

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

January 9, 2022

Blessings on the great feast of our Lord's Theophany (manifestation or revelation on His Baptism)!

Live Streaming of Divine Services

St. George is open for all parishioners and visitors. If you cannot attend, please pray with us through our livestream which can be seen on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintGeorgeOrthodoxChurchFlintMI>

If you have a smart TV, you actually have a web browser and YouTube app built in. All you have to do is start the browser app for YouTube and put the link in the address bar.

Welcome to St. George! Thank you for attending today's Divine Services. If you are a first-time visitor, please register your visit by completing the guest book located in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you after liturgy, so feel free to join us during Coffee Fellowship in our Banquet Center! Every Sunday we remember the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The word "*Liturgy*" means *work of the people* that means everyone participates through singing, praying, hearing the teaching, and opening our hearts to allow God's grace to enter. We believe Holy Communion to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Holy Communion can be given to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting (no food or drink from midnight the night before), the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, and being at peace with others. Everyone else, including visitors, are invited to receive the final blessing of the priest and Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy. Again, welcome!

Holy Water Icon Bottles

- Elie Ghattas for the health of his family and in loving memory of wife **Diane**.

Holy Bread Offerings (Oblations)

- The children of Vera Farah for the health of their families and in loving memory of mother **Vera** (40 day).
- George and Jeanette Nassif for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Adel** (24 year), **Joseph**, **Paul**, **Rose**, **Joseph**, **Mona**, **Khouriya Joanne**, **Amenee**, **Ferris**, **Nick**, **Barbara** and **Nabelah**.
- We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Protopresbyter Thomas** George (+Dec.

6th, former pastor of Assumption Church), **JoAnn** Haddad Merrelli (+December 6th, former parishioner and niece of Richard Shaheen), **Edward** Shadeed (+December 27th, brother-in-law of JoAnn Hawkins), **Jim** Simpson (+December 27th, uncle of Kelly Sanderson), and **Ronna** Royer (+January 4th, mother of Fr. Bob).

- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Metropolitan Paul** and **Archbishop John** who are in captivity, **Brian**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar** and **Georgette** Abuaita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsahouri, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Ranna** Esho (friend of Batoul Burbar), **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Amy** Handley (friend of Nataly Odeh), **Daisy** Isaac, **Salwa** Isaac, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother Denise Ghattas), **Nicola** Houry, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **Rafat** Nasri, **Laura** Nassar, **George**, **Jeanette**, and **Renee** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** and **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **Georgette** Yusuf; **Panagiotis**, **Kari**, and newborn **Anna Emilia** Mikroudiss [daughter of John and Theresa Farah] (Dec. 8th).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury, **Casandra** and **Daniel** Burbar, **Yara** and **Mudaffer** Rishmawi, and **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet) and **John** Timm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *the Family of Vera Farah*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: January 23rd and 30th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is in the Lounge and includes bringing whatever you wish to serve and cleaning up afterwards. St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$25. **For more information, contact Manal Abuaita** (810-577-0028).

PROCEDURES As of early December, Fadi Rishmawi, Parish Council Chairman and Fr. Joe cancelled all activities, except Divine Services, because more and more parishioners were getting the covid virus. Further, while in our church building, everyone must properly wear masks. Please remember we can venerate icons at this time by bowing (*not kissing or touching*) and the same for the priest's hand and the chalice at Holy Communion. We all want the safest place for all of our parishioners to worship. We know that combining masks, vaccines, and boosters will protect ourselves and our community against this fast-changing virus. **PLEASE FOLLOW:**

1. Everyone must wear a mask inside our church building.
2. Pews in the back of the church are for **those who are not vaccinated** and **those who would like to be social distanced**.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS...

- ❖ **Elie Ghattas** for donating the Holy Water Icon Bottles. They are filled with Holy Water and are in the Narthex for you to take.
- ❖ **Father Michael Bassett** for making St. Basil's Bread (*Vasilopita*) on January 2nd in honor of St. Basil the Great whom we remembered on (January 1st). Congratulations and many blessings this year to **Ron Haddad** and **Joseph Shamshoum** who found the special St. Basil coins.

ARE YOU VACCINATED? DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND NEED ANSWERS? We are blessed to have many medical professionals in our parish and they want you to get the Covid-19 vaccine. There is lots of wrong information on TV and social media. Don't be fooled; it could cost you, your family, or friends in a tragic way! If you have any questions or need truthful information, please contact Dr. Lindsey (Farah) Brunner by text ONLY please at 810-908-9213. If you or someone you know needs help to make an appointment or be driven to one, please call the office 810-732-0720.

E-MEMO'S If you would like to receive our weekly *St. George E-Memo*, please send your e-mail address to saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com.

TEXTING FR. JOE? Fr. Joe does not see or use texting services. If you have texted him, that's why he has not responded. If you need to contact him, please call the church 810-732-0720, his cell 810-444-9108, or by email nja@aol.com.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS Please pick yours up (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name is not listed, let Fr. Joe know. The calendars (*please take 1 per family*) are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary ~ thank you, Ladies! **Parents**, please make sure your children get their *Offering Envelopes* in the Lounge

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.
Thursday	Parish Council Dinner Meeting 6:15pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

WHY ATTEND CHURCH? ~ Can God's Temple be Duplicated at Home?

by Abbot Tryphon, head of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington

Over the years I have met people who have chosen not to join a church, choosing, rather, to "worship" at home. Some have convinced themselves church is a waste of time, and feel they can be close to God while staying home on a Sunday morning. Others believe none of the churches teach the bible according to their own interpretation, and choosing to worship in the privacy of their own home, assure themselves they won't have to hear any false teachings.

Some people have chosen to stay away from church because of past conflict with a clergyman, or perhaps got tired of hearing pleas for money, and have convinced themselves that giving to a charity is money better spent (in reality, church goes tend to outspend non-church goes in charitable giving).

In truth, God has given us the Church as the very place wherein we can grow spiritually, while enjoying the protection, and the blessings, of being in weekly contact with other believers. Just like an earthly family, we don't always enjoy the presence of other members, but it is often those difficult and uncomfortable moments that help us grow the most. As well, there are blessings that would never be experienced, should we remain apart from fellow Christians.

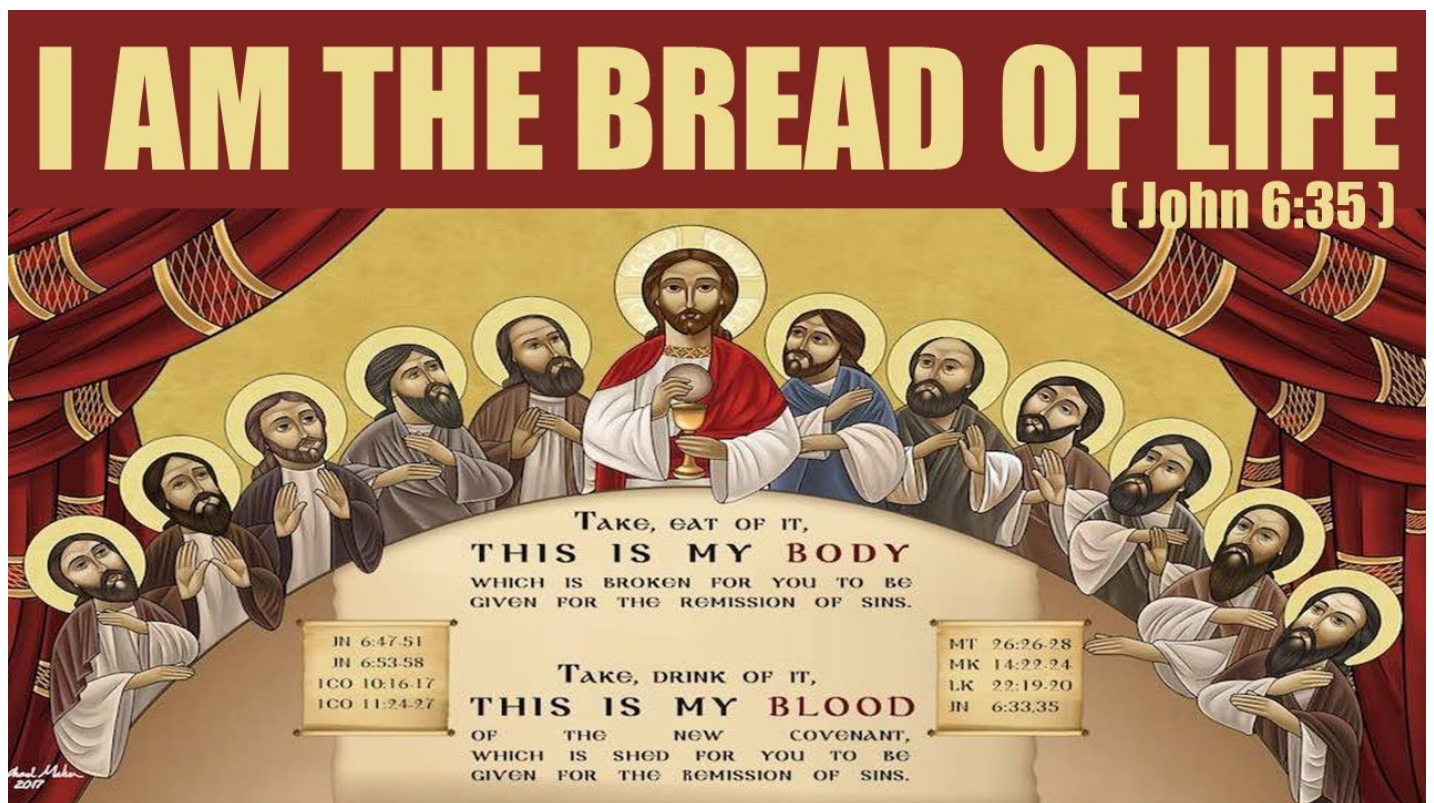
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In the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 4, verse 16, we read that our Lord Jesus Christ was regularly in the temple, for *“He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.”* It was Christ’s regular practice to go to church, *“As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place.”* If Our Lord Jesus made it a priority to meet together with other believers, how can we excuse ourselves from doing the same?

Perhaps the most important reason for weekly church attendance lies in the fact that it is only in the Church where we can receive Holy Communion, for our Lord went so far as to say that unless we eat of His flesh, and drink of His blood, we will have no life in us (John 6:53). It is in the reception of Holy Communion where we receive the grace needed to grow spiritually, and where we are empowered to live in all holiness and truth.

Finally, the neglect of corporate worship grieves the Holy Spirit who lives within the individual believer and the Church as a whole, *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”* (Ephesians 4:30)

Get out your bible, find the Gospel of St. John, and read Chapter 6. Even the disciples said, these are “hard words”, but then in verse 68, “Simon Peter (St. Peter) answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”! Love, FJ



10th Annual Winter Dinner benefiting Holy Dormition Monastery



Guest Speaker
+ Archbishop
Nathaniel



*The Pan-Orthodox Churches
of Genesee County*

Holy Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church
(2245 E. Baldwin Rd Grand Blanc, MI)

St. George Orthodox Church
(5191 Lennon Rd Flint, MI)

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox
Church
(2439 S. Long Lake Rd Fenton, MI)

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
(2143 S Center Rd Burton, MI)



Thursday, January 20th

Hosted by St. George Orthodox Church

5191 Lennon Rd, Flint, MI 48507

810-732-0720

Join us to experience a beautiful and otherworldly vespers service offered by the Mothers and Sisters of the Monastery. Then stay and enjoy an uplifting evening of warm fellowship, delicious food and listen to talks that will spark spiritual enlightenment. Bring your family and your friends to this edifying evening while generously supporting the works of the monastery.

Please register by Sunday, January 16th. To register for the event or to make a donation please call St. George Orthodox Church. The suggested Donation of \$35/ person or \$25/ student can be paid via check (written to St. George Orthodox Church) or by Credit Card. Please do not let the cost keep you away from this wonderful event!

- 5:00pm Vespers with the Nuns of Holy Dormition
- 6:00pm Social Time and time to shop the Monastery Gift Shop
- 7:00pm Dinner, Dessert and Special Guest Speaker The Most Reverend Nathaniel, Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate
- 8:30pm Final Prayer and Return Home