

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

March 29, 2020

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST:

VENERABLE JOHN OF THE LADDER القديس يوحنا السلمى

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

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 after liturgy, 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. Basil the Great** (*Bilingual sheets on the Narthex table*), 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 الغلو يا مُنحَن. وقبِلت الدفنَ ذا الثلاثةِ الأيام، لكي تُعْتَقِنَا من الآلام. فيا حياتنا وقيامتنا يا ربُّ المجدِّ لك.

#### **Troparion for St. John of the Ladder of Virtues—Tone 8**

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

للبريةِ غيرِ المُثمرةِ بمجاري دموعك أمرت. وبالتنهداتِ التي من الأعماقِ أثمرتِ بأعقابكِ إلى مائةِ ضعفٍ. فصرتِ كوكباً للمسكونةِ متألئناً بالعجائبِ يا أبانا البار يوحنا. فنشفعُ إلى المسيحِ الإلهِ أن يُخلِّصَ نفوسنا.

### **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 وشفاف، وعن المؤمنين مكافح ومحارب، أيها العظيم في الشهداء جاورجيوس اللابس الظفر، تشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

### **Kontakion for Annunciation & Sundays of the Great Fast—Tone 8**

To Thee the Champion Leader do I offer thanks of victory. O Theotokos, Thou who has delivered me from terror; but as Thou that has that power invincible, O Theotokos, Thou alone can set me free from all forms of danger; free me and deliver me. That I may cry unto Thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

إنِّي أنا عبدك يا والدة الإله، أكتبُ لك رايات الغلبة، يا جنديةً مُحامية، وأقدمُ لك الشكرَ كمنقذة من الشدائد. لكن بما أن لك العزة التي لا تُحارب، أعتقيني من صنوف الشدائد، حتى أصرخ إليك: إفرحي يا عروساً لا عروس لها

**Epistle Reading:** *Hebrews 6:13-20* {4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast}

**Gospel Reading:** *Mark 9:17-31* {4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast}

### Holy Bread Offerings

- Hiam Bathish, her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren for the health of their family and in loving memory of husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather **Emil** (9 day).
- Munir Kokaly and Katrin Mitri and their families for the health of their families and in loving memory of wife and mother **Daad** Kokaly (6 month).
- Steve and Kelly Sanderson for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Donna** Stewart (1 year, mother of Kelly).
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Romero** Cena (+February 25<sup>th</sup>, father of Mary Farah), **Amal** Farah (+February 27<sup>th</sup>, sister-in-law to Hiam and Inam Bathish, Naila Banna, and Peter Farah), **Husam** Rishmawi (+March 1<sup>st</sup>, cousin of Fadi Rishmawi and nephew of Salim Rashmawi), **James** Crawford (+March 2<sup>nd</sup>, friend of Dn. Mike), **Dorothy** Salhaney (+March 16<sup>th</sup>, aunt of Dr. Michael and Dr. Ron Shaheen and Pam McCann), **Fouad** Sababa (+March 17<sup>th</sup>, Beit Sahour, Palestine, father of Ghada Yacoub), **Phillip** Nader (+March 23<sup>rd</sup>, friend of Elias and Renee Mitri), and **Lynn** Long, (+March 25<sup>th</sup>, Traverse City, father-in-law of former parishioner Stephanie Joseph Long).
- 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), **Sahar** Abdallah, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Wadia** Albaba, **Naila** Banna, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Alex** and **Panayiotis** Deligorges, **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Sandy Thomas), **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Elias** Gantos, **Phyllis** Good, **Salwa** Haddad, **Shawna** Hale, **Donald** and **JoAnn** Hawkins, **Daisy** Isaac, **Imad** Isaac (friend of St. George), **Nawal** and **Nimer** Iseid, **Nicola** Houry, **George** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Eva** Saseen (daughter of Nicholas), **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Habib** Skafi, **William** Sophiea Jr, **Lois** Teunion, and **Vicki** Toma (Fr. Joe's sister); **Laith**, **Dina** and newborn **Ayla** Maymoun (March 24<sup>th</sup>).
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Renea** (Rakan) Bayouk, **Kim** (Elias) Fanous, **Andrea** Jones (daughter of Nasri and Carol), and **Jennifer** (Martin) Khoshaba (daughter of Najwa Joubran).

### 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.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

OUR CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM AND COFFEE FELLOWSHIP are suspended at this time.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: April 26<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</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, contact Manal Abuaita (810-577-0028).

**OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, AND DONATIONS** This is a very difficult time for the world as we deal with CoVid-19. Though parishioners are not able to attend church, PLEASE help our parish by continuing to send your offerings to St. George. We will soon be setting up online payments on our website and when it is, you will be notified.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) need to be \$5,005 to meet our 2020 Budget. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, our offerings were \$665 so we were short \$4,340 ☹️ If you have not already, please fill out your *2020 Offering Form* and send it to the church (address on 1<sup>st</sup> page). Thank you for supporting the good works of St. George!

**PARKING LOT PLEDGES** Our goal is \$80,000 (we have raised over \$40,000 so far including half of the Valentine Gala profits) and we are so thankful for those who have donated and pledged. 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. Again, thank you to our donors!

Fr. Joe and Leslee Abud  
Dn. Mike and Pam Bassett  
St. George Preschool  
Khader and Lucy Abuaita  
Anwar and Janet Abueita  
Laila Abud

Anonymous  
Ladies Auxiliary  
Tony Daoud  
Ayman and Wafaa Elias  
John and Theresa Farah  
Betty Froberg

Dr. David and May Gantos  
Bill and Sue Shaheen  
Richard Shaheen  
Bob and Lois Teunion

### COMING EVENTS

This Week The **Great Fast** continues until our celebration of **PASCHA: our Lord's Resurrection** on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on all weekdays. On Saturdays and Sundays, *wine and olive oil* are allowed.

Friday **Little Compline and Akathist to the Virgin Mary** خدمة المديح (Madayeh) 6:30pm

All **Divine Services** are live-streamed at:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCpLWfxMIJK4uQOV41ekE6Wg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpLWfxMIJK4uQOV41ekE6Wg) Just cut and paste the link into your web browser! The stream begins about 5 minutes before the time of the service.

# The Most Holy Theotokos ~

**Let us seek the intercession of the Holy Virgin during this pandemic**

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

The Holy Virgin is a stumbling block for many Protestants looking into Orthodoxy. The idea that this woman described in the Gospels in such humble terms could be called the Mother of God seems unbiblical to them. She was never called Mother of God in the Bible, they say, so why would she be given such an exalted title? She was, they think, simply the mother of Jesus.

From the earliest of times, the Church has seen fit to call her exalted among women, even more exalted than the heavenly hosts. Her role in the history of salvation has been seen as pivotal from the time of the very first century for her humility and obedience before God made her the New Eve. Whereby death entered the world through the disobedience of the first mother, Eve, the Holy Virgin became the New Eve the moment she answered, *“let it be to me according to your word”* (Luke 1:38), agreeing to be the Mother of Christ.

The very first icon was painted depicting Mary holding the child Jesus by none other than the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke. The Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God was painted on a board from the table at which the Savior ate together with His All-Pure Mother and Righteous Joseph. The Mother of God, upon seeing this image, exclaimed, *“Henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed. The grace of both My Son and Me shall be with this icon.”* The Church thus recognized her for her pivotal role with the title *Theotokos*, which means Birth-giver of God.

The Council of Ephesus decreed in 431 AD Mary is Theotokos because her son Jesus is one person who is both God and man, divine and human. To call her the mother of Jesus was seen as heretical because to do so would be to suggest that Jesus was simply a man, apart from being God at the same time. The Church from the earliest of times thus preserved the balance of being both God and Man.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to announce to the Virgin the birth of the Savior: *“Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women.”* (Luke 1:28 and 42) This angelic salutation forms a part of the hymn of the Church most frequently sung in her honor, in imitation of the words of this angelic messenger of God. Elizabeth, the Virgin’s cousin, considered it an honor for the Mother of her Lord to visit her. *“And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”* (Luke 1:43) There is no difference between saying “Mother of God” and “Mother of the Lord”. Surely, God is the Lord! (Psalm 118:27) During her visit to Elizabeth, the Blessed Virgin spoke the words that form the principal hymn sung in her honor at the Matins service.

*“My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.”* (Luke 1: 47-48)

Elizabeth, having been “filled with the Holy Spirit”, cried out, *“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”* (Luke 1:41, 42) This honor given the Theotokos by her cousin is exactly what all generations of the Church do when they call her blessed. When Jesus beheld His mother and His disciple John standing by the cross, He entrusted him with her care, but He also established a new spiritual relationship between them in saying to the disciple: *“Behold your Mother!”* (John 19:27) In making this declaration, our Lord made His Mother the Mother of all Christians!

This pandemic is the perfect time to call upon the Mother of God for her intercessory help. As our caring mother, she is quick to hear our collective voices, begging for her intercession before the Throne of God. Just as her son, Jesus Christ, performed His first miracle of turning water into wine at her request, He will hear the voice of his mother as she pleads on our behalf.

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