

# St. George Orthodox Church

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V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

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

September 17, 2017

SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS طرورية الصليب بالحن

Tone 6 4<sup>th</sup> Matins Gospel {Luke 24:1-12}

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 - Psalm 21

Verse 1. My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

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

Verse 2. Why are You so far from helping me, and from the words of My groaning? *Refrain*

Verse 3. O my God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear. *Refrain*

Verse 4. But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel. *Refrain*

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

### Second Antiphon - Psalm 73

Verse 1. O God, why have You cast us off forever?

*Refrain:* O Son of God who was crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

Verse 2. Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old. *Refrain*

Verse 3. This is Mount Zion where You have dwelt. *Refrain*

Verse 4. God is our King before the ages. He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth. *Refrain*

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

### Third Antiphon - Psalm 98

Verse 1. The Lord reigns, let the people rage: He sits upon the cherubim, let the earth be moved.

Verse 2. The Lord is great in Zion: and He is high above all the people.

Verse 3. Let them give thanks to Your great name: for it is holy.

**Troparion of the Elevation of the Holy Cross – Tone 1:** O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by the virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاتِكَ. وَأْمُنْخْ عَيْبِدَكَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الْغَلْبَةَ عَلَى الشَّرِيرِ. وَأَخْفِظْ بِقُوَّةِ صَلَيبِكَ، جَمِيعَ الْمُخْتَصِينَ بِكَ.

### **Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel**

#### **Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 6**

When Mary stood at Thy grave looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and was not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. O Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord glory to Thee.

إن القوَاتِ الملائكيَّةَ ظهروا على قبرك الموقر. والحراسُ صاروا كالأموات. ومريمُ وقفت عند القبر طالبةً جسدك الطاهر. فسييت الجحيم ولم تجرّب منها وصادقت البتول مائناً الحياة. فيا من قام من بين الأموات يا رب المجد لك.

#### **Troparion of the Holy Cross—Tone 1 (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 Holy Cross—Tone 4**

Do Thou, who of Thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new nation which is called by Thy Name. Make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

يا من ارتفعت على الصليب مختاراً "أيها المسيح الإله. امنح رأفتك لشعبك الجديد المسمى بك. وفرح بقوتك ملوكنا المؤمنين مانحاً إياهم الغلبة على محاربيهم. لتكن لهم نصرتك سلاحاً "للسلامة و ظفراً" غير مقهور

**Epistle Reading:** *Galatians 2:16-20* {Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross}

**Gospel Reading:** *Mark 8:34-9:1* {Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross}

### **Flower and Basil Offerings for the Elevation of the Holy Cross**

- The Shaheen Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of parents **George** and **Beatrice** and brother **Kenneth**.
- Karam and Aida Nassar for the health of their family especially sons **Fred, Omar, and Salam**.

### **Holy Bread Offerings**

- James and Evelyn Delbridge for the health of their family especially **Roger Isaac, Brian Silopch** and their Families and in loving memory of grandson **Matthew Lawrence**.
- **Jamil** and **Victoria Nassar** for the health of her family on the occasion of their 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony especially daughter **Alexandra** on the occasion of her birthday and daughter **Heather** – *May God grant them many years!*

### 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 coming week:

**Issa AbuFarha** – September 20<sup>th</sup>

**Nicholas Abdallah** – September 22<sup>nd</sup>

*May our children be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}*

- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Wabiha Khair** (+August 17<sup>th</sup>, aunt of Esperanza Abuaita) and **Mariam Musleh** (+September 1<sup>st</sup>, mother of Luai Helal and Abeer Alyateem).
- 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**, **Cesar** and **Naila Banna**, **Emil Bathish**, **Vera Farah**, **Mariam Ghanim** (Manal's mother), **Phyllis Good**, **Carol Haddad**, **Roland & Ronald Haddad**, **Salwa 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 Sophia Jr.**; **Andrea Gazis** (daughter of Bill and Sue Shaheen) and newborn **Georgios** (August 13<sup>th</sup>); **Haneen Burbar** and newborn **Christaan** (August 17<sup>th</sup>); **Jenny Salsa** (daughter of Anwar and Janet Abueita) and newborn **Matthew** (August 31<sup>st</sup>).
- 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)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Jim and Evelyn Delbridge*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: October 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</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. For more information, please see Manal Abuaita.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** Our average weekly offerings need to be \$4,710 to meet our 2017 Budget. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, our offerings were \$3,152, so we were short \$1,558 ☹

**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 28<sup>th</sup> 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: Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> – Kibbee and Meat Pies; Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> Spinach Squeezing Party (see Ric Shahin); Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> – 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 27<sup>th</sup> or early on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.* **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	<b>English Bible Study: Gospel of St. Mark</b> 3-5pm
Tuesday	<b>Pan-Orthodox Book Club</b> 6-8pm <b>Fr. Joe at Michigan State University Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)</b> 7pm
Wednesday	<b>Arabic/English Bible Study: Gospel of St. Mark</b> 12:30-2pm <b>Parents and Teens with Fr. Joe and Deacon Mike</b> 7-8pm
Thursday	<b>Parish Council Dinner Meeting</b> 6:15pm Any parishioner is welcome to come, observe, and make comments at the appropriate time on the Agenda.
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

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- 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.
  - 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 Jamal 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](mailto:kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com).

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 8, 2017  
*Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos*

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

Beloved in Christ:

Greetings to you and your families on this Feast Day.

We have all witnessed with a heavy heart the catastrophic destruction and massive flooding in Southeast Texas, Western Louisiana and now Florida as a result of hurricanes Harvey and Irma. I urge the entire Archdiocese to pray for the safety of the residents of Florida and all those in the wake of Hurricane Irma and direct our parishes to offer up special prayers at Sunday's Divine Liturgy for the safety and quick recovery of those affected. Some of the scenes of suffering have been beyond words. I have been in constant contact with our clergy and the parishes of the affected areas 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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

**+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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## ***“The Cross Preserves the Universe”***

*Sermon by St. John Maximovitch (+1966) on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

In the book of the Prophet Ezekiel (9:6), it is said that when the Angel of the Lord was sent to punish and destroy the sinning people, it told him not to strike those on whom the "mark" had been made. In the original text this mark is called "tau," the Hebrew letter corresponding to the letter "T," which is how in ancient times the cross was made, which then was an instrument of punishment.

So, even then, it was foretold the power of the Cross, which preserves those who venerate it. Likewise, by many other events in the Old Testament the power of the Cross was indicated. Moses, who held his arms raised in the form of a cross during the battle, gave victory to the Israelites over the Amalekites. He also, dividing the Red Sea by a blow of his rod and by a transverse blow uniting the waters again, saved Israel from Pharaoh, who drowned in the water, while Israel crossed over on the dry bottom (Exodus, ch. 14, 17).

Through the laying on of his hands in the form of a cross on his grandsons, Jacob gave a blessing to his descendents, foretelling at the same time their future until the coming of the "expectation of the nations" (Genesis, ch. 48).

By the Cross, the Son of God, having become man and accomplished our salvation. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on the Cross (Phil. 2:8). Having stretched out His hands upon the Cross, the Savior with them as it were embraced the world, and by His blood shed on it, like a king with red ink, He signed the forgiveness of the human race.

The Cross of the Lord was the instrument by which He saved the world after the fall into sin. Through the Cross, He descended with His soul into hell, to raise up from it the souls who were awaiting Him. By the Cross Christ opened the doors of paradise which had been closed after our first ancestors had been banished from it. The Cross was sanctified by the Body of Christ which was nailed to it when He gave Himself over to torments and death for the salvation of the world. Then it was filled with life-giving power. By the Cross on Golgotha the prince of this world was cast out (John 12:31) and an end was put to his authority. The weapon by which he was crushed became the sign of Christ's victory.

The demonic hosts tremble when they see the Cross, because the kingdom of hell was destroyed by the Cross. They do not dare to draw near to anyone who is guarded by the Cross. The whole human race, by the death of Christ on the Cross, received deliverance from the authority of the devil, and everyone who makes use of this saving weapon is inaccessible to the demons. When legions of demons appeared to St. Anthony the Great and other desert-dwellers, they guarded themselves with the sign of the Cross, and the demons vanished.

When there appeared to St. Symeon the Stylite, who was standing on his pillar, what seemed to be a chariot to carry him to heaven, the Saint, before mounting it, crossed himself and it disappeared. The enemy, who had hoped to cast down the ascetic from the height of his pillar, was put to shame.

One cannot enumerate all the various incidents of the manifestation of the power of the Cross. Invisibly and unceasingly, Divine grace that gushes from it saves the world.

The sign of the Cross is made at all the Mysteries and prayers of the Church. With the making of the sign of the Cross over the bread and wine, they become the Body and Blood of Christ. With the immersion of the Cross the waters are sanctified. The sign of the Cross looses us from sins. *"When we are guarded by the Cross, we oppose the enemy, without fearing his nets and barking."* Just as the flaming sword in the hands of the Cherubim barred the entrance into paradise of old, so the Cross now acts invisibly in the world, guarding it from perdition.

The Cross is the unconquerable weapon of pious kings in the battle with enemies. Through the apparition of the Cross in the sky, the dominion of Emperor Constantine was confirmed and an end was put to the persecution against the Church. The apparition of the Cross in the sky in Jerusalem in the days of Constantius the Arian proclaimed the victory of Orthodoxy. By the power of the Cross of the Lord, Christian kings will continue to reign until Antichrist, barring his path to power and restraining lawlessness (St. John Chrysostom, Commentary on II Thes. 2:6-7).

The "sign of the Son of Man" (Matt. 24:30), that is, the Cross, will appear in the sky in order to proclaim the end of the present world and the coming of the eternal Kingdom of the Son of God. Then all the tribes of the earth shall weep, because they loved the present age and its lusts, but all who have endured persecution for righteousness and called on the name of the Lord shall rejoice and be glad. The Cross then will save all who conquered temptations, from eternal perdition by the Cross, who crucified their flesh with its passions and lusts, and took up their cross and followed afar Christ.

However, those who hated the Cross of the Lord and did not engrave the Cross in their soul will perish forever. For *"the Cross is the preserver of the whole universe, the Cross is the beauty of the Church, the Cross is the might of kings, the Cross is the confirmation of the faithful, the Cross is the glory of angels and the scourge of demons"* (Octoechos: Exapostearion, Monday Matins).

*Shanghai Exaltation of the Cross, 1947*