

# St. George Orthodox Church

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

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

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

July 26, 2020

7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ RIGHTEOUS MARTYR PARASKEVE OF ROME  
JACOB NETSVETOV THE ENLIGHTENER OF ALASKA

## Live Streaming of Divine Services

ALL services are served only with a limited number of faithful. They are not open to the public unless you have reserved a spot (to do that, email Fr. Joe at [njja@aol.com](mailto:njja@aol.com)). Please view our livestream at:

YouTube ~ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpLWfxMIJK4uQOV41ekE6Wg>  
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.

In the **Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom** *{the Golden-Mouth}*,  
The **Special Hymns** we sing are on the [Bilingual sheets from Fr. Joe's Email](#).

### Holy Bread Offerings

- Husam and Wiam Khair and Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Nisreen** Khair AbuAmsa (40 day, sister of Husam).

### Baptism/Chrismation Days

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for their teachers and/or students who celebrated their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this week:

- **Ryan Helal** – August 1<sup>st</sup>

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

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Raji** Khoury (+June 19<sup>th</sup>, Evelyn Delbridge's brother), **Olga** Abuaita (+June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Luai's aunt), **Alex** Mathews (+July 1<sup>st</sup>, Cam Takach's nephew), **Adriano** Fadool (+June 26<sup>th</sup>, Kh. Suheila Qassis, George, Jalal, and Suheil Abuaita's great nephew), **Michael** Simpson (+July 9<sup>th</sup>, Kelly Sanderson's uncle), and **Enrique** Rojas (+July 13<sup>th</sup>, former parishioner).
- 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), **Anwar** Abueita, **Wadia** Albaba, **Nabil** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Naila** Banna, **Emil J.** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Vera** Farah, **Averie** Fisher (niece of Sandy Thomas), **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Elias** Gantos, **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Shawna** Hale, **Donald** Hawkins, **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nimer** Iseid, **Michael** Khal, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** Sophia Jr, **Lois** Teunion; **Josh**, **Andrea** [daughter of Nasri and Carol Haddad], and newborn **Lincoln** Jones (June 25<sup>th</sup>).
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Juliana** (Essa) AbuAita and **Katie** (Philip) Quackenboss [daughter of Bill and Sue Shaheen].

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FR. JOE—OUT-OF-TOWN** Fr. Joe and Kh. Leslee are out-of-town until late on Sunday night, July 26<sup>th</sup>. **For emergencies while Fr. Joe is away**, please call Protodeacon Michael Bassett (St. George, 989-627-9580), Fr. Jarrod Russell (Assumption, 810-771-4611), Fr. Gabriel Bilas (St. Mary Magdalene, 810-750-1401), or Fr. Matthew Butrie (St. Nicholas, 810-744-0070).

**OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, AND DONATIONS** Though everyone cannot attend church due to limited capacity or other reason, our stewardship, offerings, and donations are still needed. PLEASE help our parish by continuing to send your offerings to St. George. This can simply be done by going to our website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) or by mailing your offerings to St. George 5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507.

**PARKING LOT PLEDGES** Our goal is \$80,000 (we have raised over \$41,000 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  
Jamal and Manal Abuaita  
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  
George and Jeanette Nassif  
Bill and Sue Shaheen  
Richard Shaheen  
Bob and Lois Teunion

## Thank you and God bless

... **Aida Nassar**, and **Jeanette & George Nassif** for kicking off the summer beautification of St. George! They provided flowers to welcome us back to Church! Now we are sorely in need of weeding and clean-up! Anyone looking for an outdoor activity? Please help! The past few years, we hired a gardener to keep up things...but not this year! Please share your time and talent with the Church. Please contact Kh. Leslee Abud ([laabud@aol.com](mailto:laabud@aol.com)) if you can help.

### COMING EVENTS

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| This Week | The traditional fasting discipline ( <i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i> ) is observed on Wednesday and Friday. The <b>Dormition Fast</b> for the <b>Dormition</b> ( <i>Falling Asleep or Assumption</i> ) of the <b>Virgin Mary</b> begins on Saturday, August 1 <sup>st</sup> and lasts until the feast on August 15 <sup>th</sup> . The traditional fasting discipline during this fourteen-day period is <i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil and their by-products</i> , <u>except on Saturdays and Sundays</u> when <i>wine and olive oil</i> are allowed. |
| Saturday  | <b>Great Vespers</b> 5pm   |

## **Medicine for both Body and Soul ~ *The life-giving power of the Body and Blood of the Savior.***

*by Abbot Tryphon, head of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington*  
Eternity is an everlasting banquet (*the Divine Liturgy*) that takes place in the heavenly realm. Every time we participate in the Divine Liturgy we are transported into a place

where there is neither time nor space, and participate in that very banquet. As we receive the Holy Mysteries (Christ's very Body and Blood), we receive the healing medicine for that which ails us. Our brokenness in both body and soul are given the healing medicine that we so very much need.

God is everywhere present and fills all things. There is nowhere He is not. Hellfire is none other than the Fire of God, burning those who are unloving and unresponsive to His invitation to love and commune with Him. God does not send anyone to hell, for we sentence ourselves. Eternity with God necessitates a transformation of our souls, that we be purified in order to be engulfed by God's uncreated light. Without transformation the fire of God burns us, not because He desires we be burned, but because our fallen nature cannot withstand the presence of God without having been purified.

The Eucharist is the very medicine that God designed for this transformation. Our response should be one of humble submission to this invitation to commune with the very God Who created us. Holy Communion is meant to be the very agent that changes us, making us whole. The Holy Mysteries give us life. Frequent confession and communion are the means we have for change.

The Eucharist is both mystical and symbolic and is understood to be the genuine Body and Blood of Christ, precisely because bread and wine are the mysteries and symbols of God's true and genuine presence and His manifestation to us in Christ.

And Melchizedek king of Salem  
brought out bread and wine; now  
he was a priest of God Most High.



Genesis 14:18

Knowing-Jesus.com

The Holy Eucharist defies analysis and explanation in purely rational and logical terms precisely because it is a mystery. The Eucharist, as is Christ himself, is a mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven which, as Jesus has told us, is “not of this world.” The Eucharist, because it belongs to God’s Kingdom, is truly free from the earth-born “logic” of fallen humanity.

Saint John of Damascus says, *“If you enquire how this happens, it is enough for you to learn that it is through the Holy Spirit ... we know nothing more than this, that the word of God is true, active, and omnipotent, but in its manner of operation unsearchable”.*

During this pandemic, there are a small number of people who fear receiving the Holy Mysteries from the same spoon as those who have gone before them in the communion line. These people are thus depriving themselves of the Live-Giving Body and Blood of Christ, for fear of getting the virus. To them I would say, it is important to remember the Eucharist brings about healing of BOTH body and soul.

As a priest (as it is with Fr. Joe and Dn. Mike), following the reception of the Body and Blood by the faithful, I place the holy spoon into my own mouth, lest any particles of the precious Gifts fall off the spoon. I, like all priests, have done this since the day my archbishop ordained me into the sacred priesthood. I have NEVER come down with a virus of any sort for doing so, and I never will. It would be impossible, given that which I am taking into my mouth.

It is from the Powers of Darkness that such fear is generated, as the Evil One would have us fear receiving the very life-giving grace that comes from the reception of the Holy Mysteries. The Evil One knows of the life-giving power of the Body and Blood of the Savior, and it is the devil who would strike fear in believers, so we avoid receiving the Medicine needed for our souls. Let us, collectively as believers, stand firm in our faith, and tell the devil to go to hell.

**TAKE, EAT, THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS BROKEN FOR  
YOU FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DRINK OF IT ALL OF YOU; THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE  
NEW COVENANT WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU AND FOR  
MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**





# Orthodox Christian PRISON MINISTRY

**Sunday July 26, 2020**

**Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday 2020**

*“Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who suffer evil, as though you yourself were suffering.” (Hebrews 13:3)*

*To the Reverend Clergy, Monastics, and Pious Faithful of our Holy Orthodox Church in the United States:*

**Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Greetings and blessings to you all!

We are blessed to observe the Sunday before the feast of St. Silas, the patron saint of prison ministry, as Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday. This year we remember this sacred ministry on July 26, 2020.

Over the last several months, our communities have suffered from isolation and division as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and now, the backlash of the tragic racial injustices in our society. With so many people suffering from anxiety, separation, depression, and anger, how will the Lord answer our prayers for peace and harmony? Usually, as men and women living in the world, we can most readily find the Lord’s answer in small, personal acts of love and mercy.

He tells us very clearly how we are expected to treat and heal one another in Matthew 25:

*“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”*

This mandate, like so much of the scripture, instructs us to proactively serve those in our community in love. Each of us can be the solution to the anxiety around us by doing the little things that are in our control with humility, empathy, and patience.

Part of this calling to serve includes those who are in prison, where true, deep isolation has enveloped our brothers and sisters incarcerated. In prison, the simple acts of kindness are magnified: a letter to someone serving a long sentence, a Bible Study in the local jail, making the wife of a prisoner feel welcome in church. These are the acts of proactive mercy our Lord calls us to that Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry and many of our clergy and parishes participate in every day.

As the Episcopal Liaison to Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, I respectfully request you observe this day of awareness. The Holy Orthodox Church, through Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry,

brings the mercy, forgiveness, and love of Christ to those people who need hope and healing living in the darkness of prison.

As Saint John of Kronstadt states, “the very essence of the person is the image of God, and this remains in him despite every disfigurement.” Please remember and help our brothers and sisters in jails and prisons across the United States on July 26th. We humbly ask that after passing a tray for the ongoing work of your parish, you please pass a second tray on Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday for the work of the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry.

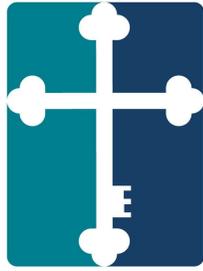
With much love and thanks in our risen Lord,

†Archbishop Mark

Episcopal Liaison, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry

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# Orthodox Christian PRISON MINISTRY

*Prison Ministry Awareness  
Sunday, July 26*

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry serves those who are incarcerated and their families, and provides resources, training and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed and God is glorified.

We provide visitation, Orthodox publications, Bibles, prayer books, icon prayer cards, and catechism courses to those in prison and their families.

**You can be involved by praying, giving, and volunteering!**

**In 2019**

**13,666** Personalized correspondence and pieces of mail sent to inmates

**9,515** Icons given to inmates



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