

St. George Orthodox Church

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V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

September 8, 2013

GREAT FEAST OF THE NATIVITY (*BIRTH*) OF THE THEOTOKOS

Tone – 2

Matins Gospel for the Feast {*Luke 1:39-49, 56*}

Altar Servers: **St. Nicholas** team {Nicholas Shahin, captain} Next Week – **St. George** 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. John Chrysostom** {*The Golden-Mouth*}, we sing these special hymns,

First Antiphon – Verses from Psalms 131, 86, and 45

Verse 1. Lord, remember David and all his meekness.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse 2. Lo, we heard of it at Ephrathah: we found it in the fields of the wood. *Refrain*

Verse 3. Glorious things are spoken of Thee, O city of God. *Refrain*

Verse 4. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her early in the morning.

Refrain Glory to the Father ... , now and ever Amen. *Refrain*

Second Antiphon - Verses from Psalm 131

Verse 1. The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; and He will not turn from it.

Refrain: O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

Verse 2. Of the fruit of your body will I set upon your throne. *Refrain*

Verse 3. There will I make the horn of David to grow: I have prepared a lamp for My Anointed.

Refrain

Verse 4. For the Lord has chosen Zion: He has desired it for His dwelling place. *Refrain*

Glory to the Father... now and ever Amen. *Only begotten Son...*

Third Antiphon – Verses from Psalms 131, 45, and 64

Verses 1-3 Here will I dwell, for I desired it. The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle.

Holy is Thy temple, wonderful in righteousness.

Refrain: Troparion of the Birth of the Virgin Mary—Tone 4

Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shown from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

ميلادك يا والدة الإله. بشرت المسكونة كلها. لأنه منك أشرق شمس العلي المسيح إلهنا. فحلّ اللعنة ووهب البركة. وأبطل الموت ومنحنا الحياة الأبدية.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One. Then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly power, and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee, O Christ Thou giver of Life, Glory to Thee O our God.

Troparion of the Nativity (Birth) of the Virgin Mary—Tone 4 (as above)

Kontakion for the Nativity (Birth) of the Virgin Mary—Tone 4

By your holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death; your people do celebrate it, having been saved from the penalty of their transgressions, crying to you: *The barren gives birth to the Theotokos who nourishes our life.*

Epistle Reading: *Galatians 6:11-18* {Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross}

Gospel Reading: *John 3:13-17* {Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Donald and JoAnn Hawkins for the health of their family especially son **Ric Shahin** on the occasion of his birthday -- *May God grant him many years!*
- St. George Parish for the health of their families especially our **Church School Teachers, Staff, and Students** -- *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:

- ◆ **Nadine Khoury** – September 11th
- ◆ **Miar Abu-Aita** – September 14th

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: **Iyad Khair** (40 day), **Azar Lahoud** (+August 8th, Lina Elia's father), **Yousef Sharif** (+August 11th, friend of our parish), **Samir Ishak** (+August 14th, Vera Farah's cousin), and **David Tome** (+August 19th, brother of Joe from St. Nicholas).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Androlla Abu Aita, Angel Abuaita, Hanna Abuaita, Nader Abufarha, Housam Abousamra, Evelyn Delbridge, Ayman Elias, Micheline El-Chaer, Camille Ghantous, Nadera Ghantous, Phyllis Good, Carol Haddad, Roland Haddad, Donald Hawkins, Mary Ibrahim, Betty Khouri, Jean Khouri, John Khouri, Mariam Khoury, Norma Lazar, Lourice Matta, Danny Mortensen, Laura Nassar, Elaine Salim, Elaine Shaheen, Michael Silpoch, Marie Skafi, William Sophiea Jr., and Lois Teunion** (Bob's wife). **Jennifer** (Peera) **Khoshaba** (daughter of Situ Najwa Joubran) and

the newborn **Emma** (August 31st). **Alexa Nassif** (daughter-in-law of George and Jeanette) and the newborn **Genevieve Adele** (September 3rd).

- We pray for those who are with child: **Kristen** (Abraham) **Baradihi** and **Nadeen Jaraysa**. Former parishioners and friends: **Amanda** (Daoud) **Alyatim** and **Lisa Thomas** (daughter-in-law of Doug and Sandy Thomas).

Megalynarion (Instead of “*It is truly meet...*”), we sing in Tone 8:

Magnify, O my soul, the Virgin Mary, born of a barren womb. Virginity is foreign to mothers; childbearing is strange for virgins. But in you, O Theotokos, both were accomplished! For this, all earthly nations unceasingly magnify you!

Communion Hymn (*for the Nativity of Mary*)

(Refrain) I will take the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the Name of the Lord.

(verse) My vows unto the Lord will I pay in the presence of all His people. *(Refrain)*

(verse) Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. *(Refrain)*

(verse) O Lord, I am Thy servant; I am Thy servant and the son of Thy handmaid. Thou hast broken my bonds asunder. *(Refrain)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reception of Holy Communion

- Please remember **ONLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS** who have **PREPARED THEMSELVES** may partake of Holy Communion.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Ladies Auxiliary is hosting a **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** in honor of the beginning of Church School. Adults – \$5, Teachers and Students – Free. All are invited! Plan on spending this special day with our spiritual family, first by eating at our Lord's Banquet, and second by breaking bread together!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: September 22nd and 29th -- 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.

SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY The Parish Council is calling this special meeting **NEXT** Sunday, September 15th immediately after Divine Liturgy. This important meeting is regarding the Fixing of our Roof on our entire Complex (Church, Lounge, Church School, and Hall). Please plan on attending.

USED EYEGLOSS COLLECTION You might have noticed a Collection Box for Eyeglasses in the Lounge and said what? The collection is done by the Rotary Club for those who cannot afford glasses or eye care. They are taken to Mexico during their annual “Avoidable Blindness” trip. Volunteer Rotarians, students of optometry, Optometrists, and others serve close to two thousand of the poor in Mexico over four days who cannot afford going to the doctors or eyeglasses. The used glasses are refurbished by the students in the schools of optometry. We provide seeing glasses, sunglasses, and/or reading

glasses. If you would like to volunteer on a trip or would like more information, please contact Sally Joseph at 810-733-1527.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Our average weekly offerings need to be \$4,800 to meet our 2013 Budget. On September 1st our offerings were \$423 so we were short \$4,377! ☹ If you haven't already, fill out your 2013 Offering Form and support the work of St. George!

MAINTENANCE MATCHING FUND

- Donald Hawkins, husband of JoAnn, started this program with a \$2,000 matching grant. We reached our 1st goal (raising \$2,000 from parishioners) and Don matched it with his \$2,000 donation!
- We are now working to reach our 2nd goal of raising \$3,000 which our Ladies Auxiliary will match with a \$3,000 donation. All of us are asked to participate! As an example, you donate \$100 and another \$100 is donated by our Ladies Auxiliary! The deadline to reach our \$3,000 goal is October 31st. To date, we have collected \$447. Please respond TODAY!

MIDDLE EASTERN COMMUNITY LUNCH AND BAKE SALE Our Ladies Auxiliary is having this great event for our community, family, and friends THIS Thursday, September 12th from 11am-3pm. Tickets are available from any Auxiliary member. Everyone is asked to help out – all profits benefit our church! Cooking Schedule (start time each day is 10am): September 9th-Spinach Pies and September 11th-Cooking and Preparing Food. If you would like to make sweets for the bake sale, please contact Aida Nassar (810-584-0575). *Please bring your sweets to the church on Wednesday, September 11th or early on Thursday, September 12th.* Donations are being accepted to offset the cost of the food.

ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB We will meet tomorrow, Monday, September 9th from 6-8pm. All are invited to join! Tentatively our first meeting will be listening and discussing a podcast on **Same-Sex Attraction**. Tentatively as well we will be reading Fr. Thomas Hopko's book: **Christian Faith and Same-Sex Attraction**. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Deacon Michael at frdnmike@gmail.com.

ST. GEORGE BOOKSTORE New items purchased at the Archdiocesan Convention in Houston, TX – Postage Stamp Jewelry! Check it the Bookstore Case TODAY!

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 as normal and also on Saturday, the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross.
Monday	Book Club 6pm
Wednesday	SOYO Wednesday 7-9pm
Thursday	Middle Eastern Community Lunch and Bake Sale 11am-3pm
Saturday	Combined Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross 10am Great Vespers (sung by our Campers!) and Confessions 5pm YAF (<i>Young Adult Fellowship</i>) follows

Nativity (*Birth*) of the Theotokos – September 8th

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St. Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts. Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Sts. Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feast days at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St. Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St. Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "*the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls*" (one of the hymns from Great Vespers on "Lord, I Have Cried").

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with loving devotion.

Do you want to serve in God's Holy Altar?

Any young man 7 years of age and older is welcome to join! The experiences you will get are unbelievable and a great way to see God's miracles as close as possible!

Fr. Joe hopes you consider being a part of this exciting ministry!

**For more information, please see
Subdeacon Salim Hanna!**