#### St. George Orthodox Church

5191 Lennon Road Flint, MI 48507-1050 Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit #251 Flint, MI

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A Church of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

# THE VOICE

of St. George



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January 2023

Volume 33, Number 5

### Namedays, Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### January 1 to January 31, 2023

#### Birthdays

#### January

- Abrahim Y. Abousamra Abeer Alyateem Luai Helal Ameera Rishmawi
- 2 Anthony "Tony" Y. Abueita Denise Ghattas
- 3 Joseph "Joe" Farah Yacoub N. Iseid Susan Qazaha
- 4 Jeneviav "Jennifer" A. Abuaita
- 5 Eman Abuaita Ivy Amor Khouri Karam Nassar
- 6 Essa AbuAita
- 7 Matthew Alatrash
- 8 Issa Ishaq Sandra "Sandy" K. Thomas
- 9 Julie K. Salim
- 11 Mary Khoury
- 12 Lana G. AbuaitaOlivia BurchHalim Ghazale
- 13 Khalil Abousamra Sophia Al-Khouri
- 14 Alexander "Alex" J. Ghattas
- 15 Anaam Abueita Issa S. Odeh Jamil "Jim" A. Rishmawi
- 16 Carri L. Farah
- 17 Rania AbuAita
- 18 Anwar "Andy" Y. Abueita Anthony I. Daoud
- 19 Elias S. Abuaita John A. Farah
- 20 Carla Rishmawi
- 21 Julian M. Alkazaha Qusta Hayek Michael Mortensen
- 22 Housam Abousamra Leland "Lee" M. Harris

Dannie E. Jones

- 23 Daniel "Danny" Gantos
- 24 Theodosi N. Abu Aita Jamil N. Haddad Deborah "Debbie" Salim Robert M. Teunion
- 25 Hazar G. Abu-Aita Elaine Fakhoury Rene E. Hanna Marlen F. Odeh
- **26** Natania E. Hanna Reema Khoury
- 27 Leslee A. Abud
- 29 Alexander G. Benson Nihal Fanous
- 30 Majd Abufarha
- 31 Emma M. Joseph

#### Wedding Anniversaries

#### January

10 Mr. and Mrs. George Gantous18 Mr. and Mrs. Issa Abu-Eita27 Mr. and Mrs. Issa Abufarha

#### Namedays

#### January

- 1 Basil Andoni
- 3 Jeneviav "Jennifer" Anton Abuaita Jennifer Jeaneen Farah
- 7 Jon Bassett
- 12 Tatiana Isabella Hanna
- 14 Benjamin Gary Benson Nina Thomas Smith
- Anthony Khaled Abueita Anthony "Tony" Yacoub Abueita Anthony Robert Anwar Abueita Anthony Issa Daoud Tony Fakhoury Hubert Anthony Rodriguez
- 21 Maximus Raed Abuaita
- 22 Majd Timothy Abuaita Timothy "Tim" S. Beers
- 24 Xenia Esther Hanna
- 25 Gregory "Greg" Lotof Farah

### God Grant You All Many Years!

- ~ Thursday, January 19, 2023, 5pm 9pm ~
- ~ At Assumption Greek Orthodox Church ~
  - ~ 2245 Baldwin Rd, Grand Blanc, MI ~

# 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Winter Dinner for the Holy Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery

#### **Evening Schedule**

- √ 5:00 Vespers led by the Monastic Community
- √ 6:15 Social Time, Appetizers & Monastery Gift Shop
- √ 7:00 Dinner and Program
- √ 8:30 Closing Prayer & Good Night!

#### **REGISTER / VOLUNTEER / DONATE by Sunday 1/15**

- Online at stgeorgeflint.org
- By paper: Fill out the form below, detach and give to your parish representative
- Questions: Contact your parish representative

Minimum Suggested
Dinner Donation

- \$35 / Adult
- > \$25 / Child or Student

#### **PARISH REPRESENTATIVES**

- ✓ Assumption Greek Orthodox Church.....Joanne Schultz
- ✓ St. George Church (Antiochian) .......Fr. Michael Bassett
- ✓ St. Nicholas Church(BulgarianOCA) ......Susie Ford

A Pan-Orthodox Event Sponsored by the Orthodox Churches of Genesee County

#### Detach below this line and give to your parish representative

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Fr. Michael Bassett 12-13-23

# Feast of the Holy Theophany of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

January 6<sup>th</sup> (we will celebrate the feast on the eve, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm)



#### Introduction

The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God.

#### **Biblical Story**

The Biblical story of the Baptism of Christ is recorded in all four of the Gospels: Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-9, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:31-34.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus

should baptize him. Jesus said to John, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness" (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." This was the voice of God the Father.

Christ's baptism in the Jordan was a "theophany," a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord's public ministry. It was also a "theophany" in that the world was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father's testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son.

The theme of "manifestation" or "revelation" is also expressed in Scripture with the symbolism of light. In the hymn of the Feast we sing, "Christ has appeared and enlightened the world." Thus, January 6<sup>th</sup> is also known as the Feast of Lights. The Church celebrates on this day the illumination of the world by the light of Christ.

Thank you to our 2022 Golf Classic

## Gold Sponsor

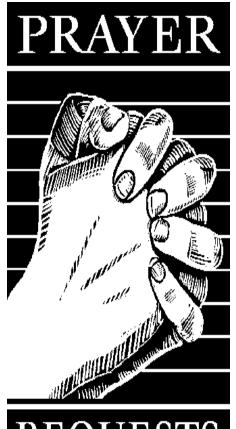
In loving memory of our fearless leader,
"Abu Said" George Farah,
as we continue our family legacy of supporting St. George.

~ The Farah Family ~

#### Daily Prayer Life

◆ For the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: Aida Raffoul (+November 24th).

May her memory be eternal!



- 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 hierach Bishop Anthony, Sahar Abdallah, Reader Fouad Abuaita, Sally Abuaita, Suheil and Abeer Abuaita, Khader AbuAita, Shafiqa Abuaitah, Laila Abud, Jane Abueita, Chelsy Abufarha, Youssif 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, Karam Nassar, Laura Nassar, Issa Odeh, Deborah Salim, Elaine Shaheen, Michael Silpoch, 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-Khouri, **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:

  Antonia Molina (friend of Areen Bathish), 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, Pastors Dave and Dawn Smith, 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), Samantha Zerka (cousin of Lauren Zerka and Goddaughter and niece of Victoria Zerka).

#### Congratulations and God bless:

- ❖ Aida Nassar who recently retired from the Goodrich School District (see article on bulletin board).
- The newly elected 2023 officers of our St. George Parish Council:

Salim Hanna, Chairman Tony Daoud, Treasurer Raed AbuAita, Vice Chairman Areen Bathish, Secretary

Special thanks to **Anwar Abueita** and **Fadi Rishmawi** who completed 6 years on our Parish Council and for their dedicated and hard-working service to our beloved St. George family.

#### Announcements

**FASTING DISCIPLINE FOR JANUARY** There is no fasting from the Nativity, December 25<sup>th</sup> until January 4<sup>th</sup>. The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil or their by-products*) is observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays, along with Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> in preparation for Theophany.

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN ANGEL TREE!** Thank you for everyone who participated and were "angels" to these children. None of this could have happened without the long hours and hard work of our coordinators,

#### May, Gabriella, and Lauren Gantos,

who did so much to make sure everything was organized and successful! May God continue to bless them and everyone for their love of God's children throughout the year.

# **Bishop Anthony's Speaker Fund**

he Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest answered the call of Bishop Anthony when he requested the establishment of a Speaker Fund. This fund enables His Grace to bring in special speakers to our Parish Life Conferences, along with retreats and workshops throughout our Diocese. His goal is "...to witness and reach out to our communities and attract new members through education at our diocesan gatherings". Gifts may be given by a group or individuals.



Honor His Grace Bishop ANTHONY on his Birthday & Name's Day of the Feast of St. Anthony the Great, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Send your donation and make checks payable to:

Midwest Antiochian Women c/o Mary Polson, Treasurer 416 South Fork Road, Glasgow, KY 4214

Contribute by January 7<sup>th</sup> and a Birthday & Name's Day greeting will be sent in your name to His Grace.

<u>THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND BLESSING OF WATER</u> This great feast takes place on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. (we will be celebrating it on Thursday evening, January 5<sup>th</sup>). If you would like to have your home and/or business blessed, please email or call the office and Fr. Joe will contact you to schedule it.

❖ Thank you to Elie Ghattas for donating the Holy Water Icon Bottles for the health of his family and in loving memory of wife Diane. On Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, they will be filled with Holy Water and in the Narthex for you to take.

**SUMMER CAMP** The Summer Camp Program at the Antiochian Village (about 1½ hours from Pittsburgh) serves young people ages 9-17 who come from parishes throughout the Archdiocese. The main goal of the camp program is to "present to young people a living experience of the Holy Orthodox Faith in their relationship with God and other campers in an uncluttered, natural environment". For more information and to register, please check out their website at: <a href="https://avcamp.org/summer-camp/">https://avcamp.org/summer-camp/</a>. We go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, July 2<sup>nd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>. If you would like more information or have any questions, please speak with our Camp Coordinator, Anaam Abueita (810-962-1033).

#### Registration opens on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am ~ DON'T WAIT, REGISTER on the 7<sup>th</sup>!!!

11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX WINTER DINNER (SEE FLIER!) This is taking place on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> here at St. George at Assumption Orthodox Church in Grand Blanc (all proceeds support the Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction, MI!). The guest speaker is Bishop Alexander (bishop of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Nicholas). The Abbess (spiritual leader) Mother Gabriella is our guest speaker. *Vespers* will be sung by the Nuns at 5pm. **Social Hour** with *Displays and Gift Shop from the Monastery*, along with *visiting with the nuns* is at 6:15pm. **Dinner and Presentations** begin at 7pm with the **Benediction** at 8:30pm. Suggested donation is \$35 for Adults and \$25 for Students. To make your reservation or any questions, please see Father Michael TODAY. Deadline for reservations is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

#### OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS

Though you might not come to church, <u>our stewardship</u>, <u>offerings</u>, <u>and donations</u> <u>are still very badly needed</u>. PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<a href="https://saintgeorge-flint.org/">https://saintgeorge-flint.org/</a>) 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!



### **MONTHLY OFFERINGS**

Our average monthly parishioner offerings (<u>not including other income</u>) needs to be \$21,385 to meet our 2022 Budget. Our offerings in November were \$9,620 ~ which means we were <u>we short \$11,765!</u> God bless you for your generosity and let us pray God will always provide! We all need to support our church! If you haven't already, please fill out your 2023 Offering Form as soon as possible and support the work of God through our parish of St. George.

### **Coming Events in February**

12<sup>th</sup> Godparent Sunday

27<sup>th</sup> Beginning of the Great Fast

## 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 <u>240 families</u> 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: <u>according to how God has</u> <u>blessed you!</u>



<u>Your</u> 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 <a href="https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/saintgeorgeflint">https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/saintgeorgeflint</a>.
- Call the office (810-732-0720) and use a Credit Card.
- An **ACH** direct-payment transaction from your bank account.

Signature:	Date:
<i></i>	

"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 التبر عات لعام كنيسة القديس جورج للروم الاورثودوكس فلنت، 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.
- https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/saintgeorgeflint عن طريق الانترنت
- عن طريق الاتصال على رقم تلفون مكتب الكنيسة 0720-732(810) واستخدام بطاقة الائتمان (كريديت كارت).
  - أو عن طريق الدفع أو التحويل المباشر من حسابك المصرفي-ACH.

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

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

## January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Basil the Great Circumcision of Christ Civil New Year	2	3 Venerable Genevieve of Paris	Royal Hours for Theophany 6pm	5 Evening Divine Liturgy for the Baptism of Christ and the Blessing of Water 6pm	6 Theophany (Epiphany, Revelation, or Manifestation) at the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
8 Venerable George the Chozebite Zalabee Sunday	Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm SOYO Monday 6-8pm	Men's Fellowship 6pm	Arabic Bible Study 12pm-2pm	Special Archdiocesan C	Convention in Dallas, TX	Nina, Equal-to-the- Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
15 Venerable Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-Dweller	Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm	17 Venerable Anthony the Great  Altar Society 6pm	Arabic Bible Study 12pm-2pm	Dormition Monastery Winter Dinner (see flier) at *Assumption 5:30pm	20	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
Apostle Timothy	Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm SOYO Monday 6-8pm	24	Gregory the Theologian Arabic Bible Study 12pm-2pm	Parish Council 6:15pm	27	Venerable Ephraim the Syrian  Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm
Translation of the Relics of Ignatios the God-Bearer of Antioch	Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm	31				
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2023

#### 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, 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** • Subdeacon Salim Hanna, Chairman 810-875-3127 or <a href="mailto:salimh91@gmail.com">salimh91@gmail.com</a> Parishioners may attend meetings and speak during "Parishioner Comments" with any concerns or questions.

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 / <u>eliasabuaita.124@gmail.com</u>

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

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

TEEN SOYO • Lana Abu-Aita, President 810-221-6729 / lanaabuaita12@yahoo.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