

## St. George Orthodox Church

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

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

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Rev. Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

August 22, 2021

# Blessings on the Dormition Feast!

## 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 (*Oblations*)

### 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:

- **Amany** Rishmawi ~ August 28<sup>th</sup>

*May they 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: **Jamil** Sahouri (+July 24<sup>th</sup> friend of parishioners), **Delores** Page (+July 26<sup>th</sup>, friend of Daisy Isaac), **Rayan** Janenah (+July 26<sup>th</sup>, friend of Ola Alqazaha), **Tony** Al-Sakali (+July 30<sup>th</sup>, brother-in-law of Elias Hanna, Najwa Joubran, Wafaa Elias, and Feryal Joubran), **Mariam** Alsous Rishmawi (+July 30<sup>th</sup>, aunt of Salem Rashmawi and Fadi Rishmawi), **Nakhleh** Khoury (+August 1<sup>st</sup>), and **Charles** Stewart (+August 10<sup>th</sup>, uncle of Kelly Sanderson).
- 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, **Salwa** Abu-Aitah, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Philip** Abuaita, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Anwar** Abueita, **William** Alshahouri, **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, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** and **Elise** Sophicia Jr., **Shirley** Zerka (mother of Victoria). **Maroun** Alatrash and **Julia** Qazaha who are to be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Mirna** and **Tamer** Abuaita [son of Khader and Lucy], **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury, **Haneen** and **Benan** Burbar, **Amira** and **Abdallah** Farah, **Natania** and **Rene** Hanna, **Elise** and **Jarrett** Lane [daughter of Habeeb & Denise Ghattas and Jill Smith], **Kari** and **Panagiotis** Mikroudis [daughter of John and Theresa Farah], and **Rachel** and **Andrew** Sackllah [daughter of Suheil and Abeer Abuaita].

*THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYS FOR US CEASELESSLY. SHE IS ALWAYS VISITING US. WHENEVER WE TURN TO HER IN OUR HEART, SHE IS THERE. AFTER THE LORD, SHE IS THE GREATEST PROTECTION FOR MANKIND. HOW MANY CHURCHES THERE ARE IN THE WORLD THAT ARE DEDICATED TO THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD! HOW MANY HEALING SPRINGS WHERE PEOPLE ARE CURED OF THEIR AILMENTS HAVE SPRUNG UP IN PLACES WHERE THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS APPEARED AND BLESSED THOSE SPRINGS TO HEAL BOTH THE SICK AND THE HEALTHY! SHE IS CONSTANTLY, BY OUR SIDE, AND ALL TOO OFTEN WE FORGET HER. † ELDER THADDEUS OF VITOVNICA*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is not hosted today ☹️. Please offer a donation to help cover our costs, thank you!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: September 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> , October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</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).

## CHURCH SCHOOL IS STARTING ON SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>!

Everyone received a letter and one registration form in the mail. All of our children/students, need to register using the NEW form. Please fill out one form for each child and bring it to church and give it to our Church School Director, Janet Abueita.

**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 the following current 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.**

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.

**YOUNG ADULTS** Our parish is looking to help our youth, in college and those beginning their careers, remain engaged in their life in Christ, especially during the complexities of the pandemic and the stresses of college life. To do this we need your help. Specifically, we need the contact information (e-mail) for our young adults so we can reach out to them to link them up with their local Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) or Orthodox church in their area. You can call the parish office 810-732-0720 or have your child, grandchild, or Godchild send an email to [saintgeorgegflint@gmail.com](mailto:saintgeorgegflint@gmail.com).

**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, your family, or friends in a tragic way! If you have any questions or need truthful information, please contact Dr. Lindsey (Farah) Brunner: text ONLY, please 810-908-9213 or [lnfarah2009@hotmail.com](mailto:lnfarah2009@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, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i> ) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.
TODAY	Wedding of Maroun Alatrash and Julia Qazaha
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

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**FREEDOM ~ We Are Not Compelled To Love God**

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

We are not compelled to love God, having been created with free will. God does not, nor can He, compel His creatures to love Him. Mutual love requires, by it's very nature, freedom to either respond in love, or not. Yet when we respond to God's love with love His mercy leads us into holiness, for entering into this relationship with our Creator transforms us, changes us. When we respond to God's offer to commune with Him, He changes us into His likeness. We were meant

*continued* ⇨

from the beginning to be in His image and likeness and our positive response to the invitation to enter into divine communion leads to holiness.

Like Saint Paul, we can say that whatever good we do is Christ in us. We can do nothing good without God's grace, which is why Saint John Chrysostom tells us, *"faith's workings themselves are a gift of God, lest anyone should boast"*. No man can call Jesus the Christ but by the power of the Holy Spirit and the gift of faith implants in us the grace to do good works. Can good works save us? No! God's mercy and grace saves us.

*"Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."* (James 1:17)

Our Christian vocation is to acquire holiness (become whole), something that can only take place by the power of the Holy Spirit. Faith by itself, without good works, is indeed dead. Yet good works can only be done with God's grace (Christ in us).



*"What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."* (James 2:14-17)

If we claim Christ to be our Savior yet have no love in us and do no good works, we delude ourselves, thinking we have Christ when in reality we simply have religion. Religion is dead, but Christ in us is alive! Works don't save us, Christ saves us. Good works are a sign that we are being transformed, made holy, because Christ dwells in our hearts. Anything good we do is because Christ is in us, and His grace abounds.