

**St. George Orthodox Church**

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Flint, MI 48507-1050

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# THE VOICE

of St. George



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**December 2022**

Volume 33, Number 4

St. George Orthodox Church  
Ladies Auxiliary  
5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507 (810-732-0720)

# Holiday Bake Sale

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>



Our Auxiliary will be selling a variety of items including Arabic sweets! If you would like to donate sweets for our ladies to sell or if you have any questions, please contact chairwoman Sally Abuaita at [sally\\_iaf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sally_iaf@sbcglobal.net).

*As always, thank you for your Support!*

# *Namedays, Birthdays and Anniversaries*

*December 1 to December 31, 2022*

## **Birthdays**

### **December**

- 1** Samir S. Meshraky
- 2** Jackleen Q. David
- 4** Carol A. Haddad
- 5** Manal Abuaita  
Philip Abuaita  
Majeda Abueita
- 7** Elias Alqazaha
- 9** Nicholas A. Shahin
- 10** Atallah "Arthur" Y. Abueita
- 11** Jalal Abuaita  
Issa Abufarha  
Daniel "Danny" A. Isaac
- 12** Christina M. Alqazaha  
Laura C. Farah
- 14** Brittany J. Abdallah
- 15** Olivia E. Benson  
Gizelle Khouri
- 16** Evelyn Delbridge  
Shane M. Gantos  
Tanas Khoury  
Adam J. Odeh  
Fadi G. Odeh  
Adnan "Eddie" Yacoub
- 17** Natalia AbuAita  
Thomas "Tom" F. David  
Mariann Hayek
- 18** Sebastian S. Abdallah  
Robert A. Gagne  
Elias G. Mitri
- 19** Karen Hargreaves  
Christa N. Kardooss  
Angela D. Qazaha
- 20** Amer "Amo" E. Bathish  
Angel I. David  
Reem W. Hayek  
Lubna Jones  
Natalie M. Khoury  
Christine Kokaly  
Yara Rishmawi
- 22** Benjamin G. Benson

- 23** Leyla D. Andoni  
George E. Mitri
- 24** Matthew K. Abueita  
Jeyad W. Alsahouri  
Stacy L. Sack
- 25** Midhat Abu Aita  
Chrissy L. Abueita
- 26** Mary J. Farah  
Rodny E. Helal
- 28** Joseph "Joe" Ghattas  
Mairna Ishaq
- 29** Alexander Mikhail  
Cameron D. Smith
- 30** Romanos AbuAita  
Matthew W. Hayek
- 31** Zahra Abuaita  
Angela E. Rishmawi

- Daniel Daoud
- Daniel "Danny" Gantos
- Daniel "Danny" Allen Isaac
- Dannie E. Jones
- Danielle Mikhail
- Danial Elias Mitri
- Danny Mortensen
- Daniel Rodriguez
- Daniel Elliis Tijerina
- 22** Staci (Anastasia) Lauren Bator  
Stacy (Anastasia) Lynn Sack
- 23** Bianca Victoria Baverle
- 25** Issa Abuaita  
Issa Abufarha  
Jehad Issa Abufarha  
Issa Alqazaha  
Issa Abdallah Burbar  
Issa Y. Daoud  
Issa Ibrahim  
Issa Ishaq  
Issa Giries Odeh  
Issa Saman Odeh
- 27** Steven Walid Hayek  
Yazan (Steven) Ayman Khair  
Stephanie Nicole Silpoch
- 29** Joseph Assaf  
Joseph Jae Brack  
Ryan David Brack  
Joseph "Joe" Thomas David  
Waleed Youssef El-Chaer  
Youssef El-Chaer  
Joseph "Joe" Farah  
David John Gantos  
Alexander "Alex" Joseph Ghattas  
Joseph "Joe" Ghattas  
Joseph "Joe" Nasri Haddad  
Evan (Joseph) Walid Hayek
- 31** Cameron David Smith

## **Namedays**

### **December**

- 6** Laila Nicole Abdallah  
Nicholas Fares Abdallah  
Nicholas "Nick" Paul Abud  
Lindsey Nicole Brunner  
Nicholas Thomas David  
Rana (Nicole) May Fanous  
Landon Nicola Gantos  
Vivian Nicole Isaac  
Nicola "Nick" Khoury  
Mila Nicole Mitri  
Nick "Nick" Saseen  
Nicholas "Nick" M. Shadeed  
Taylor Nicole Tipton
- 13** Lucy AbuAita  
Rubina AbuAita  
Lucia Marian Qazaha
- 17** Daniel "Danny" James Andoni  
Julius Daniel Andoni  
Leyla Danielle Andoni  
Zayna Danielle Andoni

*God Grant You All Many Years!*

# Wedding Anniversaries

## *December*

- 1 Mr. and Mrs. Ghassan Al-Khoury
- 4 Mr. and Mrs. Jubrael Rishmawi
- 5 Mr. and Mrs. Wael Hayek
- 23 Mr. and Mrs. Maher Qazaha  
Mr. and Mrs. Ric Shahin
- 29 Mr. and Mrs. Troy S. Farah

## **ATTENTION!**

If parishioners such as you, a family member, or friend's name does not appear in  
**THE VOICE** under *Birthdays, Anniversaries, or Namedays*, it is because we do not have your information on our church computer.

Please e-mail our  
Office Manager, Kelly, at  
[kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com) and  
your name will be added.

***God Grant You All Many Years!***

# The Nativity Fast: Why?

*By Fr. Stephen Freeman*

*November 15<sup>th</sup> marked the beginning of the Nativity Fast (40 days before Christmas).*

*The following article offers some thoughts on the purpose of fasting.*

Fasting is not very alive and well in the Christian world. Much of that world has long lost any living connection with the historical memory of Christian fasting. Without the guidance of Tradition, many modern Christians either do not fast, or constantly seek to re-invent the practice, sometimes with unintended consequences.

There are other segments of Christendom who have tiny remnants of the traditional Christian fast, but in the face of a modern world have reduced the tradition to relatively trivial acts of self-denial.

I read recently (though I cannot remember where) that the rejection of Hesychasm was the source of all heresy. In less technical terms we can say that knowing God in truth, participating in His life, union with Him through humility, prayer, love of enemy and repentance before all and for everything, is the purpose of the Christian life. Hesychasm (Greek Hesychia=Silence) is the name applied to the Orthodox tradition of ceaseless prayer and inner stillness.

But these are incorrectly understood if they are separated from knowledge of God and participation in His life, union with Him through humility, prayer, love of enemy, and repentance before all and for everything. And it is the same path of inner knowledge of God (with all its components) that is the proper context of fasting. If we fast but do not forgive our enemies – our fasting is of no use. If we fast and do not find it drawing us into humility – our fasting is of no use. If our fasting does not make us yet more keenly aware of the fact that we are sinful before all and responsible to all then it is of no benefit. If our fasting does not unite us with the life of God – which is meek and lowly – then it is again of no benefit.

Fasting is not dieting. Fasting is not about keeping a Christian version of kosher. Fasting is about hunger and humility (which is increased as we allow ourselves to become weak). Fasting is about allowing our heart to break. I have seen greater good accomplished in souls through their failure in the fasting season than in the souls of those who “fasted well.” Publicans enter the kingdom of God before Pharisees pretty much every time.

Why do we fast? Perhaps the more germane question is “why do we eat?” Christ quoted Scripture to the evil one and said, “Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” We eat as though our life depended on it and it does not. We fast because our life depends on the word of God.

I worked for a couple of years as a hospice chaplain. During that time, daily sitting at the side of the beds of dying patients – I learned a little about how we die. It is a medical fact that many people become “anorexic” before death – that is – they cease to want food. Many times family and even doctors become concerned and force food on a patient who will not survive. Interestingly, it was found that patients who became anorexic had less pain than those who, having become anorexic, were forced to take food. (None of this is about the psychological anorexia that afflicts many of our youth. That is a tragedy)

It is as though at death our bodies have a wisdom we have lacked for most of our lives. It knows that what it needs is not food – but something deeper. The soul seeks and hungers for the living God. The body and its pain become a distraction. And thus in God’s mercy the distraction is reduced.

Christianity as a religion – as a theoretical system of explanations regarding heaven and hell, reward and punishment, is simply Christianity that has been distorted from its true form. Either we know the living God or we have nothing. Either we eat His flesh and drink His blood or we have no life in us. The rejection of Hesychasm is the source of all heresy.

Why do we fast? We fast so that we may live like a dying man – and in dying we can be born to eternal life.

## A *beautiful* CHRISTMAS STORY

It was only five days before Christmas. The spirit of the season hadn't yet caught up with me, even though cars packed the parking lot of our Houston area Target Shopping Center. Inside the store, it was worse. Shopping carts and last minute shoppers jammed the aisles. Why did I come today? I wondered. My feet ached almost as much as my head. My list contained names of several people who claimed they wanted nothing, but I knew their feelings would be hurt if I didn't buy them anything. Buying for someone who had everything and deploring the high cost of items, I considered gift-buying anything but fun.

Hurriedly, I filled my shopping cart with last minute items and proceeded to the long checkout lines. I picked the shortest but it looked as if it would mean at least a 20 minute wait. In front of me were two small children a boy of about 10 and a younger girl about 5. The boy wore a ragged coat. Enormously large, tattered tennis shoes jutted far out in front of his much too short jeans. He clutched several crumpled dollar bills in his grimy hands. The girl's clothing

resembled her brother's. Her head was a matted mass of curly hair. Reminders of an evening meal showed on her small face. She carried a beautiful pair of shiny, gold house slippers. As the Christmas music sounded in the store's stereo system, the girl hummed along off-key but happily. When we finally approached the checkout register, the girl carefully placed the shoes on the counter. She treated them as though they were a treasure.

The clerk rang up her bill. *"That will be \$6.09"* the clerk said, as the boy laid his crumpled dollars atop the stand while he searched his pockets finally coming up with \$3.12. *"I guess we will have to put them back,"* he bravely said. *"We will come back some other time, maybe tomorrow."* With that statement, a soft sob broke from the little girl. *"But Jesus would have loved these shoes,"* she cried. *"Well, we'll go home and work some more. Don't cry. We'll come back,"* he said.

Quickly I handed \$3.00 to the cashier. These children had waited in line for a long time. And, after all, it was Christmas. Suddenly a pair of

arms came around me and a small voice said, *"Thank you Sir."* *"What did you mean when you said Jesus would like the shoes?"* I asked. The small boy answered, *"Our mommy is sick and going to heaven. Daddy said she might go before Christmas to be with Jesus."* The girl spoke, *"My Sunday school teacher said the streets in heaven are shiny gold, just like these shoes. Won't mommy be beautiful walking on those streets to match these shoes?"* My eyes flooded as I looked into her tear streaked face. *"Yes,"* I answered, *"I am sure she will."*

Silently I thanked God for using these children to remind me of the true spirit of giving. Christmas is not about the amount of money paid, nor the amount of gifts purchased, nor trying to impress friends and relatives. Christmas is about the love in your heart to share with those as Jesus Christ has shared with each of us. Christmas is about the Birth of Jesus whom God sent to show the world how much he really loves us. Please show this love as we think of the upcoming feast.

**May God grant us to never forget why He sent His son Jesus to be born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God!**

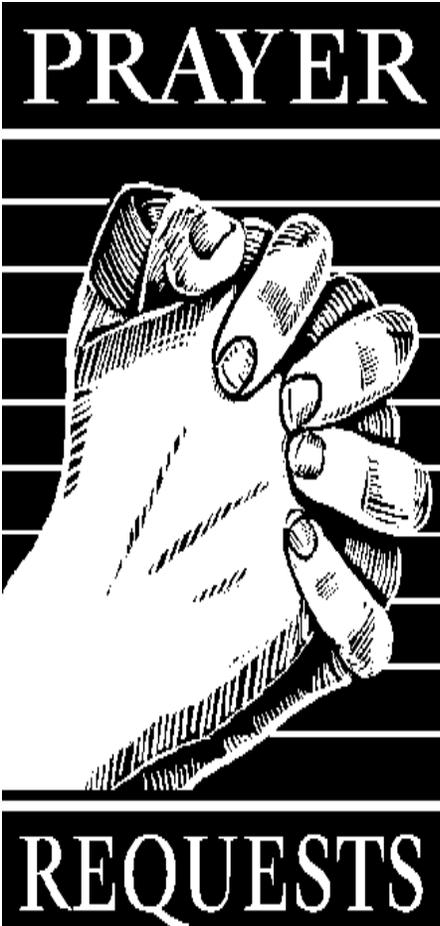
## Daily Prayer Life

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- ◆ For the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **David** Gould (October 17<sup>th</sup>, husband of former parishioner Julie [Khour]), **Chrysoula** Bastounis (+October 19<sup>th</sup>, friend of parishioners), and **Victor** David (+November 4<sup>th</sup>).

*May their memory be eternal!*

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- ◆ Remember our parishioners and those who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Metropolitan Paul** and **Archbishop John** who are in captivity, our local **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Sally** Abuaita, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Khader** AbuAita, **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Emil** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **Youssef** Abousamra, **William** Alsahouri, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Elias** Gantos, **Denise** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Dannie** Jones, **Judy** Mikhail, **Laura** Nassar, **Issa** Odeh, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **Christa** Whitehead, *all first-responders, those suffering from illness, violence, and want throughout the world, especially in our community, the Middle East, and from the war in Ukraine; the supporters and benefactors of St. George, the members of our Parish Council, Ladies Auxiliary, Teen SOYO, Altar Servers, Altar Society, Chanters, Choir, Church School, Preschool Ministry, and Ushers.*

- ◆ Remember our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khour, **Katrina** and **Gary** Gagne, and **Taylor** and **Jeffrey** Tipton.

➤ *Please update Fr. Joe on how the following are doing and whether they should remain on our prayer list!*

- ◆ Remember the family and friends of St. George parishioners: **Nabil** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Walid** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Debbie Salim), **Nihad** Bannura (cousin of Jane Abu-Eita), **Tanika** Russell (friend of Doug Coone), **Youssef** and **Georgette** Damouni (parents of Lina Burbar and May Gantos), **Tom** Ellenburg (friend of Sally Joseph), **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Abdulnour** Hanna (brother of the Hanna, Elias, Joubran families), **Philip** Jones (brother of Dannie Jones), **Larry** Judson (friend of Tim Beers), **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Scott** Lints (friend of Mary Jo Ghattas), **Saliba** Musleh (father of Julianna Abuaita), **Ibtisam** Odeh (cousin of Elham Ishak), **Eva** Saseen (daughter of Nicholas), **Kinan** Turjman (nephew of Sahar Abdallah), **Dominique** Vasquez (friend of Areen Bathish), **Shirley** Zerka (mother of Victoria), **Fr. Dennis** Heifner, **Mother Nektaria**, **Angelo** Bastounis, **Cynthia** Brooks, **Heather** Campbell, **Georgianna** (Gigi) Daugherty, **Despina** (Diana) Petropoulos, **Nancy** Maes, and **Bryan** Stewart (family/friends of Fr. Mike and Kh. Pam Bassett), **Maha** Qassis and **Nadia** Ibrahim (sister/mother of Ziyad), **Shafeka** Qurpan and **George** Ishak (mother/nephew of Amira Hanna), **Elias** Ibrahim and **Taghrid** (uncle/friend of Rula Alkazaha), **Mary** Khal and **Hanna** Abu-Nimer (relatives of Karam and Aida Nassar), **Gloria** Nakfoor (sister of Elaine Shaheen), **Jennifer** Craft and **Brionna** Gorbutt (friends of Mariann Hayek), **Valland** Frangi (sister of Ron Haddad), **Megan** Meade and **Casey** Webb (relatives of Bob Teunion), and **Norman** Thomas (friend of Steve and Kelly Sanderson).

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## ***Congratulations and God bless:***

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- ❖ During the annual **Arab-American Heritage Council (AAHC) *Ensure the Legacy Banquet*** two *College Scholarships* were announced and one of them was given to **Kirolous Meshraky** (son of Samir and Nashwa)! Also, former parishioner **Andrea Sahouri** (daughter of Dr. Saed and Mona) was honored with the *Arab-America of the Year award*.
- ❖ **Sally Joseph** who was recently honored by *Mott Community College* for her many years of service and time on their *Board of Trustees*.
- ❖ **Nadim Burbar** and **Stephanie Deeck** who were recently engaged to be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- ❖ **Dr. Raouf Mikhail, Jeanette Nassif, and Ric Shahin** who were elected to 3-year terms on the Parish Council at our annual Parish General Assembly in November.
  - ❖ A HUGH thank you to **Anwar Abueita** and **Fadi Rishmawi** who complete 6 years of service and ministry on our Parish Council this year.

- ❖ **Mike, Waad,** and newborn **Jouri Abdallah** (November 8<sup>th</sup>).



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## ***Announcements***

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**FASTING DISCIPLINE FOR DECEMBER** On Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, we began the traditional forty-day **Nativity Fast** (also called the *Christmas* or *Advent Fast*) in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25<sup>th</sup>. The Fast is divided into two periods. The first period is until December 19<sup>th</sup> when the traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products*) is observed on all days except Tuesdays and Thursdays when *wine and oil* are allowed and Saturdays and Sundays when *fish, wine, and oil* are allowed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> period is from December 20<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>, when the traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products*) is observed except on Saturday and Sunday when *wine and oil* are permitted. There is no fasting from the Nativity, December 25<sup>th</sup> until January 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Nativity (Christmas) Program**

~ *Saturday Evening, December 17<sup>th</sup>* ~

- ▶▶ Great Vespers at 4pm (note time change!)
- ▶▶ Nativity Program by our Church School staff and students.
  - ▶▶ A Special Visitor our kids will love!

**ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED!**



## WANT TO BE AN ANGEL?

Our parish is again participating in the **North End Soup Kitchen Angel Tree**. Thirty (30) children are looking for “angels” to brighten their Christmas. Gift range is between \$30 and \$50. Gift cards are OK for children 15-17 years old. Several items may be requested, but you only need to pick one or more of these items. Attach the provided gift tag that has the child’s name to the gift, and place in gift bags. All gifts must be returned by December 4<sup>th</sup>! The *Angel Tree* with tags can be picked up after Divine Liturgy in the Banquet Center or by contacting May Gantos (810-869-4012). You can make an online donation or send it directly to the church with the memo *Angel Tree* so our coordinators can purchase gifts. If you have any questions, speak with our coordinators May, Gabby, or Lauren Gantos. Again, thank you, and God bless your generosity!

### Divine Services for the Nativity Fast and Christmas Eve

- ▶ Wednesdays (December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>) in December **Nativity Fast Evening Service** – 6pm
- ▶ Sunday before the Nativity, December 18<sup>th</sup>:
  - Matins** – 8:50am      **Divine Liturgy** – 10am
- ▶ Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> – **Royal Hours of the Nativity** – 6pm
- ▶ Nativity Services, Saturday evening, December 24<sup>th</sup>:
  - Nativity Festal Matins** – 4:50pm      **Nativity Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great** – 6pm
- ▶ Christmas Day begins the **Twelve Days of Christmas** (no fasting) until January 5<sup>th</sup>!

**NATIVITY SERVICES** Since there are a huge diversity of family commitments, customs, and social obligations, if you cannot attend our celebration of the Nativity of our Lord on Christmas Eve, Assumption, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Nicholas will be celebrating Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>:

**Assumption** (10am) 2245 East Baldwin Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48439

**St. Mary Magdalene** (10am) 2439 South Long Lake Road, Fenton, MI 48430

**St. Nicholas** (10am) 2143 Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

**ST. GEORGE BOOKSTORE** Do some Christmas shopping in our Bookstore! We have many items that make excellent gifts: The Orthodox Study Bible, Icons, CD’s, jewelry, gift certificates, etc.!

**ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER** (“Santa Claus”) **OF MYRA IN LYCIA**, is the Paternal Feast Day of our sister parish St. Nicholas. On Monday evening, December 5<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate with our brothers and sisters an **Evening Divine Liturgy** at 6pm. All are invited!

**St. Nicholas** 2143 South Center Road in Burton (½ mile south of Lippincott)

**ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS** If any of our local members of the Order of St. Ignatius would like to usher, be greeters, and/or read the Epistle on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, please let Fr. Joe know. Fr. Joe will provide you with the Epistle reading in Arabic and/or English.

**ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** All Women of St. George are invited to attend this Christmas Lunch Party at the Redwood Steakhouse (5304 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507 off Hill Road and US 23) on Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. The cost and more information will be available soon. To reserve your spot or for more information, please contact co-chairs Areen Bathish (810-691-0722) or Janet Abueita (810-691-0956).

**WINTER CAMP** This takes place at the Antiochian Village for teens in grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> February 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms for campers and staff are available online at <https://avcamp.org/programs/winter-camp/>. \*\*\*\*A great idea is to surprise your teen or Godchild with a Winter Camp Gift Certificate for Christmas (Information is provided with the registration forms.)!!!

**PLAYGROUND IN COURTYARD** PARENTS: This can only be used by children younger than 12 years old **AND MUST** be supervised by their PARENTS. PLEASE REMEMBER, children cannot be in the courtyard by themselves ~ it is too dangerous and we do not want any accidents!

# What is the "X" in Xmas?

## The first letter of the Greek word for *Christ*!

### OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS

Though you might not come to church, our stewardship, offerings, and donations are still very badly needed. PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorge-flint.org/>) and donate on-line (use the QR code to the right) or you can bring or mail your offerings to St. George, 5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity and love of our St. George!



### 2022 PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUMMARY

Our annual **General Assembly** was held on November 13<sup>th</sup>. We had a quorum, thank God, of 59 Voting Members and decided the following:

- Our proposed *2023 Budget* of \$289,048 was unanimously approved!
- *Dr. Raouf Mikhail, Jeanette Nassif, and Ric Shahin* were unanimously elected for 3-year terms on our Parish Council!

Thank you all for attending and please pray for God to guide and direct our Parish Council to do His will for the glory of His Name!

## **Coming Events in January**

- 6<sup>th</sup> **Theophany of our Lord at His Baptism**
- 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> **Special Archdiocesan Convention** to Nominate a new Metropolitan
- Dormition Monastery Fundraising Evening** *more information to follow!*

## *Christmas Decorations*

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I would like to donate for Christmas

**Poinsettia** plants @ \$25.00 each.

Number of Poinsettias = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

At the Prothesis service where the bread and wine is prepared to offer at the Christmas Liturgy (which becomes the

Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion), Father Joe or Father Michael will remember the 'Living' and 'Departed' members of our family and friends.

*Please print clearly!*

For the health of:

\_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline:** Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

Make checks payable to: *St. George* with the memo: *Decorations*

Please include this form and your donation in a **Pew Envelope** and place it in the Sunday Offering Tray – Thank You!

# Stewardship

*Fr. Anthony Yazge, pastor of St. George-Indianapolis, IN*

*Published in his weekly parishioner e-memo on November 11, 2022*

Beloved in Christ:

Dictionary.com defines "stewardship" as "1. the position and duties of a steward, a person who acts as the surrogate of another or others, especially by managing property, financial affairs, an estate, etc. and 2. the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving." From the very beginning, man was called to be a steward of creation (Genesis 2:15). Imagine that! God had so much love and confidence in humanity that he placed us as stewards of His creation. We are called to act as a stand-in for God managing the planet and all that is part of it.

While the world debates whether we have done this well or not and how we should be taking care of the planet moving forward, I would suggest at least for today that we focus a little closer to home on our stewardship. **God has blessed us with so much!** One of those great blessings is to be stewards of the faith and in particular this parish of St George. This means we bear responsibility for the well-being of the parish and one another. Is not our parish family worth our care and concern - not for the sake of preserving it, but so that we might thrive and find our way to the Kingdom. This happens by all of us being regular communicants and participants in the liturgical life (Divine Services) of the Church. We do not do this because it is an obligation or even a commitment we have made, but rather because we know this is the path to salvation. Through the sacramental life, we receive God's grace. Let us ask ourselves do I want to be saved? Do I want our children to know God and live in His eternal presence? I would hope and pray that we would all say yes to these questions.

So, what does our "Yes!" look like? In addition to our faithful attendance in services, it could be many of us stepping up in our participation in the ministry of the Church and our parish. It might manifest itself in us volunteering as needs arise, not only in the parish but also in the greater communities that we live. It would be rooted in our prayer for us as the parish family of St George and in us individually seeking God's will in all things. In material form, it is our free and willing giving to support the ministry of the Church. The majority of us already do these things. Well done!

The next question is, "*What more can I do?*" No one can answer that for us. We have to examine that question in a very personal and intimate way so that we may discern what else does God want from me. Keep in mind that God needs nothing from us, but instead that it is what God wants for us. Jesus taught us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48). In this perfection of being God's stand-in, we will not only find our way to eternal life with God, but we will witness to others of God's true love - His creation caring for each other and realizing that we are the center or high point of that creation. The choice is for each of us to make. God trusts us; let us trust Him by being his good and faithful stewards.

# TO TITHE IS TO LOVE!

The Bible says a “tithe” is giving 10% of our income to God through His Holy Church. In the Old Testament, the tithe was the maximum.

For Christians (yes, US!),  
the tithe is the minimum!

*“Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

2 Corinthians 9:7

ALL of our **240 families** are asked to make an Offering. Why? Because it is such a blessing to give back to God a little of what He has given us!

- Our 2023 Budget is \$289,048
- To meet our budget, our weekly offerings need to average: \$5,559
- Number of Families who need to offer: ALL THOSE WHO BELONG TO OUR ST. GEORGE FAMILY!
- Offering Range: according to how God has blessed you!



Your commitment is NEEDED!

Please fill out your 2023 Offering Form -- as soon as possible.

THANK YOU!!!

## 2023 Offering Form

St. George Orthodox Church ~ Flint, Michigan

### I Want To Be Counted!

Frequency	Amount	A % of Income
Weekly	\$	
OR Twice Monthly	\$	
OR Monthly	\$	
OR Quarterly	\$	
OR Annually	\$	

~ Offerings Are Treated confidentially ~ Please fill out completely.

Name(s)	
Address	
City	
ZIP	
Telephone	

### Offerings can be made in different ways.

- Put your offering in the **Sunday Tray** or **send it to St. George.**
- Online at <https://app.easytithes.com/app/giving/saintgeorgeflint>.
- Call the office (810-732-0720) and use a **Credit Card.**
- An **ACH** direct-payment transaction from your bank account.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse" (Malachi 3:10)*

Seeing the rich bringing their gifts and then a widow bringing a few pennies, Jesus said, *"Truly I say to you that this widow has put in more than all."* (Luke 21:3)

## 2023 بطاقة التبرعات لعام

كنيسة القديس جورج للروم الاورثوذكس فلانت، متشغن

### أريد أن أكون معدودا !

% من قيمة الدخل	المبلغ	الدفعات
	\$	اسبوعيا
	\$	مرتين بالشهر
	\$	شهريا
	\$	كل ثلاثة شهور
	\$	سنويا

كل التبرعات يتم التعامل معها بسرية تامة ~ الرجاء تعبئة كل البطاقة.

الاسم / الأسماء	
العنوان	
المدينة	
الرقم	
رقم الهاتف	

### يمكن تقديم التبرعات بعدة طرق مختلفة.

- يمكن وضع التبرعات في صينية التبرعات يوم الأحد أو ارسالها الى عنوان الكنيسة.
- عن طريق الانترنت <https://app.easytithes.com/app/giving/saintgeorgeflint>
- عن طريق الاتصال على رقم تلفون مكتب الكنيسة (810)732-0720 واستخدام بطاقة الائتمان ( كريديت كارت).
- أو عن طريق الدفع أو التحويل المباشر من حسابك المصرفي-ACH.

الامضاء \_\_\_\_\_ التاريخ \_\_\_\_\_

هاتوا العشور جميعها الى بيت الجزية ( ملاخي 10:3)

عندما رأى الأغنياء يتقدمون بتبرعاتهم والأرملة الفقيرة تقدم القليل قال يسوع: *"الحق أقول لكم أن هذه الأرملة الفقيرة قد ألت أكثر منهم جميعا"* ( لوقا 3:21)

# December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<p><b>*St. Nicholas Orthodox Church</b> 2143 South Center Road (1/2 mile south of Lippincott) Burton 810-744-0070</p>			1	2	3 Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
4 Great Martyr Barbara of Syria Venerable John of Damascus Ladies Auxiliary after Church School	5 NO Bible Study Evening Liturgy for St. Nicholas at *St. Nicholas 6pm	6 Nicholas the Wonder-Worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia Altar Society Nativity Decorating 5:30pm	7 Arabic Bible Study 12pm-2pm Nativity Fast Prayer Service 6pm	8	9	10 Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
11 Holy Forefathers of Christ Abigail, the wife of King David	12 Spyridon the Wonder-Worker Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm SOYO Monday 6-8pm	13 Virgin Martyr Lucia of Syracuse Men's Fellowship 6pm	14 Arabic Bible Study 12pm-2pm Nativity Fast Prayer Service 6pm	15 Parish Council 6:15pm	16	17 Prophet Daniel Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm Parish Nativity Program
18 Holy Fathers of Christ Genealogy (Family Tree) of Christ	19 Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm SOYO Monday 6-8pm	20	21 Arabic Bible Study 12pm-2pm	22 Great Martyr Anastasia	23 Royal Hours for the Nativity 6pm	24 Nativity Matins 4:50pm Nativity Liturgy 6pm
25 Christ is Born! Glorify Him! المسيح وُلِدَ! فمجدوه!	26 St. George Ladies' Christmas Dinner at Redwood Steakhouse 5:30pm	27 Proto-Martyr Stephen the Archdeacon	28	29 14,000 infants slain by Herod in Bethlehem Commemoration of all Orthodox Christians who have died from hunger, thirst, the sword, and freezing	30	31 Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

2022

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## St. George Orthodox Church

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

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

V. Rev. Fr. Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Rev. Fr. Michael Bassett, Attached

### Divine Services for the Lord's Day

- Saturday

*Great Vespers* 5:00 PM

\* Confessions may also take place by appointment with Father Joe or Father Michael during the week.

- Sunday

*Sacrament of Repentance* {Confession\*} 8:30 AM—9:30 AM

*Matins* {Arabic & English} 8:50 AM

*Divine Liturgy* 10:00 AM

*Church School:* Classes are in session following Holy Communion from September to May

### Major Feast Days (see Calendar)

**2022-23 Theme** for  
Church School, Bible  
Bowl, Creative Festivals,  
our Parish Life  
Conference, and  
Archdiocesan Convention



### Parish Ministries

**PARISH COUNCIL** • Fadi Rishmawi, Chairman 810-625-5790 or [fadi19@msn.com](mailto:fadi19@msn.com)

Parishioners may attend meetings and speak during "Parishioner Comments".

**ALTAR SERVERS** • Subdeacon George Gantous, Head Sacristan 810-714-7332 / [gantousgeorge@yahoo.com](mailto:gantousgeorge@yahoo.com)

**ALTAR SOCIETY** • Theresa Farah, Coordinator 810-919-1454 / [theyungwon@aol.com](mailto:theyungwon@aol.com)

**CHOIR** • Elias Abueita, Director 810-620-4897 / [eliasabuaita.124@gmail.com](mailto:eliasabuaita.124@gmail.com)

**CHURCH SCHOOL** • Janet Abueita, Director 810-691-0956 / [cooeita@aol.com](mailto:cooeita@aol.com)

**LADIES AUXILIARY** • Hiam Bathish, President 810-238-2152 / [emilbathish4@gmail.com](mailto:emilbathish4@gmail.com)

**TEEN SOYO** • Lana Abu-Aita, President 810-221-6729 / [lanaabuaita12@yahoo.com](mailto:lanaabuaita12@yahoo.com)

**USHERS** • Coordinators Areen Bathish 810-394-2918 / [abathish52@gmail.com](mailto:abathish52@gmail.com) and Jimmy David 810-835-9737

### Office Manager

Kelly Dotson ([kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com)) / office 810-732-0720

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