

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: [saintgeorgeflint.org](http://saintgeorgeflint.org)

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

December 23, 2018

## HOLY FATHERS OF CHRIST (SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OR THE GENEALOGY OF CHRIST)

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

Tone - 5 8<sup>th</sup> Matins Gospel {John 20:11-18}

Altar Servers: **EVERYONE**

Confessions  
8:30-9:30am

Matins p.44  
8:50am

Divine Liturgy p.91  
10:00am

Memorial Service  
Trisagion p.183

**Welcome to St. George!** Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book located in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, 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, being at peace with others, and attending the Divine Liturgy regularly. Please know everyone is invited to venerate the Holy Cross and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. John Chrysostom**, we sing the following **Special Hymns**:

### Third Antiphon (during the Little Entrance)

#### **Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 5**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for He took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

### Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

#### **Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 5** (*same as above*)

لِنُسَبِّحْ نَحْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَنَسْجُدُ لِلْكَلِمَةِ. الْمَسَاوِي لِلآبِ وَالرُّوحِ فِي الْأَزَلِيَّةِ وَعَدَمِ الْإِبْتِدَاءِ. الْمَوْلُودِ مِنَ الْعَذْرَاءِ لِخَلَاصِنَا. لِأَنَّهُ سُرَّ وَارْتَضَى بِالْجَسَدِ أَنْ يَلْعَوْ عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ. وَيَحْتَمِلَ الْمَوْتَ وَيُنْهَضَ الْمَوْتَى بِقِيَامَتِهِ الْمَجِيدَةِ.

#### **Troparion of the Forefeast of the Nativity—Tone 4**

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the Divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen a foretime.

استعدي يا بيت لحم فقد فُتِحَتْ عَدْنٌ لِلْجَمِيعِ. تَهَيَّأِي يَا إِفْرَاثَا لِأَنَّ عَوْدَ الْحَيَاةِ قَدْ أَزْهَرَ فِي الْمَغَارَةِ مِنَ الْبَتُولِ. لِأَنَّ بَطْنَهَا قَدْ ظَهَرَ فِرْدَوْسًا عَقْلِيًّا فِيهِ الْغَرَسُ الْإِلَهِي. الَّذِي إِذْ نَأْكُلُ مِنْهُ نَحْيَا وَلَا نَمُوتُ مِثْلَ آدَمِ. الْمَسِيحُ يَوْلَدُ مِنْهُضًا

### Troparion of the Sunday before Christmas—Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

عظيمة هي تقويمات الإيمان. لأن الثلاثة الفتية القديسين. قد ابتهجوا في ينبوع اللهب كأنهم على ماء الراحة. والنبى دانيال ظهر راعياً للسباع كأنها غنم. فبتوسلاتهم أيها المسيح الإله ارحمنا.

### Troparion for St. George—Tone 4

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings: Victorious Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

بما أنك للمأسورين محرر ومعتق، وللفقراء والمساكين عاضد وناصر، وللمرضى طبيب وشاف، وعن المؤمنين مكافح ومحارب، أيها العظيم في الشهداء جاورجيوس اللابس الظفر، تشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

### Kontakion in Preparation for the Nativity (Birth) of Christ—Tone 3

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice O earth at the message; with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He who is from eternity God.

اليوم العذراء تأتي إلى المغارة لتلد الكلمة الذي قبل الدهور ولادة لا تُفسر ولا يُنطق بها فافرحي أيتها المسكونة إذا سمعت ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة الذي سيظهر لنا بمشيئته طفلاً جديداً وهو اله قبل الدهور.

**Epistle Reading:** *Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40* {Sunday before the Nativity}

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 1:1-25* {Sunday before the Nativity}

### Holy Bread Offerings

- Khaled and Maysaa Al-Khouri for the health of their family especially **Miriam** (Khaled's mother). and in loving memory of nephew **Jamil** Turjman (40 day).
- **Ric** and **Martha** Shahin for the health of their family on the occasion of their 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony -- *May God grant them many years!*

### 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 coming week:

**Nataly Odeh – December 21<sup>st</sup>**

*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: **Najah** Qumseih (+November 17<sup>th</sup>, daughter of Salwa Abu-Aitah) and **Hanna** Abuaita (+December 6<sup>th</sup>, brother of Kh. Suhela Qassis, George, Jalal, and Suheil Abuaita).
- 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, **Bishop Alexander** (Ottawa and Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York), **Laila** and **Sahar** Abdallah, **Androlla** Abu Aita, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Manal** Abuaita, **Cesar** and **Naila** Banna, **Emil** and **Hiam** Bathish, **Alex** and **Panayiotis** Deligorges, **Vera** Farah, **Betty** Froberg, **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Roland** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nemer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **Danny** Mortensen, **Heather** Nassar, **Karam** Nassar,

**George** and **Renee** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Eva** Saseen (niece of George and Jeanette Nassif), **Michael** and **Nancy** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr., and **Lois** Teunion.

- We also pray for those who are with child: **Jenny** (Hanna) Abuaita, **Ola** (Michael) Alqazaha, Dr. **Lindsey** (Dr. Ryan) Brunner, **Walaa** (Rami) Khoury, and **Karen** (Nicholas) Shaheen {Drs. Ron and Kathy's son}.

### **Communion Hymn** (for the Lord's Day)

(Refrain) Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest.

(Verse) Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! (Refrain)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### **Reception of Holy Communion**

Please remember only ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED themselves may partake of Holy Communion. *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29). If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion.

- Since Church School is not in session, our children and their parents will receive Holy Communion together! Please wait in your pew until an usher comes to dismiss you.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP MEMORIAL MEAL** is hosted by *Khaled and Maysaa Al-Khoury and Family*.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: December 30<sup>th</sup>, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> ~ 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, see Manal Abuaita.

- **PLEASE turn off or put on vibrate all cell phones while in church, thank you!**
- The Narthex (where we light candles) is the entrance to the Church. After you leave the Lounge and come into the Narthex, please remember there is only praying here. If you are late for Divine Services, the Ushers will let you know when you may enter the church – Thank You!

**2019 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! Our children will receive their envelopes in Church School. Parents, please make sure your child gets their *Offering Envelopes*.

**ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER** All Women of St. George are invited to attend our annual Christmas Dinner at the Redwood Steakhouse (5304 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507) on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The cost is \$25 per person and must be paid in advance to reserve your spot (deadline is TODAY Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>). To reserve your spot or for more information, contact Janet Abueita (810-691-0956) or Areen Bathish (810-691-0722).

**CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS** We can make donations and purchases by Credit or Debit Card. This can be done by coming to the office or calling 810-732-0720 during Office Hours (see below).

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT ST. GEORGE!**

A wonderful evening is planned! For more information or to make paid reservations, please contact Khaled Al-Khoury (810-691-8676) TODAY! Adults: \$50; 12 years and younger: \$25. Paid reservations MUST BE PURCHASED by December 25<sup>th</sup>!

### **FAITH: The enemy of faith is pride**

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

“Jesus answered and said to them,

“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” (John 6:29).

The absolute necessary element for salvation is faith. Faith alone will save us; for only faith brings us into communion with God. Faith is a free gift, for nothing we can do can save us. No good works can save us. Being a good person will not save us. Only faith in Christ will bring us into everlasting life.

The enemy of faith is pride, for pride destroys faith. Pride makes us believe we do not need God, and pride is what leads many into the abyss of atheism, for pride makes us believe there is nothing beyond ourselves. Pride leads us to believe we are all important, and that nothing exists beyond ourselves. Once pride takes hold, our heart grows hard, and faith grows cold and dies.

Repentance is the cure for pride, and only through repentance can we rekindle the grace that brings life to our faith. Humbling ourselves before God, and giving ourselves over to divine worship, brings us back into the natural relationship that was preordained for us before the fall. Faith will grow then as grace rebounds.

### **COMING EVENTS**

This Week	On Thursday, November 15 <sup>th</sup> , we began the traditional forty-day <b>CHRISTMAS FAST</b> in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25 <sup>th</sup> . The 2 <sup>nd</sup> period is from December 20 <sup>th</sup> through 24 <sup>th</sup> , 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 <sup>th</sup> until January 4 <sup>th</sup> .
Monday	<b>Christmas Matins</b> 4:50pm <b>Christmas Divine Liturgy</b> 6pm
Tuesday	<b>Christ is Born! Glorify Him!</b> <b>المسيحُ وُلِد! فمجدوه!</b>
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

- 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 Coffee Fellowship in memory of a loved one, the occasion of a birthday, a wedding anniversary, or in thanksgiving to God, sign up on the poster in the Lounge or speak with Manal Abuaita.
- **SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK** Our secretary, Kelly Dotson, works Thursday and Friday (10am-4pm). The office is closed Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for Christmas. Kelly can be reached during Office Hours at the church office 810-732-0720 or [kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com).