

St. George Orthodox Church

5191 Lennon Road
Flint, MI 48507-1050

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #251
Flint, MI

Address Service Requested

A Church of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

THE VOICE

of St. George



Published Monthly with Special Editions by St. George Orthodox Church -- Flint, MI

December 2023

Volume 34, Numbers 4

Christmas Decorations



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 18th

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!

THE SAINT WHO WAS SANTA CLAUS

V. Rev. Vladimir Berzonsky

Dominating our Christmas, rather “holiday” season, (we do not want to be offensive to our non-Christian and non-believing friends) , is the Santa Claus legend. The Santa figure and the gift giving displays find their source not in Jesus Christ as much as in the story by Clement Moore, “The Night Before Christmas.” which is itself a distorted derivative of the actual life of the great Orthodox Bishop Nicholas who lived in the small coastal town of Myra in what is today Turkey.

In the Moore poem, a modern family is invaded by a well-meaning old man who leaves gifts nobody seems to have asked for or even want. This is the first distortion of the real situation. May we all live our lives and lack nothing! Yet if we can penetrate the stories told of the actual fourth century bishop, under the layers of legend that cover St. Nicholas throughout the centuries, we find one feature common to each tale, no matter how distorted: Bishop Nicholas always aids those in dire need. Despite the myths surrounding the event, the extreme circumstances of those in the tales of St. Nicholas are much more like the life we know than the family in the Moore story.



**Feast Day of St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia
December 6th**

We cannot imagine a “right jolly old elf” who has no contact with our lives, who we neither call upon nor need, yet who brings us gifts we could well do without. What purpose does it serve to perpetuate this story in the fantasies of our children?

We can, however, conceive of one who lived among his people, praying with them weekly and for them daily, knowing their lives as well as they. Could he have prayed for them without wanting to come to their aid? Would he not have done whatever was possible, going to any conceivable length to protect or to help those whom he loved? Not only did he “know if they’d been bad or good,” because they would have confided in him as bishop, confessor and guide. It was no mystery that he would have known what they lacked, and he did whatever he could to obtain it.

After the age of the Lord’s first apostles, who went about the known world preaching of the messiah they had lived with for three years, Jesus of Nazareth; and after the death of even those who could say they had spoken with one of the original apostles, a deep spiritual need was felt throughout the Christian church.

It was not enough to speak of Christ; only for a while could all the baptized Christians be satisfied with the promise of His second coming. Those who called themselves followers of Christ had to show by their living example what it meant to walk in the footsteps of the Savior. How are we to be like Christ in the world? Just what is expected of us here, now, in our world?

This is what Bishop Nicholas is to us; the one who showed how to believe in Christ and yet be in the world of our times. He taught by example the way one follows Christ. This is what is meant by calling those like him “saints.”

We will celebrate this Holy Saint at our sister parish!

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

2143 South Center Road

(Just north of Meijer between Atherton and Lippincott)

810-744-0700

Tuesday, December 5th at 6pm

Combined, Pan-Orthodox *Evening Vesperal Divine Liturgy*

The Nativity Fast: Why?

By Fr. Stephen Freeman

November 15th 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.

December

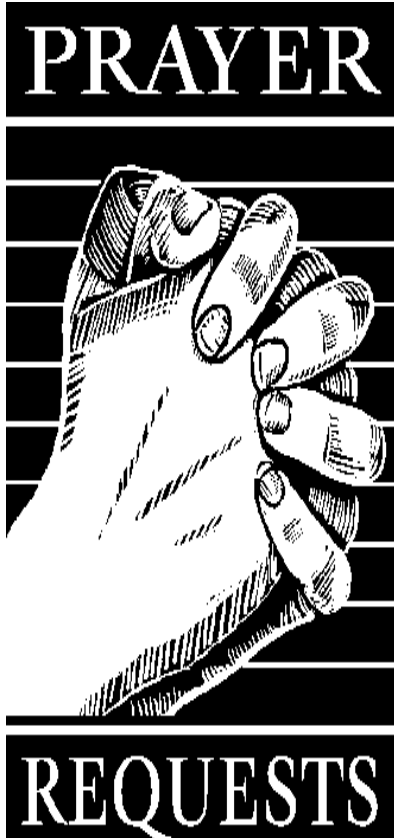
Sunday <i>we remember the Resurrection</i>	Monday <i>we remember the Holy Angels</i>	Tuesday <i>we remember the John the Baptist</i>	Wednesday <i>we remember the Life-Giving Cross</i>	Thursday <i>we remember the Apostles & Nicholas of Myra</i>	Friday <i>we remember the Life-Giving Cross</i>	Saturday <i>we remember the Martyrs & Monastics</i>
					1	2 Great Vespers and Confessions 4pm
3 Prophet Zephaniah	4 Great Martyr Barbara of Syria and Venerable John of Damascus Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm	5 Evening Divine Liturgy at *St. Nicholas for St. Nicholas 6pm	6 Nativity Fast Service 6pm	7 Altar Society Decorating 5:30pm	8	9 Conception of the Virgin Mary by Righteous Anna Great Vespers and Confessions 4pm
10 Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugephos of Alexandria	11 Michigan Clergy Deanery Meeting in Troy 11am NO Bible Study	12 Spyridon the wonder-worker and Bishop of Trimythous	13 Nativity Fast Service 6pm	14 Parish Council 6:15pm	15	16 Great Vespers and Confessions 4pm Pre-Christmas Parish Concert follows
17 2nd Sunday before the Nativity Holy Forefathers of Christ and the Prophet Daniel	18 Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm	19	20 Nativity Fast Service 6pm	21	22 Great Martyr Anastasia Royal Hours for Christmas 6pm	23 Great Vespers and Confessions 4pm
24 1st Sunday before the Nativity Holy Fathers of Christ Xmas Matins 4:50pm Xmas Liturgy 6pm	25 Christ is Born! Glorify Him! المسيح وُلِد! فمجدوه!	26	27 Protomartyr (the 1st) Stephen the Archdeacon Women of St. George Xmas Dinner Party 4pm (see VOICE to RSVP)	28	29 14,000 Infants slain by Herod in Bethlehem	30 Great Vespers and Confessions 4pm
31 Joseph the Betrothed, Prophet & King David, and James the brother of the Lord						

2023

Daily Prayer Life

- ◆ For the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Kh. Loretta** Karpelenia (+November 6th, mother of Denise Ghattas) and **Sue** Brady-Dingo (+November 21st, aunt of Jason Dine).

May their memory be eternal!



- ◆ REMEMBER OUR PARISHIONERS AND THOSE WHO ARE ILL, RECOVERING, OR IN NEED, ESPECIALLY HIS SERVANTS: **Archbishop Alexander** (bishop of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Nicholas), our **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad** Abuaita, **Philip** and **Janett** Abuaita, **Rasha** Abuaita, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **George** Abueita, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Mary** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **William** Alsahouri, **Naila** Banna, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Samer** Ishaq, **John** Joseph, **Karen** Mortensen, **Karam** Nassar, **Laura** Nassar, **Jeanette** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; **Jason** Dine who is under instruction/catechism to become Orthodox; *all first-responders and those suffering from illness, violence, and want throughout the world and in our community, the Holy Land, the Middle East, and 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, St. George Preschool Ministry, and Ushers.*

- ◆ REMEMBER OUR EXPECTANT PARENTS: **Ambur** (daughter of Joseph Haddad) and **Matt** Allison, **Gabriella** (daughter of Joseph & Mary Jo Ghattas) and **David** Ayyash, Drs. **Lindsey** and **Ryan** Brunner, **Casandra** and **Danial** Burbar, **Amira** and **Abdulla** Farah, **Andrea** and **Josh** Jones, **Christine** (daughter of Ayman & Wafaa Elias) and Dr. **Matthew** Krinock, **Kari** (daughter of John & Theresa Farah) and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis, **Vera** and **Luay** Sababa, & **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar & Janet Abueita) and **John** Timm.

➤ *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:

Kristo (friend of Anwar Abueita), **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Shafiq**a Abuleil (mother of Vicky Nassar), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch), **Kameel** Srouji (son-in-law of Hiam Bathish), **Nihad** Bannura (cousin of Jane Abu-Eita), **Georgia** Coone, **Tanika** Russell, **Dennis**, and **Sue** (mother/friends of Doug Coone), **Youssef** and **Georgette** Damouni (parents of Lina Burbar and May Gantos), **Tom** Ellenburg (friend of Sally Joseph), **Abdulnour** Hanna (brother of the Hanna, Elias, Joubran families), **Philip** Jones (brother-in-law of Lubna Jones), **Larry** Judson (friend of Tim Beers), **Nejma** Khair (mother of Esperanza Abuaita), **Scott** Lints (friend of Mary Jo Ghattas), **Scott** Allen, **Antonia** Molina, **Reuben** Reyes, and **Dominique** Vasquez (friends of Areen Bathish), **Saliba** Musleh (father of Julianna Abuaita), **Ibtisam** Odeh (cousin of Elham Ishak), **Eva** Saseen (niece of Jeanette Nassif), **Abdallah** Abdallah (father of Fares Abdallah), **Kinan** Turjman (nephew of Sahar Abdallah), **Shirley** Zerka (mother of Victoria), **Dn. Hallvard**, **Cynthia** Brooks, **Cindy** Campbell, **Joseph** Collins, **Nancy** Maes, and **Jeremy** and **Christa** Whitehead (family/friends of Fr. Michael 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** Gorburt (friends of Mariann Hayek), **Valland** Frangi (sister of Ron Haddad), **Megan** Meade, **Danielle** Teunion-Smith, **Laura** Teunion-Smith, and **Casey** Webb (relatives of Bob Teunion), **Mother Macrina**, **Gary** Stewart, **Barb** Maness, **Matthew** Agle, and **Norman** Thomas (father/friends of Steve and Kelly Sanderson), and **Richard** Ramsdell (father of Jodie [Paul] Bathish).

Congratulations and God bless:

- ❖ **Subdeacon Salim, Dania, and newborn Elias Hanna** (October 28th)



Announcements

FASTING DISCIPLINE FOR DECEMBER On Wednesday, November 15th, we began the traditional forty-day **Nativity Fast** (also called the *Christmas or Advent Fast*) in preparation for the **Nativity of Christ** on December 25th. The Fast is divided into two periods. The first period is until December 19th 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 2nd period is from December 20th through 24th, 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 our Lord's Nativity, December 25th until January 4th.

ST. GEORGE DISCLAIMER: All children must be supervised by a responsible adult while attending any function on the property of St. George Orthodox Church. St. George Orthodox Church will not be liable for any damage or injury to property or person resulting from unsupervised minors.

إخلاء مسؤولية عند استئجار الصالة: يجب أن يكون جميع الأطفال برفقة شخص بالغ ومسؤول أثناء تواجدهم في أي مناسبة داخل أو خارج اي من ممتلكات كنيسة القديس جورج الأرثوذكسية. لن تكون الكنيسة مسؤولة عن فقدان اغراض خاصة أو إصابة اشخاص ناتجة عن تقصير من قبل هؤلاء المسؤولين عن مراقبة الاطفال.

NEW BANQUET CENTER RENTAL RATES Our renovated Center is beautiful and the rentals are pouring in ~ thank God in all things! For your information, our regular Friday and Saturday full day rates are as follows: Non-Parishioners \$3,500. Parishioners (who regularly offer to St. George) \$2,000. If people belong to St. George but do not offer annually, they are considered, only for renting our Center, as non-parishioners. NOTHING is to be hung from the walls and ceilings. If available, there is an additional cost to decorate the day before. The rules for renting are the same for everyone.

HOLY SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION) If you are 8 years or older, have been away from the Church, or have not had Confession in the last 2 months and desire to come back and receive Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ, please remember you must offer a confession of your sins first. During this time of preparation during the **Christmas ~ the Nativity of our Lord Great Fast** is a perfect opportunity. Confessions are heard after Saturday Great Vespers, between 8:30-9:30am on Sunday, and by appointment. Because it is so important and for your convenience, Fr. Joe and Fr. Michael will hear confessions after Coffee Fellowship Sunday, December 17th. Fr. Joe and Fr. Michael are not the only Orthodox priests in the area, and if you would prefer to go for confession to one of the other local priests, feel free to do so (please just let Fr. Joe know): Fr. Peter Bistorides from Assumption Church (810-771-4611), Fr. Gabriel Bilas from St. Mary Magdalene (810-750-1401) or Fr. Matthew Butrie from St. Nicholas Church (810-744-0070). **Let everyone in our St. George Family prepare and partake of our Lord in Holy Communion on His Nativity!** The important thing is not who hears your confession, but that you participate in this Holy Sacrament on a regular basis. **Blessed are those who wash their (baptismal) robes, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life (which is Jesus Christ).** (Revelation 22:14)

Nativity (Christmas) Program

~ Saturday Evening, December 16th ~

- ▶▶ Great Vespers at 4pm
 - ▶▶ Nativity Concert!
 - ▶▶ A Special Visitor our kids will love!
- ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED!**

Divine Services for the Nativity Fast and Christmas Eve

- ▶▶ Wednesdays (December 6th, 13th, and 20th) **Nativity Fast Evening Service** – 6pm
- ▶▶ 2nd Sunday before the Nativity, December 17th:
 - Matins** – 8:50am **Divine Liturgy** – 10am
- ▶▶ Friday, December 22nd – **Royal Hours of the Nativity** – 6pm
- ▶▶ 1st Sunday before the Nativity, December 24th:
 - Matins** – 8:50am **Divine Liturgy** – 10am
- ▶▶ Nativity Services, Sunday evening, December 24th:
 - 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 5th!

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, Monday, December 25th:

Assumption (10am) 2245 East Baldwin Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
St. Mary Magdalene (9:40am) 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.!

Other Places: Dormition Monastery: <https://dormitionmonasterygiftshop.squarespace.com/>

ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER ("Santa Claus") **OF MYRA IN LYCIA**, is the Paternal Feast Day of our sister parish St. Nicholas. On Tuesday evening, December 5th, we will celebrate with our brothers and sisters an **Evening Vesperal 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 17th, please let Fr. Joe know. Fr. Joe will provide you with the Epistle reading in Arabic and/or English.

ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY All Women of St. George are invited to attend this Christmas Dinner Party at the Redwood Steakhouse (5304 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507 off Hill Road and US 23) on Wednesday, December 27th at 4pm. The cost is \$27 per person and must be paid in advance to reserve your spot. The deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 17th. To reserve your spot or more information, please contact our coordinators Areen Bathish (810-691-0722) or Janet Abueita (810-691-0956).

WINTER CAMP This takes place at the Antiochian Village for teens in grades 7th-12th February 16th-19th. 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.)!!!

What is the "X" in Xmas?

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

2023 PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUMMARY

Our annual **General Assembly** was held on November 12th. We had a quorum and the following was voted upon:

- Our proposed *2024 Budget* of \$394,600 was unanimously approved!
- *Subdeacon Salim Hanna* (re-elected), *Anwar Abueita*, and *Fadi Rishmawi* 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!

WANT TO BE AN ANGEL? YOU CAN!

Our parish is again participating in the **North End Soup Kitchen Angel Tree**. We have **31 children looking for "angels" to brighten their Christmas!** Gift range is between \$30 and \$40. 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 Sunday, December 3rd! You can make an online donation on our website at <https://app.easytithethe.com/app/giving/saintgeorgeflint> (under "fund", choose "Angel Tree") 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 one of our coordinators May, Gabby, or Lauren Gantos. Again, thank you, and may God always bless your generosity!

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS

Though you might not be able to come to church on a regular basis, **our stewardship, offerings, and donations are still very badly needed.** PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer! If you cannot come, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.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!



Coming Events in January

6th **Theophany (Epiphany or manifestation) of our Lord**

20th **Parish Family Night!**

➤ If you know of a parishioner who has given birth, fallen ill, or admitted to the hospital, please call the church office or let Father Joe know.

☞ If you would like to host our Coffee Fellowship in memory of a loved one, the occasion of a birthday, a wedding anniversary, or simply in thanksgiving to God, sign up on the poster in the Lounge or speak with Manal Abuaita 810-577-0028.

☞ If you would like to offer Holy Bread (*Holy Oblation or Offering*) in memory of a loved one, for the health or safety of you or a loved one, or to commemorate a special occasion, please call the church office (810-732-0720) by 12 Noon the Wednesday before.

- If the offering is in memory of a loved one, please state if you would like to have a **Memorial Service**, which takes place near the end of Divine Liturgy. It is always appropriate to have a Memorial Service on the 3rd, 9th, and 40th day of one's falling asleep along with yearly anniversaries. It may also be done on the 6th month anniversary. If you would like to bake the Holy Bread, please contact Aida Nassar 810-433-1515.

Namedays, Birthdays and Anniversaries

December 1 to December 31, 2023

Birthdays

December

- 1** Samir S. Meshraky
2 Jackleen Q. David
4 Carol A. Haddad
5 Manal J. 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
Maya Awwad
15 Olivia E. Benson
Gizelle Khouri
16 Shane M. Gantos
Tanas Houry
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 Elizabeth K. Abousamra
Natalie Y. Abousamra
Amer "Amo" E. Bathish
Angel I. David
Reem W. Hayek
Lubna E. 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 Andrew N. Abu Aita
Mark N. Abu Aita
Joseph "Joe" Ghattas
Mairna Ishaq
29 Alexander Mikhail
Cameron D. Smith
30 Romanos AbuAita
Matthew W. Hayek
31 Zahra Abuaita
Angela E. Rishmawi
- 17** Daniel "Danny" James Andoni
Julius Daniel Andoni
Leyla Danielle Andoni
Zayna Danielle Andoni
Daniel Daoud
Daniel "Danny" Gantos
Daniel "Danny" Allen Isaac
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 Saman Odeh
Issa Giries 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
Nicholas "Nick" M. Shadeed
Taylor Nicole Tipton
13 Lucy AbuAita
Rubina AbuAita
Luciana Al-Khouri
Lucia Marian Qazaha

God Grant You All Many Years!

Wedding Anniversaries

December

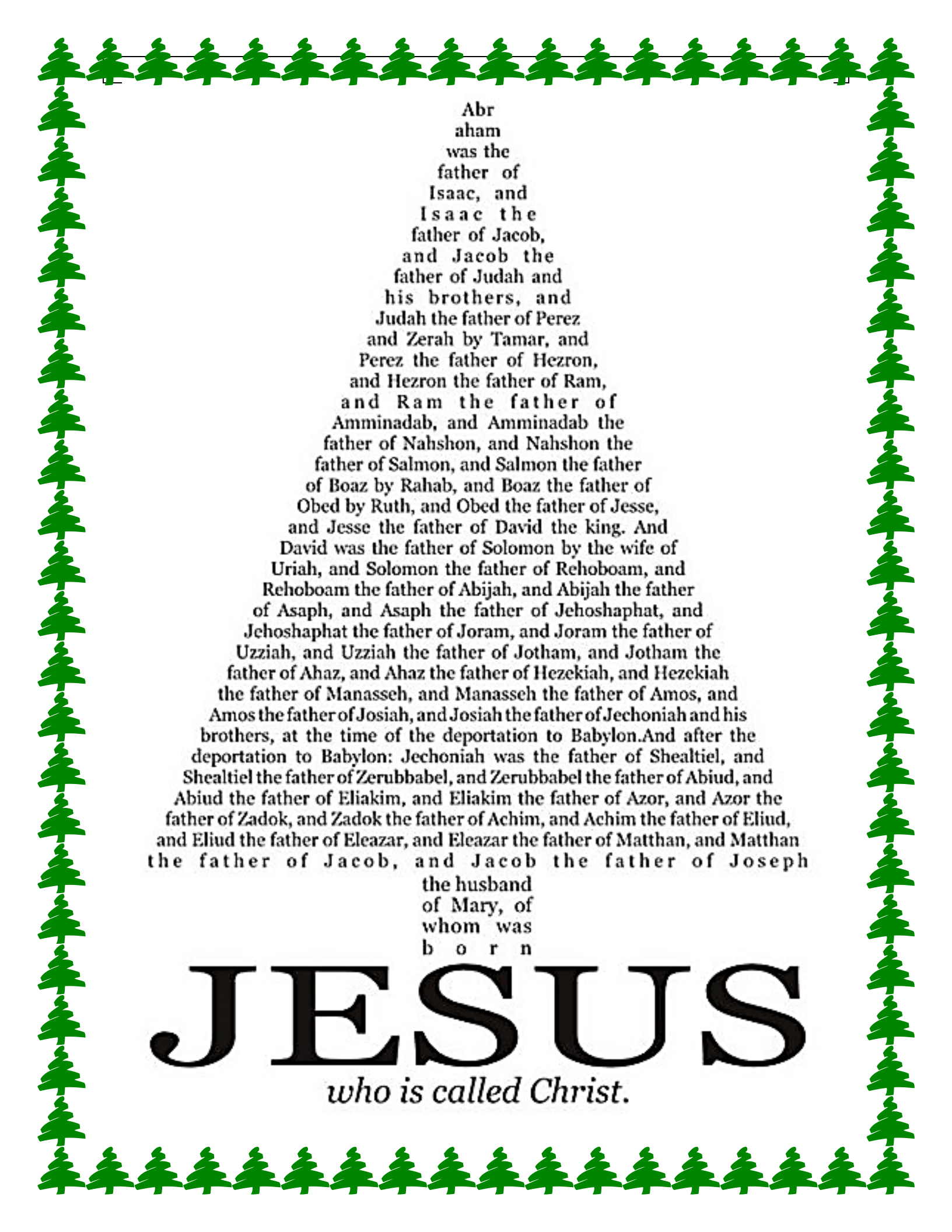
- 1 Mr. and Mrs. Ghassan Al-Khoury
- 4 Mr. and Mrs. Jubrael Rishmawi
- 5 Mr. and Mrs. Wael Hayek
- 23 Mr. and Mrs. Maher Qazaha
Mr. and Mrs. Ric Shahin
- 26 Mr. and Mrs. Sary Awwad
- 29 Mr. and Mrs. Troy S. Farah

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 and your name will be added.

God Grant You All Many Years!



Abr
aham
was the
father of
Isaac, and
Isaac the
father of Jacob,
and Jacob the
father of Judah and
his brothers, and
Judah the father of Perez
and Zerah by Tamar, and
Perez the father of Hezron,
and Hezron the father of Ram,
and Ram the father of
Amminadab, and Amminadab the
father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the
father of Salmon, and Salmon the father
of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of
Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,
and Jesse the father of David the king. And
David was the father of Solomon by the wife of
Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and
Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father
of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of
Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the
father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah
the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and
Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his
brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the
deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and
Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the
father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,
and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan
the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph
the husband
of Mary, of
whom was
b o r n

JESUS

who is called Christ.



The Twelve Days of Christmas

From the Internet

People often think of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* as the days preceding the festival. Actually, Christmas is a season of the Christian Year beginning December 25 and lasting until January 5-the day before Epiphany, our Lord's Baptism. This is when the church celebrates the revelation of Christ as the light of the world.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During that era someone wrote "*The Twelve Days of Christmas*" as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without risk of persecution. The song has two levels of interpretation -- the surface meaning and a hidden meaning known only to members of the church. Each element in the carol is a code word for a religious truth and reality! The "true love" mentioned in the song refers to God Himself and the "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person!

The partridge in a pear tree is *Jesus Christ*.

The two turtledoves are the *Old and New Testaments*.

Three French hens stand for *faith, hope and love* (1 Corinthians 13).

The four calling birds are the *four Gospels* (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

The five gold rings recall the *first five books of the Old Testament* (the Torah or Law).

The six geese a-laying stand for the *six days of creation* (Genesis 1).

Seven swans a-swimming represent the *sevenfold gifts of the Spirit*.

The eight maids a-milking are the *eight beatitudes* (Matthew 6).

Nine ladies dancing are the *nine fruits of the Spirit* (Galatians 5).

The ten lords a-leaping are the *Ten Commandments* (Exodus 20).

Eleven pipers piping stand for the *eleven faithful disciples*.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the *12 points of belief in the Creed*.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

المسيحُ وُلِدَ! فمجدوه!

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.

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

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

Rev. Fr. Michael Bassett, Assistant

Divine Services for the Lord's Day

- Saturday

Great Vespers 4:00 PM (except when noted!)

* 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)

2023-24 Theme for
Church School, Bible
Bowl, Creative Festivals,
our Parish Life
Conference, and
Archdiocesan Convention



Parish Ministries

PARISH COUNCIL • Subdeacon Salim Hanna, Chairman 810-875-3127 or salimh91@gmail.com

Parishioners may attend meetings and speak with any concerns or questions during “Parishioner Comments”.

ALTAR SERVERS • Subdeacon George Gantous, Head Sacristan 810-714-7332 / gantousgeorge@yahoo.com

ALTAR SOCIETY • Theresa Farah, Coordinator 810-919-1454 / theyungwon@aol.com

CHOIR • Elias Abueita, Director 810-620-4897 / eliasabuaita.124@gmail.com

CHURCH SCHOOL • Janet Abueita, Director 810-691-0956 / coeita@aol.com

HOLY BREAD • Aida Nassar, Coordinator 810-342-9713 / mrsaidanassar@gmail.com

LADIES AUXILIARY • Hiam Bathish, President 810-238-2152 / emilbathish4@gmail.com

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP • Tony Daoud, coordinator 810-730-1011 / tonydaoud00@gmail.com

TEEN SOYO • Cezar Abu-Aita, President 810-986-1434 / cezarabuaita@icloud.com

Teen SOYO Youth Directors: Gabrielle Gantos gkirag11@yahoo.com and Dr. Lauren Zerka laurenczerniak@gmail.com

USHERS • Coordinators Areen Bathish 810-394-2918 / abathish52@gmail.com and Jimmy David 810-835-9737

Office Manager

Kelly Dotson (kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com) / office 810-732-0720
