

## St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: [saintgeorgeflint.org](http://saintgeorgeflint.org)

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Rev. Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

September 12, 2021

# Blessings on the Nativity Feast!

## 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*)

- Naim Zuraiqat and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of wife, mother, grandmother, and sister **Diana** (1 year).
- Hiam Bathish for the health of her family especially daughter **Reem** on the occasion of her birthday ~ *May God grant her many years!* ~ and in loving memory of husband **Emil**.
- St. George Parish for the health of their families especially our **Church School Staff and Students** as we pray for a wonderful, fruitful new year -- *May God grant them many years!*
- Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee Abud for the health of their family especially grandson **Julian Joseph** on the occasion of his Baptism, Chrismation, and reception of his First Communion ~ *May God grant him many years!*
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Charles** Stewart (+August 10<sup>th</sup>, uncle of Kelly Sanderson), **Zahra** Abuaita Al-Khoury (+August 21<sup>st</sup>, aunt of Khaled Al-

Khoury), **Thuraya** Elias (+August 23<sup>rd</sup>, mother of Ayman), and **Violate** Musleh (+September 2<sup>nd</sup>, mother of Eman Musleh Banoura).

- 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, **Salwa** Abu-Aitah, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Shafiqa** Abuaitah, **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, **Lane** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon) **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); **Daniel** Dubon who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Mirna** and **Tamer** Abuaita [son of Khader and Lucy], **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khouri, **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

**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: September 19<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> ~ 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.



**ST. GEORGE GOLF CLASSIC** is THIS Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 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 for a business for only \$125 (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).

**PLEASE FOLLOW OUR PROCEDURES** As of today, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 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. Everyone is encouraged to wear 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.**

**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) and an 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 [saintgeorgegflint@gmail.com](mailto:saintgeorgegflint@gmail.com).

**MY CHURCH BAGS** These were put together for our *Preschool* Children! PARENTS, please see your child takes care, replaces all of the items, and returns the bag to the rack by the Narthex Table at the end of Divine Liturgy ~ thank you ❤️!

**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](mailto: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.**

**FR. JOE—OUT-OF-TOWN** Fr. Joe is out-of-town until September 15<sup>th</sup>. **For emergencies while Fr. Joe is away**, contact please *Father Michael Bassett* (St. George, 989-627-9580), *Fr. Jarrod Russell* (Assumption, 810-771-4611), *Fr. Gabriel Bilas* (St. Mary Magdalene, 810-750-1401), or *Fr. Matthew Butrie* (St. Nicholas, 810-744-0070). Please pray for his safe travels.

**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	Combined Pan-Orthodox <b><i>Evening Divine Liturgy</i></b> for the <b>Finding and Elevation of the Holy Cross</b> at <i>St. Nicholas (2143 South Center Road, Burton 810-744-0070)</i> 6pm
Thursday	<b>Parish Council Dinner Meeting</b> 6:15pm
Saturday	<b>Golf Classic</b> No Great Vespers

**THE GIFT OF LOVE ~ *We Must Pass on the Gift of Love***

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

My father was a golf pro in Spokane, Washington, during my grade and early middle school years, and the country club was the center of our family's social life. My brother, Dwayne, and I used to play an average of 18 to 36 holes of golf every day, during the summer months (when we weren't fly fishing in the Spokane River). Our whole family

golfed together, although my mother's primary love was music. She was a church organist and choir director, and eventually became a piano and organ teacher.

My first job was to fill the coin operated water cooler with bottles of soda pop. When we moved from Spokane, Washington, to Sandpoint, Idaho, where my dad became the pro for a small country club, I took on my second job, at the age of fifteen, driving the large tractor that was used to cut the grass for the fairways. Those early years were wonderful, and I often think of how lucky I was to have been blessed with such wonderful, loving, parents.

Our home in Sandpoint, was on the lake, with views of forested mountains off in the distance. Is it any wonder I am so happy living on an island, surrounded by forest, for the forests and lakes of Northern Idaho, were so prominent a part of the environment of my youth?

I was fortunate to have had a close relationship with both my father and mother during the last years of their lives. As an adult, I was gifted with enough time to have let both my parents know how much I loved them, and how I was a product of both their lives. I was able to tell my dad that I saw much of him within myself. His humor, comfortableness with all kinds of people, joy of life, love of history, and, even his size (he was a big man), have been inherited by me, his son.

My mother's love of music, architecture and interior design, are also a part of who I've become, leaving me with the skills to work with our architect on the design of this monastery, and to personally design all the interiors of our monastic buildings. I am clearly the inheritor of the best that my parents displayed in their lives, and I will forever be grateful to them.

Yet, the most important gift I received from my parents was the gift of love. They loved me, and demonstrated their love for me throughout their lives. They also showed me how to love others, and that ability to be willing to be open to love, and to demonstrate love, eventually allowed me to love God. It was from my parents that I discovered that God was not simply there as a cosmic problem solver, or gift giver, but was, like them, One Who loved me. God, like my parents, first loved me, and the lessons of love that I learned from my parents, enabled me to be open to the love of God. In turn, the gift of love that came from my parents allowed me to see God as not my own private possession, but One Whom I wanted to share with others.



**I LOVE YOU..❤️**

**I love the way you call my name.**

**I love the way you tease me.**

**I love the way you love me.**

**I love the way you call me Yours.**

**I love the way you say sorry to me.**

**I love the way you care for me.**

**I love the way you treat me.**

**I just love the way you are..💕**

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**  
**OF NORTH AMERICA**

September 7, 2021

Dear Reverend Clergy and Esteemed Members of our Parish Councils,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of Christ Jesus our Lord!

We have all watched with concern and sadness as Hurricane Ida cut a path of destruction across our land. From the pounding winds and rain of its landfall in Louisiana to the recent flooding in New York and New Jersey, this storm has led to much suffering. Homes and businesses have been damaged, and lives have been tragically cut short. Let us all pray fervently to our good and saving God for the affected families and communities, that they might “find hope under His wings” (Ps. 90:4).

The Apostle John, the beloved disciple, exhorts us: “If anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:17–18). It is incumbent upon us as servants of God, who “is love” (1 John 4:8), to demonstrate love in a practical way to those who are suffering.

This duty is all the more pressing when those suffering are part of our spiritual family, our brothers and sisters in the Orthodox faith, members of our Archdiocese. We have received word that our parish in Metairie (New Orleans) has sustained some damage and that some of its parishioners have even lost their homes. Therefore, I call upon all our parishes to take a special collection for those who have suffered losses from this storm. Once you have had a chance to collect all donations, please forward one check from your parish to the Archdiocese (memo: “Hurricane Relief”)—in any event, no later than end of this month. All donations will go directly to those in need.

Asking God’s blessings upon your generosity and His preservation of you and your families, I remain prayerfully,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a large, stylized cross symbol.

**+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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