

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

December 23, 2012

## SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF CHRIST

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY (KNOWN AS THE *GENEALOGY OF CHRIST*)

Tone – 4

7<sup>th</sup> Matins Gospel {*John 20:1-10*}

Altar Servers: **St. John** team      **Christmas Eve Vespertal Liturgy** (6pm) – **Captains & Assistants**

Next Sunday – **St. Michael** team

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:

### Third Antiphon (during the Little Entrance)

#### **Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 4**

When the women disciples learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, they cast away parental sin, and proudly told the message to the disciples proclaiming that death hath been spoiled and Christ our God hath risen granting the world great mercy.

### Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

#### **Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 4** (*as above*)

#### **Troparion of the Forefeast of the Nativity—Tone 4**

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the Divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen a foretime.

#### **Troparion of the Sunday before Christmas—Tone 2**

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as Thou gavest water for rest. And the prophet Daniel appeared as a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, 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 مُحرِّرٌ ومُعْتَقٌ، وللْفُقَرَاءِ والمَسَاكِينِ عَاضِدٌ وَنَاصِرٌ وللمَرْضَى طَبِيبٌ وَشَافٍ وَعَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مُكَافِحٌ وَمُحَارِبٌ أَيُّهَا الْعَظِيمُ فِي الشَّهَادَةِ جَاوِرِجِيوسُ اللَّابِسُ الظَّفَرِ تَشْفَعُ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ فِي خَلَاصِ نُفُوسِنَا.

### **Kontakion in Preparation for the Nativity (Birth) of Christ—Tone 3**

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth; ineffably to bring forth the eternal Word. Therefore, rejoice O earth at the message, with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He who is from eternity God.

**Epistle Reading:** *Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40* {Sunday before the Nativity of Christ}

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 1:1-25* {Sunday before the Nativity of Christ}

### **Holy Bread Offerings**

#### **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:

◆ **Nataly Odeh** – December 21<sup>st</sup> ◆ **Nicholas Shahin** – December 22<sup>nd</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: **Patriarch Ignatius IV of Antioch** (+December 5<sup>th</sup>), **Muna Ibrahim** (+December 10<sup>th</sup>, Alkazaha and Ibrahim Families' relative), **Shoukre Abdo** (+December 13<sup>th</sup>, Syracuse, NY, brother-in-law of Elias Gantos), and **Anthony Michaels** (+December 17<sup>th</sup>, father of Bishop Anthony).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Androlla Abu Aita**, **Clemence** (Dn. Mike's mother) and **Jonathan Bassett**, **George Damouni** (brother of Lina Burbar and May Gantos), **Jessica Dedow** (niece of JoAnn Hawkins), **Samira Gantous**, **Camille Ghantous**, **Nadera Ghantous**, **Phyllis Good**, **Carol Haddad**, **Roland Haddad**, **Gabby Joubbran** (Najwa Joubbran's brother-in-law), **Betty Khouri**, **Jean Khouri**, **John Khouri**, **Mariam Houry**, **Norma Lazar**, **Lourice Matta**, **Megan Meade** (relative of Bob Teunion), **Danny Mortensen**, **George Nassif**, **Laura Nichols** (church secretary), **Elaine Salim**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **Michael Silpoch**, **Marie Skafi**, **William Sophiea Jr.**, **Kinan Turjman** (Sahar Abdallah's nephew), and **Sandra Mitri** and the newborn **Yasmeen** (November 19<sup>th</sup>).
- We also pray for those who are with child: **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.

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# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** is not hosted today ☹️.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: December 30<sup>th</sup>, January 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> -- 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.

**LADIES AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS PARTY** This is for ALL WOMEN of St. George and will take place this Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5pm at the Redwood Lodge. Please reserve your tickets today by contacting Naila Banna (810-238-4582) or Aida Raffoul (810-742-0207). The cost is \$22 and includes everything.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** Help decorate our church for our Lord's Nativity (Christmas) by donating a Poinsettia or two. Names of the Living and Departed will be remembered when Fr. Joe and Dn. Mike prepare the Gifts for the Christmas Liturgy (December 24<sup>th</sup>). TODAY is the LAST DAY to fill out the form – *Thank You!*

**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS** Our Ladies Auxiliary is selling ornaments to adorn their tree in the hall. A table is in the hall to buy your ornament. All profits will be given to the YWCA Women's Shelter for Abused Women.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY NIGHT** A wonderful evening is planned! For more information or to make paid reservations, please see Manal or Sally Abuaita or Evette Rishmawi TODAY! Adults: \$40; 16-22 years old: \$30; 15 years old and younger: \$25. Paid reservations MUST BE PURCHASED by December 25<sup>th</sup>!!!

**AXIOS! MOUSTAHIQ! HE IS WORTHY!** His Eminence the Metropolitan Archbishop of Western and Central Europe has been elected Patriarch of the Great City-of-God Antioch and all the East, succeeding the late Patriarch Ignatius IV (Hazim) who reposed at the age of 92 on December 5<sup>th</sup>. His Beatitude **John X (Yaziji)** was elected by the members of the Holy Synod on December 17<sup>th</sup>, during a special session held at the Balamand Patriarchal Monastery of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos. May God grant him many years!

**HOLY WATER BOTTLES** We celebrate the Baptism of our Lord on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. As part of this celebration, Fr. Joe will bless water for all parishioners to take home. We are in need of a donor or two to provide the Holy Water icon bottles. The cost is \$200. If you are interested, please let Fr. Joe know.

**THE SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION)** If you are 8 years or older, have been away from the Church or have not had Confession in the last 2 months, and desire to come back and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, please remember you must offer a confession of your sins first. During the time of the ***Christmas Fast*** is a perfect opportunity. For your convenience, Fr. Joe will be hearing confessions after Coffee Fellowship TODAY. Father Joe is NOT the only priest in Flint and if you would prefer to go to one of the other Orthodox priests, please feel free to do so (just let Fr. Joe know):

Father Angelo Maggos from Assumption Orthodox Church (810-771-4611), Father Matthew Butrie from St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (810-744-0070) or Fr. Paul Jannakos from St. Mary Magdalene (810-750-1401). The important thing isn't who hears your confession, but that you participate in Holy Communion on a regular basis. **Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life (Christ).** (*Revelations 22:14*)

**PREPARATION FOR THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION)** There are many different ways to prepare for this Holy Sacrament. One way is based on the Ten Commandments as a starting point. Information in both English and Arabic are available on the Narthex Table – please help yourself!

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> — HOLY FOREFATHERS OF CHRIST**

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord (December 18-24) is known as the Sunday of the Holy Fathers. On this day the Church commemorates all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to St Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered today, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (December 17).

The Troparion to the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths ("Great are the accomplishments of faith...") is quite similar to the Troparion for St Theodore the Recruit (February 17, and the first Saturday of Great Lent). The Kontakion to St Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).

**COMING EVENTS**

This Week	On November 15 <sup>th</sup> , we began 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 2 <sup>nd</sup> period is December 20 <sup>th</sup> through 24 <sup>th</sup> when the traditional fasting discipline ( <i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products</i> ) is observed except on Saturday and Sunday when <i>wine and oil</i> are permitted.
Monday	<b>Christmas Matins</b> 4:50pm <b>Christmas Liturgy</b> 6pm
Tuesday	<b>Christ is Born! Glorify Him!</b> <b>المسيحُ وُلِد! فمجدوه!</b>
Thursday	<b>Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party at Redwood Lounge</b> 5pm
Friday	<b>Church School Christmas Party at Janet Abueita's home</b> 5:30pm
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm <b>Teen SOYO Christmas Party at Majd Abuaita's home</b> after Great Vespers

**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*.