

St. George Orthodox Church

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Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

January 27, 2013

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY RELICS OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Tone – 1

1st Matins Gospel {*Matthew 28:16-20*}

Altar Servers: **St. Elias** team {John Elias, captain}

Next Week – **St. John** team

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! Every Sunday we remember the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The word "*Liturgy*" means *work of the people* which means everyone participates through singing, praying, hearing the teaching, and opening our hearts to allow God's grace to enter. For those who have committed themselves to the Orthodox Faith (through Baptism and/or Chrismation) it also means, if prepared, the reception of Holy Communion. Preparation includes the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, prayer, being on time for church, being at peace with others, attending the Divine Liturgy regularly, and fasting (no food or drink from midnight the night before). If you are new, just visiting, or have any questions, please introduce yourself to Father Joe. Please know that everyone is invited to venerate the Holy Cross and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy. All are welcome to our Coffee Fellowship in the hall after Liturgy.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. John Chrysostom** {*The Golden-Mouth*}, we sing these special hymns:

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 1

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud to Thee, O giver of life: Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy kingdom! Glory to Thy providence, O Thou who alone art the lover of mankind.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 1 (as above)

Troparion to St. John Chrysostom—Tone 8

Grace shining forth from your lips like a beacon has enlightened the universe. It has shown to the world the richness of poverty. It has revealed to us the heights of humility. Teaching us by your words, O Father John, intercede before the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.

Troparion of 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 مُحرراً ومُعْتَقاً، وللْفُقراءِ والمَساكينِ عاضِداً وناصِراً وللمَرْضَى طَبِيباً وشَافِياً وعن المؤمنين مُكَافِحاً ومُحَارِباً أيها العَظِيمُ في الشُّهداءِ جاورجِيوسُ اللَّابِسُ الظُّفْرَ تَشَقَّعَ إلى المَسِيحِ الإِلهِ في خَلاصِ نُفُوسِنَا.

Kontakion for the Meeting of Christ in the Temple—Tone 1

Thou sanctified a virgin womb by Thy birth and rightly blessed the hands of Simeon. Thou hast come, O Christ our God, and on this day hast saved us! Give peace and strength to the Orthodox people whom Thou has loved, O only lover of mankind.

Epistle Reading: *Hebrews 7:27-8:2* {St. John Chrysostom}

Gospel Reading: *Luke 18:35-43* {14th Sunday of Luke}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Suheil and Abeer Abuaita for the health of their family especially daughter **Angel**, and father **Sami** and **Juliano** (5th) on the occasion of their birthdays – *May God grant them many years!* – and in loving memory of **Issa** and **Nahil Abuaita**.
- Deacon Michael and Pam Bassett for the health of their family especially **Clemence**, **Cynthia** and **Catherine** (Dn. Mike's mother and sisters) and in loving memory of his father, **Farris** (13 years).
- The Abud Family for the health of their family especially **Leslee Abud** and **Evelyn Kreta** on the occasion of their birthdays and **John Abud** on his new job -- *May God grant them many years!*
- This morning we pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Anthony Michaels** (40 day, father of Bishop Anthony), **Khouriya Joanne Bitar** (+December 30th, cousin of Jeanette Nassif), **Suhail Alsaoury** (+January 1st, brother-in-law of Salwa Abu-Aitah), **Jonathan Joseph** (+January 1st, relative of Sally Joseph and Family), and **Hanna Abufarha** (+January 17th, Palestine, father of Maher).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Androlla Abu Aita**, **Angel Abuaita**, **Jonathan Bassett**, **George Damouni** (brother of Lina Burbar and May Gantos), **Vera Farah**, **Samira Gantous**, **Camille Ghantous**, **Nadera Ghantous**, **Phyllis Good**, **Carol Haddad**, **Roland Haddad**, **Gabby Joubran** (Najwa Joubran's brother-in-law), **Betty Khouri**, **Jean Khouri**, **John Khouri**, **Mariam Houry**, **Norma Lazar**, **Lourice Matta**, **Megan Meade** (relative of Bob Teunion), **Danny Mortensen**, **Elaine Salim**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **Michael Silpoch**, **Marie Skafi**, **William Sophiea Jr.**, and **Kinan Turjman** (Sahar Abdallah's nephew).
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Angela Haddad**, **Jennifer** (Peera) **Khoshaba** (former parishioner), **Katrin Mitri**, and **Marlen Odeh**.

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.
 - If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion. If you have a special need, please let one of the ushers know so we may assist you.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

REAL BREAK PARISH FALAFEL LUNCH Gabriella Ghattas and George Abuaita are hosting this lunch to raise funds to attend Real Break Honduras (*see insert*). Please be generous and support the wonderful work Gabriella and George want to do!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: February 17th and 24th -- sign-up poster is in the Hall. Hosting information is in the Hall and 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.

HOLY WATER Bottles with Holy Water that were blessed on the feast of our Lord's Baptism are in the Narthex (entrance) of the Church -- please take what you would like.

HOUSE BLESSINGS If you would like Fr. Joseph to bless your home, please contact the church office (810-732-0720) to add your name to the list. Fr. Joseph will call to make an appointment.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS from Janet Abueita, Director (810-691-0956)

Parents: The Church School is in need of a DVD player for our TV and a Radio/CD "boom box". If you would be interested in making a donation toward either of these, it would be greatly appreciated. Also, many of your children are working on their **Creative Festival Project**. They had their lesson last week on this year's theme and began working on them in class today, but many of them did not get a chance to finish them, so please encourage them to participate and bring their projects in no later than February 3rd. Feel free to contact me for more information -- Thank you!

SUMMER CAMP The Summer Camping Program at the Antiochian Village (about 1½ hours from Pittsburgh) serves young people ages 9-17 who come from parishes throughout the Archdiocese. The main goal of the camp program is to "*present to young people a living experience of the Holy Orthodox Faith in their relationship with God and other campers in an uncluttered, natural environment*". The Village provides an experience, which has been very instrumental in the spiritual maturation of many of our young people. The major components which contribute to that experience include the following: 1) daily Orthodox worship with an emphasis on participation; 2) a challenge toward spiritual growth through daily homilies, religious education, and relationships with counselors and fellow Orthodox campers; 3) a safe and naturally beautiful setting for group living; and 4) a caring and loving staff fully dedicated to the camper's well-being and growth. For more information and to register, please check out their web site at: <http://www.antiochianvillage.org/camp.html>. We go to the 2nd Session June 30th-July 12th. If you have any questions, would like more information, or have registered for camp, please speak with our Camp Committee chairman, Anaam Abueita (810-686-9744 or anaamabueita@gmail.com).

2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS Please pick yours up (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name isn't listed, call the church office. Our children will receive their envelopes in Church School. **Parents**, please make sure your child gets their *Offering Envelopes*.

BYZANTINE CHOIR FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BEIRUT, LEBANON Many people had the opportunity to attend the concert at the Basilica of St. Mary in Livonia. Now a double LIVE CD of a concert held at St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral in Brooklyn, NY is available for \$20 (plus shipping) from the Antiochian Archdiocese. Order forms are in the Lounge.

January 27th — TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

This great ecumenical teacher and hierarch died in the city of Comana in the year 407 on his way to a place of exile. He had been condemned by the intrigues of the empress Eudoxia because of his daring denunciation of the vices ruling over Constantinople. The transfer of his venerable relics was made in the year 438, thirty years after the death of the saint during the reign of Eudoxia's son emperor Theodosius II (408-450).

St John Chrysostom had the warm love and deep respect of the people, and grief over his untimely death lived on in the hearts of Christians. St John's disciple, St Proclus, Patriarch of Constantinople (434-447), during services in the Church of Hagia Sophia, preached a sermon praising St John. He said, "*O John, your life was filled with sorrow, but your death was glorious. Your grave is blessed, by the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ O graced one, having conquered the bounds of time and place! Love has conquered space, unforgotten memory has annihilated the limits, and place does not hinder the miracles of the saint.*"

Those who were present in church, deeply touched by the words of St Proclus, did not allow him even to finish his sermon. With one accord they began to entreat the Patriarch to intercede with the emperor, so that the relics of St John might be brought back to Constantinople.

The emperor, overwhelmed by St Proclus, gave his consent and gave the order to transfer the relics of St John. But those he sent were unable to lift the holy relics until the emperor realized that he had sent men to take the saint's relics from Comana with an edict, instead of with a prayer. He wrote a letter to St John, humbly asking him to forgive his audacity, and to return to Constantinople. After the message was read at the grave of St John, they easily took up the relics, carried them onto a ship and arrived at Constantinople.

The coffin with the relics was placed in the Church of Holy Peace (Hagia Eirene). When Patriarch Proclus opened the coffin, the body of St John was found to be incorrupt. The emperor approached the coffin with tears, asking forgiveness for his mother, who had banished St John. All day and night people did not leave the coffin.

In the morning the coffin was brought to the Church of the Holy Apostles. The people cried out, "*Father, take up your throne.*" Then Patriarch Proclus and the clergy standing by the relics saw St John open his mouth and say, "*Peace be to all.*" Many of the sick were healed at his tomb.

The celebration of the transfer of St John's relics was established in the 9th century.

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil or their by-products</i>) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.
Monday	Bible Study: <i>Gospel of St. Mark</i> 3-5pm
Wednesday	Arabic/English Study of the Divine Liturgy 1pm-2:30pm SOYO Wednesday 7-9pm
Friday	Evening Liturgy for the Meeting of our Lord at <i>St. Nicholas</i> 6pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm



Real Break Honduras 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This spring break we will be attending Real Break Honduras. Some of you might be wondering what that is. Real Break Honduras is when college students use their spring break as an opportunity to help fellow Orthodox Christians in Honduras. Rather than using our spring break to relax and take a nice vacation, we (Gabriella Ghattas and George Abuaita) will be working at an orphanage in Honduras caring for and helping Orthodox children. This awesome task entails much hard work and a great deal of money. The work, we are happy to do but for us, financing the trip is a bit daunting. The total cost of this expedition is \$2,800, to raise some of this money George and I will be hosting a **Falafel & Hummus Luncheon** right after Divine Liturgy on January 27th. Each plate will be \$5 and donations will also be accepted. At the time of our return, we would love to share our blessed experiences with you all and show you what we learned. If any checks are going to be written, please make them out the “*Orthodox Christian Fellowship*”.

Thank you for your anticipated kindness and may God bless you and your family.

Gabriella Ghattas and George Abuaita

But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
Hebrews 13:16