

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

March 6, 2022

MARCH IS ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S MONTH

# Glory to Jesus Christ!

*Glory Forever!*

## Antiochian Women's Month Greeters/Ushers

Anaam Abueita, Amal Abu-Aita, Lucy Abuaita, and Areen Bathish

### 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.

**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 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, and being at peace with others. Everyone else, including visitors, are invited to receive the final blessing of the priest and Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy. Again, welcome!

## Antiochian Women's Month Epistle Readers

Aida Nassar (Arabic) and Janet Abueita (English)

## Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- Philip Abuaita and Zahra Abuaita and families for the health of their families and in loving memory of sister **Elaine Alqassis** (9 day).
- The family of Salwa Haddad for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Salwa** (40 day).
- Amjad Ishak, Evette Rishmawi, Mary Ibrahim and their Families for the health of their families especially mother **Shefaa** and in loving memory of father **Nassim** Ishak (19 year), **Nahil, Nazik, Katrina, Georgette, Nawal, Farah, Simaan, Mariam, and Jamie**.
- We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Ellis** Salim (+Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>), Captain **Collin** Birnie (+Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, friend of Areen Bathish), **Khalil** Ibrahim (+Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, uncle of Majdi and Rula Alkazaha, Maher and Susan Qazaha, and Ziyad and Mary Ibrahim), **Jamil** Hijazin, (+Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, father of Joseph), **Salim** Haddad (+Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>), **Ibrahim** Rishmawi (+Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, uncle of Salim and Fadi Rishmawi), **Irma** Cena (+Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, mother of Mary Farah), and **Salwa** Isaac Selby (+March 2<sup>nd</sup>).
- 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, **Shafiqa** Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar**, **Georgette**, and **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsahouri, **Rose** Ayoub (mother of Cam Takach), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Cynthia** Brooks (sister of Fr. Michael), **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** and **Victor** David, **Ranna** Esho (friend of Batoul Burbar), **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy** Isaac, **Dannie** Jones, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother Denise Ghattas), **Nicola** Khoury, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **Rafat** Nasri, **Laura** Nassar, **Aida** Raffoul, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Bob** Teunion, and **Georgette** Yusuf.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Staci** and **Daniel** Bator, **Cassandra** and **Daniel** Burbar and **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet) and **John** Timm.

*Our life depends on the kind thoughts we nurture. If our thoughts are peaceful, calm, meek and kind, then that is what our life is like. If our attention is turned to the circumstances in which we live, we are drawn into a whirlpool of thoughts and can have neither peace nor tranquility.* Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica was one of the most renowned spiritual guides of Serbia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As a novice, he lived in obedience to Elder Ambrose of Miljkovo Monastery, a disciple of the Optina Elders. Born in 1914, Elder Thaddeus lived through all the suffering endured by Serbia: two World Wars, the Communist takeover, and the NATO bombings of 1999. He taught, counseled, and prayed for all who came to him in pain and sorrow. His words of love and hope provided spiritual balm for people from all classes of society. In 2002 Elder Thaddeus reposed, leaving behind a large collection of his teachings, preserved by his faithful spiritual children.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Amjad Ishak, Evette Rishmawi, Mary Ibrahim and Families*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: March 13<sup>th</sup> and May 1<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). During the Great Fast (March 7<sup>th</sup> - April 23<sup>rd</sup>), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are served.**

#### **A STATEMENT FROM HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JOSEPH REGARDING UKRAINE**

"As Orthodox Christians, we oppose any type of violence or injustice throughout the world. Rather, we call upon Almighty God to send us His heavenly peace and bring us together to resolve our disputes through fair and open discussions. I join with all the clergy and faithful of this God-protected Archdiocese to pray fervently for the immediate end of hostilities, and for the health and safety of His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufriy, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and the Ukrainian people in these difficult times."

**YES, WE ARE!** We are missing so many of our children (and parents!) who are missing out on learning about our Life in Christ as we live our Orthodox Faith. Parents, you love your children, we love your children, and most importantly, God loves your children. Come to the Divine Liturgy at 10am to partake of our Lord in Holy Communion. Come to church to show your love of God! Come and receive all the blessings He has for us as we continue our journey to the Great Fast, the Raising of Lazarus, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and our Lord's Pascha, His Resurrection on the Third Day!

**FORGIVENESS VESPERS** TODAY after Divine Liturgy and Coffee Fellowship at 12:30pm, we celebrate this beautiful service helping us to begin the Great Fast on the right foot by asking forgiveness of each other. We cannot love each other without forgiving each other and we are ALL called to love one another as Christ has loved us (John 15:12)! As one of the vesper hymns says: *Let us set out with joy upon the season of the Fast, and prepare ourselves for spiritual combat. Let us purify our soul and cleanse our bodies; and as we fast from food, let us abstain also from every passion. Rejoicing in the virtues of the Spirit, may we persevere with love, and so be counted worthy to see the solemn Passion of Christ our God, and with great spiritual gladness to behold His Holy Pascha.* Plan on attending!  
**ALTAR SOCIETY MEMBERS:** During this service we change the candles and cloths to Lenten purple – please plan on attending.

**WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?** To stop feeling anger toward someone who has done something wrong; to stop blaming others; to stop feeling anger about something; to forgive someone for what they have done to us or ask someone to forgive us for what we did to them.

### **COMING EVENTS**

This Week Today is **Cheesefare Sunday** and the last day we eat *eggs, cheese, dairy and their by-products* until Pascha (April 24<sup>th</sup>). The **Great Fast** begins tomorrow March 7<sup>th</sup> and continues until our celebration of **Pascha: our Lord's Resurrection** on April 24<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. *fish, wine, and olive oil are permitted.*

Monday	<b>Great Compline</b> صلاة التوم الكبيرى and <i>1<sup>st</sup> part of the Canon of St. Andrew</i> 6pm
Tuesday	<b>Great Compline</b> صلاة التوم الكبيرى and <i>2<sup>nd</sup> part of the Canon of St. Andrew</i> 6pm
Wednesday	<b>Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas</b> 10am <i>Presanctified Liturgy</i> & Lenten Potluck 6pm
Thursday	<b>Great Compline</b> صلاة التوم الكبيرى and <i>4<sup>th</sup> part of the Canon of St. Andrew</i> 6pm
Friday	<b>Akathist to the Virgin Mary</b> خدمة المديح (Madayeh) 6pm
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

## My Sins ~ We Must Focus Only on Our Own Sins

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

When we take our eyes off our own failings, shortcomings, and sins, we notice the failings of others. As the sins of others get our attention, our focus turns away from our own struggles with the passions (sinful desires), and we begin to fall further into sin, our eyes having turned away from the Lord.

When our focus is no longer turned towards working on our own passions, our hearts become vulnerable, and we begin to expend our energy on picking apart our neighbor. Their sins become the hot topic with our gossiping friends, and we fall further into the rottenness of our own sins. At this stage, Abba Sisoes asks, *"How can we guard the heart if the tongue leaves the door of the fortress open?"*

If we are to take ourselves out of the mire of sin, and with Christ's help, be transformed and made whole, our eyes must never look to the sins of others, *"For a person cannot be disquieted or concerned about other people's affairs if he is satisfied with concentrating on the work of his own hands."* (St. John Cassian a 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> century saint)

As we approach Great and Holy Lent, let us refocus ourselves and prepare for the struggle ahead. Let us make this Great Fast the most profitable of all, with the goal of acquiring a humble and contrite heart. If we focus on our own failings only, we will find this Lenten season will be the most profitable of all! We will be lifted up by God and our celebration of Holy Pascha will be the most glorious of them all.

Remember, the Great and Holy Fast was created for us as a time for repentance, renewal, and the restoration of heart, mind, and body. Let us keep our spiritual eyes on Christ, and be open to the healing of our soul that comes for us through this very Christ Jesus, Whom we worship and adore.

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## What is talking about someone vs gossip?

As verbs the difference between talk and gossip is that talk is to communicate, usually by means of speech. If you are sharing someone's business to someone so you both can figure out how to help and pray, that's talking. If that is not what you are doing, then it is gossip and you will be judged for it. Gossip is to talk about someone else's private or personal business, especially in a way that spreads the information or misinformation without helping.



His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

## ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Great Lent, 2022

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of our Archdiocese,

Blessings to you and your families in the name of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we enter Great Lent—this consecrated season of repentance—the Church summons us to focus even more intently on drawing near to God. She shows us proven paths of approach to Him: not just fasting and prayer but also sharing our material blessings with others. From the saints we learn that charitable giving is not just about helping our neighbor, but even more importantly, it is a means of approach to God. St. Paul encourages us, “Do not forget to do good and to share, for God is well pleased with such sacrifices” (Heb. 13:16), and he thus teaches us that charity is a form of holy sacrifice—an act of worship that shows our love for God and invites Him into our lives.

In the same vein, St. John Chrysostom describes philanthropy as a holy and priestly ministry, urging us to “put on the vestment of philanthropy, which is holier than the priestly clothing.” He goes on to exhort us: “When you see a poor believer, think that you behold an altar; when you see a miserable beggar, do not just refrain from insulting him but even reverence him” (Homily 20 on Second Corinthians). His words remind us that people in need do us a service, by providing us a way to show God love and honor. For, as our Lord said, “As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me” (Matt. 25:40).

With this in mind, over the past 48 years our Archdiocese has encouraged you to give alms during Lent through *Food for Hungry People and Charitable Outreach*. Once again, we appeal to your generosity and your love of God, asking you to offer God a gift by putting food and other necessities into the hands of the poor. May your gift from the heart be received by God as a pleasing and holy sacrifice, and may He give you in return the joy of His presence.

With prayers that we all be granted strength for the holy struggle ahead and that we be found worthy to celebrate joyously the victory of our Crucified and Risen Lord, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+ JOSEPH  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

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