

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Rev. Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

July 11, 2021

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!

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. 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

- William and Wafa Alsahouri and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Suad** Awwad (3/9 day, mother of Wafa).
- John and Christina Joseph and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Thomas** Morrow (40 day, father of Christina).
- Father Michael and Khouria Pam Bassett for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Catherine** Jane Verbosky (40 day, sister of Fr. Mike) and the **Archpriest Peter** Gillquist (9 year).

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:

- **Jolie Farah** and **Marla Jarayseh** – July 15th
- **Lana Elia** – July 16th
- **Nour Ishak** and **Ariana Khouri** – July 17th

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

- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Charles Darany** (+June 5th, friend of Laila Abud).
- 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**, **Amal Abu-Aita**, **Asma Abuaita** (sister of Janett), **Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer Abuaita**, **Anwar Abueita**, **Wadia Albaba**, **William Alsaouri**, **Emil Bathish**, **Levi Cooper**, **Vera Daoud**, **Jimmy David**, **Thuraya Elias** (mother of Ayman), **Vera Farah**, **Averie Fisher** (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias Gantos**, **Mariam Ghanim** (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis Good**, **Gracyn Haskins** (granddaughter of Mike and Nancy Silpoch), **Daisy Isaac**, **Nakhleh Khoury**, **Nicola Khoury**, **George** and **Jeanette Nassif**, **Aida Raffoul**, **Deborah Salim**, **Ellis Salim**, **Nicholas Saseen**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **Michael Silpoch**, **William** and **Elise Sophiea Jr.**; **Matthew**, **Sarah**, and newborn **Landon Thomas** [June 10th, grandson of Doug and Sandy].
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Mirna** and **Tamer Abuaita** [son of Khader and Lucy], **Jasanta** and **Ghassan Al-Khouri**, **Haneen** and **Benan Burbar**, **Natania** and **Rene Hanna**, **Kari** and **Panagiotis Mikroudis** [daughter of John and Theresa Farah], **Elise** and **Jarrett Lane** [daughter of Habeeb & Denise Ghattas and Jill Smith], and **Rachel** and **Andrew Sackllah** [daughter of Suheil and Abeer Abuaita].

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RENTAL Our Banquet Center is rented today. Please be respectful to our renters and their guests by not disturbing their event. Thank you!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is in our Lounge and hosted by *William and Wafa Alsaouri*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: July 18th, 25th, August 1st, 8th, 22nd, and 29th ~ 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). On Sunday, August 29th, we remember the Beheading of St. John the Baptist which is a fast day. *No meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are to be served.*

Combined Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School

Hosted by St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

August 17th – 19th

TOMORROW, July 12th is the Deadline to Register!

NEW COVID-19 PROCEDURES Based on the quickly changing directives and guidance from Metropolitan Joseph, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and our state government, our Parish Council has NEW PROCEDURES. We all want the safest place for all of our parishioners to worship. **PLEASE FOLLOW:**

1. Those who are vaccinated may wear a mask, **but are not required to.**
2. **PLEASE, if you are not vaccinated** because of medical or other reasons, **you must wear a mask and maintain social distancing.**
3. Pews in the back of the church are for **those who would like to be social distanced and those who are not vaccinated.**
4. **Our first breaking of bread together** took place on July 4th and we are now continuing with our normal Coffee Fellowship!

Our live-stream will continue. Remember we are venerating icons by bowing (*not kissing or touching*) also, please bow to the priest or at the chalice for Holy Communion.

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 as soon as possible. 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. **If you or someone you know needs help making an appointment or need to be driven to one, please call the church 810-732-0720.**

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, meat by-products, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.
Thursday	Parish Council Dinner Meeting 6:15pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

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THE ROLE OF DOUBT ~ *The Role of Doubt in the Development of Faith*

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

At an age when many of my contemporaries are grandfathers, or even great-grandfathers, I've discovered the truth of something I read about while still a college student. Grandparents are often more sympathetic to the burdens and challenges that young people face than their own parents. Age seems to mellow us out and make us more sympathetic to the challenges young people face. We become less judgmental because we've been down the same road and know that, in the end, these young people will come out just fine.

Some time ago, I had the mother of a boy of about thirteen arrive at the monastery, son in tow. She was upset because her son had declared himself an atheist and she was afraid he was in danger of eternal damnation. I sat down with the boy and told him that each one of us had to come to a personal awareness of the reality of God for ourselves.

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Doubting the existence of God, I told him, is all part of building a personal relationship with God. If we simply go through the motions without seeking a real relationship, we might as well be atheists. My own youth was filled with great spiritual struggle as I sought to fill the void I felt within my heart.

Most young people struggle with questions about eternal things. It is part of relationship building. Like the young lad who visited with his mom, I struggled with doubt. The only difference was that my struggle happened during my college days. It was a period of time when I was filled with anxiety for the future and fearful of making the wrong decisions. I understand the issues facing young people today because I was a young man with the same fears and struggling with many of the same issues.

Knowing as I do now the importance of being honest, I told the mother to let her son explore for himself the reality of God. It was better for him to question the existence of God than to simply pretend belief. At the same time, I told the boy he needed to attend church with his family because it was important to be obedient to his parents and supportive of his younger brother. After all, one does not tell his parents that he's not going to attend school just because he doesn't see his studies as important.

The God this boy was rejecting is the very false image of God that I have long rejected. The God I have come to know personally is not the same god I rejected in my youth. The God revealed in Jesus Christ is the One Whom I've personally experienced and Who first sought me out.

If we are to have a personal relationship with God, we must be open, honest, and unafraid to question. The Lord wants us to be real with Him. Like the sound relationship that one sees in a long and successful marriage, a relationship with God must first and foremost be based in honesty and truth. Love and trust come with time and experience. Our relationship with God is something that builds over time, like all relationships.

These seventy-five years have led to a great deal of peace in my heart and an ever-growing love for the God that first loved me. I KNOW God exists because I've experienced His great love in a personal way. It is now my heartfelt desire to share my love for God with the youth of today. They, like me, need to discover God for themselves and build upon a relationship that began with their inception.

Get out your bible, find the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Chapters 5-7. This is the called the "Sermon on the Mount". Sound familiar? This is today's Gospel Reading and it is in the middle of it! Love, FJ

Therefore I tell you,

do not worry about your life,

what you will eat or drink;

or about your body, what you will wear.

Is not life more than food, & the body more than clothes?

Look at the birds of the air;

they do not sow or reap or store away in barns,

& yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are you not much more valuable than they?

*Can any one of you by worrying
add a single hour to your life?*

-Matthew 6:25-27

More details are forthcoming: visit www.antiochianevents.com/convention for all updated PLC and Convention information and registration.



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (all times are EST)

2021 Virtual Archdiocese Convention

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 2021

- **3:00PM – 5:00PM** Order of St. Ignatius Meeting
- **5:00PM – 7:30PM** Antiochian Women Meeting
- **9:00PM – 10:30PM** - Teen SOYO Virtual
- **9:00PM – 10:30PM** - Young Adults Virtual Event

SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2021

- **10AM – 11:00AM** - Breakout Rooms where members can choose to join particular topics related to current parish matters such as:
 - o **Finance:** Mr. Salim Abboud, Fr. Michael Tassos, Dr. Elias Hebeke
 - o **Youth:** Fr. Nicholas Belcher
 - o **Stewardship:** Mr. William Morrison
 - o **Pandemic:** Dr. Badie Alnemr, Dr. James Rossetti
- **11:00AM – 11:45AM** - Fr. Joseph Huneycutt, guest speaker
- **11:45AM – 12:30PM** - BREAK - Lunch
- **12:30PM – 3:00PM** - General Assembly Meeting and closing
 - o **12:30PM - 1:30PM** Sayedna's speech
 - o Mr. Salim Abboud - Department of Finance
 - o Fr. Nicholas Belcher - Young Adult Ministry, Department of Christian Education, Department of Youth and Department of Camping
 - o Archdn. Emile P. Sayegh, Chancellor



His Eminence
Metropolitan
Joseph
presiding