

# St. George Orthodox Church

5191 Lennon Road • Flint, Michigan 48507 • (810) 732-0720

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

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

February 17, 2013

## SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN GREAT MARTYR THEODORE THE SOLDIER

Tone – 4

4<sup>th</sup> Matins Gospel {*Luke 24:1-12*}

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 4**

Let the Heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty thing with His own hand. He has trampled death by His death and has become the first-born from the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting to the people of the world His great mercy.

### **Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel**

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

#### **Troparion for St. Theodore—Tone 2**

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the martyred Theodore rejoiced in the fount of flames as though in the waters of rest; for being burned by fire, he was offered as delicious bread to the Trinity. Wherefore, by his 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، وللفقراء والمساكين عاضِدٌ وناصِرٌ وللمرضى طبيبٌ وشافٍ وعن المؤمنين مكافِحٌ ومُحَارِبٌ أيها العظيم في الشهداء جاورجيوس اللابسُ الظفرُ تشنّع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

## **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:** *2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1* {17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost}

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 15:21-28* {17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew}

### **Holy Bread Offerings**

- Victoria Zerka and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of her grandmother **Victoria Salim** (5 years).
- Deacon Michael and Pam Bassett for the health of their family especially Fr. Joseph on the occasion of his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday -- *May God grant him many years!* -- and in loving memory of **Stanley Brooks** (9 days, brother-in-law) and **Subdeacon Nicholas Abdella** (14 years).
- Karam and Aida Nassar for the health of their family especially son **Omar** on the occasion of his new job and safe travels to California – *May God grant him many years!*
- The Andoni and Abud Families for the health of their families on the occasion of **Basil** and **Father Joe's** birthdays -- *May God grant them many years!*

### **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:

◆ **Alex Joseph** – February 23<sup>rd</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: **Hanna Abufarha** (+January 17<sup>th</sup>, Palestine, father of Maher) and **Evelyn Farah** (+January 25<sup>th</sup>, Atlanta, GA, relative of the Farah's).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Androlla Abu Aita**, **Angel Abuaita**, **Karim Alkhouri**, **Jonathan Bassett**, **George Damouni** (Lina Burbar and May Gantos' brother), **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 Khoury**, **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

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** is hosted by *Hiam Andoni and Leslee Abud*. Please join us for a Special Parish Family Coffee Fellowship.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: March 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<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. *Cheesefare Sunday is on March 17<sup>th</sup>, no meat products are to be served. During the Great Fast (March 18<sup>th</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>), no meat or dairy products are to be served.*

### **THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS ...**

... **Elaine Shaheen** who donated *Two New Floor Mats* by the office doors.

... **Bob Teunion** who donated a *DVD Player* and **Fadi** and **Evette Rishmawi** who donated toward the purchase of a *Radio/CD "boom box"* for our Church School.

**ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB** We will meet tomorrow, Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We continue our study of the **Worship in the Orthodox Church**. All are invited to join! If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Deacon Mike at [frdmike@gmail.com](mailto:frdmike@gmail.com).

**SUMMER CAMP** The Antiochian Village (about 1½ hours from Pittsburgh) serves our young people ages 9-17 that come from parishes throughout the Archdiocese. For more information and to register, please check out their web site at: <http://www.antiochianvillage.org/camp.html>. We go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session (June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 12<sup>th</sup>). 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](mailto:anaamabueita@gmail.com)).

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**We will be starting a Men's Fellowship and our first gathering will be on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6pm.**

**All men of St. George are invited and encouraged to attend.**

**We will have fellowship, a teaching by Fr. Joe, and LOTS of FUN!!!**

### February 17<sup>th</sup> — **GREAT MARTYR THEODORE THE SOLDIER**

The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Soldier (Tyro) was a soldier in the city of Alasiium of the Pontine district (northeast province of Asia Minor, stretching along the coast of the

Euxine, i.e. the Black Sea), under the command of a certain Brincus. They commanded him to offer sacrifice to idols. St Theodore firmly confessed his faith in Christ the Savior in a loud voice. The commander gave him several days to think it over, during which time St Theodore prayed.

They charged him with setting a pagan temple on fire, and threw him into prison to be starved to death. The Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him there, comforting and encouraging him. Brought to the governor, St Theodore boldly and fearlessly confessed his faith, for which he was subjected to new torments and condemned to burning. The martyr Theodore climbed onto the fire without hesitation, and with prayer and gave up his holy soul to God. This occurred in about the year 306 under the Roman emperor Galerius (305-311). Unharmd by the fire, the body of St Theodore was buried in the city of Euchaita, not far from Amasium. His relics were afterwards transferred to Constantinople, to a church dedicated to him. His head is in Italy, in the city of Gaeto.

Later on, fifty years after the death of St Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians, commanded the city-commander of Constantinople during the first week of Great Lent to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. St Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, ordering him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces, but rather to eat cooked wheat with honey (kolyva). In memory of this occurrence, the Orthodox Church annually celebrates the holy Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of Great Lent. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts following the prayer at the ambo, the Canon to the holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by St John of Damascus, is sung. After this, kolyva (wheat) is blessed and distributed to the faithful. The celebration of the Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of Great Lent was set by the Patriarch Nectarius of Constantinople (381-397).

The Troparion to St Theodore is quite similar to the Troparion for the Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths (December 17, Sunday Before Nativity). 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).

We pray to St Theodore for the recovery of stolen articles.

### **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	<b>Bible Study:</b> <i>Gospel of St. Mark</i> 3-5pm <b>Book Club</b> 6pm
Wednesday	<b>Arabic/English Study of the Divine Liturgy</b> 1pm-2:30pm <b>SOYO Wednesday</b> 7-9pm
Thursday	<b>Parish Council Dinner Meeting</b> 6:15pm Any parishioner is welcome to come, observe, and also make comments at the appropriate time on the Agenda.
Saturday	<b>Benson Baptism</b> 3pm <b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm