

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH



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saintgeorgeflint.org

September 07 2025

Sunday before Holy Cross, The Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

SATURDAY: VESPER SERVICE @ 400 P.M.

SUNDAY: ORTHROS @ 8:50 A.M. - DIVINE LITURGY @ 10:00 A.M.

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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! 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. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy.

Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion for Orthodox Christians: Orthodox Christians fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist by receiving Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly prepared to receive Holy Communion, the faithful should fast (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 striving to always love God and their neighbor. Frequent communion and regular confession are recommended for all faithful Orthodox Christians.

For other Christians: We welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christian's believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signify-

ing a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (antidoron) which will be given when coming forward to venerate (kiss) the Holy Cross and receive the final blessing from the priest. Again, welcome!

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

أبوليتيكيون القيامة بالحن الرابع

إِنَّ تَلْمِيذَاتِ الرَّبِّ تَعَلَّمْنَ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الْكَرَّزِ بِالْقِيَامَةِ الْبَهْجِ، وَطَرَحْنَ الْقَضَاءَ الْجَدِيَّ، وَخَاطَبْنَ الرَّسُلَ مُفْتَخِرَاتٍ وَقَائِلَاتٍ: سُبِّي الْمَوْتُ وَقَامَ الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، وَمَنَحَ الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعُظْمَى.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOTOKOS' NATIVITY IN TONE FOUR (**Joseph was amazed **)

From the root of Jesse and the loins of David the great king, * Mariam, the child of God, is born for our sake on this day. * Hence, all creation exulteth on its renewal. * Both heaven and the earth rejoice together now. * Praise her, O ye tribes of nations here below. * The righteous Joachim rejoiceth, * and Anna keepeth feast, crying out: * The barren beareth the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life.

أبوليتيكيون لتقدمة عيد مولد والدة الإله

بالحن الرابع

الْيَوْمَ مِنْ أَصْلِ يَسَى وَمِنْ صُلْبِ دَاوُدَ، تُوَلَّدُ لَنَا مَرْيَمُ الْفَتَاةُ الْإِلَهِيَّةُ، لِذَلِكَ تَفْرَحُ كُلُّ الْبَرَايَا وَتَتَجَدَّدُ. فَافْرَحَا مَعًا أَيُّهَا السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ، وَسَبِّحِيهَا يَا قَبَائِلَ الْأُمَّمِ. يُوَاكِمُ يَفْرَحُ، وَحَنَّةٌ تُعِيدُ صَارِحَةً: الْعَاقِرُ تَلِدُ وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ الْمُغْدِيَّةَ حَيَاتِنَا.

**KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOTOKOS' NATIVITY IN TONE
THREE (**On this day the Virgin**)**

On this day the Virgin Maid, * Mary the pure Theotokos, * the unentered bride-chamber * of the great Heavenly Bridegroom, * now is born of barren Anna * by the divine will, * to be made ready for God the Word as His chariot: * for which she was foreordained as * the gate of God and * the very Mother of Life.

قِنْدَاقِ تَقْدِمْةِ عَيْدِ مَوْلِدِ الْوَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ بِاللَّحْنِ الثَّالِثِ

إِنَّ وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ الْعَذْرَاءَ مَرْيَمَ، خَذَرَ الْعُرُوسِ السَّمَاوِيِّ الَّذِي لَا يُنْقَضُ، تُوَلِّدَ الْيَوْمَ مِنَ الْعَاقِرِ بِمَشِيئَةِ اللَّهِ، لثَهْيًا مَرْكَبَةً لِلإِلَهِ الْكَلِمَةِ. فَاتَّهَى الْبَابَ الْإِلَهِيَّ وَأُمَّ الْحَيَاةِ الْحَقِيقِيَّةِ، الَّتِي سَبَقَ تَحْدِيدُهَا لِهَذِهِ الْعَايَةِ.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (6:11-18)

Brethren, see how large a letter I have written to you with my own hand. As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted for the Cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised do themselves keep the Law; but they desire to have you circumcised, that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. Henceforth, let no one trouble me; for I bear in my body the brand-marks of the Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

الرسالة

لِلأَحَدِ الَّذِي قَبْلَ عَيْدِ رَفْعِ الصَّلِيبِ الْمُقَدَّسِ

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاثَكَ.

إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُخُ إِلَهِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَّةِ. (18-6:11)

يَا إِخْوَةَ، أَنْظَرُوا مَا أَعْظَمَ الْكِتَابَاتِ الَّتِي كَتَبْتُهَا إِلَيْكُمْ بِيَدِي. إِنَّ كُلَّ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُرْضُوا بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ يُلْزِمُونَكُمْ أَنْ تَحْتَتِنُوا، وَإِنَّمَا ذَلِكَ لِئَلَّا يُضْطَهَدُوا مِنْ أَجْلِ صَلِيبِ الْمَسِيحِ. لِأَنَّ الَّذِينَ يَحْتَتِنُونَ هُمْ أَنْفُسُهُمْ لَا يَحْفَظُونَ النَّامُوسَ بَلْ إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَحْتَتِنُوا لِيُفْتَخِرُوا بِأَجْسَادِكُمْ. أَمَّا أَنَا، فَحَاشَى لِي أَنْ أَفْتَحَرَ إِلَّا بِصَلِيبِ رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، الَّذِي بِهِ صَلِبَ الْعَالَمُ لِي وَأَنَا صَلِبْتُ لِلْعَالَمِ. لِأَنَّهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ لَيْسَ الْخِتَانُ بِشَيْءٍ وَلَا الْقَلْفُ بَلِ الْخَلِيقَةُ الْجَدِيدَةُ. وَكُلُّ الَّذِينَ يَسْلُكُونَ بِحَسَبِ هَذَا الْقَانُونِ، فَعَلَيْهِمْ سَلَامٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَعَلَى إِسْرَائِيلِ اللَّهِ. فَلَا يَجْلِبْ عَلَيَّ أَحَدٌ أَتْعَابًا فِيمَا بَعْدُ،

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (3:13-17)

The Lord said, “No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

الإنجيل للأحد الذي قبل عيد رفع الصليب المقدس

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يوحنا الإنجيليِّ البَشِيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهرِ. (17-3:13)

قالَ الرَّبُّ: لَمْ يَصْعُدْ أَحَدٌ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ إِلَّا الَّذِي نَزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ، ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ الَّذِي هُوَ فِي السَّمَاءِ. وكما رَفَعَ موسى الحَيَّةَ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ، هَكَذَا يَنْبَغِي أَنْ يُرْفَعَ ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ. لِكَيْ لَا يَهْلِكَ كُلُّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ، بَلْ تَكُونَ لَهُ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ. لِأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا أَحَبَّ اللهُ الْعَالَمَ حَتَّى بَدَّلَ ابْنَهُ الْوَحِيدَ لِكَيْ لَا يَهْلِكَ كُلُّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ بَلْ تَكُونَ لَهُ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ. فَإِنَّهُ لَمْ يُرْسِلِ اللهُ ابْنَهُ الْوَحِيدَ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ لِيُدِينَ الْعَالَمَ، بَلْ لِيَخْلَصَ بِهِ الْعَالَمُ.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading) for 9/7

On September 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Fore-feast of the Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos, and we commemorate the holy Martyr Sozon of Cilicia (Lycaonia).

Verses

Sozon withstood torments of the body, looking unto the soul's only Savior.

On the seventh, Sozon died, beaten a bright color.

Sozon endured a great persecution of Christians near the city of Pompeiopolis on the part of Maximian, the governor of Cilicia. There was a golden idol which the pagans worshipped. The shepherd Sozon left his sheep, went to the city, entered the pagan temple and knocked an arm off the golden idol, melting it down and giving the gold to the poor. The enraged pagans searched for him, but Sozon went to the governor and declared he was a Christian and the performer of that act. After many tortures, Sozon gave his soul to God in 304.

On this day, we also commemorate the Apostles Euodos and Onesiphoros of the Seventy. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Synaxarion for the Nativity of the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary.

***For Monday 9/8—Pan Orthodox Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene Church at
10:00 AM***

On September 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Nativity of our Most-holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary.

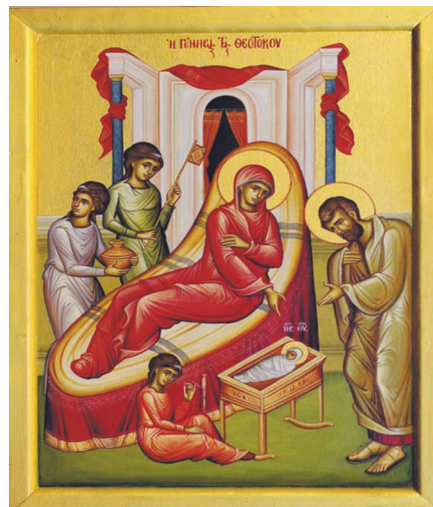
Verses

***Truly, O Anna, thou surpassest all mothers,
Until that day thy daughter shall become a mother.***

On the eighth Anna brought God's Mother into the light.

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams; for He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. She was Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, and the Fount of virginity and purity.

**Through the intercessions of Thy Mother, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.
Amen.**



I. God and Us Happiness

1. How mistaken are those people who seek happiness outside of themselves, in foreign lands and journeys, in riches and glory, in great possessions and pleasures, in diversions and vain things, which have a bitter end! In the same thing to construct the tower of happiness outside of ourselves as it is to build a house in a place that is consistently shaken by earthquakes. Happiness is found within ourselves, and blessed is the man who has understood this. Happiness is a pure heart, for such a heart becomes the throne of God. Thus says Christ of those who have pure hearts: "I will visit them, and will walk in them, and I will be a God to them, and they will be my people." (II Cor. 6:16) What can be lacking to them? Nothing, nothing at all! For they have the greatest good in their hearts: God Himself! (St. Nektarios of Aegina, Path to Happiness, 1)
2. The soul that loves God has its rest in God and in God alone. In all the paths that men walk in the world, they do not attain peace until they draw nigh to hope in God. (St. Isaac the Syrian, Homily 56, 89)

3. Truth

3. Truth is not a thought, not a word, not a relationship between things, not a law. Truth is a Person. It is a Being which exceeds all beings and gives life to all. If you seek truth with love and for the sake of love, she will reveal the light of His face to you inasmuch as you are able

How does God relate to us?

4. God loves us more than a father, mother, friend, or any else could love, and even more than we are able to love ourselves. (St. John Chrysostom)
5. A certain monk told me that when he was very sick, his mother said to his father, "How our little boy is suffering. I would gladly give myself to be cut up into pieces if that would ease his suffering." Such is the love of God for people. He pitied people so much that he wanted to suffer for them, like their own mother, and even more. But no one can understand this great love without the grace of the Holy Spirit. (St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, IX.10)
6. The Lord loves all people, but He loves those who seek Him even more. To his chosen ones the Lord gives such great grace that for love they forsake the whole earth, the whole world, and their souls burn with desire that all people might be saved and see the glory of the Lord. (St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, IX.8)

How to Come to Know God

7. If a person wants to get an idea about the pyramids of Egypt, he must either trust those who have been in immediate proximity to the pyramids, or he must get next to them himself. There is no third option. In the same way a person can get an impression of God: He must either trust those who have stood and stand in immediate proximity to God, or he must take pains to come into such proximity himself.

(St. Nicholas of Serbia, Thoughts on Good and Evil)

Ladies Luncheon Cooking Schedule

Friday, September 19, 9:00am- Kibbee

Tuesday, September 23, 12:30pm-Meat Pies

Monday, September 29, 12:30pm- Spinach Pies

Wednesday, October 1- Ladies cooking all day

Thursday, October 2 - Middle Eastern Community Luncheon 11:00am-2:00pm

Teen SOYO Kickoff Event!

Welcome Back! Our first Teen SOYO event of the year will be this Tuesday, September 9th, from 7:30–8:30 pm at the church. All teens are welcome! Please scan the QR code to join the Teen SOYO group



Nativity of the Theotokos

Monday September 8, at 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene

Elevation Of The Cross

Our parish is hosting host Pan Orthodox Vespers on Saturday September 13 at 5:00 pm. For the Elevation of the Cross

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS

BELOVED MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF ST. GEORGE

EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. (2 CORINTHIANS 9:7)

Our stewardship, offerings, and donations are needed. PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer your gifts! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) and donate on-line (or use the QR code below) 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! Online Donations will accept Credit / Debit Cards or ACH (transfers from a banking account) and can be set for automatic donations. Call the Church Office (810-732-0720) if you need help with this.

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 done automatically weekly/monthly. Just call or go online with your banking institution to get the form you need.



Holy Oblation Offering

- **Michael and Nancy Silpoch for the health of their family and in loving memory of sister Debbie Salim (2 yr)**
- **For the health of all members of St. George Church in Flint.**
- **For the health of all Christians around the world especially in the Middle East.**

PRAYER LIST

Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: Sahar Abdallah, Abeer Abuaita, Issa and Jane Abueita, Soad Abuaita, Philip and Janett Abuaita, Rasha Abuaita, Sami and Shafiqah Abuaitah, Georgette Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, Fr. Joseph Abud, Munther Al-Kahush, Basil Andoni, Naila Banna, Tareq Ziad Bannoura, Kristy Corcoran, Vera Daoud, Elias Gantos, Subdeacon George and Suad Gantous, Phyllis Good, Patty Harris, Daisy Isaac, Laila and Steven Ismail and new born baby Luke, Christine, Matthew Krinock and new born baby Nicholas, Danny Mortensen, Mousa and Amanda Rishmawi and new born baby Matthew, Karen Mortensen, Laura Nassar, Adam Odeh, Betty and Richard Ramsdale, Sdn. Dr. Elie and Samia Sadik, Kelly and Steve Sanderson, Peter and Michelle Shahin and newborn baby Miriam Lynn, Cathy Sisco, Gary Stewart, Elaine Shaheen, Richard Shaheen, Nancy and Michael Silpoch, Cam Takach, Elias Qumseya, Anoud Rihani, our Catechumens who are under instruction to become members of our Orthodox Faith: Maria Kirk, Tanner and Heavenly Roland, Alex Benoit, and Katelyn Wells; our Expectant Parents: Mirar and Fadi Odeh, Angel and George David, Stephanie and Nadim Burbar, and Letizia and Branden Jones; Shepherd (James) Taylor who was Baptized and Chrismated and will receive his first Communion today.

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.