

St. George Orthodox Church

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

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

September 10, 2017

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS طروبارية الصليب بالحن

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

Tone 5

3rd Matins Gospel {Mark 16:9-20}

Altar Servers: **EVERYONE** {Shane Gantos, captain}

Confessions
8:30-9:30am

Matins p.44
8:50am

Divine Liturgy p.91
10:00am

Memorial Service
Trisagion p.183

Welcome to St. George! Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book located in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, 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, being at peace with others, and attending the Divine Liturgy regularly. Please know everyone is invited to venerate the Holy Cross and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

First Antiphon – Verses from Psalms 131, 86, and 45

Verse 1. Lord, remember David and all his meekness.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse 2. Lo, we heard of it at Ephrathah: we found it in the fields of the wood. *Refrain*

Verse 3. Glorious things are spoken of Thee, O city of God. *Refrain*

Verse 4. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her early in the morning.

Refrain Glory to the Father ... , now and ever Amen. *Refrain*

Second Antiphon - Verses from Psalm 131

Verse 1. The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; and He will not turn from it.

Refrain: O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

Verse 2. Of the fruit of your body will I set upon your throne. *Refrain*

Verse 3. There will I make the horn of David to grow: I have prepared a lamp for My Anointed.

Refrain

Verse 4. For the Lord has chosen Zion: He has desired it for His dwelling place. *Refrain*

Glory to the Father... now and ever Amen. *Only begotten Son...*

Third Antiphon – Verses from Psalms 131, 45, and 64

Verses 1-3 Here will I dwell, for I desired it. The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle.
Holy is Thy temple, wonderful in righteousness.

Refrain: Troparion of the Nativity (Birth) of the Virgin Mary—Tone 4

Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shown from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

ميلادك يا والدة الإله بشر بالفرح كل المسكونة، لأنه منك أشرق شمس العدل المسيح إلهنا، فحلّ اللعنة، ووهب البركة، وأبطل الموت، ومنحنا حياةً أبدية.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 5

Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for He took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

لنُسبِّحْ نحنُ المؤمنين ونسجدُ للكلمة. المساوي للآبِ والروح في الأزليَّةِ وعدمِ الابتداء. المولود من العذراء لخلصنا. لأنه سرٌّ وارتضى بالجسد أن يعلو على الصليب. ويحتمل الموت ويُنهض الموتى بقيامتهِ المجيدة.

Troparion of the Nativity (Birth) of the Virgin Mary—Tone 4 (as above)

Troparion for St. George—Tone 4

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings: Victorious Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

بما أنك للمأسورين محرر ومعتق، وللفقراء والمساكين عاضد وناصر، وللمرضى طبيب وشاف، وعن المؤمنين مكافح ومحارب، أيها العظيم في الشهداء جاورجيوس اللابس الظفر، تشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

Kontakion for the Nativity (Birth) of the Virgin Mary—Tone 4

By your holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death; your people do celebrate it, having been saved from the penalty of their transgressions, crying to you: *The barren gives birth to the Theotokos who nourishes our life.*

إنَّ يواكيمَ وحنةً من عارِ العقرِ حرّرا. وأدمَ وحواءَ من فسادِ الموتِ اعتقا بمولديك المقدس أيتها الطاهرة. فله يُعَيِّدُ شعبك إذ قد نجا من وصمةِ الزلاتِ هاتفاً نحوك. العاقرُ تلدُ والدةُ الإله المغذية حياتنا.

Epistle Reading: *Galatians 6:11-18* {Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross}

Gospel Reading: *John 3:13-17* {Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Luai Helal, Abeer Alyateem, Izeec Helal and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of mother **Mariam Musleh** (9 day).
- The Bathish Family for the health of their families especially parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents **Emil** and **Hiam Bathish** on the occasion of their 60th anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony -- *May God grant them many years!*
- St. George Parish for the health of their families especially our **Church School Staff and Students** -- *May God grant them many years!*
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Wabiha Khair** (+August 17th, aunt of Esperanza Abuaita).
- 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**, **Androlla Abu**

Aita, Hanna Abuaita, Shafiq Abuaitah, Jane Abueita, Abla Abufarha, Ceasar and Naila Banna, Emil Bathish, Vera Farah, Mariam Ghanim (Manal's mother), Phyllis Good, Carol Haddad, Roland & Ronald Haddad, Daisy Isaac, Daniel Isaac, John Isaac, Nawal Iseid, Sally Joseph, John & Nakhleh Khoury, Nicola Khoury, Danny Mortensen, Laura Nassar, George and Renee Nassif, Aida Raffoul, Elaine Shaheen, Mary Salim, Michael Silpoch, William Sophiea Jr.; Andrea Gazis (daughter of Bill and Sue Shaheen) and newborn Georgios (August 13th); Haneen Burbar and newborn Christaan (August 17th); Jenny Salsa (daughter of Anwar and Janet Abueita) and newborn Matthew (August 31st).

- We also pray for those who are with child: Chrissy Abueita, Ola Alqazaha, and Lameese Porada (daughter of Jiries and Sharon Abu-Aitah).

Communion Hymn (for the Lord's Day)

(Refrain) Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest.

(Verse) Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! (Refrain)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reception of Holy Communion

Please remember only ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED themselves may partake of Holy Communion. *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH SCHOOL KICK-OFF LUNCH Our Church School invites EVERYONE to celebrate the beginning of the year! There is no cost, but donations will be accepted to educate our children!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: October 15th and 22nd ~ 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, please see Manal Abuaita.

HISTORY OF ST. GEORGE We are looking for an interested person to take on a "history" project: organizing old photos and other historical items of which we have a number of boxes. If you are interested in being our historian, please speak with Fr. Joe.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly offerings need to be \$4,710 to meet our 2017 Budget. On September 3rd, our offerings were \$1,557, so we were short \$3,153 ☹

YOU HAVE AN IDEA? Is there an event or activity you have wished would take place at St. George and it has not yet? For example, a Fish Fry or Falafel Friday, a Movie Night, anything creative and different. These are only a few suggestions. **Teens** we would love an idea from any of you. This invitation is for anyone to offer a suggestion. You know we have Euchre Night? It started with someone's idea of bringing fun into the church and offering it as a fundraiser. Well, this is YOUR opportunity to get involved. All you need to do is offer the idea, get involved as a leader or volunteer, and let's get going with the event! Contact a member of the Parish Council TODAY!

THE SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION) If you are 8 years or older, have been away from the Church, or have not had Confession in the last 2 months and desire to come back and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, please remember you must offer a confession of your sins first. Father Joe is not the only Orthodox priest in the area and if you would prefer to go to one of the others, feel free to do so (*please just let Fr. Joe know*): Fr. Angelo Maggos from Assumption Church (810-771-4611) Fr. Gabriel Bilas from St. Mary Magdalene (810-750-1401) or Fr. Matthew Butrie from St. Nicholas Church (810-744-0070). The important thing is not who hears your confession, but that you participate in Holy Sacrament on a regular basis. **Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life(Christ in Holy Communion).** (*Revelation 22:14*)

MIDDLE EASTERN COMMUNITY LUNCH AND BAKE SALE Our Ladies Auxiliary is having this great event for our community, family, and friends on Thursday, September 28th from 11am-3pm. Tickets are available from any member. Everyone is asked to help – all profits benefit our church! Drivers are needed for deliveries. Cooking Schedule at 10am each day: this Monday – Date Cookies; Tuesday, September 19th – Kibbee and Meat Pies; Sunday, September 24th Spinach Squeezing Party (see Ric Shahin); Monday, September 25th – Spinach Pies; Wednesday - Cooking and Preparing Food. If you would like to make sweets for the bake sale, please contact Sally Abuaita (810-965-1046) or Feyrouz Zarour (248-417-9605). *Please bring sweets to the hall on Wednesday, September 27th or early on Thursday, September 28th.* **Donations are welcomed to offset our costs.**

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.
Monday	English Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles or Gospel of St. Mark 3-5pm
Tuesday	Book Club 6-8pm
Wednesday	NO Arabic/English Bible Study Pan-Orthodox Combined <i>Evening Divine Liturgy</i> for the Finding and Elevation of the Holy and Life-giving Cross at St. George 6pm
Thursday	Altar Society Dinner Meeting see Theresa Farah for information 6pm
Friday	Pan-Orthodox OCF/Orthodox Christian Fellowship at St. George 7pm
Saturday	No Great Vespers

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- If you would like to host Coffee Fellowship in memory of a loved one, the occasion of a birthday, a wedding anniversary, or in thanksgiving to God, sign up on the poster in the Lounge or speak with Manal Abuaita.
- **REGULAR OFFICE HOURS** Our secretary, Kelly Dotson, works on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays (10am-4pm), Tuesdays and Wednesdays (1pm-4pm). Kelly can be reached at the church office 810-732-0720 or kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com.
- If you know of a parishioner who has given birth, fallen ill, or admitted to the hospital, please call the church office or let Father Joe know.

Nativity (*Birth*) of the Theotokos – September 8th

We celebrated the 1st Great Feast of the Church New Year (September 1st) this past week, but we continue in our Post-Feast celebration until Tuesday, September 12th.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St. Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts. Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own fellow citizens. On one of the feast days at the Temple in Jerusalem, the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St. Joachim, in deep grief, went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St. Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained an extreme old age and prepared themselves living a virtuous life for a beautiful calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "*the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls*" (one of the hymns from Great Vespers on "Lord, I Have Cried").

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have a direction with loving devotion.

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT AND PUBLISHED IN THE CHURCH BULLETIN

August 29, 2017
Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Forerunner

Beloved in Christ:

Greetings to you and your families as we prepare for the beginning of a new Church year.

We have all witnessed with a heavy heart the catastrophic destruction and massive flooding in Southeast Texas (and now Western Louisiana) as a result of Hurricane Harvey. Some of the scenes of suffering have been beyond words. I have been in constant contact with our clergy and the parishes of the area and am waiting for an assessment from them in order to help in any way we can. Although things are still unfolding, we want to be proactive in our appeal to all of you so we can respond as quickly as possible.

As people of God and the Church of Christ, we feel compelled to help our brothers and sisters in need. Therefore, I am asking every parish and mission of the archdiocese to appeal to their faithful and hold special collections throughout the month of September so that we can alleviate a little of the pain and suffering the good people of that area are enduring. Immediately after the last Sunday of September, please send your offerings to the archdiocese and put in the memo of the check "Hurricane Harvey Appeal". Once we have assessed the needs of our parishes and their faithful who have suffered losses, we will distribute your offerings to them on your behalf. If there are funds remaining after our distributions to our parishes in need, we will forward them to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) to help with their work in that area as they are already on the ground helping all Texans on behalf of the Orthodox Church.

Please be as generous as possible so that we are able to help those in need as much as we can.

Wishing you all a blessed beginning of the new ecclesiastical year and praying that God's healing hand will touch the people who have suffered as a result of this destructive hurricane, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+JOSEPH
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

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Prayer Service to

Begin the Church School Year



and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God
belongs to such as these.

M a r k 1 0 : 1 4

'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God ... truly I say unto you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.' And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands upon them.
{Mark 10:14-16}

Students

{Students, please come and stand on the Solea}

Priest: You are children of God, made in God's own image and likeness. You are made to know God and to love Him. God loves you and desires that you should become like His Son, Jesus Christ.

Will you pray each day, praising and thanking God, and taking time to be alone with Him?

Children: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Will you spend time during the week to review what you have learned in the Church, and to share this knowledge with your friends and family?

Children: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Will you live as a true Christian in school, with your friends, and at home?

Children: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Into Your hands, O God, we place these Your children; support them in their successes and failures, their joys and sorrows. As they grow in age, help them to grow in faith, in love, and in knowledge of You, their God and Savior.

Everyone: Amen.

Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents

{Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents, please stand}

Priest: God has given into your keeping the souls of your children fashioned in His own image and likeness. You are but sojourners on this earth and our souls are incomplete until they are found in God. Your children are given into your care, but belong to God. The vocation of parents is impossible without the constant help of God.

Therefore, will you be responsible for seeing that the children of our parish are brought up in the Orthodox Faith?

Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents: I will, with God's help.

Priest: **Will you, by your prayers and example, help these children to grow into the full stature of Christ?**

Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents: **I will, with God's help.**

Priest: **Will you bring your children -- and yourselves -- regularly to the Church Services, Holy Sacraments, and our Educational programs; along with sharing in worship, study, and prayer with your children?**

Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents: **I will, with God's help.**

Priest: **May God our Father, who by Baptism adopts us as His children, grant you the wisdom, humility, and love to fulfill your task. May the Lord Jesus Christ, who brought salvation to the home of Zacchaeus, fill you and your home with His sanctification. May the Holy Spirit, who has made the Church to be one, keep you in His peace.**

Everyone: **Amen** *{Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents may sit}*

Church School Teachers

{Church School Teachers, please stand}

Priest: **Today, we recognize the men and women of our parish who have responded to the Lord's invitation to share with others the Gospel message and to make disciples of all people. Their witness makes us aware of our call in Christ to be of service to others. God bestows on His Church gifts, like that of teaching, to strengthen and build up His Church.**

Will you continue to grow as disciples of the Lord by listening to the Word of God, living by His teachings, and sharing His commands with others?

Teachers: **I will, with God's help.**

Priest: **Will you prepare yourselves to fulfill all of the responsibilities that this teaching ministry requires, in fostering the faith to those entrusted to your care and faithfully teach the True Faith to your students?**

Teachers: **I will, with God's help.**

Priest: **Then, we -- the family of St. George -- accept with thanks your willingness to respond to God's call.**

O God, Author and Creator of all things, bless the good intentions of our teachers, your servants, as they offer themselves in this teaching ministry. Assist them in all things, guide the work of their hands. Graciously grant them to begin this work and to complete it to the glory of You-the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Everyone: Amen.

Everyone

{Please Stand}

Priest: Brothers and sisters, you realize that we all share in the ministry of teaching. Will you pledge your support for the Parents, Grandparents, Godparents, and Teachers of our children as they carry out their teaching ministry?

Everyone: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Master, Lord our God, You commanded that everything be done for Your glory. By Your blessing, stretch forth Your helping hand to us Your servants as we begin this Church School year. Grant these children a heart that is open to Your teachings and protect them from the Evil One. Bless the good intentions of Your people and protect us from worldly wisdom and deceit.

For You are a good God who loves mankind, and to You we give glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Everyone: Amen.

The priest blesses everyone with Holy Water.

Continually pray that the staff, teachers, and students of our Church School program will be guided by the love, wisdom, and joy of the Holy Spirit. With our example, commitment, encouragement, prayers, and support, they can, and will, overcome the unholy things of this fallenworld which they learn from school, TV, movies, sports, the internet, etc.

May God grant all of us many years!