

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

September 18, 2022

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Attached

Blessings on the great feast of the Finding and Elevation of the Holy Cross!

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. 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 in our Banquet Center! 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 else, including visitors, are invited to receive the final blessing of the priest and Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy. Again, welcome!

Flower, Basil, and Holy Bread Offerings for the Finding and Elevation of the Holy Cross

- (*Basil Offering*) Karam and Aida Nassar for the health of their family especially sons **Fred, Omar** and **Sarah**, and **Salam**.
- (*Flower Offering*) The Shaheen Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of parents **George** and **Beatrice** and brother **Kenneth**.

- **George and Hiam** Ishaq and Family for the health of their family especially **Nusta, Nida', Nidal, and Samer** and in loving memory of **George** Abdallah Bannoura (40 day, father of Hiam), **Abdallah, Aziza, Nawal, Jamie, and Nassim.**
- Reema Khoury for the health of her family especially children **Samir** and **Ranya**, and grandchildren **Alyssa** and **Nadim** and in loving memory husband **Hanna** (2 year) and son **George.**

Baptism/Chrismation Days

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

- **Jude** Awad ~ September 23rd

- **Sharbel** Abueita, and **Annabella** and **Revan** Helal ~ September 24th

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

- We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Kendall** Ayoub (+August 16th, brother of Cam Takach) and **Jamil** Ghantous (+September 9th).
- 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, **Sally** Abuaita, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Khader** AbuAita, **Shafiqa** Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **Youssif** Abousamra, **Danial** Alghanim (father of Dania Hanna), **William** Alsahouri, **Sanaa** Alqassis (daughter of Zahra Abuaita), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Kh. Pam** Bassett, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Victor** David, **Valland** Frangi (sister of Ron Haddad), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Denise** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Ronald** Haddad, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy** Isaac, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Judy** Mikhail, **Laura** Nassar, **Issa** Odeh, **Aida** Raffoul, **Tanika** Russell (friend of Doug Coone), **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Norman** Thomas (friend of Steve and Kelly Sanderson), **Michael** Zerka (uncle of Lauren Zerka); **Raad, Sandy** [daughter of Issa and Esperanza], and newborn **Lahni** Qumsieh (August 16th).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Waad** and **Mike** Abdallah and **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP today. We will be having our *Special Parish General Assembly* which begins immediately after Divine Liturgy.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: October 9th, 16th, and 23rd ~ 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).

SPECIAL PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our Parish Council has scheduled a special parish meeting for THIS SUNDAY, September 18th immediately after Divine Liturgy. Make plans to attend as we will only discuss a more extensive Banquet Center Renovation.



ST. GEORGE GOLF CLASSIC is THIS Saturday, September 24th at Flushing Valley Golf Club. The Classic is for fellowship, fun, and to raise money for our church. Sponsorships and Golfers are needed. Hole Sponsorships are great for remembering a loved one, health of your family, or publicity of a business for only \$150 (see flier on Narthex Table). Donations of prizes, gift cards and/or money to buy gifts are also needed ~ you do not need to be a golfer to support this wonderful event. If you are interested or need more information, see Tony Daoud (810-730-1011).

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT FOR SAINT GEORGE! Our parishioner, Lukas Cooper, is doing his Eagle Scout Project for the benefit of our parish. He has been working hard, plans are approved and will begin work, God willing, in October. **What's he doing?** He will be replacing our courtyard Icon Stand with a new one. Further, he will be making 2 benches for people to enjoy the icon and for prayer. The cost of the project is around \$750 for materials (Lukas and his crew will be donating their time, expertise, and labor!). Please see me if you would like to make a donation. *Thank you Lukas, and may God bless your hands!*

NEW PLAY STRUCTURE IN COURTYARD This was purchased for our St. George Preschool and **IS NOT READY TO BE USED!** PARENTS, please keep your children safe and out of the courtyard ~ thanks!



Our stewardship, offerings, and donations are needed. PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer your gifts! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) and donate on-line (or *use the QR code to the left*) or you can bring or mail your offerings to St. George, 5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity and love of our St. George!

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 and Friday.

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| Monday | Baking Spinach Pies 1pm |
| | Bible Study: <i>1st book of the bible, Genesis</i> 3-5pm |
| Tuesday | Men's Fellowship at <i>Majdi Alkazaha's home</i> (12072 Macintosh Drive in Fenton) 6pm |
| Wednesday | Lunch Preparation 10am |
| Thursday | Middle Eastern Community TAKE-OUT Lunch 11am-2pm |
| Saturday | Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm |

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Asking For Miracles~ Asking For Miracles In Our Smugness And Pride

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

Asking for miracles in order to believe betrays a sort of smugness on our part, sort of like asking for an expensive gift from a prospective friend, before considering their overture for friendship. It could hardly become a true friendship if it had a beginning like that.

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God could easily create miracles that would make all people believers, but He respects our free will, and does not wish to interfere with our freedom. As God awaits our decision, are we to respond to His love, or are we not? God has the power to show forth miracles to make us all believers, but to do so would hardly leave us with freedom, for He desires that we choose to commune with Him, not because of His power, but because of His love.

When I was a young man, in about the eighth grade, I decided that the Roman Catholic Church might possibly be the True Church. I started taking catechetical lessons from the local Roman Catholic priest. Struggling, as I was, to find the True Church, I asked my Lutheran pastor to meet together with the Catholic priest and me, so that I could have them debate. My plan was to choose the winner, and go with that church. The Pastor declined, saying he was not going to reduce truth to whomever could win a debate challenge. I had just joined the high school debate team, and had thought it a good idea to have them debate, thus taking the pressure off myself, making my decision easier. That was a real example of copping out, and relieving myself of having to make the decision.

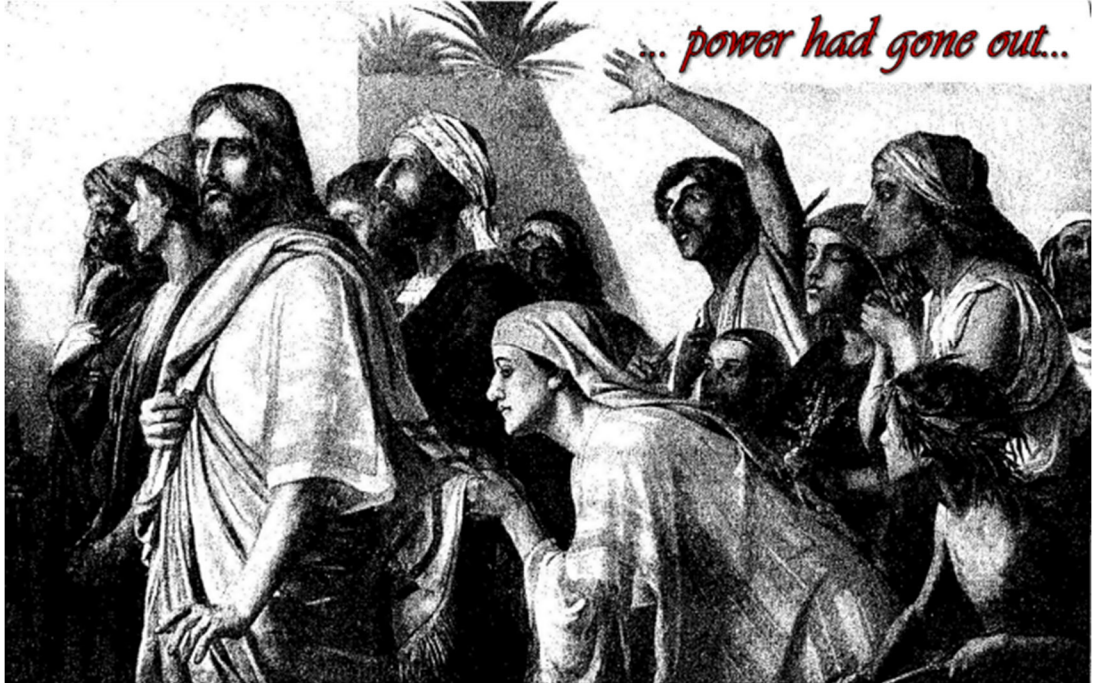
This is not unlike the person who would demand a miracle, asking God to prove Himself worthy of being worshiped. This would be no different from saying, "give me a car for my birthday, dad, and I'll consider loving you as my father". We must approach God in all humbleness of mind and heart, leaving the rest up to Him.

It is also quite possible that when miracles do come our way, our smugness and pride prevent us from seeing the miracle that is right in front of us. I once asked a young Egyptian Christian about the appearance of the Holy Virgin before crowds of people in the dome of Saint Mary Coptic Orthodox Church in Cairo. Everyone, whether they were Christians, Muslims, Jews, or atheists, were able to witness the appearance, and I wondered why such miracles happened in Egypt, but not in the West. The young man said that Christians in the Middle East live their lives in expectation of miracles, so when they come they are not surprised, but received with joy. Westerners, he said, in their collective pride, are skeptics, and ignore miracles sent by God.

If we are awaiting the day God will prove Himself to us, we fail to notice that He has been doing just that from the very beginning, but our smugness and pride have blinded us to that which has always been there.

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Get out your bibles and in the New Testament the 2nd book is the Gospel of St. Mark. Go to chapter 5, and read the whole chapter. Here, we find what happened to a woman who needed a miracle, to be healed, in verses 25-34. No one saw or felt the miracle of healing except for the woman. Enjoy, love, FJ





Midwest Diocese
**FAMILY FALL
GATHERING**

OCTOBER 21-23

ST GEORGE IN FISHERS, INDIANA

WWW.STGINDY.ORG

10748 E. 116TH ST. + FISHERS, IN 46037

WWW.STGINDY.ORG/EVENTS/MIDWEST-FALL-FAMILY-GATHERING/

2022 MIDWEST DIOCESAN CLERGY SYNAXIS

Thursday, October 20

- 3:00 PM Welcome and Announcements
- 3:15 PM Bishop Anthony - First Talk
- 5:15 PM Break
- 5:30 PM Vespers
- 6:15 PM Dinner
- 7:30 PM Bishop Anthony - Second Talk

Friday, October 21

- 8:00 AM Matins
- 9:00 AM Breakfast
- 10:00 AM Fr Anthony Yazge Talk - Parish Application
- 11:00 AM Break
- 11:30 AM Fr Chris Shadid Talk - Youth Ministry Application
- 12:30 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Fr James Ellison Talk - Mission Application
- 2:30 PM Bishop Anthony Concluding Remarks

2022 MIDWEST DIOCESAN FAMILY FALL GATHERING

Friday, October 21

- 7:00 PM Hospitality at St George
- 8:00 PM Ask Sayidna and his Sidekicks (Spiritual Advisors)
- 9:30 PM Fellowship

Saturday, October 22

- 9:00 AM Supplication Service
- 9:30 AM Bishop Anthony - A Longing to Belonging
- 11:00 AM Antiochian Women Meeting
- 11:00 AM Christian Education Workshop with Bob Snyder
- 11:00 AM Teen Session with Fr Chris Shadid
- 11:00 AM Presentation on Iconography of St George Church
- 1:00 PM Lunch at St George
- 2:00 PM Community Service
 - CropWalk
 - Diaper Bundling
- 5:00 PM Great Vespers
- 6:00 PM Dinner at St George
- 7:00 PM Teen Campfire
- 7:00 PM Fellowship & Game Night

Sunday, October 23

- 8:50 AM Matins followed by Hierarchal Divine Liturgy
 - Lunch after the Divine Liturgy
 - Departure