

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Rev. Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

August 29, 2021

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

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 (*Oblations*)

- Elias Hanna, Najwa Joubran, Wafaa Elias, and Feryal Joubran and their Families for the health of their families and in loving memory of their brother-in-law **Tony** Al-Sakali (40 day, brother-in-law).
- Ayman and Wafaa Elias for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Thuraya** Elias (3/9 day, mother of Ayman).

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:

• **Elias** Mitri ~ August 30th

• **Sophia** Abuaita ~ September 4th

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: **Jamil** Sahouri (+July 24th friend of parishioners), **Delores** Page (+July 26th, friend of Daisy Isaac), **Rayan** Janenah (+July 26th,

friend of Ola Alqazaha), **Mariam** Alsous Rishmawi (+July 30th, aunt of Salem Rashmawi and Fadi Rishmawi), **Nakhleh** Khoury (+August 1st), **Charles** Stewart (+August 10th, uncle of Kelly Sanderson), and **Zahra** Abuaita Al-Khoury (+August 21st, aunt of Khaled Al-Khoury).

- 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, **Salwa** Abu-Aitah, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Philip** Abuaita, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Anwar** Abueita, **William** Alsahouri, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Gracy**n Haskins (granddaughter of Mike and Nancy Silpoch), **Daisy** Isaac, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** and **Elise** Sophiea Jr., **Shirley** Zerka (mother of Victoria); **Leah Nicole** Brunner who is to be brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation; **Maroun** and **Julia** (Qazaha) Alatrash who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- 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, **Amira** and **Abdallah** Farah, **Natania** and **Rene** Hanna, **Elise** and **Jarrett** Lane [daughter of Habeeb & Denise Ghattas and Jill Smith], **Kari** and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis [daughter of John and Theresa Farah], and **Rachel** and **Andrew** Sackllah [daughter of Suheil and Abeer Abuaita].

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP MEAL is hosted by *Elias Hanna, Najwa Joubran, Wafaa Elias, and Feryal Joubran.*

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: September 19th, October 3rd and 17th ~ 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).

CHURCH SCHOOL IS STARTING ON SEPTEMBER 12TH!

Everyone received a letter and one registration form in the mail. All of our children/students, need to register using the NEW form. Please fill out one form for each child and bring it to church and give it to our Church School Director, Janet Abueita.

PLEASE FOLLOW OUR PROCEDURES As of today, August 27th, the Genesee Health Department recommends everyone wears masks while indoors. Please remember we can venerate icons by bowing (*not kissing or touching at this time*) and the same for the priest's hand and the chalice at Holy Communion. Further, **only our clergy and chanters may sing.** We all want the safest place for all of our parishioners to worship. We know

that combining masks and vaccines will protect ourselves and our community against this fast-changing virus. **PLEASE FOLLOW:**

1. It is recommended everyone wears a mask inside our church buildings.
2. **PLEASE, *if you are not vaccinated* because of medical or other reasons, you must wear a mask and maintain social distancing.**
3. Pews in the back of the church are for **those who are not vaccinated** and **those who would like to be social distanced.**

Our live-stream will continue.

YOUNG ADULTS Our parish is looking to help our youth, in college and those beginning their careers, remain engaged in their life in Christ, especially during the complexities of the pandemic and the stresses of college life. To do this we need your help. Specifically, we need the contact information (e-mail) for our young adults so we can reach out to them to link them up with their local Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) or Orthodox church in their area. You can call the parish office 810-732-0720 or have your child, grandchild, or Godchild send an email to saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com.

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, your family, or friends in a tragic 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, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.
TODAY	Baptism of Leah Brunner
Thursday	Church School Staff Meeting 6pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

THE GREATEST MIRACLE ~ *The Eucharist* (comes from the Greek which means "thanksgiving") **is the Greatest Miracle**

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

Of all the miracles of Christ, the greatest is the Eucharist. The Gospels are filled with accounts of miracles performed by Christ, but the greatest of them all was when He offered the simple elements of bread and wine, made by man, and transformed them into His very Body and Blood. This miracle continues to this very day, after some two thousand years, to bring Christ into our very midst and allow us to receive Him for the healing of both our bodies and our souls. That He would use as agents for this transformation, priests, to call down the Holy Spirit to continue this miracle, is one of the great mysteries of our Christian Faith.

continued ⇨

Just before the priest offers Holy Communion to the faithful, he (and everyone at St. George) recites the following prayer, which he has himself recited just before his own communion. This prayer is each person's act of personal commitment to Christ.

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first (I Timothy 1:15).

I believe also that this is truly Thine own most pure Body, and that this is truly Thine own most precious Blood. Therefore I pray Thee: have mercy upon me and forgive me my transgressions, committed in word and deed, whether consciously or unconsciously.

And make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thy most pure Mysteries, for the remission of sins and unto life everlasting.

Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, receive me today as a communicant. For I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss; but like the thief will I confess Thee: "Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom."

May the communion of Thy Holy Mysteries be neither to my judgment, nor to my condemnation, O Lord, but to the healing of soul and body.

This prayer is a clear sign that we are not simply commemorating a past event, or celebrating a communal meal like the Passover of the Jews. The Church never saw this as a continuation of the Passover Meal, but rather a sacrifice that is offered for both the living and the dead. Because this sacrifice is not a mere figure or symbol but a true sacrifice, it is the most important service that takes place in the life of the Church. Furthermore, it is not the bread that is sacrificed, but the very Body of Christ. Although the Lamb of God was sacrificed only once, the sacrifice at the Eucharist consists, not in the real and bloody sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb, but in the transformation of the bread into the sacrificed Lamb. [from Fr. Joe, the word *Lamb* referring to Christ is used by John 1:29 where John the Baptist sees Jesus and exclaims, "*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*" Further, in John's gospel, the sacrifice of lambs on the annual celebration of the Jewish Passover is directly related to the sacrifice of Jesus on the Life-giving Cross as the Lamb of God!]

The Mystery of the Holy Eucharist cannot be explained in purely logical or rational terms, for the Eucharist, like Christ Himself, is a mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven which is "not of this world." "Having learned these things, and been fully assured that the seeming bread is not bread, though sensible to taste, but the Body of Christ; and that the seeming wine is not wine, though the taste will have it so, but the Blood of Christ; and that of this David sung of old, saying, "and bread strengthened man's heart, to make his face to shine with oil (Psalm 104), 'strengthen thou thine heart,' by partaking thereof, and "make the face of thy soul to shine.'" St. Cyril of Jerusalem, (around 350 years after our Lord's Pascha).

Get out your bible, find the Gospel of St. John, and read Chapter 1 where the below verse comes from and learn a little about our Lord and Savior. Love, FJ

