

St. George Orthodox Church

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Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

April 14, 2013

4TH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – VENERABLE JOHN OF THE LADDER

Tone – 4

1st Matins Gospel {*Matthew 28:16-20*}

Altar Servers: **St. Michael** team {Karim Al-Khouri, captain}

Next Week – **St. Elias** 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 the reception of Holy Communion, if prepared. 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. Basil the Great** (his prayers begin on p.132 in the Red Service Book and the bilingual sheets in the Narthex), 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 for St. John of the Ladder of Virtues—Tone 8

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body! You were a wonder-worker, O our God-bearing Father John! You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. Glory to Him who gave you strength! Glory to Him who granted you a crown! Glory to Him who through you grants healing to 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.

بِمَا أَنْتَ لِلْمَأْسُورِينَ مُحَرَّرٌ وَمُعْتِقٌ، وَلِلْفُقَرَاءِ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ عَاضِدٌ وَنَاصِرٌ وَلِلْمَرْضَى طَبِيبٌ وَشَافٍ وَعَيْنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مُكَافِحٌ وَمُحَارِبٌ أَبِهَا الْعَظِيمِ فِي الشُّهَدَاءِ جَاوِرِ جِيُوسِ اللَّابِسِ الظَّفَرِ تَشْفَعُ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ إِلَهِ فِي خَلَاصِ نُفُوسِنَا.

Kontakion for Annunciation & Sundays of the Great Fast—Tone 8

To Thee the Champion Leader do I offer thanks of victory. O Theotokos, Thou who has delivered me from terror; but as Thou that has that power invincible, O Theotokos, Thou alone can set me free from all forms of danger; free me and deliver me. That I may cry unto Thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.
إني أنا عبدك يا والدة الإله، أكتئبُ لكِ راياتِ العَلْبَةِ، يا جُنْدِيَّةَ مُحَامِيَّةٍ، وأقدِّمُ لكِ الشُّكْرَ كَمُنْفَعَةٍ مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ. لكنَّ بما أنَّ لكِ العِزَّةَ التي لا تُحَارَبُ، أعتقيني من صنوفِ الشَّدَائِدِ، حتى أصرخُ إليكِ: إفرحي يا عروساً لا عروساً لها

Epistle Reading: *Hebrews 6:13-20* {4th Sunday of the Great Fast}

Gospel Reading: *Mark 9:17-31* {4th Sunday of the Great Fast}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Khaled, Sally, Ayham, and Majd Abuaita for the health of their family especially daughter **Watan** on the occasion of her 21st birthday -- *May God grant her 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:

♦ **Karim Al-Khour**i – April 18th

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: **Zahra Rashmawi** (+March 6th, Beit Sahour, mother of Rahmeh Rashmawi), **Abla Haddad** and **Fares Alsuyyagh** (+March 9th, aunt/cousin of Sahar Abdallah), **Gaby Joubran** (+March 11th, Najwa Joubran's brother-in-law), **Diane Nemer** (+March 13th, sister-in-law of Lourice Matta), and **Maqboula Rishmawi** (+March 16th, grandmother of Mousa, Issa, and Eyad Rishmawi).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Androlla Abu Aita**, **Angel Abuaita**, **Lana Abu-Aita**, **Emil Abueita**, **Wadia Albaba**, **Evelyn Delbridge**, **Camille Ghantous**, **Nadera Ghantous**, **Phyllis Good**, **Carol Haddad**, **Roland Haddad**, **Mary Ibrahim**, **Kamel Kheirallah**, **Betty Khouri**, **Jean Khouri**, **John Khouri**, **Mariam Khoury**, **Norma Lazar**, **Lourice Matta**, **Megan Meade** (relative of Bob Teunion), **Danny Mortensen**, **Laura Nassar**, **Elaine Salim**, **Widad Salomon**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **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.

- 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Khaled and Sally Abuaita and Family*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: April 21st -- 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 Great Fast (March 18th – May 4th), no meat or dairy products are to be served.*

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS ...

... **Everyone** who participated in our *Relay For Life Coffee Fellowship* last week. We raised \$435 to help fight cancer! Thank you for your support! Love, Teen SOYO

LENTEN POTLUCK DINNER Our Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a Lenten (no meat or dairy products) Potluck Dinner after celebration of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts this Wednesday. Please bring what is listed below according to the first letter of your last name. If you have any questions, please see or call Olga (810-732-8184) or Vicky Nassar (810-238-5839). Donations to the Food for Hungry People program will be asked at all of our dinners – please be generous in feeding the hungry.

FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH

<u>A-E</u>	<u>G-J</u>	<u>K-R</u>	<u>S-Z</u>
Relish Dish or Bread	Salad or Side Dish	Main Dish	Desserts



ST. GEORGE GOLF CLASSIC Everyone received information about this great event on Saturday, June 8th at The Jewel of Grand Blanc Golf Course. Respond as soon as possible to Golf and/or to be a Sponsor! We are having our Golf Classic to have fun and raise money for our *Boiler Loan Fund*. If you are interested or would like more information, see the fliers in the Lounge or contact our committee: Mike or Brian Silpoch, Roger Isaac, or Amjad Ishak.

ARE THOSE FFHP (FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE) BOXES FILLING UP? If yours is full and you need another, come to the Church School office or ask Fr. Joe. Remember filled boxes should be brought back to church on Pascha night May 5th.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Our average weekly offerings need to be \$4,800 to meet our 2013 Budget. Last Sunday, our offerings were \$3,030 so we were short \$1,770 ☹. If you haven't already, please fill out your 2013 Offering Form and support the work of St. George!

TEEN SOYO RUMMAGE SALE It's time for SPRING CLEANING!! Save your "stuff" for our Teen SOYO's RUMMAGE SALE coming October 19th!

- **St. George's Web Site:** saintgeorgeflint.org. Did you ever miss church on Sunday and want to know what was in the Weekly Bulletin? Check out our web site! You don't remember what to bring for our Food Drive? Check out our web site! Want to know what is going on with our different Ministries (Organizations, Departments, Education, etc)? Check out our web site! There is so much and it's updated all the time -- Check it out every week!!!

April 14th — 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT: ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to St John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. The abbot of St Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt.10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Eph 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt.24:13).

This Saint gave himself over to the ascetical life from his early youth. Experienced both in the solitary life of the hermit and in the communal life of cenobite monasticism, he was appointed Abbot of the Monastery at Mount Sinai and wrote a book containing thirty homilies on virtue. Each homily deals with one virtue, and progressing from those that deal with holy and righteous activity (practice) unto those that deal with divine vision (contemplation), they raise a man up as though by means of steps unto the height of Heaven. For this cause his work is called "The Ladder of Divine Ascent." The day he was made Abbot of Sinai, the Prophet Moses was seen giving commands to those who served at table. Saint John reposed in 603, at eighty years of age.

The memory of this Saint is also celebrated on March 30th. He is celebrated today because his book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is a sure guide to the ascetic life, written by a great man of prayer experienced in all forms of the monastic polity; it teaches the seeker after salvation how to lay a sound foundation for his struggles, how to detect and war against each of the passions, how to avoid the snares laid by the demons, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. It is held in such high esteem that it is universally read in its entirety in monasteries during the Great Fast.

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The Great Fast continues and lasts until our celebration of our Lord's Resurrection- PASCHA on May 5 th . The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat or poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is observed on all weekdays. On Saturdays and Sundays, <i>wine and olive oil</i> are allowed.
Monday	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى 6:30pm
Wednesday	Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas 9am
	Presanctified Liturgy قداس السابق تقديس and Lenten Potluck 6pm
Friday	Supplication to the Virgin Mary خدمة المديح (<i>Madayeh</i>) 6:30pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm