

St. George Orthodox Church

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Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

November 25, 2012

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

**LEAVE-TAKING OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE VIRGIN MARY INTO THE TEMPLE
GREAT MARTYR KATHERINE THE ALL-WISE OF ALEXANDRIA**

Tone – 8

3rd Matins Gospel {*Mark 16:9-20*}

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 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:

First Antiphon

Verse 1. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; in the city of God and in His holy mountain.

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

Verse 2. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. *Refrain*

Verse 3. God is known in her towers, when He cometh to help her. *Refrain*

Verse 4. Even as we have heard, so too we have seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God. *Refrain*

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

Second Antiphon

Verse 1. The Most High has hallowed His tabernacle.

Refrain: O Son of God who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

Verse 2. Holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary. *Refrain*

Verse 3. This is the gate of the Lord, the righteous shall enter therein. *Refrain*

Verse 4. Holy is Thy temple, wonderful in righteousness. *Refrain*

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

Third Antiphon

Verse 1. The rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance.

Verse 2. All the glory of the daughter of the King is within, with gold-fringed garments is she arrayed, adorned in varied colors.

Verse 3. The virgins that follow after her shall be brought unto the King, those near her shall be brought unto Thee.

Refrain: Troparion of the Presentation—Tone 4

Today is the prelude of the goodwill of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

اليوم البتول التي هي مقدّمة مسرّة الله وابتداء الكرازة بخلّاص البشر. قد ظهرت في هيكل الله علانية. وسبقت مبيّنة الجميع بالمسيح. فلنهنّف نحوها بصوتٍ عظيمٍ قائلين، افرحي يا كمال تدبير الخالق.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 8

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of Mary's Presentation into the Temple—Tone 4 (as above)

Troparion of St. Katherine—Tone 5

Let us extol the all-praised bride of Christ, Katherine, the guardian of Sinai, who is our help and our support; for by the power of the Spirit, she brilliantly silenced the nobility of liars. Since she has been crowned as a Martyr, she seeks great mercy for all.

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 أنّك للمأسورين مُحرّرٌ ومُعْتِقٌ، وللبُلّغَاء والمَسَاكِين عَاضِدٌ ونَاصِرٌ وللمَرْضَى طَبِيبٌ وشَافٍ وعن المؤمنين مُكافِحٌ ومُحَارِبٌ أيها العظيم في الشّهداء جاورجيوس اللّابسُ الظُّرّ ثَنِّعْ إلى المسيح الإله في خَلاصِنا وسينّا.

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.

إنّ الهيكلَ الكليّ النقاوة، هيكلَ المخلص، البتولَ الخدرَ الجزيلَ الثمن، والكنزَ الطاهرَ لمجدِ الله، اليومَ تدخلُ إلى بيتِ الرب، وتُدخلُ معها نعمةَ الروحِ الإلهي، فلتسبّحها ملائكةُ الله، لأنها هي المظلةُ السماوية.

Epistle Reading: Galatians 3:23-4:5 {St. Katherine the Great}

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:18-27 {13th Sunday of Luke}

Holy Bread Offerings

- The Shahin and Rhinehart Families for the health of their families especially **Donald** (90th) and **JoAnn** (80th) **Hawkins** on the occasion of their birthdays and 35th anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony -- *May God grant them many years!*
- Sally, Watan, Ayham, and Majd Abuaita for the health of their family especially husband and father **Khaled** on the occasion of his birthday -- *May God grant him many years!*

- Mary, Issa, Melissa, and Isabella Ibrahim for the health of their family especially husband/father **Ziyad** and son/brother **Mario** (10th) on the occasion of their birthdays -- *May God grant them many years!*
- This morning we pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Khouriya Jean Chromiak** (+November 5th, wife of our former pastor the late V. Rev. Fr. John).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Elaine Abueita, Khaled Al-Khouri, Clemence** (Dn. Mike's mother) and **Jonathan Bassett, George Damouni** (brother of Lina Burbar and May Gantos), **Jessica Dedow** (former parishioner), **Roy Farah, 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, Mary Khoury, Norma Lazar, Lourice Matta, Megan Meade** (relative of Bob Teunion), **Danny Mortensen, Elaine Salim, Elaine Shaheen, Michael Silpoch, Marie Skafi, 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).

Instead of "It is Truly meet...", we sing the Megalynarion for the Feast:

The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed! How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies? As you are a living temple of God, let no impure hand touch you, O Theotokos! But let the lips of all believers sing; constantly magnifying you in joy with the angelic salutation: Truly you are above all creatures, O Pure One!

Communion Hymn (for the Entrance of Mary into the Temple)

(Refrain) I will take the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the Name of the Lord.

(verse) My vows unto the Lord will I pay in the presence of all His people. (Refrain)

(verse) Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. (Refrain)

(verse) O Lord, I am Thy servant; I am Thy servant and the son of Thy handmaid. Thou hast broken my bonds asunder. (Refrain)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reception of Holy Communion

- Please remember ONLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED THEMSELVES may partake of Holy Communion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *The Shahin Family*.

FR. JOE—OUT-OF-TOWN Fr. Joe and Family will be in California from November 28th until December 6th. *For emergencies only while Fr. Joe is away*, please call Fr. Angelo Maggos (Assumption, 810-732-2660), Fr. Paul Jannakos (St. Mary Magdalene, 810-629-4427), or Fr. Matthew Butrie of St. Nicholas (St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 810-744-0070). Please pray for Fr. Joe and Leslee's safe travels.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 16th, 23rd, and 30th -- 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 15th - December 24th), no meat or dairy products are to be served.*

FEED GENESEE Next Sunday, December 2nd, the Soup Kitchen truck will be here to pick-up our donations. Items needed are on a flier in the Lounge. All of the Orthodox Churches of Greater Flint are supporting the work of Catholic Charities in Genesee County by helping to feed the hungry. Remember you may bring your items at any time to be put in the wooden *Feed the Hungry* container in the Hall Foyer. May God be with the needy and may He bless those who help them.

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

1. **PARISH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, DECEMBER 8TH** We are looking for parents to help St. Nicholas fill his goody bag with treats to give our children. If you would like to help out, speak with Janet or Amal Abu-Aita as soon as possible and no later than December 2nd. Thank you and God bless you for all you do for your children!
2. **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** Practice for the program will take place next Sunday, December 2nd for 1 hour after Church School.

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*.

ST. NICHOLAS STORE! KIDS! Want to buy a present for your parents, teachers, grandparents, Godparents, friends, brothers or sisters? Come and visit after Church School where you'll find just the right present! There will be something for everybody on your list! We'll even gift-wrap it for you! But hurry, the store will only be open on Sundays December 9th and 16th!

COMING EVENTS

This Week	On Thursday, November 15 th , we began the traditional 40-day CHRISTMAS FAST in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25 th . The CHRISTMAS FAST is divided into two periods. The first period is November 15 th to December 19 th 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	Bible Study: Gospel of St. Mark 3-5pm
Tuesday	North End Soup Kitchen 9am-12:30pm
Wednesday	NO Arabic/English Study of the Divine Liturgy SOYO Wednesday 7-9pm
Saturday	Great Vespers at St. Nicholas with Bishop Alexander 4:30pm
Next Sunday	Christmas Program Practice after Church School for 1 hour

GREAT MARTYR KATHERINE THE ALL-WISE OF ALEXANDRA

*Remembered in the Antiochian, Greek, and Jerusalem Orthodox Churches on November 25th
and remembered in the Slavic Churches on November 24th.*

The Holy Great Martyr Katherine was the daughter of Constus, the governor of Alexandrian Egypt during the reign of the emperor Maximian (305-313). Living in the capital, the center of Hellenistic knowledge, and possessed of a rare beauty and intellect, Katherine received an excellent education, studying the works of the greatest philosophers and teachers of antiquity. Young men from the most worthy families of the empire sought the hand of the beautiful Katherine, but she was not interested in any of them. She told her parents that she would enter into marriage only with someone who surpassed her in nobility, wealth, comeliness and wisdom.

Katherine's mother, a secret Christian, sent her to her own spiritual Father, a saintly Elder living in a cave outside the city, for advice. After listening to Katherine, the Elder said that he knew of a Youth who surpassed her in everything. "His countenance is more radiant than the shining of the sun, and all of creation is governed by His wisdom. His riches are given to all the nations of the world, yet they never diminish. His compassion is unequalled."

This description of the Heavenly Bridegroom produced in the soul of the holy maiden an ardent desire to see Him. "If you do as I tell you," said the monk, "you will gaze upon the countenance of this illustrious man." In parting, the Elder handed Katherine an icon of the Theotokos with the divine Child Jesus on Her arm and told her to pray with faith to the Queen of Heaven,

the Mother of the Heavenly Bridegroom, and She would hear Katherine and grant her heart's desire.

Katherine prayed all night and was permitted to see the Most Holy Virgin, Who said to Her Divine Son, "Behold Thy handmaiden Katherine, how fair and virtuous she is." But the Child turned His face away from her saying, "No, she is ugly and unbelieving. She is a foolish pauper, and I cannot bear to look at her until she forsakes her impiety."

Katherine returned again to the Elder deeply saddened, and told him what she had seen in the dream. He lovingly received her, instructed her in the faith of Christ, admonished her to preserve her purity and integrity, and to pray unceasingly. She then received the Mystery of holy Baptism from him. Again St. Katherine had a vision of the Most Holy Theotokos with Her Child. Now the Lord looked tenderly at her and gave her a beautiful ring, a wondrous token of her betrothal to the Heavenly Bridegroom (This ring is still on her hand).

At that time the emperor Maximian was in Alexandria for a pagan festival. Therefore, the celebration was especially splendid and crowded. The cries of the sacrificial animals, the smoke and the smell of the sacrifices, the endless blazing of fires, and the bustling crowds at the arenas defiled the city of Alexandria. Human victims also were brought, the confessors of Christ, those who would not deny Him under

torture. They were condemned to death in the fire. The saint's love for the Christian martyrs and her fervent desire to ease their sufferings compelled Katherine to speak to the pagan priest and to the emperor Maximian.

Introducing herself, the saint confessed her faith in the One True God and with wisdom exposed the errors of the pagans. The beauty of the maiden captivated the emperor. In order to convince her and to show the superiority of pagan wisdom, the emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers and rhetoricians of the Empire to dispute with her, but the saint got the better of the wise men, so that they came to believe in Christ themselves. St Katherine made the Sign of the Cross over the martyrs, and they bravely accepted death for Christ and were burned alive by order of the emperor.

Maximian, no longer hoping to convince the saint, tried to entice her with the promise of riches and fame. Receiving an angry refusal, the emperor gave orders to subject the saint to terrible tortures and then throw her in prison. The Empress Augusta, who had heard much about the saint, wanted to see her. She prevailed upon the military commander Porphyrius to accompany her to the prison with a detachment of soldiers. The empress was impressed by the strong spirit of St Katherine, whose face was radiant with divine grace. The holy martyr explained the Christian teaching to them, and they were converted to Christ.

On the following day they again brought the martyr to the judgment court where, under the threat of being broken on the wheel, they urged that she renounce the Christian Faith and offer sacrifice to the

gods. The saint steadfastly confessed Christ and she herself approached the wheels; but an angel smashed the instruments of execution, which shattered into pieces with many pagans standing nearby.

Having beheld this wonder, the Empress Augusta and the imperial courtier Porphyrius with 200 soldiers confessed their faith in Christ in front of everyone, and they were beheaded. Maximian again tried to entice the holy martyr, proposing marriage to her, and again he was refused. St Katherine firmly confessed her fidelity to the heavenly Bridegroom Christ, and with a prayer to Him she herself lay her head on the block beneath the executioner's sword.

The relics of St Katherine were taken by the angels to Mount Sinai. In the sixth century, the venerable head and left hand of the holy martyr were found through a revelation and transferred with honor to a newly-constructed church of the Sinai monastery, built by the holy Emperor Justinian (November 14).



St. Katherine is called upon for relief and assistance during a difficult childbirth. Pilgrims to her monastery on Mt Sinai are given souvenir rings as a remembrance of their visit.