

St. George Orthodox Church

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Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

November 4, 2012

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

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VENERABLE IOANIKIOS THE GREAT

Tone – 5

11th Matins Gospel {John 21:15-25}

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:

Third Antiphon (during the Little Entrance)

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 5

Let all us believers give praise and worship to the Word. Of one essence with the Father and with the Spirit, and who is eternal. Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He did willingly ascend in the flesh to be hung from the cross and to suffer pain and death, and to lift up the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 5 (*as above*)

Troparion for St. Ioanikios—Tone 8

The barren wilderness you did make fertile with the streams of your tears; and by your deep sighing, you have given fruit through your struggles a hundred-fold. Accordingly, you have become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father Ioanikios, intercede with 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 محررٌ ومعتقٌ، وللفقراء والمساكين عاضدٌ وناصيرٌ وللمرضى طبيبٌ وشافٍ وعن

المؤمنين مكافح ومُحاربٌ أيها العظيمُ في الشهداء جاورجيوسُ اللابسُ الظفرُ تشنّع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نُفوسنا.

Kontakion for the Virgin Mary (on a normal Sunday)—Tone 2

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant: O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned, but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee. Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Epistle Reading: *Galatians 6:11-18* {22nd Sunday after Pentecost}

Gospel Reading: *Luke 16:19-31* {5th Sunday of Luke}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Daisy Isaac and Family for the health of their families and in loving memory of **Tommy, Michael, Helen, Freddie, Charlie, Eddie, Woody, Toufic, Gloria, Louie Sr., Louie Jr., James, Matthew, Norma, Emily, Gary, and George.**
- Michael and Diana Rishmawi for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Saleem and Azizeh Rishmawi** (Mike's parents), **Aziz and Margarita Salomon** (Diana's parents), **Miladeh and Carlos Salomon**, and **Miguel and Andronique Bendeck.**
- St. George Parish Council for the health of their families and the community of St. George -- *May God grant them many years!*
- This morning we pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Margaret Abraham** (+October 5th, Grand Rapids, mother of Dan) and **Manuel Sanchez** (+October 10th, 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), **Elias Gantos, Samira Gantous, Camille Ghantous, Nadera Ghantous, Phyllis Good, Carol Haddad, Roland Haddad, George Ishak** (Amira Hanna's nephew), **Gabby Joubbran** (Najwa Joubbran'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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Daisy Isaac and Family*.

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 15th - December 24th), no meat or dairy products are to be served.*

FEED GENESEE TODAY Sunday, November 4th, the Soup Kitchen truck is 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 it 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. Our Church School is preparing for our annual Parish Thanksgiving Dinner. Today is the last day for each student to give \$5 to their teacher in order to purchase all the food items for our annual Parish Thanksgiving Dinner next Saturday, November 10th. On Saturday, the children will be dropped off at church by 2pm. They will prepare the meal, do crafts and special activities, etc. Parents return at 5pm and sit with their children at Great Vespers. Following, we will enjoy a wonderful meal. If your child wishes to participate in this fun day, we must have their donation of \$5 to their teacher by TODAY.
2. Dear parents, we are having a number of problems with students being on their cell phones and other devices during class. We meet for only 45-50 minutes each week and we are trying to have no distractions during this short time. Please tell your children to shut their phones off (better yet, take their phones) until after Church School. If you have any questions or concerns please talk with me or Father Joe. Thank you and God bless you for all you do for your children!

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: Gospel of St. Mark 3-5pm
Tuesday	Ladies Auxiliary 5pm
Wednesday	Arabic/English Study of the Divine Liturgy 1pm-2:30pm SOYO Wednesday 7-9pm
Saturday	Church School Thanksgiving Dinner Preparation 2pm Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm Parish Thanksgiving Dinner follows
NEXT Sunday	Parish General Assembly

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROXIES Proxies are given to those who cannot attend the meeting because of medical treatment or illness, those confined to their homes, or those with written verification

of a prior travel commitment. A VOTING member who cannot attend the meeting may have another VOTING member vote on their behalf. An official Proxy Form can be obtained from the Church Office. The deadline to return the form is TODAY, November 4, 2012.

November 4th — VENERABLE IOANIKIOS THE GREAT

Saint Ioanikios the Great was born in Bithynia in the year 752 in the village of Marikat. His parents were destitute and could not provide him even the basics of an education. From childhood he had to tend the family cattle, their sole wealth. Love for God and prayer completely dominated the soul of the child. Often, having shielded the herd with the Sign of the Cross, he went to a secluded place and spent the whole day praying.

By order of the emperor Leo IV (775-780), a multitude of officials went through the cities and towns to draft young men for military service. Young Ioanikios was also drafted into the imperial army. He earned the respect of his fellow soldiers for his good disposition, but he was also a brave soldier who struck fear in the hearts of his enemies. St Ioanikios served in the imperial army for six years. More than once he was rewarded by his commanders and the emperor. But military service weighed heavily on him; his soul thirsted for spiritual deeds and solitude.

St Ioanikios, having renounced the world, longed to go at once into the wilderness. However, on the advice of an Elder experienced in monastic life, he spent a further two years at the monastery. Here the saint became accustomed to monastic obedience, to monastic rules and practices. He studied reading and writing, and he learned thirty Psalms of David by heart.

After this, commanded by God to go to a certain mountain, the monk withdrew into the wilderness. For three years he remained in deep solitude in the wilderness, and only once a month a shepherd brought him some bread and water. The ascetic spent day and night in prayer and psalmody. After each verse of singing the Psalms, St Ioanikios made a prayer, which the Orthodox Church keeps to this day in a somewhat altered form, "*The Father is my hope, the Son is my refuge, the Holy Spirit is my protection.*"

By chance, he encountered some of his former companions from military service. The saint fled the wilderness and withdrew to Mount Kountourea to hide himself from everyone. Only after twelve years of ascetic life did the hermit accept monastic tonsure. The saint spent three years in seclusion after being tonsured. Then he went to a place called Chelidon to see the great ascetic St George (February 21st). The ascetics spent three years together. During this time St Ioanikios learned the entire Psalter by heart. As he grew older, St Ioanikios settled in the Antidiev monastery and dwelt there in seclusion until his death.

St Ioanikios spent seventy years in ascetic deeds and attained to a high degree of spiritual perfection. Through the mercy of God the saint acquired the gift of prophecy, as his disciple Pachomios has related. The Elder also levitated above the ground when he prayed. Once, he crossed a river flooded to overflowing. The saint could make himself invisible for people and make others also hidden from sight.

Once, St Ioanikios led Greek captives out of prison under the very eyes of the guards. Poison and fire, with which the envious wanted to destroy the saint, did him no harm, and predatory beasts did not touch him. He freed the island of Thasos from a multitude of snakes. St Ioanikios also saved a young nun who was preparing to leave the monastery to marry; he took upon himself the agonized maiden's suffering of passion, and by fasting and prayer, he overcame the seductive assault of the devil.

Foreseeing his death, St Ioanikios fell asleep in the Lord on November 4, 846, at the age of 94.