

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

August 21, 2022

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Attached

Blessings on the great feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God!

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*)

- George and Hiam Ishaq and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of **George** Abdallah Bannoura (9 day, father of Hiam).
- We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Archimandrite Duane** Pederson (+July 20th), **Nuha** Odeh (+July 15th, aunt of Giries Odeh and Mousa Rishmawi), **Bassam** Sami Al Issa (+July 31st, father of Christine Abousamra), **Thalge** Ghanim (+August 6th, uncle of Manal Abuaita), and **Kendall** Ayoub (+August 16th, brother of Cam Takach).

- 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, **Khader** AbuAita, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alsahouri, **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Danny** Andoni, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Kh. Pam** Bassett, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Victor** David, **Elias** Gantos, **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), **Michael** Zerka (uncle of Lauren Zerka); **John**, **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet), and newborn **Leah Elizabeth** Timm (July 15th); **Sophia** Al-Khouri who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khouri and **Sandy** (daughter of Issa and Esperanza) and **Raad** Qumsieh.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP today. Our **Parish Picnic** is at the Davison Township Park and Recreation-Lake Callis which begins at 12pm ~ see you there!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: September 4th, 18th, and 25th ~ 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).

PARKING If you are just dropping by the church, you may park close to the building. HOWEVER, if you are here for Divine Services, Bible Studies, Meetings, etc., please park in the appropriate spaces and leave the handicapped spaces for our parishioners who need them – Thank You!



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!



ST. GEORGE GOLF CLASSIC is Saturday, September 24th at Flushing Valley Golf Club. The Classic is for fellowship, fun, and to raise money for our church. Hole Sponsorships are needed, which is great for remembering a loved one, health of your family, or publicity of a business for only \$150 (see flier on Narthex Table). Donations of prizes, gift cards and/or money to buy gifts are also needed ~ you do not need to be a golfer to support this wonderful event. If you are interested or need more information, see Tony Daoud (810-730-1011).

COMING EVENTS

Fasting Discipline The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, meat by-products, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.
Saturday Abuaita Wedding 5pm
 No Great Vespers

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God ~ Experiencing the Reality of God

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

My own experience with God is many fold, with everything from witnessing the healing of illnesses of many people, including my own heart condition (I was on the operating table, awaiting bypass surgery, but was healed), to standing before numerous myrrh-streaming icons, watching the myrrh well up. I once witnessed a cross (about 12 inches long), held by a Coptic priest friend, literally pouring myrrh into a bucket. Miracles like this are not easily dismissed when you are watching it happen. Perhaps the most impressive miracles I have witnessed over my forty some years as a monk have been the healing of people's hearts. Previously evil people, totally focused on themselves, and hateful to others, have been miraculously transformed into loving, caring, individuals who have become filled with the desire to serve others.

It is important to remember our God did not create us as puppets, but rather as persons with the freedom to respond, or not, to His invitation to enter into communion with Him. Just as a loving dad, desiring to help his child take those first steps on his own, will let go of the child's hands, as the mother reaches out from a few feet away, allowing their child the freedom to move independently, so does our God withdraw our sense of His presence, that we might freely reach out to Him. This is because, just as the child is given freedom to make that first step, so we are given the opportunity to respond to God's invitation, by our own free will.

I have been able to experience the presence of God because of the freedom I've been granted by a loving God Who has reached out to me, with grace and mercy. I, like everyone, can experience the presence of God through the joyful and awesome encounter with Christ while participating in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. I've experienced God while hearing a good confession, and witnessing the results of the outpouring of God's grace upon the penitent sinner. I experience the presence of God while witnessing the wonder of discovery in the faces of college students who are hearing of the mystical theology of Orthodoxy, for the first time.

I experience the presence of God while visiting the old woman who has walked with God her whole life. I experience the presence of the Lord when witnessing the giggle of a child, who is being hugged by his grandmother. I witness the love of God in the face of my confessor, and the fellowship of my brother monks. I experience the love of God while concelebrating with my archbishop, and my brother priests.

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I experience God in the early hours of the morning, while I do my cell rule (prayer discipline).

I experience God in the sunrise, and in the sunset. I experience God in the freshly picked rose, and the lapping of the water while standing at the sea shore. I experience God as I taste the fresh corn from the stalk. I experience God in the purring sound of our cat, Hammi, while holding him in my arms. Finally, I experience God in the solitude of my heart.

And He said, *“My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”* Exodus 33:14



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Get out your bibles, in the Old Testament find the Book of Psalms, then Psalm 104. This is the psalm we read at every Great Vespers as we meditate on God's creation and how beautiful it is. After Adam and Eve sinned, God loved His creation (of which we are at the center) so much He sent His only Son to come and save us! Believe in Jesus, follow His teachings, learn what we need to do to be saved ~ remember, it is not magic, but rather our belief (faith), our thoughts, our actions, and returning our love to God which shows Him we want to be saved! Love, FJ