

**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*

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# THE VOICE

of St. George



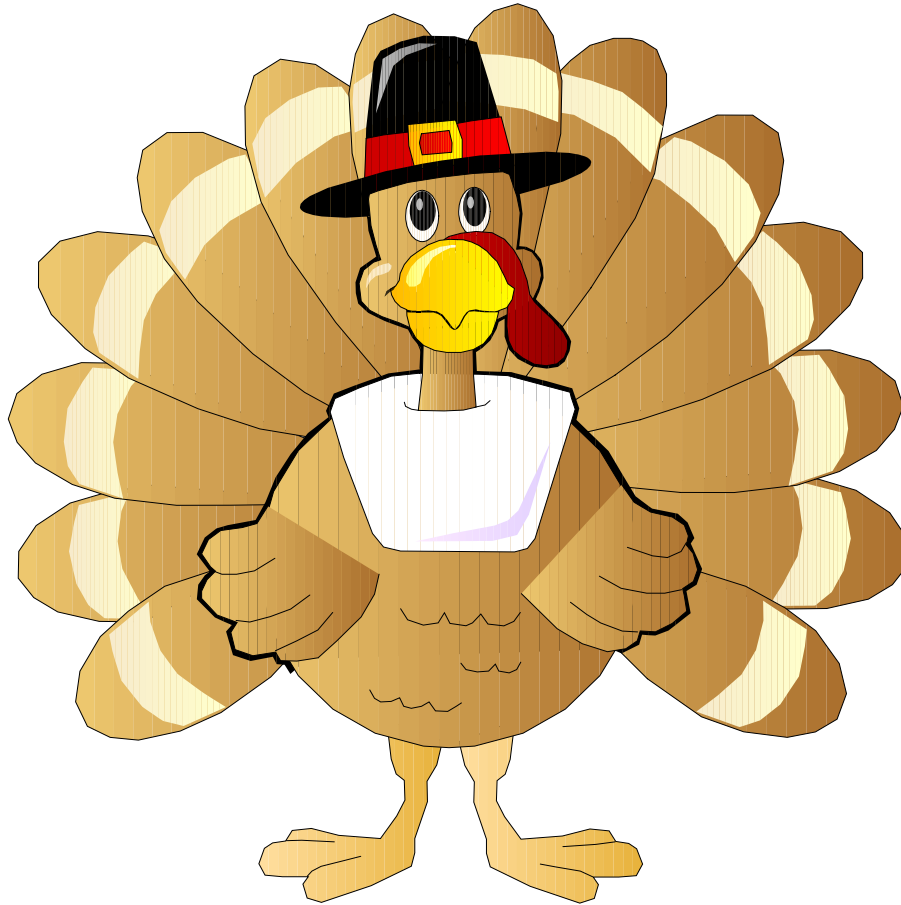
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**October 2023**

Volume 34, Numbers 2

# Fall Harvest PARISH Thanksgiving Family Night!



Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

Our Church School children are to be dropped off as follows: (*8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Class at 2:30pm; Kindergarten thru 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes at 3pm*). Each class will prepare their part of the meal, set the tables, do crafts, and have a great time together! We are asking all parents to be back by **5pm** so their children are sitting next to them praying at ***Great Vespers***.

Following ***Great Vespers***,  
we will all enjoy the meal prepared by our children!

**This is for ALL of our St. George Family – see you there!**

**St. George Cathedral of Toledo, Ohio  
presents...**

**The 2023 Clergy Retreat and  
Fall Gathering**

**Residence Inn Toledo West**

**3554 Secor Road Toledo, Ohio 43606**



- **Business center**
- **Extended stay**
- **Fitness center Free breakfast**
- **Free high-speed internet**
- **Kitchen**

**Registration Fee**

**Clergy, Adults and Teens =\$40  
Children=\$25; Under 7 free  
After October 6th, add \$5**

**Clergy Retreat**

October 19-20

**Fall Gathering**

October 20-22

**Hotel Information**

**Residence Inn Marriot**

**3554 Secor Rd. Toledo, OH 43606  
419-724-2555**

[www.marriott.com/event-reservations/  
reservation-link.mi?](http://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?)

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**King Bed or Double Queen \$104.00**

**Last Day to Book: Tuesday,  
September 19, 2023**

# St. George Cathedral Toledo, Ohio

## The 2023 Clergy Retreat & Fall Gathering Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: City, State,  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check appropriate box :  Clergy  Adult  Teen  Child

Mail to: St. George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral  
3754 Woodley Rd.  
Toledo, Ohio 43606-1159

Kindly Register here: [cathedraloffice@bex.net](mailto:cathedraloffice@bex.net)

Kindly pay here: [Fall Gathering 2023 Payment](#)

### Registration Fee

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Children=\$25; Under 7 free

After October 6th, add \$5

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King Bed or Double Queen \$104.00

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September 19, 2023

## Get to know the members of your Parish Council!



**Subdeacon Salim Hanna** *Chairman* I've been a member of St. George since we immigrated from Syria in 2004, I have served in the Altar as an altar boy and Subdeacon. During those years, I also had the pleasure to serve on the Parish Council and Church School. I am proud to call St. George my home. There is no place like home!

**Raed AbuAita** *Vice Chairman* I am one of many grandchildren of Reader Fouad Abuaita. I was born in Jerusalem and moved to USA in 2003. I have been a member of our St. George family since that time. My wife Rania and I got married at St. George and we have two kids who were baptized at St. George, and was blessed with our third child! This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year serving on the Parish Council. I really enjoy serving and helping with every opportunity from fundraisers, planning events, and being a member of our St. George Men's Fellowship. I do all of that to see our family of St. George grow and expand.



**Tony Daoud**, *Treasurer* I am the son of Issa and Vera Daoud, and the youngest of three children. I was born and raised in Flint, MI which started my journey at St. George Flint with my baptism in 1991. This year I am serving my 6<sup>th</sup> year on the parish council. I have really enjoyed working more hands-on with our church's finances. Some of the aspects I have currently been involved in are our different investment options and a re-organization of our day-to-day financial operations. More recently, I was elected to chair the Banquet Center Renovation, and have worked on many other committees as well. Some of the other areas I have served in the church are the Church School, our annual Golf Classic, Valentine's Raffle, Men's Fellowship, Coffee Fellowship, and wherever a helping hand is needed. I am glad to serve my home, St. George, and look forward to serving many more years. I welcome all suggestions and interaction with our parish as well as encourage everyone to serve where they can.

## Get to know the members of your Parish Council!



**Areen E. Bathish, Secretary** My great uncles Sam and Jerry Farah as well as my grandparents Yacoub and Mary Farah were among the founders of St. George. My family has been members of this parish since we emigrated from Nazareth in 1971; I was nine years old. I grew up with my St. George family learning the Orthodox Faith by attending Church School every Sunday, involved with Teen SOYO, and later as I grew into adulthood, my mother encouraged me to join our Ladies Auxiliary where I am also the current secretary. I am also involved with Altar Society, Ushers' coordinator, and have chaired many fundraising events at St. George. I have served as a Parish Council member for a number of years and it is my honor and joy to serve on the council now.

My name is **Raouf Mikhail**. I was born and raised in Alexandria Egypt. I immigrated to the United States in 1976. I got married and baptized all my three children at St Mark Coptic Orthodox Church in Troy MI. I worked as a surgeon for 40 years and served as the Chief of Surgery at Hurley Medical Center for 20 years. I work very well in teams and always try to reach consensus without confrontation. I love Saint George and all the parishioners. I humbly look forward to helping our Parish Council reach and achieve all of our goals that would serve the best interest of the church and the parishioners.

Raouf Mikhail, MD, FACS, FRCS-C©  
Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery  
Michigan State University- College of human medicine



My name is **Jeanette Nassif** and I am a native of Flint. I was baptized and married at St. George. I have three children; Nicole in Chicago, and Renee and Marc in Northville, who were all baptized at St. George. My son Marc was married at the Basilica of St Mary in Livonia; his father-in-law is Father George Shalhoub. I have three beautiful granddaughters- Sophia, Genevieve and Alexandra. They are my pride and joy. My husband, George and I have been married almost 52 years. I have sung in the choir since I was 15, have been Church School Director for 10 years, served on the Parish Council several terms and chaired the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church. I also have served on various committees over the years. I serve in the Ladies Auxiliary as well as the Altar Society. I love my church and am committed to attending church and its services.



# Get to know the members of your Parish Council!

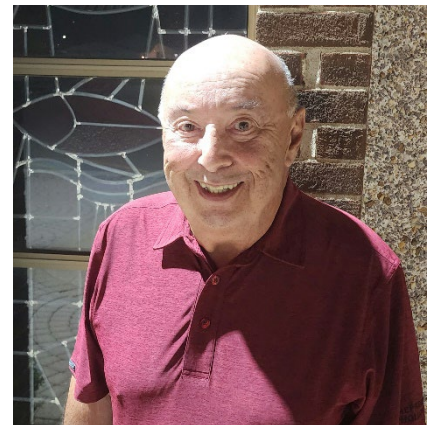


My name is **Aida Nassar**. I was born in Birzeit, Palestine and have been active in the Orthodox Church chanting and singing with my parents since a young age. I moved to the USA in 1972 and married my husband Karam Nassar. God blessed us with three boys who were baptized at St. George in Lod, Palestine, and served as altar servers at St George Flint. I worked as a teacher for Goodrich area schools for over 16 years. I served on the Parish Council as a secretary and member for more than 12 years. I have been a chanter, choir member, Ladies Auxiliary member, and coordinate the Holy Bread Ministry. St George is an extended family to me and my family. I am looking forward to helping our Parish Council reach the goal and achievement needed to help St George thrive into the future.



**Ric Shahin** My grandparents were among the founders of St. George, and I have been a member of this parish since moving to Midland, Michigan in 1967. I have been a Church School student and teacher, an altar boy, a choir member, a Parish Council member for a number of years, and most importantly, a regular worshipper, along with the rest of my biological and parish family. My wife, Martha, and I baptized our two sons here, and their strong religious roots are due to the support and love of their Flint St. George family. No Sunday is right without being with my church family, and even when I'm attending another church in my travels, my heart and thoughts are right here in Flint. It is my honor and joy to serve St. George on the Parish Council.

My name is **Richard Shaheen**, I was born and raised in Flint, MI. My grandparents were among some of the founders of St George. I was baptized, attended Church School, and served as an Altar Server. I retired from Chase Bank after 39 years. This is my first year serving on the Parish Council. It is my honor to serve on the Parish Council to help achieve the goals of St. George that we all love and for serving our parishioners.



# Saint Romanos the Melodist

Commemorated on October 1<sup>st</sup>

The popular patron of church singers, St. Romanos, was born in the town of Emesa in Syria in the latter part of the fifth century. Whether or not his Jewish parents converted to Christianity is uncertain; Romanos himself was baptized as a young boy and developed a great love for the house of God. When he came of age he served as a verger, lighting the lamps and preparing the censer. After moving to Beirut, he was ordained to the diaconate and assigned to the Church of the Resurrection. He had a rather mediocre voice, but his pure and simple heart was filled with love for God, and to assist at the church services gave him the greatest joy.

During the reign of Emperor Anastasios (491-518), the young deacon moved to Constantinople. He led an ascetic life of prayer and fasting, but in his humility he thought of himself as being rather worldly. He had a special love for the Mother of God, and would go at night to pray in the Blachernae Church, which housed the precious omophorion of the Holy Virgin. The saintly Patriarch Euthemios loved Romanos for his many virtues, and paid him the same wage as those singers and readers who were more educated and more talented. The latter resented this and derided Romanos for his evident lack of musical and theological training. Romanos himself was painfully aware of these defects; he longed for a melodious voice worthy of leading the faithful in praising God.

It was the day before the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity, and Saint Romanos was assigned to lead the singing that evening at the All-night Vigil. He was responsible not only for the singing but also for the text of the hymns. After everyone had left, he remained in the Blachernae Church and tearfully entreated the Mother of God to help him. Exhausted, he fell asleep with his sorrow. In answer to his prayer, the Mother of God appeared to him in a dream. She handed him a scroll and said to him gently, "Here, eat this." Romanos did so and awoke, overcome with joy and the lingering presence of the heavenly visitor.

When it came time that night for him to sing, Saint Romanos received the patriarch's blessing and, vested in a special garment reserved for the principal singer,



he stepped onto the ambo. He began to sing: "Today the Virgin gives birth to Him Who is above all being . . ." The emperor, the patriarch, the clergy-the entire congregation listened in wonder at the profound theology and the clear, sonorous voice which issued forth. They all joined in the refrain, "A new-born Babe, the pre-eternal God." Later, Saint Romanos told the patriarch about his vision, and the singers who had made fun of him prostrated themselves in repentance and humbly asked the Saint's forgiveness.

It should be noted that the kontakion as we know it today—a short hymn honoring and describing a particular feast or saint—is only the prologue or proemion of a full kontakion which, at the height of its development in the sixth century, was a poetic sermon composed of from 18 - 30 verses or *ikoi*, each with a refrain, and united by an acrostic. When it was sung to an original melody, it was called an *idiomelon*. Originally, Saint Romanos' works were known simply as "psalms," "odes," or poems. It was only in the ninth century that the term kontakion—from the word *kontos*, the shaft on which the parchment was rolled—came into use.

With the Nativity Kontakion, which has been dated to the year 518, Saint Romanos began a period of prolific creativity. Altogether, he wrote as many as one thousand kontakion, celebrating feasts and saints throughout the liturgical year. In the words of one scholar, Saint Romanos' compositions successfully combined "the solemnity and dignity of the sermon with the delicacy and liveliness of lyric and dramatic poetry."

Because Saint Romanos is commemorated on the same day as the feast of Protection, he commonly appears as a central figure in the icon of that feast, even though there is no historical connection (the event celebrated by the Protection icon occurred in the tenth century). Although in more recent icons Saint Romanos is depicted as a deacon standing on the ambo, Russian church musicologist Johann von Gardner points out that in the oldest icons he is more accurately portrayed wearing the short red tunic of a singer and standing on a raised platform in the middle of the church.



## Daily Prayer Life

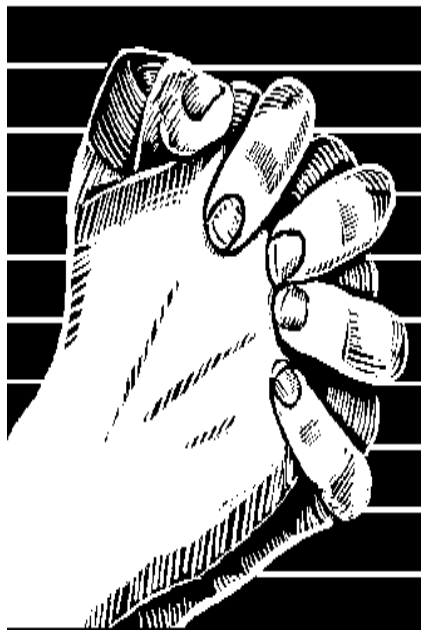
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- ◆ For the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Cindy** Victorson (+August 31<sup>st</sup>, friend of Fr. Joe), **Deborah** Salim (+September 7<sup>th</sup>), **Kamal** Bathish (+September 8<sup>th</sup>, brother-in-law of Hiam Bathish), **Joseph** Boufaissal (+September 9<sup>th</sup>, husband of Shefaa), and **Luceille** Nassar (+September 10<sup>th</sup>, wife of Basem).

*May their memory be eternal!*

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## PRAYER



## REQUESTS

- ◆ Remember our parishioners and those who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: our **Bishop Anthony**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Reader Fouad** and **Soad** Abuaita, **Philip** and **Janett** Abuaita, **Rasha** Abuaita, **Shafiqa** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Youssef** Abousamra, **Mariam** Al-Khoury, **William** Alsahouri, **Naila** Banna, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** and **Suad** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Karen** Mortensen, **Laura** Nassar, **Adam** Odeh, **Rahmeh** Rashmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch, *all first-responders and those suffering from illness, violence, and want throughout the world, especially in our community, 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: **Julia** and **Maroun** Alatrash, **Ambur** (daughter of Joseph Haddad) and **Matt** Allison, **Gabriella** (daughter of Joseph and Mary Jo Ghattas) and **David** Ayyash, **Renea** and **Rakan** Bayouk, Dr. **Lindsey** and Dr. **Ryan** Brunner, **Casandra** and **Danial** Burbar, **Dania** and **Subdeacon Salim** Hanna, **Andrea** (Haddad) and **Josh** Jones, **Christine** (daughter of Ayman and Wafaa Elias) and Dr. **Matthew** Krinock, **Kari** (daughter of John and Theresa Farah), and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis, & **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and 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: **George** Abueita and **Kristo** (brother and friend of Anwar Abueita), **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Shafiqa** 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, Joubran 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 (niece of Jeanette Nassif), **Kinan** Turjman (nephew of Sahar Abdallah), **Shirley** Zerka (mother of Victoria), **Cynthia** Brooks, **Heather** 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** Gorbutt (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), **Gary** Stewart, **Barb** Maness, **Mathew** Agle, and **Norman** Thomas (father/friends of Steve and Kelly Sanderson), **Richard** Ramsdell (father of Jodie Bathish), and **Samantha** Zerka (cousin of Lauren Zerka and Goddaughter and niece of Victoria Zerka).

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## *Congratulations and God bless:*

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- ❖ **Raed, Rania**, and newborn **Riyana** AbuAita (August 26<sup>th</sup>)
- ❖ **Laith, Dina**, and newborn **Liam** Maymoun (September 4<sup>th</sup>).
- ❖ **Mousa, Amanda**, and newborn **Nicholas** Rishmawi (September 19<sup>th</sup>).
- ❖ **Maroun, Julia**, and newborn **Mariella Noelle** Alatrash (September 23<sup>rd</sup>).



- ❖ **Mariane** Rishmawi and **George** Chammas who were recently engaged to be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
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## *Announcements*

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**FASTING DISCIPLINE FOR OCTOBER** The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on Wednesdays and Fridays.

## *Thank you and God bless...*

... **Jimmy David** for his time and hard work in stripping and waxing the floors in our *Church School Wing* ~ they look great!

... **Basil Andoni, Yousef** and **Abraham Abousamra, Tony Daoud, Kelly Dotson, and Jen Mooney** for their planning, time, and hard work in renovating our *Church School Bathrooms* ~ they look brand new!

... **all those who baked food, made sweets, made deliveries, and attended** our *Middle Eastern Lunch and Bake Sale* which was delicious and a magnificent success!

... **Tony Daoud, Kelly Dotson, all who helped, our Golfers, and our Sponsors** in making our *Golf Classic* a wonderful success!

**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. Confessions are heard after Saturday Great Vespers, between 8:30-9:30am on Sunday, and by appointment. 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.** 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*)

- **YOUTH MONTH** All of our Teens are encouraged to participate in the Sacraments of Repentance and Communion during this month, and throughout the year. Confessions are heard as usual on Saturdays after Great Vespers, Sunday mornings between 8:30-9:30am, or by appointment during the week. Come and be a part of our teen group ~ for more information, please contact Cezar Abuaita (see last page for contact information) or our Youth Directors, Dr. Lauren Zerka or Gabby Gantos!

**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.

**ST. GEORGE LADIES AUXILIARY** Our next gathering is Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm ~ PLAN ON IT! ALL women of St. George are welcome!

**ST. GEORGE ALTAR SOCIETY** Our next gathering is Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm ~ PLAN ON IT! ALL women of St. George are welcome!

**ST. GEORGE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** Our next gathering is Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm ~ PLAN ON IT! ALL men of St. George are welcome!

**2023 PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY** is scheduled for Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Members in good standing both spiritually (*attending church*) and in their financial stewardship (*offerings to the church*) are considered Voting Members and may speak and vote on any non-canonical matter presented at the meeting. Report Packets with Minutes and the Proposed 2024 Budget will be mailed at the end of October. Please review the Report Packet that will be sent and plan on attending.

- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER** is defined in our Constitution as: *all persons, regardless of sex, eighteen (18) years of age and over, who have been baptized and accepted as members of the Holy Orthodox Church according to its teachings, who accept, profess and practice the faith and discipline of the Holy Orthodox Church and who subscribe to the temporal maintenance of the Parish, through payment of such dues, pledges and assessments.*
- **General Assembly Proxies** are given to those who cannot attend the meeting because of medical treatment or illness, those confined to their homes, or those with written verification of a prior travel commitment. A VOTING member who cannot attend the meeting may have another VOTING member vote on their behalf. PLEASE NOTE: To better our procedures for Proxies, they will be available in the church office beginning on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and must be returned back to the office by Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Proxies received after November 5<sup>th</sup> will be considered invalid.

#### **Parish Council Vacancies**

- If you would like to be nominated or would like to nominate qualified (see below) parishioners for the 3 expiring terms on the Parish Council, please submit names to a member of the **Nominating Committee** (Raed AbuAita, Tony Daoud, or Fr. Joe). The deadline to be a nominee is October 25<sup>th</sup> and all nominees must attend a **Parish Council Nominee Seminar** on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7-8pm. If you will be attending, please let Fr. Joe know. If this day and time does not work for you, speak with Fr. Joe to reschedule another time before the deadline of October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Parish Council Qualifications (from our Parish Constitution)**

- *No member of the Parish Council shall be under the age of 18 years of age (excluding any ex-officio member) and no Voting Member of the Parish shall be eligible to become a member of the Parish Council unless such person has been a voting member of the Parish for a period of one (1) year and has fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Orthodox faith. Further, nominees must worship at St. George at least 3 out of 4 Sundays a month; shall be exemplary (model) members of St. George; participate in extracurricular ministries of the parish (such as: Fundraising, Parish Council committees, Educational, etc.); participate in the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Communion on a regular/frequent basis; has signed the yearly Offering Form; and attend a Nominee Seminar.*

- **PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS: AMBASSADORS OF FAITH** For non-Orthodox as well as some Orthodox Christians, entering an Orthodox church can be a very uncomfortable, intimidating experience. Research has shown that non-believers attend church at least once each year, and when they attend, they are profoundly affected by their first impressions. Often the first person our visitors see is a member of our Parish Council. Reaching out to those who enter our doors with a handshake, a greeting, and a welcoming smile could be the most important outreach work we do. Simply put, friendliness has eternal implications. Unless people see in us the light and the love of Christ, they will not believe. Parishioners are often nominated as candidates for the Parish Council because of their education, business experience, or legal background. The best members are not necessarily those who are business-oriented, but rather, those who are Church-oriented and Christ-centered. To be a good council member, one must be active in the worship and sacramental (confession and communion) life of the Church. The best candidates are easy to find – they are in church! The Priest, as the head of the parish, is charged with guiding our total parish. The Parish Council consists of the Clergy and elected and ex-officio ministry leaders. For your information, the Parish Council is never called a “parish board”.

## **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 November**

12<sup>th</sup> **Annual Parish General Assembly**

- 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 40<sup>th</sup> day of one's falling asleep along with yearly anniversaries. It may also be done on the 6<sup>th</sup> month anniversary. If you would like to bake the Holy Bread, please contact Aida Nassar 810-433-1515.

**BAKING OF HOLY BREAD!** Aida Nassar 810-433-1515 is our coordinator. She is very attentive to making sure we have enough Holy Bread every week and what might be frozen is used quickly! If you would like to bake Holy Bread (if you need the recipe, ask Fr. Joe), GREAT, you just have to let Aida know. *Thank you and may God bless the hands of all our Holy Bread bakers ~ which becomes the Body of Christ in Holy Communion ~ every Divine Liturgy!*



## BELOVED SONS: A Step into Mature Christianity

A retreat for MEN!

Friday evening, October 6<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday afternoon October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

36075 7 Mile Rd, Livonia, MI

**Beloved Sons** is a retreat for Orthodox men that will help men uncover the voice of the Accuser, silence it, and begin to hear the voice of the Father, Who says to each one of us,

*"You are My beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."*

This will not be a "sit still and listen" kind of retreat. This isn't a conference where speakers say nice things and attendees politely listen. Yes, practical information will be given, but there will also be times for intense group participation when we will work through some of the personal issues that have left us stuck and move towards the abundant life which Christ promised us. The aim isn't just to impart knowledge, but to change lives.

Speakers and Retreat Leaders:

Fr Michael Butler, Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Livonia, MI

Fr Hans Jacobse, St Peter Orthodox Church, Fort Myers, FL, Founder of the St. Paisios Brotherhood

Paul Robson, Founder of Maniphesto, a European organization for men's accountability and integrity

Retreat schedule, cost, registration, accommodations, contact and other information can be found at

<https://www.avg2alpha.com/beloved-sons/>

Attendance is limited. Please register early <https://www.avg2alpha.com/beloved-sons/>

# October

**October is Youth Month!**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> <b>Protection of the Virgin Mary</b> <b>Romanos the Melodist</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade w/ Fr. Joe	<b>2</b> Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm	<b>3</b> <b>Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite</b> Ladies Auxiliary 5pm	<b>4</b> Arabic Bible Study 12:30-2pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Apostle Thomas</b>	<b>7</b> <i>Great Vespers and Confessions</i> 4pm
<b>8</b> <b>Venerable Pelagia the Penitent</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade w/ Fr. Joe	<b>9</b> <b>Apostle James, son of Alphaeus</b> Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm	<b>10</b> Altar Society Dinner Meeting 6pm	<b>11</b> Arabic Bible Study 12:30-2pm	<b>12</b> Parish Council 6:15pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Great Vespers and Confessions</i> 4pm
<b>15</b> <b>Holy Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Grades w/ Fr. Joe	<b>16</b> Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm	<b>17</b> Men's Fellowship 6pm	<b>18</b> <b>Apostle Luke the Evangelist</b> Arabic Bible Study 12:30-2pm	<b>19</b> <b>20</b> <b>Diocesan Clergy Retreat and Fall Gathering</b> <i>(see fliers)</i>		<b>21</b> <i>Great Vespers and Confessions</i> 4pm
<b>22</b> <b>Seven Sleepers Martyred in Ephesus</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Apostle James, Brother of our Lord</b> Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm Parish Council Nominee Seminar 7pm	<b>24</b> Pan-Orthodox Book Club 6-8pm	<b>25</b> Arabic Bible Study 12:30-2pm	<b>26</b> <b>Great Martyr Demetrios the Myrrh-Streaming of Thessalonika</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Great Vespers and Confessions</i> 5pm <b>Fall Harvest Parish Thanksgiving Family Night follows</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Venerable Martyr Anastasia the Roman</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> Grades w/ Fr. Joe	<b>30</b> Bible Study 1:30-3:30pm	<b>31</b>				

**2023**

# ***Namedays, Birthdays and Anniversaries***

*October 1 to October 31, 2023*

## **Birthdays**

### **October**

- 1** Julia A. Bathish
- 2** Luai Abuaita  
Andrea Jones
- 3** Issa Abuaita  
Maysaa Al-Khouri  
Habeeb Ghattas  
Nour S. Ishak
- 5** Christopher N. Abu Aita  
Tamer P. Abuaita  
Mohannad Bannoura
- 6** Stifani N. Alyatim  
Ramzi R. Qumseya
- 7** Panayotis "Pano" Deligorges
- 8** Esperanza Abuaita  
Neveen Farah  
Salam Nassar
- 9** Julius D. Andoni  
Amanda Haddad  
Alexander J. Sahouri
- 10** Joseph "Joe" T. David
- 11** Majd T. Abuaita  
Douglas Coone  
Rafat "Ray" A. Hilal  
Caroline F. Rishmawi
- 12** Lana G. Elia  
Waseem Fakhoury
- 13** George M. Abuaita  
Majdal A. Al-Atrash  
Ella K. Isaac
- 14** Peter E. Dubon  
Elias Mitri
- 15** Kim L. McKeon
- 16** Hiam Ishaq  
Rasha Ishaq
- 17** Naila Banna
- 19** Jude F. Awad  
Bassem Farah
- 20** Janet Alsahouri  
Elias Rishmawi  
Taghreed Rishmawi

- 21** Angel S. Abuaita  
Qusai Bannoura
- 22** Ryan D. Brack  
Danielle R. Isaac  
Greyson Y. Iseid  
Susan "Sue" K. Salomon
- 23** Gisel F. Awad  
Jeffrey R. Sophiea
- 25** Ghassan "Jason" K. Al-Khouri
- 27** Jessica M. Meshraky
- 28** George Nassar  
Christina F. Rishmawi  
Alexandria E. Tijerina
- 29** Killian N. Newsome  
Kyle Takach  
Daniel E. Tijerina
- 30** Fadi Bannoura  
Laila Dubon  
Hadil V. Habbass  
Maher Qazaha
- 31** Michael A. Abueita  
Iman T. David  
Angela M. Nassar

## **Wedding Anniversaries**

### **October**

- 2** Mr. and Mrs. Issa Daoud
- 4** Mr. and Mrs. Paul Takach
- 8** Mr. and Mrs. Khaled Al-Khouri
- 17** Mr. and Mrs. Raji Salomon
- 19** Mr. and Mrs. Michael Alqazaha
- 27** Mr. and Mrs. Habeeb Ghattas
- 30** Mr. and Mrs. Jalal Abuaita

## **Namedays**

### **October**

- 1** Romanos AbuAita
- 3** Denise Ghattas
- 6** Issa Thomas David  
Thomas "Tom" Fyaz David
- 18** Lukas Edward Cooper  
Luka Danial Mitri
- 19** Jowelle Giries Odeh
- 23** Emil James Bathish  
James "Jimmy" David  
James "Jim" Otto Russell

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

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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, 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)

**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](mailto: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](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** • Cezar Abu-Aita, President 810-986-1434 / [cezarabuaita@icloud.com](mailto:cezarabuaita@icloud.com)  
*Teen SOYO Youth Directors:* Gabrielle Gantos [gkirag11@yahoo.com](mailto:gkirag11@yahoo.com) and Dr. Lauren Zerka [laurenczerniak@gmail.com](mailto:laurenczerniak@gmail.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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