

September 17, 2023

Blessings on the great feast of the Finding and Elevation of the Holy Cross!

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 prepare 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.

Flower, Basil, and Holy Bread Offerings for the Finding and Elevation of the Holy Cross

- (*Holy Bread*) Nancy (Mike) Silpoch, Linda (Matt) Shadeded, and Sharon (Rick) Ballreich and Families for the health of their families and in loving memory of sister **Deborah** Salim (9 day).
- (*Holy Bread*) Fr. Michael Bassett and our St. George Family for the health of our families and in loving memory of **Mother Nektaria** (40 day, friend).
- (*Flower Offering*) The Dr. Ron Shaheen and Dr. Kathy Kudray Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of parents **George** and **Beatrice** and brother **Kenneth**.
- (*Basil Offering*) Karam and Aida Nassar for the health of their family especially sons **Fred, Omar, Sarah,** and **Salam**.
- (*Basil and Holy Bread*) Hiam Bathish for the health of her **children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren** and their families especially daughter **Reem** on the occasion of her birthday ~ *May God grant her many years!* ~ and in loving memory of husband, grandfather, and great-grandfather **Emil, Dannie** Jones, **Jose** Ramirez, **Yacoub** and **Marie** Farah and **Naif** and **Julia** Bathish, and **Kamal** Bathish (+September 8th, brother-in-law of Hiam).

BAPTISM/CHRISMATION DAYS

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for our students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this coming week:

- **Jude** Awad ~ September 23rd

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: **Khouriya Helen** White (40 day, friend of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee), **Cindy** Victorson (+August 31st, friend of Fr. Joe), **Joseph** Boufaissal (+September 9th, husband of Shefaa), and **Luceille** Nassar (+September 10th, wife of Basem) ~ *may their memory be eternal!*
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: our **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad** Abuaita, **Philip** and **Janett** Abuaita, **Rasha** Abuaita, **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Mariam** Al-Khouri, **William** Alsahouri, **Naila** Banna, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Karen** Mortensen, **Laura** Nassar, **Adam** Odeh, **Richard** Ramsdell (father of Jodie Bathish), **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **Christa** Whitehead; **Branden**, **Letizia**, and newborn **Saylor Elli** Jones (August 21st); **Raed**, **Rania**, and newborn **Riyana** AbuAita (August 26th); **Laith**, **Dina**, and newborn **Liam** Maymoun (September 4th).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Julia** and **Maroun** Alatrash, **Ambur** (daughter of Joseph Haddad) and **Matt** Allison, **Gabriella** (daughter of Joseph and Mary Jo Ghattas) and **David** Ayyash, **Renea** and **Rakan** Bayouk, Dr. **Lindsey** and Dr. **Ryan** Brunner, **Casandra** and **Danial** Burbar, **Dania** and **Subdeacon Salim** Hanna, **Andrea** (Haddad) and **Josh** Jones, **Christine** (daughter of Ayman and Wafaa Elias) and Dr. **Matthew** Krinock, **Kari** (daughter of John and Theresa Farah), and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis, **Amanda** and **Mousa** Rishmawi, & **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet Abueita) and **John** Timm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: September 24th, October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is 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 Manal Abuaita.

MIDDLE EASTERN COMMUNITY **DINE IN!** LUNCH AND BAKE SALE

This is for our community, family, and friends THIS Thursday, September 21st from 11am-2pm. Dine-In, Take-out or delivered (8 meals or more) are available. Everyone is asked to help – all profits benefit our church! Drivers are needed for deliveries, see Tony Daoud. For more information, please contact Anaam Abueita (810-962-1033). This week they are baking on Monday at 10am – *Spinach Pies*; Wednesday, all day ~ *Preparation for Lunch and Bake Sale*. If you would like to make sweets for the bake sale, contact Sally Abuaita (810-965-1046). *Please bring sweets to the Banquet Center on Wednesday, September 20th, or early on Thursday morning, September 21st.* **Donations are welcomed to offset our costs.**

ST. GEORGE GOLF CLASSIC

September 23rd 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 \$150 (see flier on Narthex Table). Donations of prizes, gift cards and/or money to buy gifts are also needed ~ you do not need to golf to support this wonderful event. If you are interested or need more information, contact chairman Tony Daoud 810-730-1011 or the church 810-732-0720.



THE SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION)

If you have not had Confession in the last 2 months and desire to return to the life of the Church and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, please remember you and your children (8 years old and up) must offer a confession of your sins first. Fr. Joe and Fr. Michael are not the only Orthodox priests in the area and if you would prefer to go to one of the others, feel free to do so, please just inform Fr. Joe: *Fr. Peter Bistorides* (Assumption Church: 810-771-4611), *Fr. Gabriel Bilas* (St. Mary Magdalene: 810-750-1401), or *Fr. Matthew Butrie* (St. Nicholas Church: 810-744-0070). The important thing isn't who hears your confession, but that you participate in this 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!*). (*Revelations 22:14*)

Thank you and God bless...

... **Jimmy David** for the time and hard work it took to strip and wax our Church School Wing ~ it looks great!

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.

- Monday **Baking Spinach Pies** 10am
 Bible Study: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 1:30-3:30pm
- Tuesday **Men's Fellowship** 6pm
- Wednesday **Lunch Preparation** 10am
- Thursday **Middle Eastern Community DINE-IN Lunch & Bake Sale** 11am-2pm
 Parish Council Dinner Meeting 6:15pm
- Saturday **Golf Classic** 9:30am check in
 No Great Vespers

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Real Change

~ Apart from the Church, all achievements are insufficient

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

The Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica said, *"We think we know a lot, but what we know is very little. Even all those who have striven all their life to bring progress to mankind — learned scientists and highly educated people — all realize in the end that all their knowledge is but a grain of sand on the seashore. All our achievements are insufficient."*

Although the world would have us believe progress can only be made by intelligent and learned people, our faith tells us that evil, which is the root of all conflict and sin, can only be attained by a radical transformation rooted in the Life-giving Cross. It is only in the life and holiness of the Church, whose sanctity alone transcends all that is bad in this world that real change can come about.

Only the Church provides the force needed to bring about world peace and love between all people. No international organizations or States, and no political parties, can bring about a change that is infectious, and spreads through the communion of Christian communities, through whose prayer, service, and the active love of people, are capable, as Saint Paul requires, of *'making Eucharist [thanksgiving] in all things'* (1 Thessalonians 5:8). Only in the spirit of thanksgiving, through the power of the Holy Spirit, can we hope for true peace and justice in this fallen world.

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