

St. George Orthodox Church

5191 Lennon Road
Flint, MI 48507-1050

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A Church of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

THE VOICE

of St. George



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June-July 2023
Volume 33, Numbers 10-11



THE PAN-ORTHODOX
CHURCHES OF GENESEE COUNTY
VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

Saturday, August 12
10:00am -5:00pm

FOLLOWED BY PAN-ORTHODOX
VESPERS 5:00PM

HOSTED AT
ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH
5191 LENNON RD | FLINT 48507

"REFLECTING THE LIGHT OF THE SON"

-Exploring the Transfiguration and the Dormition-

St. George Parish Picnic @

Davison Township Parks and Recreation (Lake Callis)

1152 North Gale Road, Davison, MI 48423

Admission: when driving in, tell them you are with "St. George"

Parish Picnic



Sunday, August 27th

12 Noon to 8pm

Immediately after Divine Liturgy

A free will (*voluntary*) offering
will be available.

- Food and Drinks are provided. Per park rules, no alcohol or hookah allowed.
- Splash Pad, Soccer, Volleyball, Euchre, Backgammon, and more!
- Fun and Games for the whole family and a great way to meet and have fellowship with our St. George Family!



- For more information or to help out, please contact chairman:
Subdeacon Salim Hanna (810-875-3127/ salimh91@gmail.com)



ST. PETER



ST. ANDREW



ST. JAMES



ST. JOHN

"The Acts After Acts"

with Protodeacon Michael Schlaack

Without the voice of Church History and Tradition, it is rare to hear about the works and lives of the Disciples after the conclusion of the Book of Acts. During the Apostles Fast this year, Protodeacon Michael will offer an in-person and virtual mini-series detailing the lives and martyrdoms of our Lord's Disciples as they began their ministry.



ST. PHILIP



ST. BARTHOLOMEW

Adult Education Mini Lecture Series

Wednesday, June 14 | 6:00PM est.

Wednesday, June 21 | 6:00PM est.

Tuesday, June 27 | 6:00PM est.



ST. THOMAS



ST. MATTHEW

Register today!



St. Mary Magdalene
Orthodox Church

2439 S. Long Lake Rd | Fenton, MI
810-750-1401

www.st-marymagdalene.org/adult-education
smmocafernton@gmail.com



ST. JAMES



ST. JUDE



ST. SIMON



ST. PAUL

Namedays, Birthdays and Anniversaries

June 1 to July 31, 2023

Birthdays

June

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Khader AbuAita | 18 Kristyn Hilal
Edward T. Joubran | 2 Jubrael Rishmawi |
| 2 Raed N. Abuaita | 19 Najeb Abuaita
Mejhdy J. Abu-Aitah | 3 Anna Maria M. Abdallah |
| 3 Bissan H. Abufarha | Anthony K. Abueita | 5 Tawfiq Abu Aita
Ryan T. Brunner |
| 4 Dania Hanna | Veda L. Nickola | 7 Mariah C. Elias
Amani Jarayseh |
| 5 Khaled Al-Khouri
Tia R. Al-Qassis
Monica L. Benson
Salim E. Hanna | Josiana A. Yacoub | 8 Jane Alatrash |
| 6 Emil J. Bathish | 20 Heather Nassar
Zaina D. Qumseya | 9 Liam J. Cooper |
| 8 Ola J. Alqazaha
Amany F. Rishmawi
Eyad "Eddy" G. Rishmawi | 21 Haleena E. Abueita
Max Rishmawi
Eva R. Saseen | 10 Muna F. Abuaita
Lina Burbar |
| 9 Shadine Hijazin
Mary Ibrahim
Khalil I. Isaac
Amjad "Jim" Ishak
Mila E. Rishmawi
Alana M. Smith
Camela "Cam" R. Takach | 22 Izis L. Helal | 11 Christine Abousamra
Peter J. Farah |
| 10 Nadine Khoury | 23 George Abuaita
Nermeen Abuaita
Elias E. Abueita
Dina G. Maymoun
Reese M. Salim
Nina T. Smith | 12 Joseph Al-Kahush
Boulos Fanous
Renee Mitri |
| 11 Staci L. Bator
George J. David
Saher N. Helal
Giries I. Odeh | 24 Soad Abuaita
Erika K. Iseid
Joelle L. Sababa | 13 Roger S. Saadeh |
| 12 Maximus R. Abuaita
Celena R. Al-Sahuri
Casandra W. Burbar
Rania A. Fanous
George Ishaq
Naya Mitri
Mariane F. Rishmawi | 25 Theresa "Babe" L. Farah
Mila N. Mitri
Fadi O. Rishmawi | 14 Bahira Assaf
Logan J. David
Goni Ishak
Michael J. McCann
Nawal Shamma
George A. Yacoub |
| 13 Benan "Ben" I. Burbar | 26 Youssif Abousamra
Alona Abufarha
Zade T. Al-Atrash
Samira M. Al-Sahuri
Lincoln Jones
Marc A. Smith | 15 Melissa Ibrahim
Cezar H. Khair
Omar Nassar |
| 14 Sandra R. Al-Sahuri
Roger Isaac
Taghrid "Terry" Isaac | 27 Amira N. Farah
George E. Gagne
Mia L. Hilal
Claire E. Saadeh | 16 Marcela N. Alyatim
Daniel Rodriguez |
| 15 Jihad I. Abufarha
Nicholas T. David
Ryan Mitri | 28 Mary Deligorges | 18 Cezar G. Abuaita
Danial E. Mitri |
| 16 Nasri M. Abdallah
Nadya Abdella | 29 Areen Bathish
Alex E. Joseph
Paul E. Takach
Ghada F. Yacoub | 19 Henry M. Burch
Jacqueline M. Joseph
Hannah Neurohr |
| | 30 Levi W. Cooper | 20 David J. Gantos
Zahra Hayek
Nibal I. Helal |
| | July | 21 Eline Abueita |
| | 1 Ezra D. Burbar | 22 Maroun M. Alatrash
Maya R. Jaraysa
Ronald Reed
Narmeen Shamshoum |
| | | 23 Mary Alyateem
Danial "Danny" I. Burbar |
| | | 24 Rubina AbuAita |

God Grant You All Many Years!

- 24** Karim Al-Khoury
Jacob W. Harrison
Evette A. Rishmawi
- 25** Julia A. Ishak
- 28** Sahara M. Al-Atrash
Theia L. Hilal
- 29** Zane T. Farah
- 30** Elias J. Fanous
Jordan T. Wood
- 31** Crystal A. Abdallah
Betty Froberg
Michael Hayek
Simon D. Khoury
Joseph D. Shamshoum

- Eli Rodny Elias Helal
Rodny Elias Helal
Elias Rishmawi
Alek (Elias) Roger Saadeh
Elias Skafi
- 23** Lauren (Theresa) Terese Gantos
- 24** Chrissy (Christina) Lynn Abueita
Kristina Kamelia Cooper
Ambur (Christina) Kristine Haddad
Christina Mikhail
Christina Nassar
Logan Kristina Salomon
- 26** Atallah "Arthur" Yacoub Abueita
Issa "Chris" Yacoub Abu-Eita
Inam Yacoub Bathish
Rakan Yacoub Bayouk
Liam Jakob Cooper
Laith (Yacoub) George Maymoun
- 31** Joseph "Fr. Joe" Michael Abud
Fadi Youssef El-Chaer

- 3** Mr. and Mrs. Khaled Abueita
- 4** Mr. and Mrs. Issa Ishaq
Dr. and Mrs. Saed J. Sahoury
- 6** Mr. and Mrs. George Farah Jr.
- 7** Mr. and Mrs. Raed AbuAita
- 9** Mr. and Mrs. Michael Abdallah
- 10** Mr. and Mrs. Atallah Abueita
Mr. and Mrs. Mohennad Bannoura
- 14** Mr. and Mrs. Jamal Abuaita
Mr. and Mrs. Khaled Abuaita
- 21** Mr. and Mrs. George Mitri
Mr. and Mrs. Mudaffer Rishmawi
- 23** Mr. and Mrs. Fares Abdallah
Mr. and Mrs. Fadi Rishmawi
- 24** Mr. and Mrs. George Abuaita
- 25** Mr. and Mrs. George Nassif
- 26** Mr. and Mrs. Benan Burbar
- 29** Mr. and Mrs. Suheil Abuaita
- 30** Mr. and Mrs. Elia Abu-Aita
Mr. and Mrs. Majdi Alkazaha
- 31** Mr. and Mrs. Adeeb Bathish
Mr. and Mrs. Amjad Ishak

Namedays

June

- 1** Mejhdy Juston Abu-Aitah
- 4** Joelle Grace Bayouk
Lana Grace Elia
Martha Shahin
- 9** Jessica (Rhoda) Rosette Saadeh
- 11** Abbey (Abigail) Cheyenne Lawrence
- 21** Julian Majdi Alkazaha
- 27** JoAnn M. Hawkins
- 29** Devin Boulos Bathish
Jeffrey "Jeff" Paul Farah
Peter Jacob Farah
Branden Boutros Jones
Richard "Ric" Paul Shahin

July

- 1** Angela Renee Andres
Angela Donia Qazaha
- 11** Olga Nassar
- 13** Alona Abufarha
Gabrielle David
Gabrielle (Gabriel) Kira Gantos
- 16** Julia Lamia Alatrash
Julia Amjad Ishak
Julie Kristine Salim
- 20** Elias Suheil Abuaita
Elias Emil Abueita
Ramy Abueita
Elias Jeries Fanous
Elias "Louie" Gantos
Salim Elias Hanna

Wedding Anniversaries

June

- 4** Mr. and Mrs. Maher Alatrash
Mr. and Mrs. Khalil Isaac
- 7** Mr. and Mrs. Michael Silpoch
- 8** Mr. and Mrs. Rene Hanna
- 10** Mr. and Mrs. Raed Abuaita
Mr. and Mrs. Ibrahim Shamma
- 11** Mr. and Dr. Amer Bathish
- 12** Mr. and Mrs. Elias Mitri
- 13** Mr. and Mrs. Danial Mitri
- 15** Mr. and Mrs. Nimer Iseid
- 16** Mr. and Mrs. Khader AbuAita
- 17** V. Rev. and Kh. Joseph M. Abud
- 18** Mr. and Mrs. Issa Abuaita
- 19** Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ghattas
- 21** Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Thomas
- 24** Mr. and Mrs. George David
- 26** Mr. and Mrs. Nasri Abdallah
Mr. and Mrs. George AbuAita
- 27** Mr. and Mrs. Iyad Isaac

July

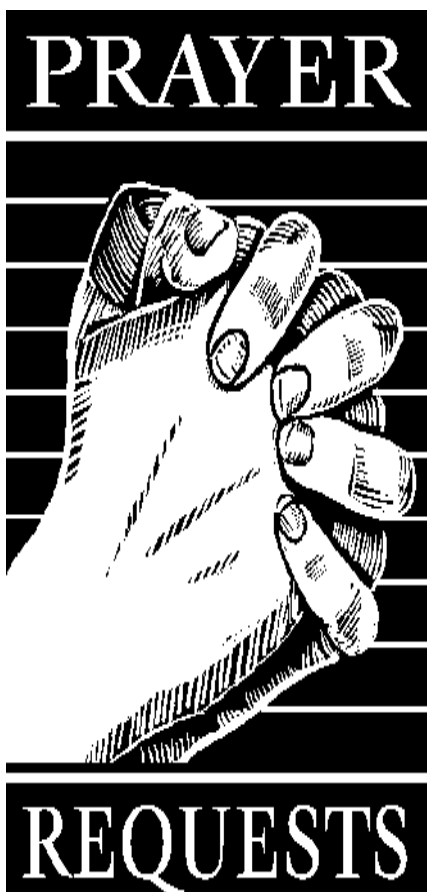
- 2** Mr. and Mrs. Najeb Abuaita

God Grant You All Many Years!

Daily Prayer Life

- ◆ For the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Sami** Alsaouri (+April 27th), **Michael** Khal (+May 11th), and **Samer** Alsaouri (+May 14th, brother of William).

May their memory be eternal!



- ◆ Remember our parishioners and those who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Essa** AbuAita, **Reader Fouad** Abuaita, **Philip** and **Janett** Abuaita, **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Youssef** Abousamra, **William** Alsaouri, **Naila** Banna, **Areen** Bathish, **Vera** Daoud, **Evelyn** Delbridge, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad** Gantous, **Denise** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Karen** Hargreaves, **Daisy** Isaac, **Laura** Nassar, **Adam** Odeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Sandy** Thomas, and **Christa** Whitehead, *all first-responders and those suffering from illness, violence, and want throughout the world, especially in our community, the Middle East, the war in Ukraine, and the earthquake in Syria and Turkey; 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: **Rania** and **Raed** AbuAita, **Julia** and **Maroun** Alatrash, **Renea** and **Rakan** Bayouk, **Dania** and **Subdeacon Salim** Hanna, **Natania** and **Rene** Hanna, **Aziza** and **Basheer** Hawwash, **Dina** and **Laith** Maymoun, **Amanda** and **Mousa** Rishmawi, & **Narmeen** and **Deeb** Shamshoum.

➤ *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: **George** Abueita and **Kristo** (brother and friend of Anwar Abueita), **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Shafiq** Abuleil (mother of Vicky Nassar), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Debbie Salim), **Kameel** Srouji (son-in-law of

Hiam Bathish), **Nihad** Bannura (cousin of Jane Abu-Eita), **Tanika** Russell, **Dennis**, and **Sue** (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, Joubbran families), **Philip** Jones (brother-in-law of Lubna Jones), **Larry** Judson (friend of Tim Beers), **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **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 (daughter of Nicholas), **Kinan** Turjman (nephew of Sahar Abdallah), **Shirley** Zerka (mother of Victoria), **Mother Nektaria**, **Heather** Campbell, **Joseph** Collins, and **Nancy** Maes, (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** Gorbutt (friends of Mariann Hayek), **Valland** Frangi (sister of Ron Haddad), **Megan** Meade, **Laura** Teunion-Smith, and **Casey** Webb (relatives of Bob Teunion), **Norman** Thomas (friend of Steve and Kelly Sanderson), and **Samantha** Zerka (cousin of Lauren Zerka and Goddaughter and niece of Victoria Zerka).

Congratulations and God bless:



- ❖ **Ezra Burbar** who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation on May 13th. Godparents: **Benan Burbar** and **Nibal Helal**. Parents: **Danial** and **Casandra**.

- ❖ The following students who studied the *Sacrament of Holy Repentance (Confession)* with their teacher **Khouriya Pam Bassett** for 10 weeks and participated in their *First Confession* on May 6th:
Maria AbuAita and **Rubina AbuAita**

- ❖ **Fadi** and **Miar** (Abuaita) **Odeh** who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on May 28th. *May God grant them many years!*



 *class of*
2023

High School Graduates

Kirolous Meshraky

- ❖ Flushing High School
- ❖ Son of Samir and Nashwa

Angela Qazaha

- ❖ Grand Blanc High School
- ❖ Daughter of Maher and Susan

Raionna Qumseya

- ❖ Flushing High School
- ❖ Daughter of Ramzi and Vera

Amany Rishmawi

- ❖ Flushing High School/dual enrolled at Mott Community College: High Honors, National Honors Society, Rho Kappa Honors Society, and Mu Alpha Theta Honors Society
- ❖ Daughter of Fadi and Evette

College Graduates

Nicholas Abdallah

- ❖ Graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Supply Chain Management
- ❖ Son of Fares and Sahar

Mariann Hayek

- ❖ Graduated from the University of Michigan-Flint with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and minored in Psychology; Recipient of the *Maize and Blue Distinguished Scholar Award*
- ❖ Daughter of Wael and Kholoud

Lucia Qazaha

- ❖ Graduated December 2022 from the University of Michigan-Flint with a Bachelor of Business Administration
- ❖ Daughter of Maher and Susan

Announcements

FASTING DISCIPLINE FOR JUNE AND JULY The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on Friday, June 2nd. There is no fasting the week following Pentecost Sunday (this year June 4th-10th). The **Apostles' Fast** (sometimes called the **Peter and Paul Fast**) always begins on the Monday following All Saints Sunday (this year, June 11th). During this Fast, we observe the traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, meat by-products, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with *fish, wine, and olive oil* allowed on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday until the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul on Thursday, June 29th. The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays in July.

SUMMER PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB Our first book will be "The Way of The Ascetics" by Tito Colliander. You can get it on Amazon or the book seller of your choice. This is a nice book with short chapters and about 100 pages long. We will meet monthly so this will be a two-session book (you read on your own and we meet once a month, live and possibly via Zoom). **First LIVE Discussion:** TENTATIVELY on Monday June 26 beginning at 6pm at St. George Church (we are looking at some other options including morning and Zoom in addition to the LIVE). If you are interested contact Fr. Michael Bassett / St. George Church at frdnmike@gmail.com or at 989-627-9580.

Midwest Diocesan 2023 Parish Life Conference

Bishop Anthony and our host parish St. Mary-Palos Heights, Illinois invite you to our Annual **Midwest Diocesan Parish Life Conference** June 28th-July 2nd. Hotel, Conference Registration, and all forms are available at their website: <http://www.antiochianevents.com/toledo.html>. Bishop Anthony and Fr. Joe encourage all of our parishioners to attend! Please take note of deadlines and make your reservations as soon as possible! We hope that as many of our parishioners as possible will attend.

2023 ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESAN CONVENTION Hosted by St. George-Phoenix, AZ July 23rd -30th. Go to <https://ac2023az.org> to book hotel rooms, register for the convention, purchase event tickets, etc. Book now, rooms are going fast!

NEW BANQUET CENTER RENTAL RATES The Center is beautiful and the rentals are pouring in ~ thank God in all things! For your information, our rates have increased and are as follows: Non-Parishioners \$3,500. Parishioners (who annually 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 a cost to decorate for your rental on the day before.

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 August

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 st -14 th | Dormition Fast |
| 15 th | Great Feast of the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Virgin Mary |
| 27 th | Parish Picnic (see flier in this VOICE) |

June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<p>*St. Nicholas 2143 S Center Road (south of Lipponcott) Burton, MI 48519 810- 744-0070</p>		<p>1 Martyr Justin the Philosopher</p>		<p>3 Soul Saturday Divine Liturgy 10am Bator Baptism 2pm Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm</p>
<p>4 Descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Ladies Auxiliary 6pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Combined, Pan- Orthodox Great Vespers at *St. Nicholas in Burton 5pm</p>
<p>11 All Saints Abuaita/Abulail Wedding 4pm</p>	<p>12 Apostles' Fast Begins</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Parish Council 6:15pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm</p>
<p>18 All Saints of North America</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Martyr Julian of Tarsus</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm</p>
<p>25 Prokopios the New Martyr Abousamra Baptism 12:30pm</p>	<p>26 Book Club 6pm</p>	<p>27 Joanna the Myrrh-bearer</p>	<p>28 Vesperal Divine Liturgy at *St. Nicholas 6pm</p>	<p>29 The Chief Apostles Peter and Paul</p>	<p>30</p>	
<p>Midwest Diocesan Parish Life Conference in Palos Heights, IL</p>						

2023

July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	Antiochian Village Summer Camp July 2 nd – 14 th				*St. Mary Magdalene 2439 S Long Lake Rd (north of North Road) Fenton 810-750-1401	1 <i>Great Vespers</i> and Confessions 5pm
2 Remembering the placing of the Robe of the Virgin Mary in Blachernae	3	4 Andrew, Bishop Crete and author of the Great Canon	5	6	7 Great Martyr Kyriaki of Nicomedia	8 Burch Baptism 11am Rishmawi Baptism 4pm <i>Great Vespers</i> and Confessions 5pm
9 Hieromartyr Pankratios, Bishop in Sicily Pan-Orthodox Picnic/Softball 3pm	10	11 Olga the Princess of Kiev	12 Veronica, the woman with the issue of blood who was healed by our Lord	13 Archangel Gabriel	14	15 <i>Great Vespers</i> and Confessions 5pm
16 Julia the Virgin- martyr of Carthage	17 Great Martyr Marina of Antioch	18	19	20 Prophet Elias (Elijah) Parish Council 6:15pm	21	22 Combined, Pan- Orthodox <i>Great Vespers</i> at *St. Mary Magdalene in Fenton 5pm
23 Hieromartyrs Phocas and Apollonios	24 Great Martyr Christina of Tyre	25	26 Priest Jacob Enlightener of the peoples of Alaska	27	28	29 No Great Vespers Abuaita Engagement
Archdiocesan Convention July 24 th -30 th in Phoenix, AZ						
30 Angelina of Serbia Hilal Baptism 1pm	31 Righteous Joseph of Arimathea					

2023

MARY MAGDALENE THE MYRRH-BEARER AND EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES

July 22nd

On the banks of Lake Genesareth (Galilee), between the cities of Capharnum and Tiberias, was the small city of Magdala, the remains of which have survived to our day. Now only the small village of Mejhdel stands on the site.

A woman whose name has entered forever into the Gospel account was born and grew up in Magdala. The Gospel tells us nothing of Mary's younger years, but Tradition informs us that Mary of Magdala was young and pretty, and led a sinful life. It says in the Gospels that the Lord expelled seven devils from Mary (Luke. 8:2). From the moment of her healing Mary led a new life, and became a true disciple of the Savior.

The Gospel relates that Mary followed after the Lord, when He went with the Apostles through the cities and villages of Judea and Galilee preaching about the Kingdom of God. Together with the pious women Joanna, wife of Choza (steward of Herod), Susanna and others, she served Him from her own possessions (Luke 8:1-3) and undoubtedly shared with the Apostles the evangelic tasks in common with the other women. The Evangelist Luke, evidently, has her in view together with the other women, stating that at the moment of the Procession of Christ onto Golgotha, when after the Scourging He took on Himself the heavy Cross, collapsing under its weight, the women followed after Him weeping and wailing, but He consoled them. The Gospel relates that Mary Magdalene was present on Golgotha at the moment of the Lord's Crucifixion. While all the disciples of the Savior ran away, she remained fearlessly at the Cross together with the Mother of God and the Apostle John.

She was faithful to Him not only in the days of His Glory, but also at the moment of His extreme humiliation and insult. As the Evangelist Matthew relates, she was present at the Burial of the Lord. Before her eyes Joseph and Nicodemus went out to the tomb with His lifeless Body. She watched as they covered over the entrance to the cave with a large stone, entombing the Source of Life.

Faithful to the Law in which she was raised, Mary together with the other women spent following day at rest, because it was the great day of the Sabbath, coinciding with the Feast of Passover.

But all the rest of the peaceful day the women gathered spices to go to the Grave of the Lord at dawn on Sunday and anoint His Body according to the custom of the Jews.

Mary went to the tomb alone. Seeing the stone pushed away from the cave, she ran away in fear to tell the close Apostles of Christ, Peter and John. Hearing the strange message that the Lord was gone from the tomb, both Apostles ran to the tomb and, seeing the shroud and winding cloths, they were amazed. The Apostles went and said nothing to anyone, but Mary stood about the entrance to the tomb and wept. Here in this dark tomb so recently lay her lifeless Lord.

Wanting proof that the tomb really was empty, she went down to it and saw a strange sight. She saw two angels in white garments, one sitting at the head, the other at the foot, where the Body of Jesus had been placed. They asked her, "*Woman, are you weeping?*" She answered them with the words which she had said to the Apostles, "*They have taken my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.*" At that moment, she turned around and saw the Risen Jesus standing near the grave, but she did not recognize Him.

He asked Mary, "*Woman, why are you weeping? Whom dost you seek?*" She answered thinking that she was seeing the gardener, "*Sir, if you have taken him, tell me where you put Him, and I will take Him away.*"

Then she recognized the Lord's voice. This was the voice she heard in those days and years, when she followed the Lord through all the cities and places where He preached. He spoke her name, and she gave a joyful shout, "*Rabbi*" (Teacher).

Respect and love, fondness and deep veneration, a feeling of thankfulness and recognition at His Splendor as great Teacher, all came together in this single outcry. She was able to say nothing more and she threw herself down at the feet of her Teacher to wash them with tears of joy. But the Lord said to her: "*Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and tell them: 'I ascend to My*

Father, and your Father; to My God and to your God."

She came to herself and again ran to the Apostles, to do the will of Him sending her to preach. Again she ran into the house, where the Apostles still remained in dismay, and proclaimed to them the joyous message, *"I have seen the Lord!"* This was the first preaching in the world about the Resurrection. The Apostles proclaimed the Glad Tidings to the world, but she proclaimed it to the Apostles themselves.

Holy Scripture does not tell us about the life of Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection of Christ, but it is impossible to doubt, that if in the terrifying minutes of Christ's Crucifixion she was the foot of His Cross with His All-Pure Mother and St John, she must have stayed with them during the happier time after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Thus in the Acts of the Apostles St Luke writes that all the Apostles with one mind stayed in prayer and supplication, with certain women and Mary the Mother of Jesus and His brethren.

Holy Tradition testifies that when the Apostles departed from Jerusalem to preach to all the ends of the earth, then Mary Magdalene also went with them. A daring woman, whose heart was full of reminiscence of the Resurrection, she went beyond her native borders and went to preach in pagan Rome. Everywhere she proclaimed to people about Christ and His teaching. When many did not believe that Christ is risen, she repeated to them what she had said to the Apostles on the radiant morning of the Resurrection: *"I have seen the Lord!"* With this message she went all over Italy.

Tradition relates that in Italy Mary Magdalene visited Emperor Tiberias (14-37 A.D.) and proclaimed to him Christ's Resurrection. According to Tradition, she took him a red egg as a symbol of the Resurrection, a symbol of new life with the words: *"Christ is Risen!"* Then she told the emperor that in his Province of Judea the unjustly condemned Jesus the Galilean, a holy man, a miracle-worker, powerful before God and all mankind, had been executed at the instigation of the Jewish High Priests, and the sentence confirmed by the procurator appointed by Tiberias, Pontius Pilate.

Mary repeated the words of the Apostles, that we are redeemed from the vanity of life not with

perishable silver or gold, but rather by the precious Blood of Christ.

Thanks to Mary Magdalene the custom to give each other paschal eggs on the day of the Radiant Resurrection of Christ spread among Christians over the entire world. On one ancient Greek manuscript, written on parchment, kept in the monastery library of St Athanasius near Thessalonica, is a prayer read on the day of Holy Pascha for the blessing of eggs and cheese. In it is indicated that the igumen in passing out the blessed eggs says to the brethren: *"Thus have we received from the holy Fathers, who preserved this custom from the very time of the holy Apostles, therefore the holy Equal of the Apostles Mary Magdalene first showed believers the example of this joyful offering."*

According to Church Tradition, she remained in Rome until the arrival of the Apostle Paul, and for two more years following his departure from Rome after the first court judgment upon him. From Rome, St Mary Magdalene, already bent with age, moved to Ephesus where the holy Apostle John unceasingly labored. There the saint finished her earthly life and was buried.

Her holy relics were transferred in the ninth century to Constantinople, and placed in the monastery Church of St Lazarus. In the era of the Crusader campaigns they were transferred to Italy and placed at Rome under the altar of the Lateran Cathedral. Part of the relics of Mary Magdalene are said to be in Provage, France near Marseilles, where over them at the foot of a steep mountain a church is built in her honor.

The Orthodox Church honors the holy memory of St Mary Magdalene, the woman called by the Lord Himself from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God.

Formerly immersed in sin and having received healing, she sincerely and irrevocably began a new life and never wavered from that path. Mary loved the Lord Who called her to a new life. She was faithful to Him not only when He was surrounded by enthusiastic crowds and winning recognition as a miracle-worker, but also when all the disciples deserted Him in fear and He, humiliated and crucified, hung in torment upon the Cross. This is why the Lord, knowing her faithfulness, appeared to her first, and esteemed her worthy to be first to proclaim His Resurrection.

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Rev. Fr. Michael Bassett, Assistant

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 salimh91@gmail.com
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

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