

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

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

May 9, 2021

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

**Christ is Risen! *Indeed He is Risen!***

**المسيح قام! حقا قام!**

## 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

- Evelyn Delbridge for the health of her family especially **Roger** Isaac, **Brian** Silpoch, and their families and in loving memory of husband **James** (3 year) and grandson **Matthew** Lawrence.
- Fares and Sahar Abdallah, Dr. George and Cindy Zureikat, and their families for the health of their families and in loving memory of Sahar and Dr. George's parents **Hilda** (6 year) and **Yacoub** Zureikat (1 year).
- Anwar and Janet Abueita and Family for the health of their children and grandchildren and in loving memory of **Alice** (10 year, Janet's mother), **Asmahan** (6 year, Janet's sister), and aunt **Androlla** (2 year).
- Michael and Nancy Silpoch for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Mary** Salim (100 years old, Nancy's mother), **Mildred** (Mike's mother), grandmothers **Jelilliah**, **Sadie**, **Stephanie**, and **Amelia**.

- The Bathish children, their spouses, children and grandchildren for the health of their families especially mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother **Hiam** on the occasion of Mother's Day ~ *May God grant her many years!* ~ and in loving memory of father, grandfather, and great-grandfather **Emil**.
- Altar Society for many years of love, fellowship, and service by member **Susan** Shaheen as she and husband **Bill** move to be close to their children and grandchildren ~ *May God grant them 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:

- **Mario** Ibrahim – May 9<sup>th</sup>
- **Liam** Cooper and **Kirolous** Meshraky – May 15<sup>th</sup>

*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, **Wadia** Albaba, **William** Alsahouri, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **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, **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Marlen** Odeh, **Giries** Qumseya, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **William** Sophiea Jr.; **Tony**, **Jenny** [Abueita], and newborn **Lukas** Salsa (April 20<sup>th</sup>); **Olivia** Birch who was brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation and the reception of her First Communion.
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Mirna (Tamer)** Abuaita [son of Khader and Lucy], **Haneen (Benan)** Burbar, **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](mailto: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!

**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**.

## **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](mailto:stgeorgeschool17@gmail.com), or talk with Dn. Michael or Kh. Leslee.

- The national **Food For Hungry People** program during the Great Fast is now over. Please empty your boxes and send your donation to the church either with a check or online at our website: <https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>.
- **Thank you**, AGAIN and AGAIN, to our *Chanters* (**Anwar, Janet**, and **Elias** Abueita, **Sally** Abuaita, **Dn. Mike** and **Pam** Bassett, **Hiam** Bathish, and **Aida** Nassar); our **Altar Society** for cleaning and decorating for Palm Sunday and Pascha; **Basil** Andoni and **Danny** Isaac who worked to have our old shed torn down and removed and Basil for having the parking lot swept; **Anwar** Abueita and **Jimmy** David for painting the blocks in the front parking spaces; **Kelly** Dotson (our office manager) and **Munther** Al-Kahush; for all of their hard work which enabled everything to be beautiful for the Great Fast, Holy Week, and Pascha!

## **Paschal Greeting and Response**

*Used until Our Lord's Ascension on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Pascha (June 10<sup>th</sup>)*

**English:** Christ is Risen! *Indeed He is Risen!*

**Arabic:** Al-Maseeh Qam! *Haqqan Qam!*

**Greek:** Christos Aneste! *Alethos Aneste!*

**Slavonic:** Christos Voskrese! *Voistinu Voskrese!*

### **COMING EVENTS**

This Week	There is no fasting until the Friday (June 11 <sup>th</sup> ) after our celebration of the Great Feast of our <b>Lord's Ascension into Heaven</b> on the 40 <sup>th</sup> day after His Resurrection (June 10 <sup>th</sup> ).
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
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

Below is a Paschal Epistle written by St. John (Maximovitch) of Shanghai and San Francisco (the bishop in the above photograph) in 1940 when he served as the Bishop of Shanghai.

## Christ is Risen!

*Let us arise in the deep dawn, And instead of myrrh, offer a hymn to the Lord.*

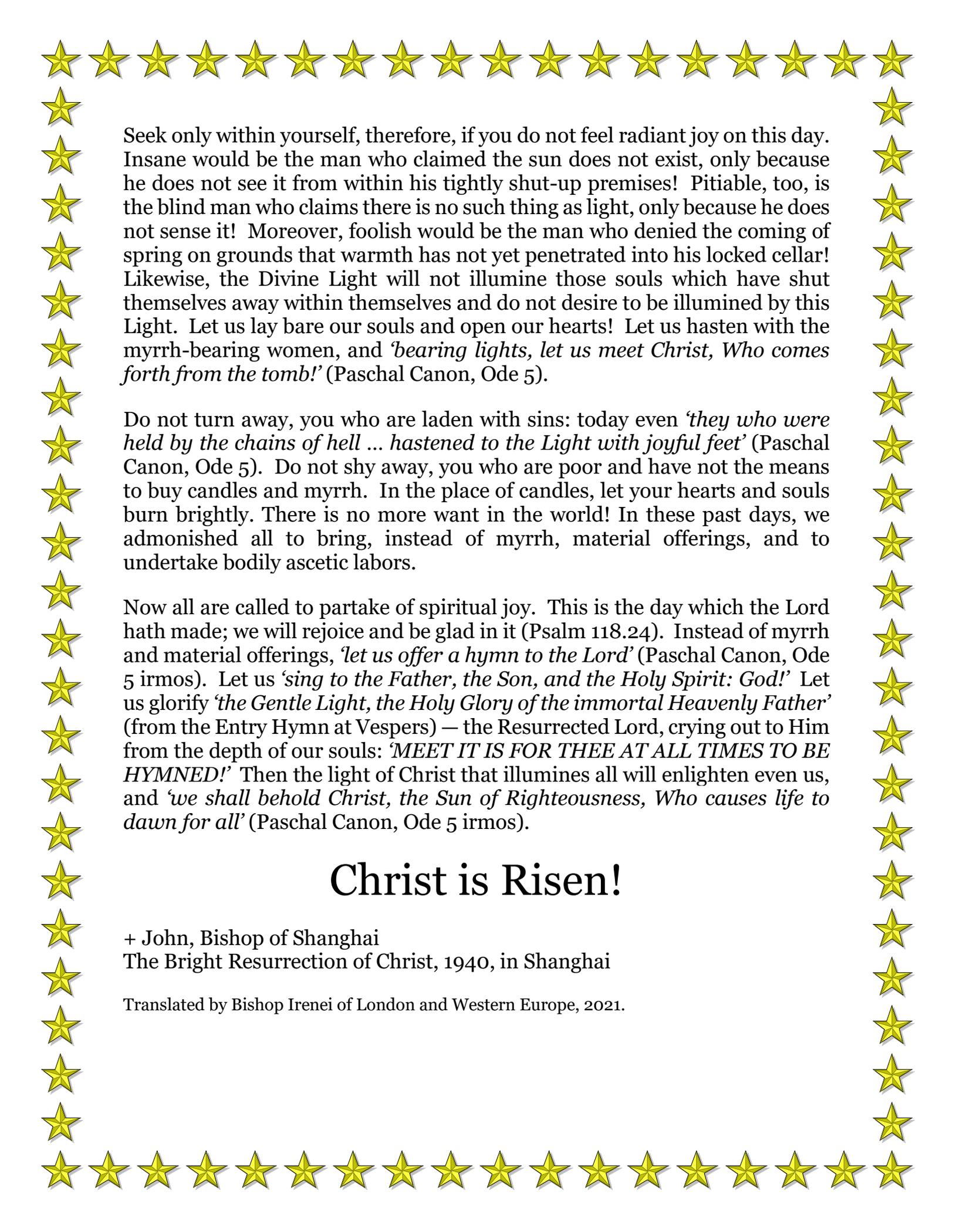
(Paschal Canon, Ode 5 irmos)

We go before the rising of the sun, and in the depth of night hasten to meet the Sun of Righteousness. The present night is no ordinary night! Brighter than the day, it illumines our souls! The rays of the Sun of the world illumine us and the whole universe, enlightening all who come unto His light. The warmth poured out in His rays penetrates all our members, filling our souls with deep peace and even healing our bodily infirmities. Our sorrows are melted away by their warmth, and our passions are burned away as if by fire. Enmity and hatred disappear from us, our bitternesses are forgotten, and our impoverishment is felt no more. The whole world becomes different in this holy and unequalled night!

All nature is changed, and everything is filled with warmth, with light. Just as, at the rising of the sun, birds of prey hide themselves and wild beasts retreat into their dens, so does evil flee from every heart illumined today by the Light which shines forth from the tomb. Like the morning dew, our tears are now dried away! As flowers unfold at the break of day, brought back to life by the rays of the sun, so does the Sun, rising on this morning, restore virtues to us. Let us all strive to be illumined by this wondrous Light!

At the coming of spring, we open the windows and doors of our homes and other buildings so the warmth may enter and dry the dampness that has accumulated within. Let us now open the doors and windows of our souls and hearts, that they may be warmed by the rays of the Sun of righteousness!

His going forth is from the edge of the heavens, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof (Psalm 18.6). *'Now all things are filled with Light: heaven and earth, and the nethermost regions'* (Ode 3 of the Paschal Canon). However, He cannot penetrate our interior life, unless we so desire!



Seek only within yourself, therefore, if you do not feel radiant joy on this day. Insane would be the man who claimed the sun does not exist, only because he does not see it from within his tightly shut-up premises! Pitiably, too, is the blind man who claims there is no such thing as light, only because he does not sense it! Moreover, foolish would be the man who denied the coming of spring on grounds that warmth has not yet penetrated into his locked cellar! Likewise, the Divine Light will not illumine those souls which have shut themselves away within themselves and do not desire to be illumined by this Light. Let us lay bare our souls and open our hearts! Let us hasten with the myrrh-bearing women, and *'bearing lights, let us meet Christ, Who comes forth from the tomb!'* (Paschal Canon, Ode 5).

Do not turn away, you who are laden with sins: today even *'they who were held by the chains of hell ... hastened to the Light with joyful feet'* (Paschal Canon, Ode 5). Do not shy away, you who are poor and have not the means to buy candles and myrrh. In the place of candles, let your hearts and souls burn brightly. There is no more want in the world! In these past days, we admonished all to bring, instead of myrrh, material offerings, and to undertake bodily ascetic labors.

Now all are called to partake of spiritual joy. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118.24). Instead of myrrh and material offerings, *'let us offer a hymn to the Lord'* (Paschal Canon, Ode 5 irmos). Let us *'sing to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: God!'* Let us glorify *'the Gentle Light, the Holy Glory of the immortal Heavenly Father'* (from the Entry Hymn at Vespers) — the Resurrected Lord, crying out to Him from the depth of our souls: *'MEET IT IS FOR THEE AT ALL TIMES TO BE HYMNED!'* Then the light of Christ that illumines all will enlighten even us, and *'we shall behold Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, Who causes life to dawn for all'* (Paschal Canon, Ode 5 irmos).

## Christ is Risen!

+ John, Bishop of Shanghai  
The Bright Resurrection of Christ, 1940, in Shanghai

Translated by Bishop Irenei of London and Western Europe, 2021.