St. George Orthodox Church **V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor**
5191 Lennon Road • Flint, MI 48507 • (810) 732-0720 **Protodeacon Michael Bassett**
Web Site: *saintgeorgeflint.org*

August 23, 2020
LEAVE-TAKING OF THE DORMITION للرقاد OF THE THEOTOKOS

Live Streaming of Divine Services

St. George is open with a limited number of parishioners each week. Only those who are scheduled may attend. If you are not on the list and would like to be part of the rotation, please contact Fr. Joe (810-732-0720 or njja@aol.com). View our livestream at:

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.

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

- **Ayman** and **Wafaa** Elias on the occasion of their anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for the health of their family especially son **John** on his birthday and daughter **Christine** Krinock on her graduation ~ *May God grant them many years!*

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:

● **Joseph** Matarweh – August 23rd ● **Marina** Elia – August 24th ● **Amany** Rishmawi – August 28th

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: **Archdeacon David** Nimer (+August 5th, relative of the Farah Family), **Enrique** Rojas (+July 13th, former parishioner), **William** Stock (+July 20th, grandfather of Natania Hanna), and **Thomas** Dilullo (+August 2nd, friend of Dn. Mike).
- 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), **Reader Fouad** Abuaita, **Maria** AbuAita, **Anwar** Abueita, **Wadia** Albaba, **Nabil** Andoni (brother of Vera Daoud), **Kendall** Ayoub (brother of Cam Takach), **Naila** Banna, **Emil** J. Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Evelyn** Delbridge, **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, **Hanna** (Shawki) Khoury, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr, and **Lois** Teunion; **Alexander** and **Ragda** Wayne and **Paul** and **Lizzie** Ayoob who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony;
- 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 on vacation until early Tuesday evening, August 24th. **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). Please pray for Fr. Joe and Leslee's safe travels.

OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, AND DONATIONS Though everyone cannot attend church due to limited capacity or other reasons, 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.

PROCEDURES! Because of serious health concerns, we all must wear masks at all times. Please remember we can venerate the icons by bowing (not kissing or touching at this time), the priest's hand, the chalice at Holy Communion, or wipe your lips on the communion cloth. Further, only our clergy and chanters may sing. When you come to church, all of the front of the church is roped off so the singing of the clergy and chanters can keep everyone safe (singing, like sneezing and coughing, can propel air droplets 20 feet!) ~ if you want to sing, please do it very softly and with a mask on.

PARKING LOT PLEDGES Our goal is $80,000 (we have raised over $42,000 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	Anonymous	Ronald Haddad
Dn. Mike and Pam Bassett	Ladies Auxiliary	Elias and Amirah Hanna
St. George Preschool	Tony Daoud	George and Jeanette Nassif
Jamal and Manal Abuaita	Ayman and Wafaa Elias	Fadi and Evette Rishmawi
Khader and Lucy Abuaita	John and Theresa Farah	Bill and Sue Shaheen
Anwar and Janet Abueita	Betty Froberg	Richard Shaheen
Laila Abud	Dr. David and May Gantos	Bob and LoisTeunion

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on Wednesday and Friday. On Saturday, we remember the **Beheading of John the Baptist** with the traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*).
Wednesday	**SOYO Wednesday Zoom Gathering** 7:30pm
Saturday	***Great Vespers*** 5pm

HELP, WE NEED SOMEBODY! HELP, NOT JUST ANYBODY!

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 we could not this year! Share your time and talent with your church. Please contact Kh. Leslee Abud (laabud@aol.com) if you can help.

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties are looking for volunteers to help with an upcoming fundraiser, *The Ginormous Tent Sale*. The sale will be held at ELGA Credit Union (Burton Branch) 2305 South Center Road in Burton. Set up will be August 30th – September 2nd, the sale is September 3rd-7th, and tear down September 8th-9th. If you can lend a hand, please call Theresa Hurley on 810-853-0097~thank you!

Silence ~ *Entering into the Silence*

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

All Orthodox Christians are aware of the importance of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in our journey to God. These three practices are at the heart of the Great Lenten Fast. Prayer is our way of communicating with God on a daily basis, and fasting days (Wednesday and Friday) are called for throughout the Church Year. As Christians, we are also obligated to give alms to the poor, as demonstrated throughout the New Testament. Yet we often overlook the great spiritual practice of entering into the Silence as a way to discover ourselves, and deepen our experience with God's presence.

Today's technological advancements have introduced noise into our lives in ways unthinkable to the ancients. Not more than a hundred years ago, most families found silence as an everyday experience, for when the sun went down, families nestled into warm corners of their parlors, and their kitchens, often reading books, or simply watching a crackling fire. Along with this quieting down of the day, silence was part of every evening. Orthodox families were especially cognizant of the need to spend quiet time on the eve of the Sunday Liturgy, as well as great feasts of the Church, knowing that this silence served as a preparation time for receiving Christ's Body and Blood, during the celebration of the upcoming Liturgy.

Keeping silence by turning off radios and television sets, muting iPods, and turning off computers, is a splendid way of allowing everyone in the family to experience the silence that allows us to listen for the voice of God, speaking in our hearts. Refraining from conversation, music, and all forms of entertainment for just an hour or two, helps open us to an experience of God that has become foreign to most modern Americans.

Silence is the means by which we may access and deepen our relationship with God, and develop self-knowledge. Silence allows us to live more harmoniously in our world, and actually listen for the voice of God speaking to our hearts. Saint Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, placed the virtue of silence on par with the faith itself in a synodal letter from AD 400. "Monks—if they wish to be what they are called—will love silence and the catholic faith, for nothing at all is more important than these two things."

This invitation into the silence is not only for monks and nuns!

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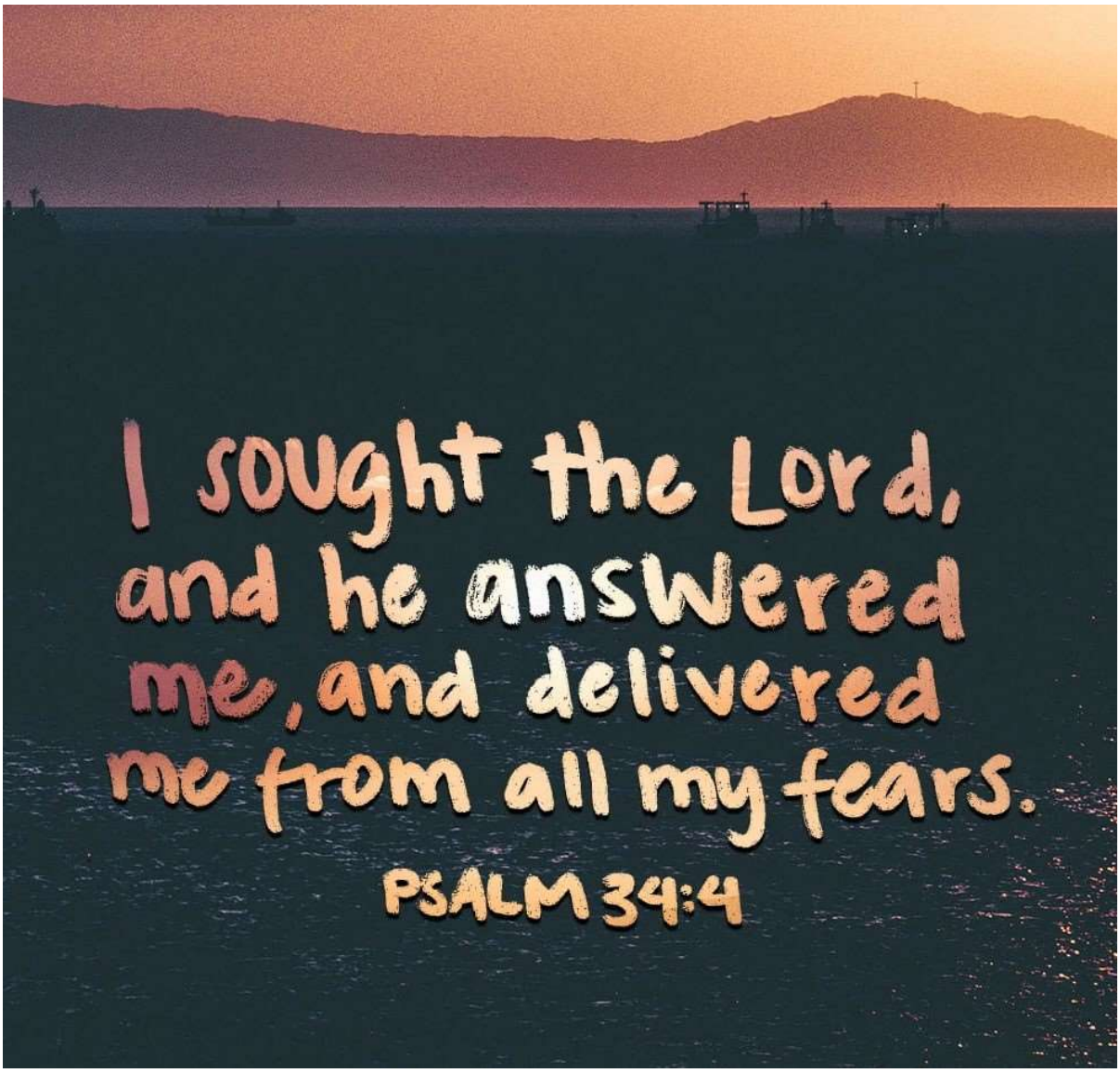
"The answer to our anxiety is not drugs, alcohol, tranquilizers, or psychiatric treatment. It will not be cured by Yoga or some new age or eastern meditation practice. The problem is that we have lost God as the center of our lives. Once we make our love of God the primary focus of our lives and allow His grace to work though us, then no matter what circumstance we encounter in life we will be comforted and embraced in His love. All anxiety disappears. This is the aim of the Orthodox way of life—to put God first and seek the Holy Spirit. The anxieties of modern life are only symptoms of our separation from God."

+St Paisios of Mount Athos (who fell asleep in the Lord in 1994)