

St. George Orthodox Church

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V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Rev. Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

December 12, 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*)

- Elie Ghattas and Family for the health of his family and in loving memory of wife **Diane** (1 year).
- Edward Shadeed, JoAnn Hawkins, and Ric Shahin and families for the health of their families and in loving memory of **Lucille, Thomas, Shyka, Shaker, Kamelia, Shakeeb, Betty, and Connie**.
- St. George Parish for the health of our families especially the members of our **Choir** and **Chanters** ~ *May God grant them many years!* and in loving memory of their departed members especially: **Yacoub** Abueita, **Betty** Brackett, **Kamelia** Brackett, **Bishara** David, **Laura** Gantos, **Norma** Isaac Rynek, **Reader George** Jamra, **Alex** Khouri, **Jean** Khouri, **John** Khouri, **Dolores** Khouri, **Marty** Newman, **Thelma** Nickola, **Betty** Salim, **Norma** Salim Lazar, **Sylvia** Sophiea, and **Gloria** Ward.

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Protopresbyter Tom** George (+December 6th, former pastor of Assumption Church), Dr. **Amal** Houry (+November 16th, niece of Aida Nassar), **Roza** Alied (+November 17th, grandmother of Dania Hanna), **Vera** Farah (+November 21st), **Donald** Nixon (+November 22nd, uncle of Tim Beers), **Emad** Issa Hawwash (+November 28th, uncle of Basheer Hawwash), and **JoAnn** Haddad Merrelli (+December 6th, former parishioner and niece of Richard Shaheen).
- 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**a Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar**, **Janet**, and **Georgette** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsahouri, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Jennifer** Craft and **Brionna** Gorbitt (friends of Mariann Hayek), **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, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother Denise Ghattas), **Nicola** Houry, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **Rafat** Nasri, **Laura** Nassar, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** and **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, and **Michael** Silpoch; **Ayman**, **Diana**, and newborn **Alayna** Khair (November 11th); **Rene**, **Natania**, and newborn twins **Xenia** and **Tatiana** Hanna (November 25th); **Panagiotis**, **Kari**, and newborn **Daughter** Mikroudias [daughter of John and Theresa Farah].
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury and **Yara** and **Mudaffer** Rishmawi.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Edward Shadeed in memory of wife Lucille.*

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 26th ~ 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 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 tragic 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.

COMING EVENTS

This Week	On Monday, November 15 th , we began the traditional forty-day Nativity Fast (also called the Christmas or Advent Fast) in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25 th . The Fast is divided into two periods. The <u>first period</u> is until December 19 th when the traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products</i>) is observed on all days except Tuesdays and Thursdays when <i>wine and oil</i> are allowed and Saturdays and Sundays when <i>fish, wine, and oil</i> are allowed.
Monday	Combined Pan-Orthodox <i>Divine Liturgy</i> for St. Herman of Alaska and St. Lucia at <i>St. Mary Magdalene (2439 S. Long Lake Road, Fenton)</i> 10am
Wednesday	<i>Nativity Fast Prayer Service</i> 6pm
Saturday	<i>Great Vespers and Confessions</i> 5pm

LIVING OUR ORTHODOX FAITH *in a Multicultural Society*

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

Orthodoxy by its very nature is a demanding religion, one that requires her faithful to fully embrace a lifestyle that is in opposition to the world about us. The many periods of fasting and the practice of standing for our services are just two things that set Orthodoxy apart in our world. In an age when so many embrace religions that require little or no standard of belief, Orthodoxy is a faith that holds to ancient dogmas (teachings) and ways of worship that are virtually unchanged in two thousand years.

Our multicultural societies have radically changed the face of many countries throughout the western world, with immigration introducing many foreign religions into societies that were previously uniform in religious tradition. Many countries in Western Europe and North America are now seeing the spread of Orthodoxy as never before, along with the introduction of Islam. This, together with the spread of secularism and atheism, has changed the religious map of many countries.

These changes have made the practice of our faith more difficult since western societies no longer culturally support the open practice of Christianity. No longer do we see the expression of Christianity in the public forum, with the exception of Orthodox countries, prominently being a part of the societal fabric. Many people are even experiencing pressure to keep their faith a private affair, so as not to offend others by being “too religious”. With pluralism dominant in the work place and social settings, any display of our faith can be frowned upon.

This may work for some, but for a serious Orthodox Christian this is problematic. How do we live Orthodoxy as our faith demands if we live it in a vacuum, shuttling it off as a private practice only on Sundays? If we are truly to “put on Christ” and be transformed by the healing resources that are available by living a committed Orthodox faith, we cannot allow ourselves to live “Orthodoxy Lite”.

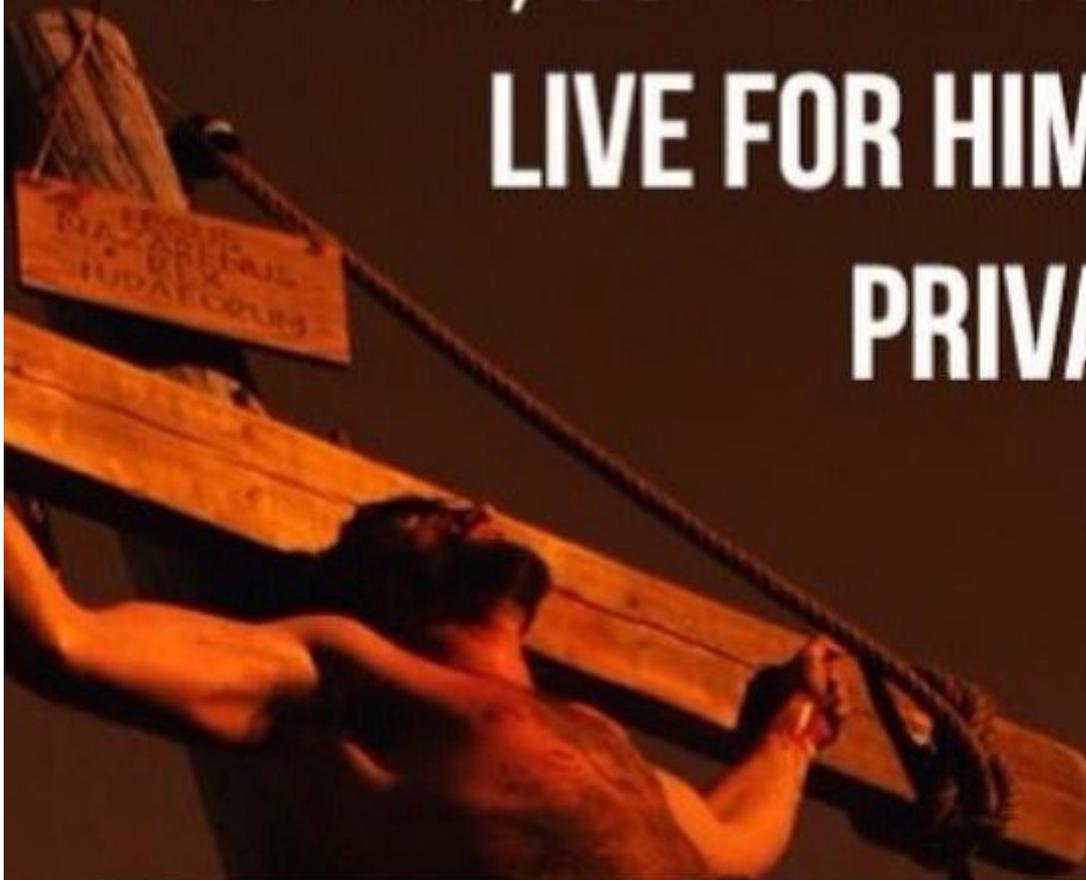
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Orthodoxy cries out to be lived, experienced, and practiced! If we call ourselves Orthodox while rarely attending services, ignoring the fasting regulations, hiding our one icon in a bedroom, never making the sign of the cross in public, praying a blessing over our meal only when alone or with family, we are not practicing Orthodox Christians.

We must be bold in our faith. As a monk who wears my monastic garb everywhere, I can tell you it has a powerful impact on people. Even when sitting among friends who are not religious, I always bless my food. If I see a police car, fire truck or aid car pass by in downtown Seattle, I raise my hand in blessing, for I want my God to keep them safe, and I want whomever is in need of their help to receive it. I wear a cross around my neck not only because I am a priest, but because I am a Believer.

I am not afraid to be public about my faith in Jesus Christ, for my faith demands it of me. Christ told His disciples that if they denied Him before men, so too would He deny them before His Father in heaven. Orthodox Christianity cries out to be lived publicly. Our very salvation demands it!

**JESUS DIED FOR YOU IN
PUBLIC, SO DON'T JUST
LIVE FOR HIM IN
PRIVATE.**



His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

December 12, 2021

Choir and Chanter Appreciation Sunday

Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians 5:18–20

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy and Christ-Loving Faithful of our Archdiocese:

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we prepare ourselves in eager anticipation of the feast of His glorious Nativity in the flesh.

In the above quotation, St. Paul describes the Christian life itself as essentially musical. It is a life of holy joy, which naturally draws melodies of praise and thanksgiving up from the heart to the lips, so that every corner of Creation might resound with the glories of God. This musical way of life is taught us, first and foremost, by the choirs and chanters who week after week—and sometime day after day—fill our ears with the sweet hymnography of the Church. From the earliest age, these melodies sink into our hearts, so that it is not unusual to hear Orthodox Christians, from toddlers to seniors, spontaneously bursting into sacred song as they go about their daily life. These hymns are the spiritual air we breathe, and they stick with us thanks to the work of all our chanters and choirs.

While we set aside this Sunday in December each year to recognize these dedicated chanters, we strive throughout the year as an archdiocese to give them the resources and support they need, by providing the proper liturgical texts for each service, a growing online library of sacred music, and two annual Sacred Music Institutes (SMIs). This year's SMIs will be in Wichita, KS, (Feb. 17–20) and at the Antiochian Village (July 14–17). We encourage all our parishes to likewise support their choirs and chanters locally, especially by helping them attend training events such as the SMIs.

We truly want to thank the chair of our archdiocesan Department of Sacred Music, Ms. Mareena Boosamra-Ball, and all her team, as well as all our choir directors, chanters and choir members throughout our archdiocese, for their dedicated ministry. Most of you serve on a volunteer basis, and the time and talents you share, each and every week, are an inestimable blessing.

Wishing you and your families a blessed remainder of the Nativity Fast and a joyous feast, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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