

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

Father Amin Houli, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

September 1, 2024

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!

Blessed Church New Year!

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)

- Khaled and Sally Abuaita for the health of their family and in loving memory of Dr. **Jiries** Ghanem (40 day, friend).
- Khader and Lucy AbuAita for the health of their family and especially **Fr. Amin, Kh. Rena,** and the **Houli Family**.
- 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 **Fr. Jeremy, Kh. Rena Houli, Sahar Abdallah, Abeer Abuaita, Reader Fouad & Soad Abuaita, Philip & Janett Abuaita, Rasha Abuaita, Sami & Shafiq Abuaitah, Laila Abud, George Abueita, Georgette Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, William Alshouri, Naila Banna, Douglas Coone, Vera Daoud, Said Farah, Joseph Gagne, Elias Gantos, Subdeacon George Gantous, Phyllis Good, Daisy Isaac, Danny Mortensen, Karen Mortensen, Laura Nassar, Adam Odeh, Elaine Shaheen, Michael and Nancy Silpoch;** your servants **Maria Kirk, Evan Sandford, and Jaden Turner** who are in catechism (under instruction) to become members of our Orthodox Faith. **George Chammas and Mariane Rishmawi and Steve Ishmair and Laila Abdallah** who are to be united in the *Sacrament of Holy Matrimony*.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Cyril Yonov** (+July 31st, friend of Fr. Michael), **Shawn Kiley** (+August 4th, sister of Sue Salomon), **John Mays** (+August 4th, great-grandfather of Evan Sanford), **Adeeb Bathish** (+August 6th, brother-in-law of Hiam Bathish), **Nimer Rishmawi** (+August 12th, father of Moussa), and **Danial Alghanim** (+August 15th, father of Dania Hanna) ~ *may their memory be eternal!*
- We also pray for our *Expectant Parents*: **Liana and Hanna Abuaita, Stephanie and Nadim Burbar, Natania and Rene Hanna,** and **Dania and Subdeacon Salim Hanna**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is not hosted today ☹️. Please offer a donation to help cover our costs ~ *thanks!*

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: September 22nd and 29th ~ 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,** contact coordinator Manal Abuaita 810-577-0028.

WELCOME TO OUR ST. GEORGE FAMILY!

We are blessed to welcome Fr. Amin, daughter Teodora, and son Nicholas to our St. George Family (*Khouriya Rena will be coming in September!*) If you haven't met them, please introduce yourselves to them during Coffee Fellowship. If you need to contact Fr. Amin, please email him at pastorsgf@gmail.com or call his cell at 248-709-1186.

➡➡➡ **Welcome Meal for the Houli Family on September 15th** during Coffee Fellowship ~ plan on attending! If you would like to donate toward the meal, please see Amal Abuaita, Areen Bathish, Aida Nassar, or Jeanette Nassif as soon as possible ~ thanks!

SAVE THE DATE! **Fr. Joe's Retirement Luncheon** will be October 6th immediately after Divine Liturgy. More information to come, but for now, mark your calendars!

THE CRY OF THE FORERUNNER this September 27-29 in Livonia, MI. This Orthodox Men's Retreat, led by Fr. Michael Butler, Fr. Hans Jacobse, and Paul Lloyd Robson, offers an opportunity to deepen your Orthodox faith through the life and preaching of St. John the Baptist. Experience Orthodox worship, group work, physical challenges, and fellowship with like-minded Orthodox men. Whether you're a young man seeking direction or an older man ready for renewal, this retreat is for you. Limited to 100 participants. Early bird registration saves \$25 before September 1st. Visit <https://www.avg2alpha.com/cry-of-the-forerunner/> for details and registration. Optional: attend the 17th Annual Male Bonding Party afterwards.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) needs to be \$7,588 to meet our 2024 Budget. On Sunday, August 25th our offerings were \$1,970; we were short \$5,618! 😞 **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!

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS



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 (or 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!

EASYTITHE OR CREDIT / DEBIT CARDS We use EasyTithe so everyone can make online one-time donations or donations that are automatically done for you! Go to our St. George Website (see above). If you need help, just come to the office or call 810-732-0720 during Office Hours.

➤ **AUTOMATIC GIVING** Did you know most banks and credit unions offer automatic bill payment services? You can set it up so they send a check from your account to St. George for the amount you designate. This can be a onetime event or done automatically weekly/monthly. Just call or go online with your banking institution to get the form you need.

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 **Rishmawi/Chammas Wedding at St. George-Troy, MI 5:30pm**

Monday **Labor Day ~ Office closed!**

Tuesday **Church School Staff Dinner Meeting 5pm**

Saturday **Abdallah/Ishmair Wedding at the Basilica of St. Mary-Livonia 4pm**
No Great Vespers

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"If you are constantly angry and complaining, it is indicative of a proud soul. Humble yourself, reproach yourself, for the Lord is powerful and will give you comfort and a helping hand."

+ St. Anatoly of Optina

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Archimandrite Jeremy (Davis)



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

Archiepiscopal Vicar for
Toledo and the Midwest

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

August 26, 2024

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Midwest,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This Sunday, September 1, we will celebrate the Beginning of the Indiction, also known as the Church New Year. On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Saba, I wish you much joy!

Unlike the civil calendar, our ecclesiastical reckoning of months begins with September. Historically, this goes back to how the Roman emperors organized the payment of yearly taxes, which were correlated with the fall harvest. Liturgically, however, it is tied to the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, September 8, which is the first of all the Twelve Great Feasts if we put them in chronological order. The birth of Mary (who would give birth to Christ) “hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe” (in the words of the apolytikion), for it began that blessed chain of events through which Christ would abolish death and grant us life everlasting.

The beginning of a new church year is a time to take stock, give thanks, and recommit ourselves to the gospel. This year, for us in the Midwest, it also marks a changing of the guard, so to speak. His Grace Bishop Anthony is beginning a new ministry in the West—the largest diocese in our archdiocese—while I have been called to fill his very big shoes here in the Midwest. I arrived at the chancery in Toledo a couple of weeks ago. Since then, I have made pastoral visits to three of our Chicago-area churches and accompanied His Eminence Metropolitan Saba during his visit to Grand Rapids. I look forward to seeing all of our communities—over fifty!—in the next twelve months, and to that end, I have already scheduled many visits through the end of March. I feel very blessed to have received this diocese in such excellent shape, as a result of Bishop Anthony’s faithful labors. And I offer myself to the Lord to make whatever contribution I can to continuing that work.

With prayers that the Lord would bless all our parishes and missions with spiritual prosperity and growth in grace, throughout the coming year, I am,

Yours in the Service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fr. Jeremy Davis".

Archimandrite Jeremy
Archiepiscopal Vicar

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

Your Beatitude Onophrius Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine,
Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church,

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you." (John 15:18)

We have recently received the news that the Ukrainian Parliament adopted Bill No. 8371 on banning the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, preventing Her from existence and depriving Her of all Her property. This ban amounts to a collective punishment inflicted upon millions of believers whose only "sin" is that they remain loyal to the Orthodox faith received from the saints according to the apostolic succession.

In this difficult circumstance that your Holy Church is going through, we would like to assure you that our Patriarchate of Antioch stands by the side of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, whose faithful people are confessors and witnesses. We call upon all believers to offer prayers that the Lord God may sustain in the faith all your Church's hierarchs, clergy, monastics, and faithful. May God give you strength and patience to endure hardship, maintain the purity of the faith, wipe all tears from your eyes, and forgive your persecutors.

Your Beatitude: The Patriarchate of Antioch reiterates that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church is the only Church in Ukraine that is in Eucharistic communion with all local Orthodox Churches, enjoying apostolic succession and valid priesthood. Thus, the attempt to ban and abolish this Church is an abolition to the oldest legitimate Orthodox Church in this country.

The Patriarchate of Antioch joins the primates of the Orthodox Churches in defending your Church and calling for a meeting of a General Council in order to find a comprehensive solution to the Ukrainian ecclesiastical issue. We assure you again that we will spare no effort in raising our voices for you and appealing to all the good people in this world, especially to all Christian leaders, governments, international organizations, and defenders of human rights and religious freedoms, for putting an end to the religious discrimination and violence occurring against your Church, a matter which constitutes a dangerous precedent in the twenty first century and which should not be tolerated and perpetuated.

"Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way! The Lord be with you all!" (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

Damascus, 24 August 2024.

John X
Patriarch of Antioch and all the East

البطريك يوحنا العاشر في رسالة تضامنية إلى متروبوليت كييف وسائر أوكرانيا أونوفريوس
"تقف بطريكية أنطاكية إلى جانب الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية الأوكرانية الشاهدة والمعترفة."

أرسل بطريك أنطاكية وسائر المشرق للروم الأرثوذكس يوحنا العاشر رسالة تضامنية إلى متروبوليت كييف
وسائر أوكرانيا أونوفريوس عبّر فيها عن وقوف الكنيسة الأنطاكية إلى جانب الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية الأوكرانية
في الاضطهاد الذي تتعرض له وجاء في الرسالة:

"وصلنا في الأيام الأخيرة خبر إقرار مجلس النواب الأوكراني القانون رقم ٨٣٧١، الذي يهدف إلى حظر الكنيسة
الأرثوذكسية الأوكرانية ومنعها من الوجود وتجريدها من ممتلكاتها، بناءً على اعتبارات ترقى إلى مستوى
العقاب الجماعي لملايين المؤمنين الذين تكمن "خطيئتهم" الوحيدة في أنهم ظلوا مخلصين للإيمان
الأرثوذكسي الذي تسلموه من القديسين وفقاً للتسلسل الرسولي.

يهمنا في هذا الظرف الصعب الذي تمر به كنيستكم أن نؤكد لكم أن بطريكية أنطاكية تقف إلى جانب
الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية الأوكرانية الشاهدة والمعترفة، وتدعو المؤمنين إلى رفع الصلوات من أجل أن يثبتكم
الله، مع مطارنة كنيستكم وكهنتها ورهبانها وشعبها على الإيمان، ويمنحكم القوة والصبر لتحمل الشدائد
والحفاظ على نقاوة الإيمان، وأن يمسح الدموع عن عيونكم، وأن يغفر للمسيئين إليكم.

تؤكد بطريكية أنطاكية، يا صاحب الغبطة، أن الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية الأوكرانية هي الكنيسة الوحيدة في
أوكرانيا التي في شركة إفخارستية مع جميع الكنائس الأرثوذكسية المحلية، والتي تتمتع بالتسلسل الرسولي
والكهنوت السليم. وإن محاولة حظرها وإلغائها يعتبر إلغاءً لأقدم كنيسة أرثوذكسية شرعية في البلاد.

إن بطريكية أنطاكية تضم صوتها اليوم إلى أصوات رؤساء الكنائس الأرثوذكسية الذين دافعوا وما زالوا
يدافعون عن كنيستكم، ويدعون إلى عقد مجمع عام لإيجاد حل شامل للمسألة الكنسية الأوكرانية. ونؤكد
لكم مجدداً أننا لن نألو جهداً في رفع الصوت من أجلكم ومناشدة جميع الخيرين في هذا العالم، ولاسيما القادة
المسيحيين والحكومات والمنظمات الدولية والمدافعين عن حقوق الإنسان والحريات الدينية، للعمل على
وضع حد للتمييز الديني والعنف الذي تتعرض له كنيستكم، والذي يشكل سابقة خطيرة في القرن الحادي
والعشرين لا يجوز السكوت عنها وتكريسها."

دمشق، ٢٤ آب ٢٠٢٤.

يوحنا العاشر

بطريك أنطاكية وسائر المشرق للروم الأرثوذكس