

St. George Orthodox Church

5191 Lennon Road • Flint, MI 48507 • (810) 732-0720

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

April 18, 2021

VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

أحد القديسة مريم المصرية

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.

Holy Bread Offerings

- Gisele Farah and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of sister-in-law **Juliette** Farah (40 day).
- Awatef Deligorges and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of husband, father, and grandfather **Alexander** (6 month).
- The children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of **Elias** Gantos on the occasion of his 91st birthday ~ *May God grant him many years!* ~ the health of their family, and in loving memory of wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother **Laura** Gantos (30 year), and son, brother, and uncle **Shane** Gantos (23 year).
- Emil and Elaine Abueita for the health of their family especially daughter **Sandy** on the occasion of her 25th birthday ~ *May God grant her many years!*

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:

- **Jowelle Odeh** – April 19th
- **Christopher Abu Aita** – April 22nd
- **Gizelle Awad** – April 24th

May they be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}

- 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**, **Emil**, **Elaine**, **Elias**, **George**, and **Sandy Abueita**, **Jane Alatrash**, **Wadia Albaba**, **William Alsahouri**, **Emil Bathish**, **Levi Cooper**, **Vera Daoud**, **Jimmy David**, **Evelyn Delbridge**, **Vera Farah**, **Averie Fisher** (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias Gantos**, **Mariam Ghanim** (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis Good**, **Carol Haddad**, **Gracyn Haskins** (granddaughter of Mike and Nancy Silpoch), **Daisy Isaac**, **Danny Isaac**, **David Jordan** (cousin of Dn. Mike), **Sally Joseph**, **Nakhleh Khoury**, **Nicola Khoury**, **George** and **Jeanette Nassif**, **Marlen** and **Nataly Odeh**, **Juliette Qumseya**, **Aida Raffoul**, **Deborah Salim**, **Ellis Salim**, **Nicholas Saseen**, **Michael Silpoch**, and **William Sophia Jr.**
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Mirna (Tamer) Abuaita** [son of Khader and Lucy], **Haneen (Benan) Burbar**, **Jenny [Abueita] (Tony) Salsa**, **Rachel (Andrew) Sackllah** [daughter of Suheil and Abeer Abuaita], and **Sarah (Matthew) Thomas** [son of Doug and Sandy].

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARE YOU VACCINATED? DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND NEED ANSWERS? We are blessed to have a number of medical professionals in our parish and all of them want you to get your Covid-19 vaccine ASAP. There is lots of wrong information on TV and social media. Don't be fooled; it could cost you or your family and friends in a sad way! If you have any questions or need truthful information, please contact Dr. Lindsey (Farah) Brunner: text ONLY, please 810-908-9213 or Infarah2009@hotmail.com.

BANQUET CENTER SUPERVISOR NEEDED As the pandemic is slowly beginning to improve, our Center has many rentals in the months to come. We are in need of a Rental Supervisor to be here during rentals. Most rentals are on weekends (Friday-Sunday). Pay is up to \$75 per rental. If you are interested, please call the office 810-732-0720 and leave a message. This is a perfect part-time job for a responsible college student or young adult!

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**.

HOLY SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION) If you are 8 years or older, have been away from the Church, or have not had Confession in the last 2 months and desire to come back and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, please remember you must offer a confession of your sins

first. During this time of preparation during the Great Fast is a perfect opportunity. Confessions can be heard before or after most services except after Wednesday Presanctified and Sunday Divine Liturgy. Because it is so important, for your convenience Fr. Joe will hearing confessions after Divine Liturgy Sunday, April 18th. Fr. Joe is not the only Orthodox priest in the area and if you would prefer to go for confession to one of the other local priests, feel free to do so (*please just let Fr. Joe know*): Fr. Jarrod Russell from Assumption Church (810-771-4611), Fr. Gabriel Bilas from St. Mary Magdalene (810-750-1401) or Fr. Matthew Butrie from St. Nicholas Church (810-744-0070). The important thing is not who hears your confession, but you participate in this Holy Sacrament on a regular basis. **Blessed are those who wash their (baptismal) robes, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life (which is Jesus Christ).** (Revelation 22:14)

PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE MINISTRY

We are looking for a special person to lead our Preschool & Childcare Ministry. The Preschool has been in operation since 2018 and has had over 30 children in attendance. Though currently closed and without a Program Director we have a valid Child Care License. With proper staffing and leadership it could be reopened at any time. Dn. Michael, Kh. Leslee, Kelly (our Church Office Manager) and others are ready to assist you! We have a list of previous clients as well as a growing list of families looking for the intimate, faith based setting that we offer. Rooms are set up, in place, and waiting for children! Curriculum is purchased, learning centers are in place, and there is plenty of outdoor play space! This is an excellent opportunity for the right person to provide a needed service / ministry to the community and help generate revenues for St. George Church and have nearly full autonomy with minimal risk. If you are interested or you know someone who might be, contact the Preschool at 810-732-1500, stgeorgeschool17@gmail.com, or talk with Dn. Michael or Kh. Leslee.

GREAT NEWS! The Antiochian Village will be having in-person camp sessions this coming summer! For those who were registered last year, you will have the opportunity to still have a spot this year. If you are new to the camp program, please visit AVCamp.org for information on how to register. Registration is NOW OPEN!

COMING EVENTS

This Week The **Great Fast** began on March 15th and continues until our celebration of **PASCHA: our Lord's Resurrection** on May 2nd. 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. On the Great Feast of Palm Sunday (April 25th), *fish, wine, and olive oil are permitted*.

Monday **Great Compline** صلاة النوم الكبرى 6:30pm

Wednesday **Lenten Hours** at St. Nicholas 10am

Combined Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقد يسه 6pm

Friday **Little Compline** صلاة النوم الصغرى and Canon of St. Lazarus 6:30pm

Saturday Combined Pan-Orthodox **Raising of Lazarus Preparation of Gifts/Divine Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 9:30am

Clean and Decorate for Palm Sunday 1pm

Great Vespers for Palm Sunday and Confessions 5pm

Self-Imposed Exile ~ *Lifeless things of this world offer no satisfaction*

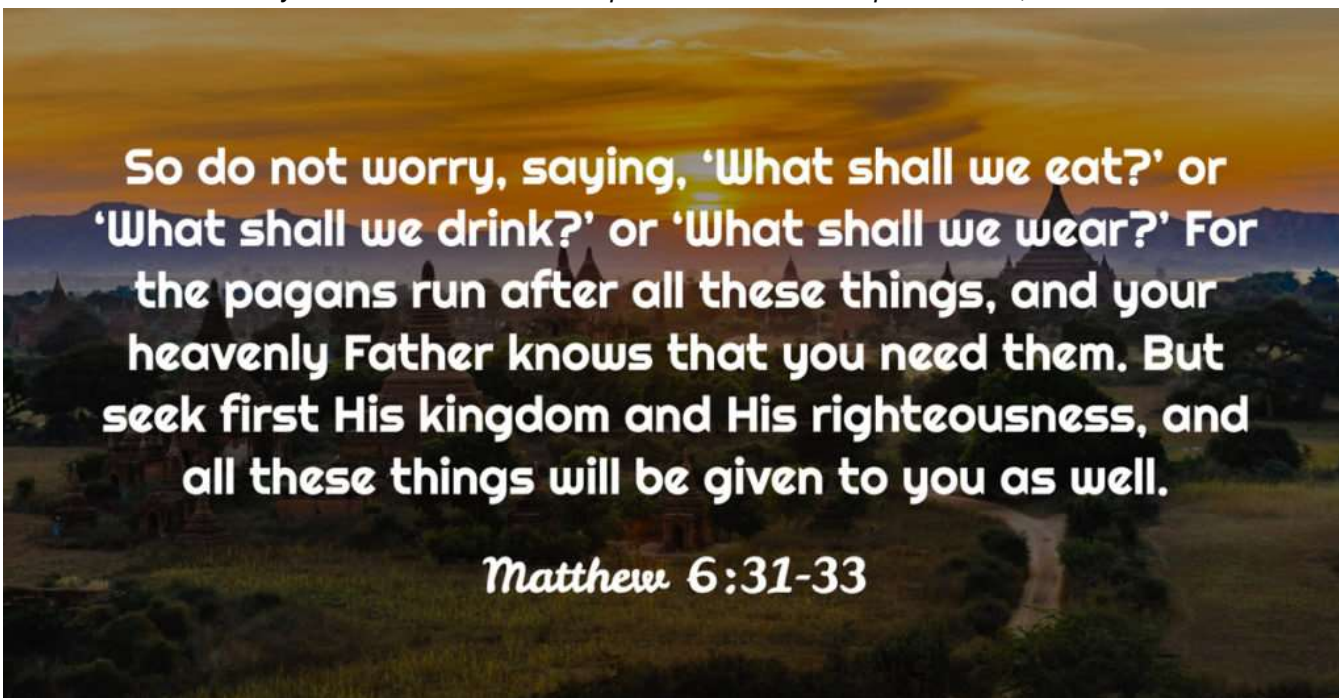
by Abbot Tryphon, head of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington

The lifeless things of this world offer no spiritual satisfaction, yet we often sell ourselves off to things or people by giving them power over our hearts. It is easy to feel abandoned or hurt by those to whom we've given power. If we need affirmation from others, we take the chance that we empower demons who would use our personal needs to keep us from focusing on that which is eternal.

Our need for affirmation from others can distract us from focusing on God. Ownership of our heart should be reserved for God alone, for evil spirits use whatever means they can to make us feel abandoned, discounted, or unloved by anyone we've allowed to own our heart. We can easily be distracted from our service to God if we allow ourselves to become envious of the recognition others receive. Recognition for a job well done can be nice, but not if it comes at the price of having lost our soul.

God's love must be sufficient, for only our relationship with God has lasting and eternal value. Sometimes we have to pull ourselves back from others and enter into The Silence. This self-imposed exile is the spiritual retreat that helps us focus on what we have in God. Then our relationships with others become healthy, fulfilling, and life giving.

Get out your bible and read the Gospel of St. Matthew chapter 6 ~ love, FJ



So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:31-33