

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Rev. Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

September 19, 2021

Blessings on the Finding and Elevation of the Holy Cross!

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.

Basil and Holy Bread Offerings for the Elevation of the Holy Cross

- Reema Khoury for the health of her family especially children **Samir** and **Ranya**, and grandchildren **Alyssa** and **Nadim** and in loving memory of husband **Hanna** (1 year) and son **George**.
- Steve and Kelly Sanderson for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Charles** Stewart (40 day, uncle of Kelly).
- Basil and Hiam Andoni and Raji and Sue Salomon and their families for the health of their families and in loving memory of parents **John** (2 year) and **Widad** Salomon.
- (*Basil Offering*) Karam and Aida Nassar for the health of their family especially sons **Fred**, **Omar** and **Sarah**, and **Salam**.

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Zahra** Abuaita Al-Khoury (+August 21st, aunt of Khaled Al-Khoury), **Thuraya** Elias (+August 23rd, mother of Ayman), and **Violate** Musleh (+September 2nd, 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, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsahouri, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Ranna** Esho (friend of Batoul Burbar), **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Gracyn** 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, **Elaine** and **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** and **Elise** Sophia Jr., **Shirley** Zerka (mother of Victoria); Subdeacon **Salim** and **Dania** Alghanim who are to be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Mirna** and **Tamer** Abuaita [son of Khader and Lucy], **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury, **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

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Basil and Hiam Andoni*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: October 3rd and 17th ~ 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.

CHURCH SCHOOL HAS STARTED!

Everyone received a letter and one registration form in the mail. All of our children/students, need to register using the NEW form. Please fill out one form for each child and bring it to church and give it to our Church School Director, Janet Abueita. Registration deadline is September 26th! Do it TODAY!

PLEASE FOLLOW OUR PROCEDURES As of September 15th, 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 saintgeorgeqflint@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. **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.**

<u>COMING EVENTS</u>	
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.
TODAY	Hanna Wedding
Tuesday	Altar Society Gathering <i>see Theresa Farah for more information</i> 6pm
Wednesday	SOYO Wednesday 6-8pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

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DEMANDING MIRACLES

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

Demanding miracles in order to believe betrays a sort of smugness on our part, sort of like asking for an expensive gift from a prospective friend, before considering their overture for friendship. It could hardly become a true friendship if it had a beginning like that. God could easily create miracles that would make all people believers, but He respects our free will, and does not wish to interfere with our freedom. As God awaits our decision, are we to respond to His love, or are we not. God has the power to show forth miracles that would make us all believers, but to do so would hardly leave us with freedom, for He desires that we choose to commune with Him, not because of His power, but because of His love.

continued ⇒

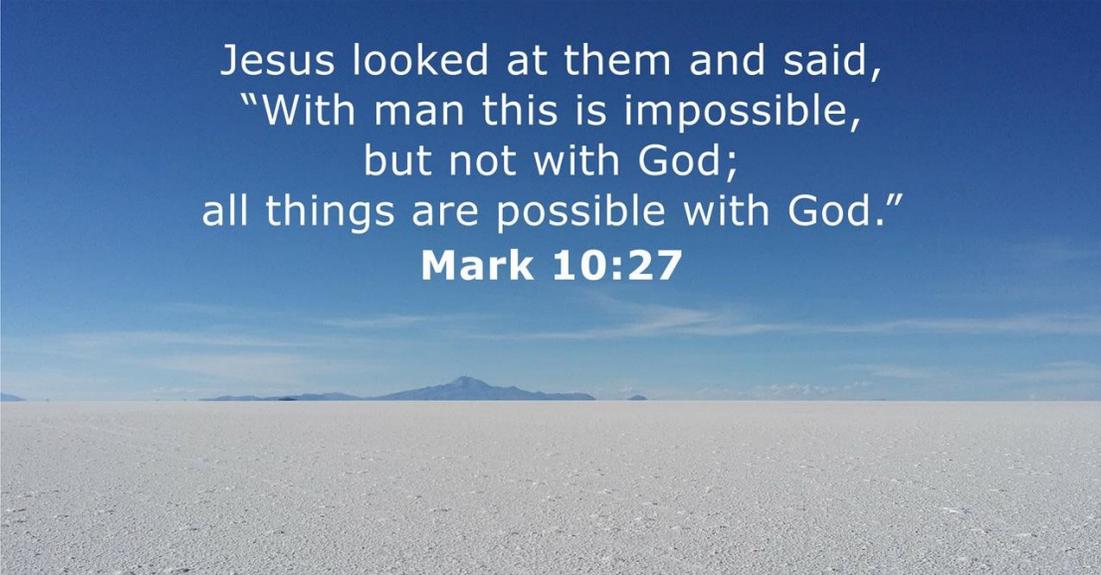
When I was a young man, in about the eighth grade, I decided that the Roman Catholic Church might possibly be the True Church. I started taking catechetical lessons from the local Roman Catholic priest. Struggling, as I was, to find the True Church, I asked my Lutheran pastor to meet together with the Catholic priest and me, so that I could have them debate. My plan was to choose the winner, and go with that church.

The Pastor declined, saying he wasn't going to reduce truth to whomever could win a debate challenge. I'd just joined the high school debate team and had thought it a good idea to have them debate, thus taking the pressure off myself and making my decision easier. That was a real example of copping out, and relieving myself of having to make the decision.

This is not unlike the person who would demand a miracle, asking God to prove Himself worthy of being worshiped. This would be no different than saying, "give me a car for my birthday, dad, and I'll consider loving you as my father". We must approach God in all humbleness of mind and heart, leaving the rest up to Him.

It is also quite possible that when miracles do come our way, our smugness and pride prevent us from seeing the miracle that is right in front of us. I once asked a young Egyptian Christian about the appearance of the Holy Virgin before crowds of people on the dome of Saint Mary Coptic Orthodox Church in Cairo. Everyone, whether they were Christians, Muslims, Jews, or atheists, were able to witness the appearance, and I wondered why such miracles happened in Egypt, but not in the West. The young man said that Christians in the Middle East live their lives in expectation of miracles, so when they come they are not surprised, but received with joy. Westerners, he said, in their collective pride, are skeptics, and ignore miracles sent by God.

If we are awaiting the day God will prove Himself to us, we fail to notice that He has been doing just that from the very beginning, but our smugness and pride have blinded us to that which has always been there.



Jesus looked at them and said,
"With man this is impossible,
but not with God;
all things are possible with God."

Mark 10:27



23rd Annual Midwest Basketball Tournament



We've moved!
Goodbye January,
Hello November!



**Special
Presentation:
Getting Ready for
Advent!
The Nativity Fast**

Division I: Ages 12-15 / Division II: Ages 15-18 / Division III: Ages 19+

Friday, November 12

- 7 pm: Registration begins (*Hotel Lobby*)
- 8 pm: Pizza (*Registration area*)
- 8:30 pm: Discussion: Getting Ready for Advent! The Nativity Fast (*Meeting Room*)

Saturday, November 13

- 7 am -10 am: Breakfast available at Hotel
- 8 am: Basketball Tournament begins (*at Basketball locations*)
- 12 pm: Lunch (*at Basketball locations*)
- 6 pm: Great Vespers (*St. George Antiochian*)
- 7 pm: Banquet/Awards Presentation/Hafli (*St. George Antiochian*)



Sunday, November 14 (*St. George Antiochian*)

- 8:45 am: Matins
- 10 am: Divine Liturgy
Brunch and Farewell

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
1118 Cherry Ave. NE Canton, OH 44704
330-455-8482 stgeorgecanton@sbcglobal.net

Hotel Information: Hyatt Place
5421 Whipple Ave. NW Canton, OH 44720 330-244-1700
Group Rate: \$99/night (mention St. George Basketball)
Our block of rooms will be reserved for us until Oct. 12
[Click here to reserve your room online](#)
Group code: G-SGCH

Early Registration: \$50 (by November 5)
Registration: \$60
(Includes all meals and events)