

St. George Orthodox Church

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V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Rev. Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

November 7, 2021

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!

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 Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- Jiries and Sharon Abu-Aitah and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother **Salwa** Abu-Aitah (40 day).
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Samantha** Farah (40 day, daughter of Sam and Tracy), **Ty** Gorbitt (+October 1st, friend of Mariann Hayek), **Najeh** Elias (+October 18th, brother of Ayman), **Georgette** Hayder (+October 21st, sister of Wadia Albaba), and **Matthew** Handley (+October 28th, friend of Nataly Odeh).
- 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, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Asma** Abuaita

(sister of Janett), **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Anwar** Abucita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsaouri, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Jennifer** Craft and **Brionna** Gorbutt (friends of Mariann Hayek), **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Ranna** Esho (friend of Batoul Burbar), **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Amy** Handley (friend of Nataly Odeh), **Gracyn** Haskins and Dr. **Michelle** Borg (granddaughter /daughter of Mike and Nancy Silpoch), **Daisy** Isaac, **Nicola** Khoury, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Juliette** Qumseya, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** and **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; **Jarrett**, **Elise** [daughter of Habeeb & Denise Ghattas and Jill Smith], and newborn **James Michael** Lane (October 25th).

- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury, **Natania** and **Rene** Hanna, **Kari** and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis [daughter of John and Theresa Farah], and **Yara** and **Mudaffer** Rishmawi.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Jiries and Sharon Abu-Aitah and Family*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: November 21st and 28th ~ 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. *During the Christmas Fast (November 15th - December 24th), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, or their by-products are served.*

ARE YOU VACCINATED? DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND NEED ANSWERS? We are blessed to have many medical professionals in our parish and they all want you to get a 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 sad way! If you have any questions or need truthful information, please contact Dr. Lindsey (Farah) Brunner: 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.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS ...

... **Tony Daoud** and his Committee who did a wonderful job planning our 2021 Golf Classic and making it a success! Special thanks to our sponsors and all who donated their time and/or money along with all of our golfers. We made a profit of \$15,000 for our General Fund!

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.
TODAY	Ladies Auxiliary Election Meeting after Church School High School Class with Fr. Joe
Monday	Bible Study: Gospel of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist 3-5pm SOYO Monday 6-8pm
Wednesday	Arabic-English Bible Study Gospel of St. Matthew 12-2pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

OXYGEN ~ *The Church, like a forest, provides needed oxygen*

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

Growing up in Northern Idaho, I was surrounded by mountains and forests. I don't remember a time when forests did not tug at my heart and fill my imagination with thoughts of adventure. As a small child my parents took my brother Dwayne, and me, on annual camping trips to a state park on the far northeast side of Lake Pend Oreille. There my dad would make us small toy canoes, complete with sails, out of birch bark. This state park is virtually unchanged since that time, and I try to visit the campground every summer, when I go bass fishing with my brother.

As a high school student I regularly went hiking in the mountains around Sandpoint, Idaho, together with my best friend (now a professor of theology and philosophy in Scotland). Jim and I would climb to the highest point of a given mountain, and pray together. We could understand the Prophet Moses meeting God on Mt. Sinai, for we too felt the presence of God on the mountain. To this day I feel closer to God when hiking in a forest, and the grandeur of the mountains that surround the Puget Sound inspire me, and lift up my soul.

When we first cleared the land to build the monastery, we cut down as few trees as possible, desiring as we did to have the buildings appear as though cupped like a kitten in the hands of God. We even named our forest after Saint Seraphim of Sarov, who himself sought solitude in a forest. Our forest not only provides that needed solitude, but gives us oxygen, allowing us to breathe. Like the forests throughout the whole world, ours provides good air to breath, and fills our lungs with the sweet odor that only a forest can provide. Is it any wonder I consider myself a conservationist?

Monks have always had a special place in their hearts for forests. Coptic and Ethiopian monks have been known to plant trees on desert mountains whereupon monasteries have been built, and calling these places, "holy forests". Russian monks sought their solitude in the Northern Thebaid, forests that became their desert.

For me, forests and mountains have always been associated with prayer. My first chapel was at the end of a hidden trail, in a forest that was just a short walk down the beach from our home on Lake Pond Oreille. I'd constructed a small altar out of driftwood, and nailed a cross made out of tree branches on a tree behind the altar. When in college, my first encounter with an icon took place during the very summer I'd visited the Redwood Forest of Northern California, for the first time.

Our temples are like forests in many ways. When we enter into an Orthodox temple we are encompassed in the living presence of God, and our spiritual lungs are filled. It is oxygen for the soul that we breathe in, and the forest that surrounds us is none other than the cloud of witnesses, the saints, who join us in worship before the Throne of God. The oxygen we breathe in is God's Grace that flows out to all who would seek the safety and sanctuary that awaits us in God's Holy Temple.



Antiochian Village

worship | fellowship | education | love

continued ⇨

Winter Camp Registration is NOW OPEN!

Join us February 18-21, 2022 for Winter Camp!

Registration is now open!

Go to: <https://events.circuitree.com/av/Account/Login/>

What is Winter Camp?

Winter Camp is a weekend retreat for those in grades 7 – 12, held over Presidents Day weekend in February. We average about 150 campers at Winter Camp each year! Campers arrive on Friday night and leave on Monday, as most schools are closed on Monday for the holiday.

Borrowing some of your favorite activities from the summer, Winter Camp includes: Christian Ed with guest speakers, Afternoon Program, Evening program, and much more! Winter Camp also provides a chance to meet other campers from different sessions of the summer! You won't want to miss this incredible weekend!

Our 2022 Guest Speakers



Fr. Nicholas Belcher



Alyssa Kyritsis



ENSURE THE LEGACY

ENSURE THE LEGACY

HONOREE

ARAB AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

St. George Ladies Auxiliary



Founded at St. George Orthodox Church in Flint in the 1930s, the Ladies Auxiliary has been a major part of the Arab American community of Genesee County for 8 decades. It was originally founded as a women's social group within the church to build community and the early decades saw meetings hosted in members' houses or the basement of St. George. After St. George Orthodox Church moved to its current location in 1971, the Ladies Auxiliary grew rapidly with the church. The Ladies Auxiliary hosted dances, made dinners, and participated in church events. They raised money for charities and helped out in the local community.

The Ladies' programs greatly expanded in the 1980s and 1990s after large numbers of Arab immigrants arrived to the community. Starting in the early 1990s, the Ladies Auxiliary began hosting Middle Eastern Luncheons for the greater Flint community that allowed many non-Arabs to interact with authentic Arab culture, food, and language for the first time. Arab identity was finally able to reach non-Arabs through the Ladies Auxiliary in a way that could be easily understood and shattered the stereotypes that many people had in Genesee County due to American media. These Luncheons have continued for over 30 years and were even adapted during COVID to help feed the community and instill a sense of unity when everyone felt so isolated.

Using the money from its Luncheons and other fundraisers, the Ladies Auxiliary donates money every year to the Flint YWCA to assist victims of domestic violence and provide a safe space for recovery as well as providing funding anonymously to families during the holidays to ensure that all people have food and gifts. The organization has regularly volunteered at the Flint North End Soup Kitchen helping feed the hungry, donated money to hospitals in Lebanon to help those who cannot afford care, and funded the education of many children from elementary school through high school in Lebanon and Palestine. Additionally, the Ladies Auxiliary has expanded the mission of the Orthodox Church in Michigan by donating to the Dormition Monastery and helping fund the repairs and improvements of St. George Church here in Flint.

For over 80 years, the St. George Orthodox Church's Ladies Auxiliary has been a pillar of the Arab community by welcoming new Arab community members, exposing non-Arabs to the richness of Arab culture through food, improving the Flint community through charity and donations, and ensuring that St. George continues to operate and function as one of the major centers of Arab life in Genesee County. It is hard to imagine a flourishing Arab community in Flint without the Ladies Auxiliary and they are more than deserving of our 2021 Arab Americans of the Year award.