

# 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

February 14, 2021

VENERABLE AUXENTIOS THE PRIEST OF BITHYNIA

## 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.

**Welcome to St. George!** Thank you for attending today's Divine Services. 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 is invited to receive the final blessing of the priest and Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. John Chrysostom** *{the Golden-Mouth}*,  
The **Special Hymns** we sing are on the Bilingual sheets from the links in Fr. Joe's email.

## Holy Bread Offerings

- The Hawkins and Shahin Families for the health of their families and in loving memory of **Donald** Hawkins (40 day).

### 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:

- **Levi** Cooper – February 19<sup>th</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: **Issa** Odeh (+January 27<sup>th</sup>, uncle of Elham Ishak) and **Victoria** Haddad (+January 26<sup>th</sup>, aunt of Kh. Leslee).
- 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, **Anwar** Abueita, **Wadia** Albaba, **Nabil** Andoni (brother of Vera

Daoud), **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Evelyn** Delbridge, **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Sandy Thomas), **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Gracyn** Haskins (granddaughter of Mike and Nancy Silpoch), **JoAnn** Hawkins, **Nassem** Helal (father of Amani Helal), **Daisy** Isaac, **David** Jordan (cousin of Dn. Mike), **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **William** Sophia Jr.

- 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, **Jenny** [Abueita] (Tony) Salsa, and **Sarah** (Matthew) Thomas [son of Doug and Sandy].

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2020 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUMMARY** Our Credentials Committee determined we had 180 Voting Members. According to our constitution, we need 1/3 of the voting members for a quorum (a valid meeting/vote). We had 85 ballots returned for Motion A and 81 ballots for Motion B. A valid vote was established and both Motions passed as follows: *Proposed Budget* (Motion A) Yes 75, No 10 and *Using our SBA Loan* (Motion B) Yes 52, No 29. Thank you to those who sent in their ballots. Our Parish Council will share plans for using the SBA Loan once they are available and for parishioner suggestions.

**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](mailto:cooeita@aol.com)) as soon as you can so none of our children are left out and they can enjoy and learn about our life in Christ. Every month, our Kindergarten - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade registered students receive a packet of fun things in the mail (an email is sent to everyone on Fr. Joe's parishioner email list). Then on the last Sunday of each month (**THIS MONTH**, February 28<sup>th</sup>) our teachers have our CS Zoom Sunday at 12 Noon! Be a part of the FUN and send your email addresses to Janet TODAY!

**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!

**PAN-ORTHODOX PRE-LENTEN ZOOM RETREAT** is Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at St. George. The retreat begins at 2pm, ends with Great Vespers at 5pm, and is completely free (donations will be accepted for our Pan-Orthodox activities by sending a check made out to St. George with "Holy Cross" in the memo or online at: <https://app.easyithe.com/app/giving/saintgeorgeflint> under "choose a fund", click "Holy Cross"). Our speaker is *Archimandrite Maximos Conostas*. See flier for details and making reservations.

**PLEASE FOLLOW OUR PROCEDURES** Because of serious health concerns, **we all must wear masks at all times over our mouths and nose**. If this is difficult for you at this time, please watch our live-stream from home instead. Remember we are venerating icons by bowing (*not kissing or*

touching) and the same for the priest's hand and the chalice at Holy Communion. Further, **our clergy and chanters are the only ones who should be singing at this time**. If you feel the need to sing, please do so **softly and with your mask on**.

### COMING EVENTS

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline ( <i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i> ) is also observed on Wednesday and Friday.
Monday	<b>Bible Study:</b> <i>Gospel of St. John the Evangelist and Theologian</i> 6-8pm
Wednesday	<b>Arabic-English Bible Study</b> <i>Gospel of St. John</i> 12:30-2:30pm (note time change!)
Thursday	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b> 6:15pm
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

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## **The Bishop ~ *The unity and continuity of the Church is to be found in Her bishops***

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

Gathering together for the celebration of the Church's Divine Services is that great moment in the life of the People of God that brings together both heaven and earth. In these services, we are mystically transported to a place where time and space cease to exist as we know it, and we are transported into the Heavenly Realm. In these services, we are mystically standing with the saints and all the Heavenly Powers before the Throne of God.

These services bring us all together, from the smallest chapel, to the largest cathedral. Patriarchs, metropolitans, archbishops, bishops, and clergy of every rank, stand as one before the Holy Table in the sanctuary, worshipping the Holy Trinity.

The Unity of the Church is nowhere more defined than during her services, and the unity of the people of God around their bishop is clearly that defining moment. Whether the Divine Services are celebrated in a tiny monastic cave chapel of a hermit, or in the bishop's own cathedral, all are united together as if in one liturgical celebration.

It is important to note in Orthodoxy, Christ is the only priest, pastor, and teacher. Christ is the living Head of His Church, and alone guides and rules his people. He alone offers communion with God, His Father. He, alone, forgives sins. Christ remains with His Church as its living and unique Head, and is present and active in the Church through the Holy Spirit.

The Mystery of Holy Orders is the sacrament by which the bishop brings order to the Church, guaranteeing the continuity and unity of the Church from age to age and from place to place since the time of Christ. It is the bishop who keeps the continuity of worship and doctrine, from Christ and the Apostles until the establishment of God's Kingdom in eternity.

Bishops receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to manifest Christ in the Holy Spirit to men and women everywhere. Bishops are neither vicars, substitutes, nor representatives of Christ. It is Christ, through his chosen ministers, who acts as teacher, good shepherd, forgiver, and healer. It is Christ remitting sins, and curing the physical, mental, and spiritual ills of

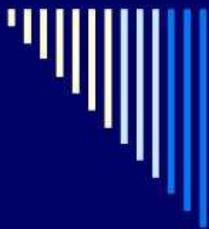
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humanity. There is reluctance to try to explain it in Orthodoxy, for it remains a great mystery of the Church.

According to Saint John of Kronstadt, the bishop is the source of sanctification for all the Christians of his flock, after God and the Holy Virgin. Thus, the great esteem and love shown to the bishop reflects in the faithful the view that the bishop is, by his office, the most perfect celebrant of the Holy Mysteries. Every priest, regardless of rank, shares in his bishop's priesthood, and represents his bishop among the people.

The bishop, as the Father of the Diocese, is father to all of us. We must therefore include our bishop [Metropolitan Joseph and Bishop Anthony] in our daily prayers, and show him the respect and love that is due his office. The unity and well-being of the diocese requires that we never judge our bishop, but only love and respect him. He is the icon of Christ in our midst, is pivotal to the whole of our Orthodox Faith, and is central to what it means to be an Orthodox Christian. Without the office of bishop, the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church would cease to exist.

*Get out your Bibles, look up St. Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to Timothy chapter 5 and St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews chapter 13, read at least the chapters, and then more! Love, FJ*



## Do We Treat Our Shepherds With Honor?

- *Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching; (1 Timothy 5:17 RSV)*
- *Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17 RSV)*

# *The Orthodox Churches of Greater Flint*

Assumption (Greek) 2245 Baldwin Road ❖ Grand Blanc, MI 48439 ❖ 810-771-4611  
St. George (Antiochian) 5191 Lennon Road ❖ Flint, MI 48507 ❖ 810-732-0720  
St. Mary Magdalene (OCA) 2439 South Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1701  
St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

## **2021 Pre-Lenten Retreat • Saturday, March 6**

### ***“I Waited Patiently for the Lord” (Psalm 40:1) An Orthodox Approach to Sickness & Suffering***

Presented by

#### **Archimandrite Maximos Conostas**

Fr Maximos is interim dean of Holy Cross, Greek Orthodox School of Theology, where he is also Professor of Patristics and Orthodox Spirituality. A *summa cum laude* graduate of both Hellenic College (1984) and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (1987), Fr Maximos completed his PhD in Patristics and Historical Theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. (1994). He has taught Patristics and Systematic Theology at Christ the Savior Seminary (1991-1992), and Early Christian and Byzantine Studies at Hellenic College and Holy Cross (1993-1998). He was subsequently invited to join the faculty of Harvard Divinity School, where for many years he served as Associate Professor of Theology (1998-2003). Responding to a life-long call to enter monastic life, Fr Maximos resigned from his position at Harvard and was tonsured a great-schema monk at the Holy Monastery of Simonopetra, Mt Athos, where he lived from 2003-2011. In 2015, Fr Maximos was ordained as a priest to serve in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



**Sign-up to receive the Zoom link by emailing**  
[saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com](mailto:saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com)

You may join from your device at home  
or

at Saint George Church • 5191 Lennon Road • Flint, MI 48507

***First come – first seated in the fellowship hall to view the retreat***

***50 to 60 person capacity in the hall with physical distancing  
50 person capacity in the church with physical distancing***

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 6**

**2 pm** first talk  
**3 pm** break  
**3:15 pm** second talk  
**4:15 pm** break and questions & answers  
**5 pm** Vespers at Saint George Church

*Member Churches of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North America  
A Vision of Orthodox Unity*