

St. George Orthodox Church

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

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

December 20, 2020

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF CHRIST

(SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST ALSO CALLED SUNDAY OF THE GENEALOGY OF CHRIST)

صلاة السحر لأحد الذي قبل عيد الميلاد (والمعروف بأحد النسبة)

Live Streaming of Divine Services

St. George is open for all parishioners or 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.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. John Chrysostom** {*the Golden-Mouth*},
The **Special Hymns** we sing are on the [Bilingual sheets from Fr. Joe's Email](#).

Holy Bread Offerings

- George and Amal Abu-Aita and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Neama** Kokaly (40 day, grandmother of Amal).

Baptism/Chrismation Days

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for their teachers and/or students who are celebrating their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this week:

• **Nataly Odeh** – December 21st

• **Laila and Peter Dubon** – December 22nd

May our children be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Alex** Deligorges (+November 26th), **Patricia** “Patsy” Dotson (+November 27th, mother-in-law of our office manager Kelly Dotson), **Evelyn** Lozon, (+November 28th, friend of Dn. Mike), **Darla** Harris, (+November 29th, step-mother of Lee Harris), **Khalil** Kheirallah (+December 2nd, brother of Kamal), **Lois** Teunion (+December 6th), **Diane** Ghattas (+December 7th, wife of Elie), and **Georgette** Abuaita (+December 8th, aunt of Janet Abueita), **Katrina** Ayyad (+December 9th, mother of Abla Abufarha).
- 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), **Sami** and **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Fr. Joseph** Abud, **Anwar** Abueita, **Wadia** Albaba, **Khalid** Al-Khouri, **Nabil** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Kendall** Ayoub (brother of Cam Takach), **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Evelyn** Delbridge, **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Sandy Thomas), **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal’s mother), **Phyllis** Good, **Barbara** Gress, **Carol** Haddad, **Ronald** Haddad, **Shawna** Hale, **Gracyn** Haskins (granddaughter of Mike and Nancy Silpoch), **Donald** and **JoAnn** Hawkins, **Nassem** Helal (father of Amani Helal), **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nimer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Michael** Khal, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif,

Aida Raffoul, Deborah Salim, Ellis Salim, Nicholas Saseen, Michael Silpoch, William Sophiea Jr, and Paul Takach (husband of Cam). Essa, Julianna, and newborn Natalia Abuaita (December 17th).

- We also pray for those who are with child: Nawal (John) Abud [son of Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee], Dr. Lindsey [Farah] (Dr. Ryan) Brunner, Katrina (Gary) Gagne, and Jenny [Abueita] (Tony) Salsa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Divine Services for the **Nativity Fast** and **Christmas Eve**

- ▶ Sunday before Christmas, December 20th ~ **Holy Fathers of Christ**
Matins – 8:50am **Divine Liturgy** – 10am
- ▶ Wednesday, December 23rd – **Royal Hours of Christmas** – 6pm
- ▶ **Christmas Services, Thursday night, December 24th:**
Christmas Festal Matins – 4:50pm **Christmas Divine Liturgy** – 6pm
- ▶ Christmas Day, December 25th ~ no Divine Services
This also begins the **Twelve Days of Christmas** until January 5th!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES If you cannot attend our celebration of the Nativity of our Lord on Christmas Eve, Assumption, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Nicholas will be celebrating Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day, December 25th beginning at 10am and you are welcome to attend:

Assumption 2245 East Baldwin Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
St. Mary Magdalene 2439 South Long Lake Road, Fenton, MI 48430
St. Nicholas 2143 Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS DINNER Help is needed to feed the hungry dinner on Christmas Day, December 25th from 9am–1pm. All meals will be served curbside, but they still need help with preparation and handing out gifts. If you can take time to help since we all are having limited family gatherings, please contact John Manse at jmanse@ccsgc.org or 810-785-6911.

THE SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION)

If you have not had Confession in the last 2 months and desire to return to the life of the Church and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, please remember you (8 years old and up) must offer a confession of your sins first. During this time of the **Christmas Great Fast** is the perfect opportunity. For your convenience, Fr. Joe and Fr. Bob will be hearing confessions after Divine Liturgy TODAY! Fr. Joe and Fr. Bob are not the only Orthodox priests in the area and if you would prefer to go to one of the others, feel free to do so, please just inform Fr. Joe: Fr. Jarrod Russell (Assumption Church: 810-771-4611), Fr. Gabriel Bilas (St. Mary Magdalene: 810-750-1401), or Fr. Matthew Butrie (St. Nicholas Church: 810-744-0070). The important thing isn't who hears your confession, but that you participate in the Holy Sacrament on a regular basis.

**Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have
the right to the Tree of Life (Christ). (Revelations 22:14)**

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS ALL ADULT ENVELOPES have been mailed to our parishioners ~ if you do not get them in the next couple of weeks, please call the office and

leave a message including your name. The calendars can be picked up in the Lounge (please take one per family) and are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary, **THANK YOU, LADIES!** **Parents**, please make sure you, or your child, picks up their envelopes which are also in the Lounge.

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS Though everyone cannot attend church due to limited capacity or other reasons, **our stewardship, offerings, and donations are still very badly needed**. PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) and donate on-line 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!

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** (Habeeb Ghattas, Aida Nassar, or Fr. Joe). The deadline to be a nominee is January 13th and all nominees must attend a **Parish Council Nominee Seminar** on Monday, January 18th 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 this date.

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 (prior to the Covid-19 pandemic); 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.*

COMING EVENTS

This Week	On November 15 th , we began the traditional forty-day CHRISTMAS FAST in preparation for the Nativity of Christ on December 25 th . The Fast is divided into two periods. The 2 nd period is from today, December 20 th until after our celebration of our Lord's Nativity on Christmas Eve, when the traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products</i>) is observed except on Saturday and Sunday when <i>wine and oil</i> are permitted. There is no fasting from Christmas Day December 25 th until January 4 th ~ the 12 Days of Christmas!
Wednesday	Royal Hours of Christmas (Arabic/English) 6pm The Relationship Project 8pm
Thursday	Christmas Matins 4:50pm Christmas Divine Liturgy 6pm
Friday	Christ is Born! Glorify Him! المسيح وُلِد! فمجدوه!
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

PARKING LOT PLEDGES: WE NEED YOU!

Our goal is \$80,000 (we have raised over \$46,000 from 2 groups and only 25 families) and we are so thankful for those who have donated and pledged. WE NEED YOU to step up so we can pay off this loan as soon as possible. If you have not already, please pick up a form, fill it out, and send it to the church. Remember our donations to the Parking Lot are separate (*above and beyond*) our weekly offerings.

Jamal and Manal Abuaita
Khader and Lucy Abuaita
Fr. Joe and Leslee Abud
Laila Abud
Anwar and Janet Abueita
Rose Ayoub
Anonymous
Dn. Mike & Pam Bassett
Hiam and Areen Bathish
Tony Daoud

Ayman and Wafaa Elias
John and Theresa Farah
Betty Froberg
Dr. David & May Gantos
Subdeacon George and
Suad Gantous
Nasri and Carol Haddad
Ronald Haddad
Elias and Amirah Hanna
Ladies Auxiliary

Samir & Nashwa Meshraky
George & Jeanette Nassif
St. George Preschool
Fadi & Evette Rishmawi
Raji and Sue Salomon
Bill and Sue Shaheen
Elaine Shaheen
Richard Shaheen
Bob and Lois Teunion
Valentine Gala (2020)

CHURCH SCHOOL HAS BEGUN! We want ALL of our St. George children in our education program. To make this happen, we need email addresses for our children and their parents! Please send them to Director Janet Abueita (cooeita@aol.com) as soon as possible so none of our children are left out and they can enjoy and learn about our life in Christ. Every month, our registered students will receive a packet of fun things in the mail. Then on the last Sunday of each month our teachers will have a CS Zoom Sunday at 12 Noon! Be a part of the FUN and send your email addresses to Janet TODAY! NEXT Sunday is our monthly Video Classes. If you/your children haven't done it before, contact Janet ASAP so your children can be part of the fun!

Faith in an Unbelieving World ~ *Living our Orthodoxy in a world of unbelief!*

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

In this pluralistic society there are many Orthodox individuals who've found themselves sharing their lives with non-Orthodox family members. Sometimes these families are not even practicing Christians, so the struggle to keep to the traditions and practices of the Orthodox Faith can be difficult. The Lenten periods can be especially hard when the whole family is eating meat, eggs and dairy, while the Orthodox member is required by the Church to fast.

Even the blessing prayers before each meal can be awkward when other members of one's household are not believers. There are also those Sunday mornings or feast days when other members of one's family want to head for the beach, but you're needing to be in church for the Divine Liturgy. The difficulty of being true to one's faith can be even more difficult if your family members hold to anti-religious sentiments.

I remember an uncle who was so hostile towards religion that he forbade my aunt and cousins to attend church. Although he was an extreme example, there are many Orthodox Christians who struggle to live their faith in an environment that is not conducive to the spiritual life. This hostility towards our Orthodox Christian faith can also even carry over into the workplace. A goodly number of employers do not let Orthodox Christians take time off for holy days, or even major feast days such as the Nativity of Christ. *continued* ⇒

Lord, I Believe!

Help Thou My Unbelief.

Lord, I believe!
Yet I have doubts,
I have weaknesses, and
I have faults.

But by faith in You,
by faith in Your love, and
by faith in Your promises,
I know that I will have the strength to meet
the problems,
the temptations, and
the sorrows
that I face each day.

Lord, Jesus,
help me to have
more faith in You!

Lord, I Believe!

Help Thou My Unbelief!

Poem by Ken Pilcher, Jr. © All Rights Reserved/ www.faithclub.org

When we are committed to Christ we must not allow others to keep us from practicing our faith. Although it is not necessary to be in their face about our faith, it is important that we remember the example of the early Christians. They were so committed to Christ that they willingly faced martyrdom rather than deny their faith, or compromise Christian principles.

continued ⇒

It has been my experience that many individuals who deny the importance of religion in their lives have, in reality, simply been turned off to religiosity. They've seen a form of Christianity that is disingenuous and have therefore discounted Christianity all together. Others see Christians as judgmental and self-righteous, and are therefore turned off to any religious expression.

What to do! First of all we must not hide our faith under any circumstances. This does not mean that we are preachy or self-righteous. A Christian who is grateful for their faith is also compassionate toward those who have no faith. Giving a loving witness to Christ while following the dictates of our Orthodox traditions is a good starting point.

If we are seated at the dinner table with unbelievers, it is important that we not be showy about our faith, but also important that we not hide the fact that we are Orthodox Christians. Making a simple sign of the cross over ourselves before we eat expresses not only our gratitude towards God for our food, but gives quiet witness to our willingness to truly live our lives in open love of our Savior. The Lord said if we deny Him before men, He will deny us before the Father. Keeping the traditions of our faith, staying true to the fast periods and making an effort to attend Liturgy on a weekly basis is absolutely necessary if we are to grow spiritually.



Most important, our dedication to our faith and a willingness to give witness to our love of Christ can have a huge impact on those around us. If our love of the Savior translates into love of family and neighbor, those around us will see that our God is real, and our Orthodox faith is truly a way of life, one that actually transforms our nature. When people see that we are filled with joyous living and not judging others, they in turn will want what we have. The Pearl of Great Price can be theirs as well!



The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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December 11, 2020

Christ is in our Midst!

During this Advent period of our Orthodox faith we prepare ourselves in joyful anticipation for the Greatest Gift of all ... our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch Governing Council, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your membership but more importantly for taking on "the responsibility" to become a part of our ministry that helps change countless lives. We pray that during this Blessed Season and throughout the year that you continue to receive God's blessings of grace, compassion and love along with His many other gifts to us that are both seen and unseen in our daily lives. May God bless you and keep you under His watchful care.

As a member of the Order and in a spirit of compassion, you not only give of what you have but you also strive to do it in a spirit of humility and love. You give without expecting anything in return and without recognition by the Order's recipients. Your gift is an unconditional, personal sacrifice. It is an act of Faith that is infinite in its effect.

In Fiscal year 2020 the impact of your gift to the Order has been felt by many and in countless ways. The Order's Fiscal Year 2020 actual expenses included \$297,014 to support our retired clergy, active clergy and seminarians. You helped fund \$390,924 for the youth of the Antiochian Archdiocese (including camp scholarships). \$254,988 was provided to support programs and departments for the development & growth of the Antiochian Archdiocese. You've also helped give \$43,000 toward outreach organizations which include but are not limited to Project Mexico, SOYO Special Olympics and the IOCC.

Clergy	\$297,014	Archdiocese Development & Growth	\$254,988
Retired Clergy Housing Allowance	\$270,000	Missions & Evangelism	\$129,996
Married Seminarian Assistance	\$14,965	Parish Development / Mission Grants	\$24,996
Clergy Symposium & Convention Assistance	\$12,049	Internet Ministry	\$99,996
Archdiocese Youth	\$390,924	Other Grants	\$43,000
Summer Camp Scholarships	\$190,000	Project Mexico	\$10,000
Youth Ministry	\$120,000	SOYO Special Olympics	\$8,000
SOYO Leadership & Youth Worker Training	\$25,928	IOCC	\$25,000
Christian Education	\$39,996		
College Conference	\$15,000		

On behalf of all the members of the Order, we thank you for accepting "the responsibility" ... to take care of each other as we commit to financially provide for and reassure our retired clergy during their golden years, to strengthen our children in their Orthodox Faith, to help share and to reveal Orthodoxy throughout North America to people of any nationality, background or socioeconomic position and to become part of the families of our married seminarians by assisting them financially so they can answer God's call. We thank you in sincere gratitude and humility.

So as you contemplate your support of the Order over the years, encourage your family and friends to become a part of the Order, or consider becoming a part of The Order's ministry for the first time, we leave you with what we believe should be in your heart. These words are what guide our work as a Governing Council and come from the teachings of St. Ignatius himself ...

"Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor."

In His service,

Roger J. David
North American Chairperson
The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch