

# St. George Orthodox Church

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V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

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

November 11, 2012

NOVEMBER IS I.O.C.C. (INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES) MONTH

23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MARTYRS MENAS OF EGYPT, VICTOR OF DAMASCUS, AND VINCENT AND STEPHANIS OF SPAIN

Tone – 6

1<sup>st</sup> Matins Gospel {Matthew 28:16-20}

Altar Servers: **St. John** team {Goni Ishak, Captain} Next Week –**St. Michael** 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 Gospel 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:

**Third Antiphon** (during the Little Entrance)

**Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 6**

Angelic powers did stand above Thy tomb, and they that guarded were as dead, and Mary stood at Thy grave searching for Thy precious body. Thou didst conquer Hades and was not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst bestow life. O Thou that art risen from the dead, O Lord, Glory to Thee.

**Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel**

**Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 6** (*as above*)

**Troparion for the Martyrs—Tone 4**

With songs of praise, let us hymn the steadfast athletes of Christ: divine Victor, Vincent, and the noble Stephanie, with Menas the all-glorious. Having crushed the foe in sundry ages and countries, they rejoice together, glorified in the Heavens. Have mercy, O Christ Savior, on all, by Thy Great Martyrs’ prayers.

**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 محرر ومعتق، وللفقراء والمساكين عاضد وناصر وللمرضى طبيب وشافٍ وعن

المؤمنين مكافح ومُحاربٌ أيها العظيم في الشهداء جاور جيوسُ الأيسُ الظفرُ تشفعُ إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نُفوسنا.

#### **Kontakion of Mary's Presentation into the Temple—Tone 4**

The most pure Temple of the Savior, the very precious chamber and Virgin, is presented today in the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

**Epistle Reading:** *2 Corinthians 4:6-15* {for the Martyrs}

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 10:25-37* {8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke}

#### **Holy Bread Offerings**

- Karam and Aida Nassar for the health of their family and in loving memory of Aida's parents **Rasmiah** (2 years) and **Nicola Kaileh** (8 years), and **Quastande Aloush** (40 days, Aida's uncle).
- Georgette Nemer for the health of her family and in loving memory of parents **Assad** and **Latifee**, brothers **Eli** and wife **Florence**, **George** and wife **Renee**, **Nick** and his son **Fadi**, and **Mike** and friends **Antoinette Saseen**, **Mariette** and her brothers **Adib** and **George Chbani**.

#### **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:

◆ **Laila Abdallah** – November 11<sup>th</sup>      ◆ **Julia Ishak** – November 17<sup>th</sup>

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

- This morning we pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Margaret Abraham** (+October 5<sup>th</sup>, Grand Rapids, mother of Dan) and **Manuel Sanchez** (+October 10<sup>th</sup>, brother of Michelle/brother-in-law of George Farah, Jr.).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Nayef Aboujamra**, **Lucy AbuAita**, **Clemence** (Dn. Mike's mother) and **Jonathan Bassett**, **George Damouni** (brother of Lina Burbar and May Gantos), **Jessica Dedow** (former parishioner), **Roy Farah**, **Elias Gantos**, **Samira Gantous**, **Camille Ghantous**, **Nadera Ghantous**, **Phyllis Good**, **Carol Haddad**, **Roland Haddad**, **George Ishak** (Amira Hanna's nephew), **Gabby Joubran** (Najwa Joubran's brother-in-law), **Betty Khouri**, **Jean Khouri**, **John Khouri**, **Mariam Khoury**, **Norma Lazar**, **Lourice Matta**, **Megan Meade** (relative of Bob Teunion), **Danny Mortensen**, **Elaine Salim**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **Michael Silpoch**, **William Sophiea Jr.**, **Kinan Turjman** (Sahar Abdallah's nephew).
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Sandra Mitri**, **Marlen Odeh**, and **Suhair Awwad** (former parishioner).

#### **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

There is NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP today because we have our Parish General Assembly which begins immediately after Divine Liturgy. Our Teen SOYO will be taking care of our children and feeding them lunch during the Assembly.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: All Sundays in December -- 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. *During the Christmas Fast (November 15<sup>th</sup> - December 24<sup>th</sup>), no meat or dairy products are to be served.*

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. The calendars are given by our Ladies Auxiliary, THANK YOU, LADIES! – please only take 1 per family! Our children will receive their envelopes in Church School. **Parents**, please make sure your child gets their *Offering Envelopes*.

### 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. On Thursday, November 15 <sup>th</sup> , we begin the traditional 40-day <b>CHRISTMAS FAST</b> in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25 <sup>th</sup> . The <b>CHRISTMAS FAST</b> is divided into two periods. The first period is November 15 <sup>th</sup> to December 19 <sup>th</sup> when the traditional fasting discipline ( <i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, or oil</i> ) is observed on all days except Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays when, <i>fish, wine, and oil</i> are permitted.
Monday	<b>Bible Study: Gospel of St. Mark</b> 3-5pm <b>Book Club</b> 6pm
Tuesday	<b>Altar Society</b> 6pm
Wednesday	<b>Arabic/English Study of the Divine Liturgy</b> 1pm-2:30pm <b>SOYO Wednesday</b> 7-9pm
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

### November 11<sup>th</sup> — MARTYR MENAS, VICTOR, VINCENT, AND STEPHANIS

The **Holy Great Martyr Menas of Egypt**, an Egyptian by birth, was a military officer and served in Phrygia under the centurion Firmilian during the reign of the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). When the emperors began the fiercest persecution against

Christians in history, the saint refused to serve these persecutors. He removed his soldier's belt (a sign of military rank) and withdrew to a mountain, where he lived an ascetic life of fasting and prayer. Once he happened to arrive in the city during a pagan festival. At the climax of the games the saint's accusing voice rang out, preaching faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. At his trial before the prefect Pyrrhus, the saint bravely confessed his faith, saying that he had come to denounce the impious. The prefect was angered, and had Menas arrested. Pyrrhus offered to restore the saint's former rank if he would offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. When he refused, he was put to cruel tortures and beheaded. This occurred in the year 304. Christians gathered up the martyr's relics by night and hid them until the end of the persecution. Later, they were brought to Egypt and placed in a church dedicated to St Menas southwest of Alexandria. St Menas is noted for healing various illnesses, delivering people from possession by demons, and as a protector, especially during times of war. We also ask his help in finding lost objects.

The **Holy Martyr Victor at Damascus** was a soldier during the reign of the emperor Marcus Aurelius the Philosopher (161-180). When the emperor began a persecution against Christians, Victor refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Such obligatory sacrifices were a test of a soldier's loyalty to the gods, the emperor, and the state. The saint was given over to torture, but he came through all the torments unharmed. By the power of prayer he was victorious over a sorcerer, who from that point gave up sorcery and became a Christian. The torturer ordered that the holy Martyr Victor be beheaded. Hearing the commander's order, St Vincent told his executioners that they would all die in twelve days, and that the commander would be captured by the enemy in twenty-four days. As he foretold, so it came to pass. **Saint Stephanis** witnessed the martyrdom of the Holy Martyr Victor. Through St Victor's prayers, blind soldiers suddenly received their sight. Witnessing the miracle worked by the Lord through St Victor, Stephanis, the young Christian wife of one of the torturers, openly glorified Christ, for which she was condemned to a cruel death. She was tied to two palm trees bent to the ground, which when released, sprung back and tore her apart. She was fifteen years old. The martyrs suffered in the second century at Damascus, where their venerable relics were buried.

The **Holy Martyr Vincent of Spain** from his childhood was the disciple of a wise pastor Valerian, the bishop of the city of Augustopolis in Spain. When he reached mature age, the virtuous, educated and eloquent Vincent was ordained deacon by Bishop Valerian. Since the bishop himself was not adept in speech, he gave a blessing to his deacon, an eloquent orator, to preach in church and among the people. Diocletian (284-305) sent the governor Dacian to the city of Valencia, Spain with full authority to find and execute Christians. People denounced the wise bishop and his deacon to the governor, who arrested them. The soldiers, mounted on horses, dragged the Elder and his disciple behind them in chains from Augustopolis to Valencia, and there they cast them into prison beaten and tortured, giving them neither food nor water. They subjected the bishop to the first interrogation. The Elder spoke quietly, but seemed tongue-tied and uncertain. Then St Vincent came forward and made the most eloquent speech of his life before the judges and assembled people. After he sent the bishop back to prison, the persecutor gave orders to torture the holy deacon. The martyr underwent many torments: while nailed to a cross, he was whipped and burned with red-hot rods. When he was removed from the cross, he then himself joyfully climbed back upon it, saying that the executioners were lazy and had not fulfilled their master's orders. They became angry and tortured him again, until they were all exhausted. After the tortures they threw the martyr back into prison. That night the astonished guard heard him singing Psalms, and saw an unearthly radiant light in the prison. The next morning the holy martyr was condemned to be burned on a gridiron. Christians took the saint's body and buried it with reverence. This occurred in the year 304.



**The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

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November 6, 2012

Beloved in Christ:

Greetings to you and your families in the name of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

I write to you today with a heavy heart as we continue to endure the effects of the massive storm “Sandy” that engulfed the Northeast last week. In fact, I had hoped to communicate with all of you earlier, but we just received our electricity back at the archdiocese and until now we have no Internet access. Nevertheless, the inconvenience we endured pales in comparison to what hundreds of thousands experienced, and continue to experience in the Northeast, most especially in New Jersey, New York City and Long Island. No doubt, all of you have seen on television from the comfort of your warm homes, the death and destruction this rare and massive storm brought to the coastal areas and beyond. Until now, people are without the basic necessities of life, countless families have lost their homes, and even more have suffered extensive damage to their homes- if they can be saved at all. People continue to have to sleep in near freezing temperatures without heat; many are without food, electricity, transportation and other basic needs.

With that in mind, we appeal to you, the faithful of our God-protected archdiocese, to respond to this disaster with your monetary offerings so that we can help those desperate people who are in the geographical “backyard” of our archdiocese headquarters and our Mother Cathedral. As St. John Chrysostom said in his commentary on the Gospel of St. Matthew, “Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead.” Just a week or so from now, we will begin our Christmas or Advent Fast in preparation for our Lord’s Nativity. Just as our Lord had no place to lay his head, so too, many of the men, women and children of the Northeast find themselves in a similar situation. Let us do our part and help alleviate their hunger, pain and homelessness by helping them to rebuild their lives. Please take collections in your parishes and send one check made out to the “Antiochian Archdiocese” marked “Hurricane Sandy Relief” as soon as possible.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent season, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads “+ Metropolitan Philip”. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+Metropolitan PHILIP  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America