

St. George Orthodox Church

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

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

المسيحُ وُلِدَ! فمجدوه!

Nativity (*Birth in the Flesh*) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve -- December 24, 2012

Matins p.44 **Festal Matins Gospel:** *Matthew 1:18-25*

Divine Liturgy p.91 in Red Book

Bilingual Divine Liturgy Book

Tonight – **Captains and Assistants**

Next Sunday – **St. Michael** team

Welcome to St. George: It is a joy to have you worshipping with us as we celebrate our Savior's Nativity (Birth) into the world. For those who have committed themselves to the Orthodox Faith (through Baptism and Chrismation) it also means, if prepared, the reception of Holy Communion. Preparation includes the Sacrament of Confession within the last 2 months, prayer, and fasting {no food or drink from a lite noon lunch}. If you are new, just visiting, or have any questions, please introduce yourself to Father Joe. If you are not an Orthodox Christian or not prepared, please know that you are invited to venerate the Holy Cross and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

Holy Bread Offerings

- Emile and Hiam Bathish for the health of their family especially their children and grandchildren and in loving memory of **Yacoub, Marie, Naif, and Julia**.
- This evening we also pray for the newly departed servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Patriarch Ignatius IV of Antioch** (+December 5th), **Muna Ibrahim** (+December 10th, Alkazaha and Ibrahim Families' relative), **Shoukre Abdo** (+December 13th, Syracuse, NY, brother-in-law of Elias Gantos), and **Anthony Michaels** (+December 17th, 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 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**, **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 19th).
- Remember the servants of God who are with child especially: **Marlen Odeh**.

Christmas Decorations and Poinsettias Offerings

(Remembered during the Preparation of the Gifts (bread and wine) Service)

- Tony and Chrissy Abueita for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Alice Salomon**.
- Nabil and Mariam Haddad for the health of their family especially **Nabil, Mariam, Yousef, Fr. Mousa, Kh. Delia, Anthony, Philip, Mousa Rishmawi, Hussam Assaf, and their Families** and in loving memory of **Nada Haddad, Nada Samur, and Mousa Haddad**
- Nader and Angela Haddad for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Nada Haddad, Muna Sweis, and Mousa Haddad**
- Donald and JoAnn Hawkins for the health of the **Hawkins, Rhinehart, and Shahin Families** and in loving memory of the deceased members of the **Brackett, Hawkins, Rhinehart, and Shahin Families**.
- Najwa Joubran for the health of her family especially the **Elias, Hanna, Joubran, and Khoshaba Families**, and all of our **St. George Families** and in loving memory of **Emil, Badia, Saleem, Salom, Zareefe, Saman, Naeema, Aziza, Namnoum, Ibrahim, Jamil, Yacoub, Elyas, Gheth, Martha, and Said**.
- Roger and Claire Saadeh for the health of **Claire, Roger, Jessica, and Alek Saadeh** and **Hetty and Karen Burnett** and in loving memory of **Sami and Rosette** (Roger's parents) and **Kevin Burnett** (Claire's Grandfather)
- Doug and Sandy Thomas for the health of their family especially **Jean Khouri** (Sandy's mother) and in loving memory of **Virginia, Marvin, and Ken Thomas** (Doug's parents and brother) and **Alex Khouri** (Sandy's father).

Thank you and may God grant you all many years!

The Kiss of Peace

When the deacon says, *Let us love one another . . .* we greet each other with,

المسيح وُلِدَ! فمجدوه! *Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*

Reception of Holy Communion

Please remember ONLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED THEMSELVES may partake of Holy Communion. If you have a special need or circumstance, please let one of the ushers know so we may assist you. Thank you -- St. George Ushers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please follow the special Festal Hymns on the bilingual sheets available on the Narthex Table.

NO Fasting until Saturday, January 5th, which is a Fast Day in preparation for the Theophany (Baptism) of Christ on Sunday, January 6th.

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 – please take only 1 per family! Our children will receive their envelopes in Church School.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY We will be having our **New Year's Eve Party** on Monday, December 31st beginning at 8:30pm. There will be music, food, and a great time ringing in the civil New Year! Tickets are \$40 for adults; \$30 (16-22 years old); and \$25 (15 years old and younger) and can be purchased from Manal Abuaita, Sally Abuaita, or Evette Rishmawi.

LADIES AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS PARTY This is for ALL WOMEN of St. George and will take place this Thursday, December 27th 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.

SUMMER CAMP The Camping Program at the Antiochian Village (about 1½ hours from Pittsburgh) serves young people ages 9-17 who come from parishes throughout the Archdiocese. The main goal of the camp program is to *“present to young people a living experience of the Holy Orthodox Faith in their relationship with God and other campers in an uncluttered, natural environment”*. The Village provides an experience, which has been very instrumental in the spiritual maturation of many of our young people. Go to: <http://www.antiochianvillage.org/camp.html> for more information. Registration opens soon! After you register or if you have any questions, please speak with our Camp Committee chairman, Anaam Abueita (810-686-9744 or anaamabueita@gmail.com). Our campers go Session 2 which is June 30th-July 12, 2013.

COMING EVENTS

Thursday	Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party at Redwood Lodge 5pm
Friday	Church School Christmas Party at Janet Abueita's Home 5:30pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
	Teen SOYO Christmas Party at Majd Abuaita's Home after Great Vespers

December 25th —NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

The present Feast, commemorating the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, was established by the Church. Its origin goes back to the time of the Apostles. In the Apostolic Constitutions (Section 3, 13) it says, *“Brethren, observe the feastsdays; and first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month.”* In another place it also says, *“Celebrate the day of the Nativity of Christ, on which unseen grace is given man by the birth of the Word of God from the Virgin Mary for the salvation of the world.”*

In the second century St Clement of Alexandria also indicates that the day of the Nativity of Christ is December 25. In the third century St Hippolytus of Rome mentions the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, and appoints the Gospel readings for this day from the opening chapters of St Matthew.

In 302, during the persecution of Christians by Maximian, 20,000 Christians of Nicomedia (December 28th) were burned in church on the very Feast of the Nativity of Christ. In that same century, after the persecution when the Church had received freedom of religion and had become the official religion in the Roman Empire, we find the Feast of the Nativity of Christ observed throughout the entire Church. There is evidence of this in the works of St Ephraim the Syrian, St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian, St Gregory of Nyssa, St Ambrose of Milan, St John Chrysostom and other Fathers of the Church of the fourth century.



Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ 2012

Dear St. George Family,

المسيح وُلِدَ! فَمَجِدُوهُ! *Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*

We pray this finds you well as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord! We have had a blessed year and as always give thanks to God in all things.

As you know, the slow economy has delivered a particularly hard blow to Genesee County and those who call this area home. Unemployment and foreclosures have devastated families, sometimes forcing them to live in vehicles or abandoned homes, even in the dead of winter. Former middle-class families are now struggling to survive, reaching out for help, many for the first time in their lives and evidence that the face of poverty is rising. Nearly 53% of Flint children who live in poverty, go to bed hungry. Along with poverty comes violence, crime, and addiction. In 2011, Flint had the highest rate of violent crime in the nation and was labeled the “most dangerous city” in America.

Our parish of St. George has been involved with a soup kitchen run by *Catholic Charities* and this year began having monthly Food Drives. *Catholic Charities* is a place where people facing fear and uncertainty can find help and hope! Our gift to you this year is a donation to this wonderful organization. If we cannot be here for those in need, we thank God and support those who are. Though we might not see them everyday, may we never forget *the least of our brethren*.

May this Holy Feast of our Lord’s Nativity and the coming New Year be a time of our renewal as His followers. God bless you and your families always.

Love,
Fr. Joe, Leslee, and Family