

December 8, 2019

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ FOREFEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Tone - 8 3rd Matins Gospel {*Mark 16:9-20*}

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** {*the Golden-Mouth*},
we sing the following Special Hymns for today:

Third Antiphon (during the Little Entrance)

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 8

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 8 (*same as above*)

انحدرت من العلو يا مُنحَن. وقبأت الدفنَ ذا الثلاثة الأيام، لكي تُعتقنا من الألام. فيا حياتنا وقيامتنا يا ربُّ
المجدُّ لك.

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 سمعتي ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة الذي سيظهر لنا بمشيئته طفلاً جديداً وهو الله قبل الدهور.

Epistle Reading: *Ephesians 4:1-7* {25th Sunday after Pentecost}

Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:10-17* {10th Sunday of St. Luke}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Jeries and Juliette Qumseya and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of Jeries' brother-in-law **Majdi** Elias Alatrash (9 day).
- Zahra Abuaita and Family for the health of her family and in loving memory of husband **Hanna** Abuaita (2 year).
- Douglas and Sandy Thomas for the health of their family and in loving memory of Sandy's parents **Jean** (5 year) and **Alex Khouri** (27 year).
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Nayfeh** (Sawalha) Alshouri (+November 30th).
- 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** (Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York), **Sahar** Abdallah, **Housam** Abousamra, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Georgette** Abueita, **Naila** Banna, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Alex** and **Panayiotis** Deligorges, **Vera** Farah, **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Phyllis** Good, **Shawna** Hale, **Daisy** Isaac, **Imad** Isaac (friend of St. George), **Nawal** and **Nimer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Aida** Raffoul, **Reem** Ramirez, **Eva** Saseen (daughter of Nicholas), **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr., and **Lois** Teunion; **Michael**, **Jennifer** {daughter of James and Maggie David}, and newborn **Mela Marie** Habbo (November 12th); **Noti**, **Kari** {daughter of John and Theresa Farah}, and newborn **Matthew** Mikroudou (November 16th); **Ghassan** Al-Khouri and **Jasanta** Kahush who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Renea** (Rakan) Bayouk and **Dina** (Laith) Maymoun.

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).

- Since Church School is in session, please allow our Staff and then our Children to receive Holy Communion first! As always, please follow our Ushers' directions ~ thank you!
 - If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion.
 - If you have a special need, please let one of our Ushers know so they may assist you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Jeries and Juliette Qumseya and Family*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 29th, January 19th, and 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. For more information, see Manal Abuaita.

Parish Christmas Program ~ THIS Saturday, December 14th

- ▶▶ Great Vespers and a Special Visitor at 5pm
- ▶▶ Each age group of our Church School will be singing two songs. **PARENTS**, ask your children what songs they are singing and practice at home! If they can play an instrument or sing a solo, please see Janet Abueita TODAY!
- ▶▶ Lenten Potluck Dinner (*see below*)
- ▶▶ Family Night (for everyone!)

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED!

PRE-CHRISTMAS LENTEN POTLUCK Please bring what is listed below according to the first letter in your last name. If you have any questions, please see Amal Abu-Aita or Evette Rishmawi.

<u>A-J</u>	<u>K-P</u>	<u>S-Z</u>
Main Dish	Side Dish or Bread	Drink or Desserts

PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum and could not have our annual parish meeting. It has been rescheduled for January 12, 2020~please plan on attending!

RESCHEDULED GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROXIES are given to those who cannot attend the meeting because of medical treatment or illness, those confined to their homes, or those with written verification of a prior travel commitment. A VOTING member who cannot attend the meeting may have another VOTING member vote on their behalf. PLEASE NOTE: To better our procedures for Proxies, they are available in the church office beginning on Sunday, December 15th and must be returned back to the office by Sunday, January 5th. Proxies received after January 5th will be considered invalid. If you have any questions, please speak with a member of our **Credentials Committee** (Anwar Abueita, Fadi Rishmawi, or Fr. Joe).

ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY All Women of St. George are invited to attend this Christmas Lunch Party at the Redwood Steakhouse (5304 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507 off Hill Road and US 23) on Sunday, January 5th at 1:30pm. The cost is \$25 per person, must be paid in advance to reserve your spot, and the deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 29th. To reserve your spot or for more information, contact Hiam Bathish (810-238-2152) or Wafaa Elias (810-630-0639). There will be no gift exchange, but please donate to our Church with an extra Christmas Gift!

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) need to be \$4,792 to meet our 2019 Budget. On December 1st, our offerings were \$1,730 so we were short \$3,062 😞 ! Please support the good works of St. George!

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.

- **AUTOMATIC GIVING** Did you know most banks and credit unions offer automatic bill payment services? You can set it up so they send a check from your account to St. George for the amount you designate. This can be a onetime event or weekly/monthly. Just call or go online with your banking institution to get the form you need.
- The **Narthex** (where we light candles) is the entrance to the Church. After you leave the Lounge and enter the Narthex, remember there are people praying in the Church. Any talking can be heard ☹️. If you are late for Divine Services and the doors are closed, please pray with us and the Ushers will let you know when you may enter the church – Thank You!

COMING EVENTS

This Week	On Friday, November 15 th , we began the traditional forty-day CHRISTMAS 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	Bible Study: Gospel of John the Evangelist and Theologian 6-8pm
Wednesday	Arabic/English Bible Study: Gospel of John the Theologian 12-2pm Christmas Fast Service 6pm
Saturday	SOYO Wednesday follows until 8:30pm Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm Parish Pre-Christmas Party follows

Peace of Heart ~ Disappointments are meaningless when we have peace of heart

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

We often find ourselves disappointed in life. The job we really wanted is given to another person. An associate at work does not invite us to the dinner party, yet invited a coworker and his wife. A person we would love to have as a friend shows no interest and we feel rejected. The music director at church does not allow us to join the choir. Someone much younger gets the promotion, along with an increase in salary. You get the idea.

If we have peace in our heart, all these disappointments are meaningless. The man who has peace in his heart gives thanks to God for all things. Even illnesses and poverty can be embraced if we see all as allowed by God because He loves us and grants just what we need for our salvation.

When we approach all that comes our way with a gladsome heart, we gain that which is most profitable. The treasure that is ours is one that cannot be taken away. Not even death can deprive us of this treasure. If we give glory to God for all things, a peaceful heart will be ours.

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- 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.

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 8, 2019

Choir and Chanter Appreciation Sunday

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

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray you and your families are well as we progress in the Nativity Fast with anticipation of the birth of our Savior in the flesh.

Just four days ago we celebrated the feast of St. John of Damascus, one of the great musical composers of our Orthodox faith. In his troparion, we refer to him as “the nightingale” because of his beautiful compositions. His hymns, along with countless others going back to the earliest days of the Church, continue to be sung in our churches. As such, the role of music and choirs in our divine services is of the utmost importance. With that in mind, it is with great joy that we honor today in our parishes throughout the archdiocese our choirs and chanters who sing praises to the Lord and beautify our divine services with their angelic voices.

While we set aside this day in December each year to give them special recognition, we strive throughout the year as an archdiocese to give them the resources and support they need by providing the proper liturgical texts with links to correct musical settings and sponsoring sacred music institutes at both the Antiochian Village in the summer and a location in another part of the archdiocese each February, and making available an ever growing library of sacred music in both four part and Byzantine settings on our archdiocese website. It is our prayer that our parishes will partner with us in giving the same encouragement to our choir directors and members by supporting them locally and helping them to gain new and young members to continue this important and sacred ministry of the Church.

Recently, we welcomed our new archdiocesan chair of the Department of Sacred Music, Ms. Mareena Boosamra-Ball, whom you will get to know more and more in the coming months. Like so many of our leaders in this archdiocese, she has dedicated over 40 years of her life to directing her local parish choir and over 30 years as the diocesan coordinator for the Diocese of the West. Now she will chair the Department of Sacred Music, bringing her talents and experience to a wider audience. We look forward to her leadership as she begins her work.

Finally, we thank all of our choir directors, chanters and choir members throughout our archdiocese for their dedication and ministry. Most of you serve on a volunteer basis or for very little compensation for your work and we are grateful for your time and talents you give each and every week. May God bless you all and grant you strength to continue giving praise to God.

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

Yours in the service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is stylized and includes a 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)

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

St. George Orthodox Church

Valentine Gala

Friday, February 7, 2020

at the St. George Banquet Center

Cocktail Hour - 7pm

Dinner catered by Chef Luis Fernandes of Redwood Steakhouse - 8pm

Dancing and Entertainment provided by Bassam Saleh

Reservations - \$100 per person Evening Attire: Cocktail

Funds raised will support the good works of St. George!

(Door Prize) **\$500 Somerset Shopping Spree**

(Raffle Prizes) **Diamond Pendant** donated by Diamond Galleria (Michel & Nadia Hamati)

Two International Airline Tickets to the Holy Land! (excluding June-August)

Sponsorship Levels & Benefits:

Diamond -- \$2,500:

10 tickets with Diamond Seating
Company Logo on Step & Repeat Backdrop
Company recognized on Sunday, February 9th during church's Coffee Fellowship
Company recognized from podium at event program
Company Logo on all event's prints & signage*

Platinum -- \$1,500:

8 tickets with Platinum Seating
Company recognized on Sunday, February 9th during church's Coffee Fellowship
Company recognized from podium at event program
Company Logo on all event's prints & signage*

Gold -- \$1,000:

6 tickets with Gold Seating
Company recognized from podium at event program
Company Logo on all event's prints & signage*

Silver -- \$800:

4 tickets with Silver Seating
Company Logo on all event's prints & signage*

Bronze -- \$500:

2 tickets with Bronze Seating
Company Name on all event's prints & signage*

Please note: Your contribution is tax-deductible by the maximum extent allowed by law.
***Sponsors guaranteed to be listed on the event's prints & signage if received by January 22nd.**



Valentine Gala Sponsorship Form

Sponsorships Received as of December 5th:

DIAMOND

Sorenson Gross Construction Company

Diamond Galleria (in kind)

The Farah Family in memory of George Farah

GOLD

Basil and Hiam Andoni

Dannie and Lubna Jones

BRONZE

Anonymous

Please print name of Individual or Business, as it should appear on printed materials:

Contact Name:

Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Sponsorship Level: _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please charge my: Visa / MasterCard / American Express

Account #: _____

Expiration date: ____/____

Those companies eligible for logo recognition (see Levels & Benefits), please submit your company/business logo to Office Manager Kelly Dotson.

Logos MUST be received no later than January 22nd to be included in all promotional materials.

Please mail check and send form by fax or email (kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com) to:

St. George Orthodox Church

5191 Lennon Road

Flint, MI 48507

Fax 810-732-0324