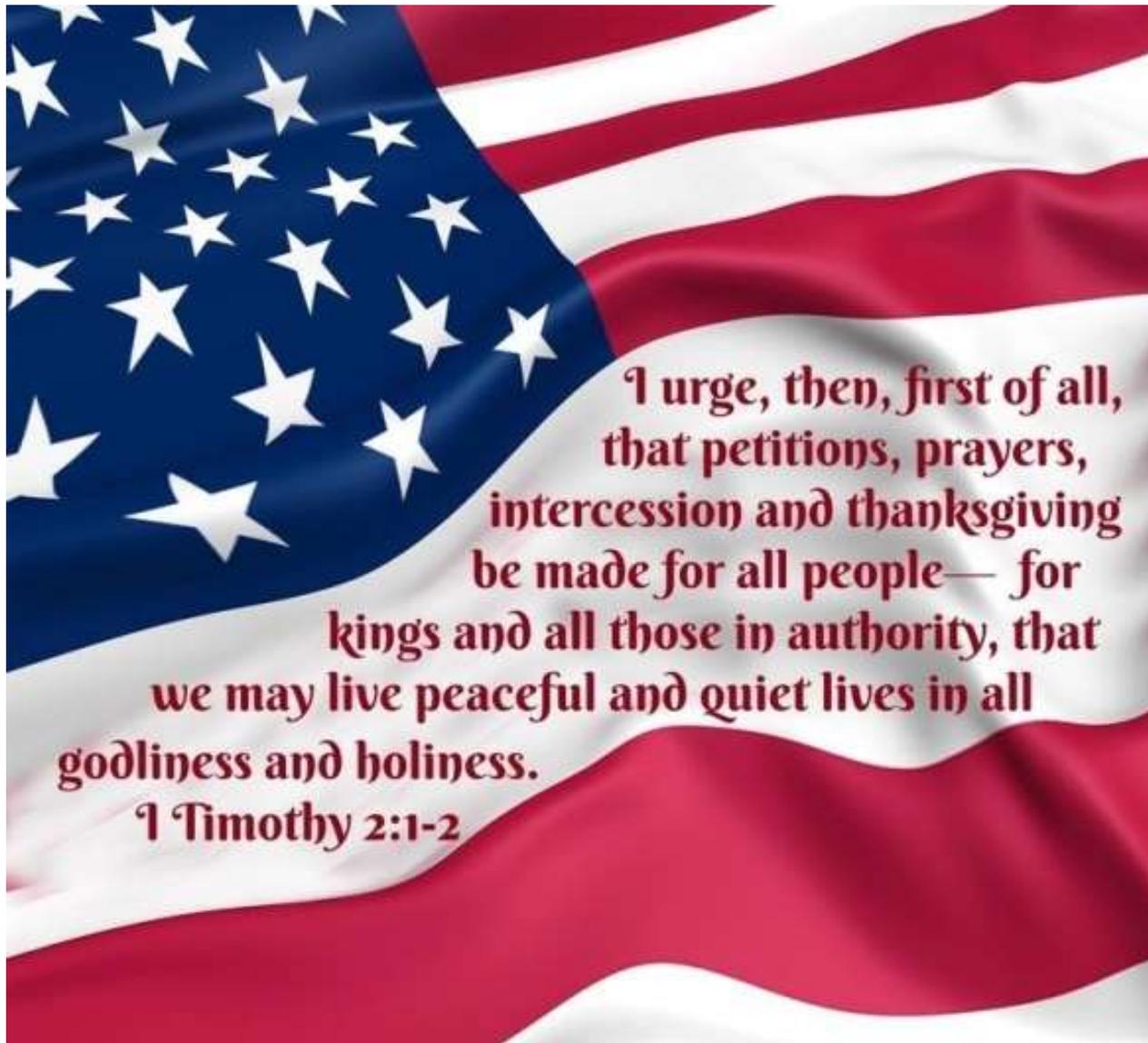
COMING EVENTS

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is observed on Wednesday and Friday. The Dormition Fast for the Dormition (<i>Falling Asleep or Assumption</i>) of the Virgin Mary began on Saturday, August 1 st and lasts until the feast on August 15 th . The traditional fasting discipline during this fourteen-day period is <i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil and their by-products, except on Saturdays and Sundays when wine and olive oil</i> are allowed.
Tuesday	Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm
Wednesday	Combined Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy for the Transfiguration of our Lord at St. Nicholas (live-stream: https://youtu.be/M2CLETvigsE 6pm
Thursday	Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm
Saturday	Great Vespers 5pm

Politicizing the Gospel ~ *The Gospel of Christ and Politics.*

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

It is deeply disturbing to me to have witnessed the politicizing of Christianity in this nation. The conjoining of politics and faith have led to a polarization of our nation that has not been seen since just prior to the Civil War. In our having politicized Christianity, we've reduced the Gospel of Christ to a battle between political and social issues that have alienated many from the ultimate message of Christ, that we need redemption, and that repentance and conversion of heart are to become the priority of each and every one of us.



By insisting that we are still a Christian nation, we've allowed a polarization to take place that has pushed Christianity to the brink, having linked values, and moral teachings that are based on the Gospels, while the world around us has become jaded, even hostile, to whatever the Church has to say. Thus, the primary message of the Gospel is dismissed, before people can even be brought through the door of our temples.

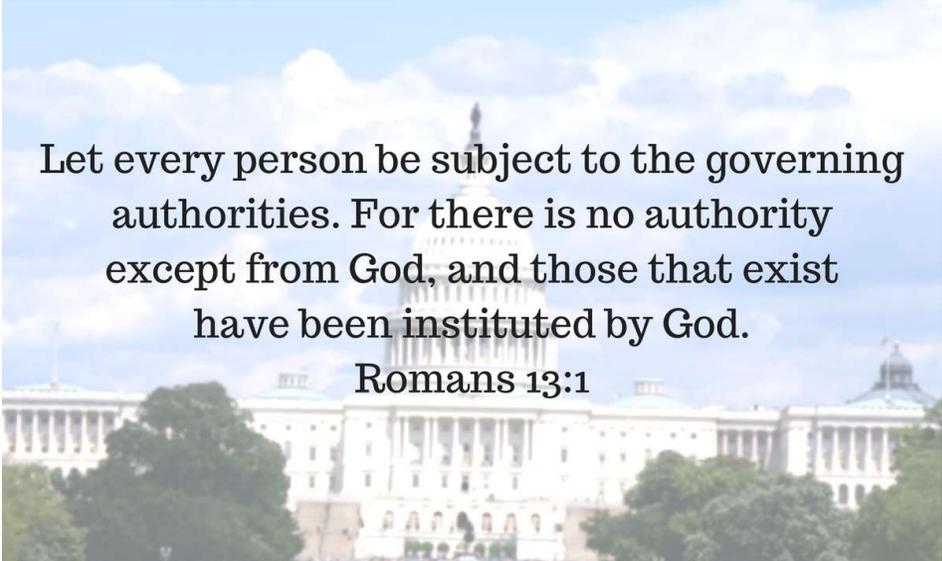
Today's youth are leaving Christianity in droves, as has been demonstrated in the demographics of America's "Bible Belt". The number of young people, even in the conservative South, who are giving birth out of wedlock, or having abortions, has skyrocketed. The support of civil marriage for same sex partners, has increased dramatically. These moral issues are of course a concern for Christians, but our acceptance of the moral standards set forth in the Scriptures, are received by us, not as law, but as a result of our personal encounter with Christ. Legislative action ignores the fact that Christ changes the heart, and a society that is to be transformed, must see this transformation take place in the hearts of its people. For we Christians to foist our beliefs upon the nation, only creates resentment, and Christophobia.

Society must be transformed, but it cannot be done by force of law. It must be done by bringing Christ to the center of our national scene. This can only be done when Christian love and charity rule, and when the nation can see in its Christian peoples, an honesty of heart, and an authentic witness to Christ, that is not based on an angry polarization that contributes nothing but distrust, and disunity.

Chuck Colson, who was one of President Nixon's Watergate people, and who, during his incarceration in prison, converted to Christ, said: *"We made a big mistake in the '80s by politicizing the Gospel ... We [thought] that we could solve the deteriorating moral state of our culture by electing good guys. That's nonsense. Now people are kind of realizing it was a mistake."* Change must begin with us, not with our society. Laws will not make this a Christian nation. Biblical morality can only become an integral part of our nation, when we, as a people, have taken Christ into our hearts, and allowed the Holy Spirit to change us.

As Christians, we must not detract from the central message of the Gospels, by making it appear to be a part of one political party. To do so, will eventually lead to the total discrediting of the institution of the Church. History has proven, time and again, that the Church must remain aloof from political parties, or movements, for when the party is out of office, so is the Church's influence. Christianizing of a nation cannot be the result of legislation. It must come with the conversion of its people.

Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev), Chairman of External Relations for the Moscow Patriarchate, boldly delivered the following address before an assembly of the World Council of Churches: *"When are we going to stop making Christianity politically correct and all-inclusive? ... Why do we insist on accommodating every possible alternative to the centuries-old Christian tradition? Where is the limit, or is there no limit at all? Many Christians worldwide look to Christian leaders in the hope that they will defend Christianity against the challenges that it faces ... Our holy mission is to preach what Christ preached, to teach what the apostles taught, and to propagate what the holy Fathers propagated."*



Let every person be subject to the governing
authorities. For there is no authority
except from God, and those that exist
have been instituted by God.

Romans 13:1