

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

August 4, 2024

Christ is in our Midst! *He is and ever shall be!*

Welcome to St. George! Thank you for attending today's Divine Services. If you are a first-time visitor, please register your visit by completing the guest book located in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you after liturgy, so feel free to join us during Coffee Fellowship! 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. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy.

Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion for Orthodox Christians: Orthodox Christians fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist by receiving Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command *to eat His Body and drink His Blood*. In order to be properly prepared to receive Holy Communion, the faithful should fast (no food or drink from midnight the night before), the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, being at peace with others, and striving to always love God and their neighbor. Frequent communion and regular confession are recommended for all faithful Orthodox Christians.

For other Christians: We welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately, we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (*antidoron*) which will be given when coming forward to venerate (kiss) the Holy Cross and receive the final blessing from the priest. Again, welcome!

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.

Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- **Anwar** and **Janet** Abueita on the occasion of their 47th wedding anniversary and for the health of their family especially **Georgette** on the occasion of her birthday, **Tony**, **Chrissy**, **Haleena**, **Maliyah**, **Tony**, **Michael**, **Iliyana**, **Jacqueline**, **John**, **Leah**, **Henry**, **Jenny**, **Tony**, **Mathew**, **Lukas**, and **George**.

BAPTISM/CHRISMATION DAYS

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for our students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this coming week:

- **Mila Mitri** ~ August 10th

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: **Archbishop Nathaniel** (Romanian Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America), our **Fr. Jeremy**, **Fr. Joe** Abud, **Fr. Amin** and **Kh. Rena**, **Teodora**, and **Nicholas Houli**, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Abeer** Abuaitha, **Reader Fouad & Soad** Abuaitha, **Philip & Janett** Abuaitha, **Rasha** Abuaitha, **Sami & Shafiq** Abuaitha, **Laila** Abud, **George** Abueita, **Georgette** Abueita, **Jane** Abueita, **Youssif** Abousamra, **William** Alsahouri, **Naila** Banna, **Adeeb** Bathish, **Douglas** Coone, **Vera** Daoud, **Said** Farah, **Joseph** Gagne, **Elias** Gantos, **Subdeacon George** Gantous, **Phyllis** Good, **Daisy** Isaac, **Mila** Mitri, **Danny** Mortensen, **Karen** Mortensen, **Laura** Nassar, **Jeanette** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Nimer** Rishmawi, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** and **Nancy** Silpoch; your servants **Jaden** Turner, **Evan** Sandford, and **Maria** Kirk who are in catechism (under instruction) to become members of our Orthodox Faith; **Joseph** and **Julia** Shamshoum who will be brought into the Orthodox Faith through the Holy Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Heather** Moulthrop (+June 19th, friend of Timothy Beers and Victoria Zerka), **Charles Michael** Billeter (+July 3rd, brother-in-law of Steve Sanderson), **Randall** Klomp (+July 4th, friend of catechumen Evan Sandford), **Ronald** Haddad (+July 6th), **Molly** McCarron (+July 12th, cousin of Fr. Michael), **Jihan** Mitri (+July 20th, sister-in-law to Elias Mitri), and **George** (Jiries) Ghanem (+July 26th, brother of Manal Abuaitha) ~ *may their memory be eternal!*
- We also pray for our *Expectant Parents*: **Liana** and **Hanna** Abuaitha, **Stephanie** and **Nadim** Burbar, and **Natania** and **Rene** Hanna.
- Remember in your prayers **Lana** Abuaitha and the **Staff** at the Antiochian Village.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Anwar and Janet Abueita*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: August 25th, September 1st, 15th, 22nd, and 29th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information are in the Lounge. Hosting includes bringing whatever you wish to serve, setting up, and cleaning up afterwards. St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$30. **For more information**, contact coordinator Manal Abuaitha 810-577-0028.

UOFM-FLINT, KETTERING, AND MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS We are re-starting an **Orthodox Christian Fellowship** (OCF) local chapter. Students (or parents), please let Fr. Michael (989-627-9580 or frdmike@gmail.com) know if you are at any of these schools ~ thanks!

THE CRY OF THE FORERUNNER this September 27-29 in Livonia, MI. This transformative Orthodox men's retreat, led by Fr. Michael Butler, Fr. Hans Jacobse, and Paul Lloyd Robson, offers a unique opportunity for you to deepen your Orthodox faith through the life and preaching of St. John the Baptist. Experience Orthodox worship, intense group work, physical challenges, and fellowship with like-minded Orthodox men. Whether you're a young man seeking direction or an older man ready for renewal, this retreat is for you. Limited to 100 participants. Early bird registration saves \$25 before September 1st. Visit <https://www.avq2alpha.com/cry-of-the-forerunner/> for details and registration. Optional: attend the 17th Annual Male Bonding Party afterwards.

CATECHISM (INSTRUCTION) CLASSES: Mondays, 3:30–5pm. These classes are for those who are under instruction to become Orthodox ~ basically an introduction to the Orthodox Faith. All are invited to participate to learn or refresh your knowledge of our faith. The book which is being used is [The Orthodox Faith, Worship and Life by Hieromonk Gregorios of Mt. Athos](#). For more information or to signup, please contact Fr. Michael (989-627-9580 or frdmike@gmail.com)

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Our average weekly parishioner offerings (not including other income) needs to be \$7,588 to meet our 2024 Budget. On Sunday, July 28th our offerings were \$4,260; we were short \$3,328! 😞 **Please keep up with your offerings during the summer months!** If you have not already, fill out your *2024 Offering Form*, put it in Sunday's Offering Tray or send it to the church (5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507). May God bless you for supporting His parish of St. George and offering as He wants for our salvation!

COMING EVENTS

Fasting Discipline The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products*) is observed on Wednesday. The **Dormition Fast** for the **Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Virgin Mary** began on Thursday, August 1st and lasts until the feast on August 15th. The traditional fasting discipline during this fourteen-day period is *no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil and their by-products, except on Saturdays and Sundays* when *wine and olive oil* are allowed. On the Feast of our **Lord's Transfiguration** (Tuesday, August 6th), *fish, wine, and olive oil* are allowed.

Monday	Combined Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers at <i>St. Mary Magdalene</i>	6:30pm
Tuesday	Combined Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy at <i>St. Mary Magdalene</i> for the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord (2439 S. Long Lake Road, Fenton)	10am
Wednesday	Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary	6pm
Friday	Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary	6pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions	4pm

+++++

Choose Love

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

One of the primary differences between Islam and Christianity has to do with the basic view of the nature of God. Islam teaches total surrender to a God who demands submission. There is no invitation to enter into a relationship, freely,

continued ⇨

nor is there room for an individual to choose, or not choose to love his Creator, for the god of the Muslims is far above his creation, and there is no real possibility to have a personal relationship with this god.

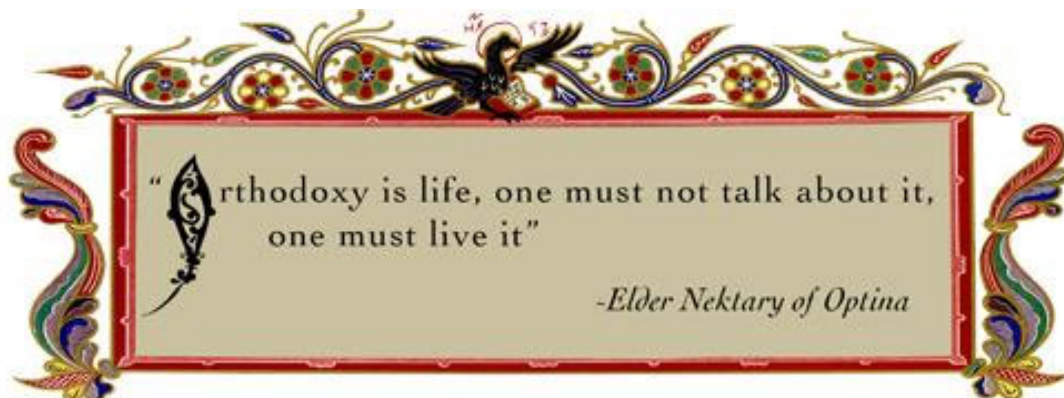
By contrast, the God of Christianity is one Who invites us into a relationship that is personal, and like all relationships based on love, we are free to choose, or not, to commune with a God Who is, by His very nature, in relationship. The God worshiped in Trinity, and this image of the Trinity is the basis of the image of the Church, one of mutual love. The God we worship in Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is One God, and our response to the invitation from this One God, is to enter into communion with our nous, soul, and body (our own triune nature).

There is no force behind this invitation, for we are free to choose, or not, just as any relationship based on love requires both parties to be free to choose, or not. Our obedience is a religious act that must be free, and it must be based on love.

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught using parables, precisely because he was inviting us to freely choose to follow him, and to keep the commandments. He showed us the way to eternal life, not by giving commands as the Son of God, but as a loving teacher Who's wisdom was imparted in a way that left the choice up to us. His Apostle Peter demonstrated this same style of teaching when he told his fellow disciples that he was going fishing. Peter didn't say they were going fishing, but only that he was going fishing, thus leaving his friends with a choice. They were free to go fishing, or not.

Muhammad, by contrast, gave his followers specific laws that must be followed, including total submission to god, and should they ever renounce Islam, they would face a penalty of death. This lack of freedom in the teachings of Muhammad has its roots in his failure to teach about the notion of person.

In Christ we have the image of the *Pantocrator*, (ruler of all, but usually translated as "Almighty" or "all-powerful") a fresco that is traditionally the primary focus in the dome of an Orthodox temple. The *Pantocrator* is He Who holds all things in His hands, through His love and forbearance. This God of Christianity does not punish, He educates, just as Christ educated his disciples through the use of parables.



St. George Orthodox Church

19th Annual Golf Classic



Flushing Valley Golf Club
 1124 E Main Street
 Flushing, MI 48433

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Friday, September 20, 2024

- 10am SHOTGUN START
- HOT DOG LUNCH AT TURN
- DINNER/AWARDS AT FINISH
- RAFFLES
- GIVE AWAYS
- ALL ARE WELCOME

\$150 – Individual Hole Sponsor

Sponsorship tee sign

\$600 – Foursome/Hole Sponsor

Four golfers plus a sponsorship tee sign

\$1,000 – Beverage Cart Sponsor

Sponsorship banner, tee sign, and a 'Thank You' plaque

\$1,250 – Dinner Sponsor

Four golfers, sponsorship tee sign & banner

\$2,000 – Silver Sponsor

Four golfers, sponsorship tee sign, banner, and dinner table cards

\$4,000 – Gold Sponsor

2 Foursomes, two sponsorship tee signs, sponsorship banner, dinner table cards, and a sponsorship plaque displayed at St. George

*Please make all checks payable to:

St. George Orthodox Church (memo: *Golf Classic*)

Mail to: **5191 Lennon Road * Flint, MI 48507**

For more information on the Classic, sponsorships, and/or reserving a spot, please contact:

Tony Daoud: 810-730-1011, Reem Bathish: 313-492-6358

or Kelly Dotson @ Church Office: 810-732-0720

Please submit all entries by September 8, 2024

Golf Team Information - <i>\$125 per golfer</i>		
<i>Golfer #1 (Captain's name):</i>		
Address:		
Phone #:		e-mail:
<i>Golfer #2 (name):</i>	e-mail:	
<i>Golfer #3 (name):</i>	e-mail:	
<i>Golfer #4 (name):</i>	e-mail:	
<i>Division (circle one):</i>		
Men	MIXED- Any combination of men/women/or 4 women	Total Enclosed - \$_____

Rummage Sale

August 9th & 10th, 2024
10am - 4pm

**St. Mary Magdalene
Orthodox Church
Education Center
2439 S. Long Lake Rd
Fenton, MI 48430**



Parishioners may drop off items before or after Vespers & Divine Liturgy or during regular office hours from July 27 through August 4th.

If you wish to volunteer please see Brianna Walton