

# 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

September 26, 2021

**Christ is in our Midst!**

*He is and ever shall be!*

## 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*)

- Father Michael and Khouriya Pam Bassett for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Clemence Bassett** (4 year, Fr. Mike's mother),
- For the health of our St. George parishioners and in loving memory of **Bishop Antoun** (4 year) and our former clergy: **Archbishop Malatios** Swaity, **Protosyngellos Ellis** Khouri, (34 year), **Archimandrite Michael** Tahan, **Archpriest John** Chromiak, **Archpriest Basil** Kalekas, (34 year), **Archpriest Basil** Karpelenia, **Archpriest Hanna** Khouri, **Archpriest Nicholas** Saikley, **Priest Ellis** Hajj, **Priest Nicholas** Juerges, **Priest Anthony** Sakey, **Priest Lewis** Secabe, and **Deacon Habib** Romley.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Zahra** Abuaita Al-Khoury (+August 21<sup>st</sup>, aunt of Khaled Al-Khoury), **Thuraya** Elias (+August 23<sup>rd</sup>, mother of Ayman), and **Violate** Musleh (+Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, mother of Eman Banoura), **Boulos** Mashni (+ September 15<sup>th</sup>, brother of Ray).

### 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:

● **Qusta, Reem, and Steven** Hayek ~ September 26<sup>th</sup>

*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: **Metropolitan Paul** and **Archbishop John** who are in captivity, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Salwa** Abu-Aitah, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Anwar** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsaouri, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Ranna** Esho (friend of Batoul Burbar), **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, **Lane** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon) **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Juliette** Qumseya, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** and **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** and **Elise** Sophiea Jr., **Shirley** Zerka (mother of Victoria); **Abdulla**, **Amira**, and newborn **Selena** (September 8<sup>th</sup>) Farah; **Tamer** [son of Khader and Lucy], **Mirna** and newborn **Mila** (September 15<sup>th</sup>) Abuaita; Subdeacon **Salim** and **Dania** (Alghanim) Hanna who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khoury, **Haneen** and **Benan** Burbar, **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].

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** is hosted by *Fares and Sahar Abdallah*.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: 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.

## CHURCH SCHOOL HAS STARTED!

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. Registration deadline is TODAY! Do it TODAY!

**PLEASE FOLLOW OUR PROCEDURES** As of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Genesee Health Department recommends everyone wears masks while indoors. Please remember we can venerate icons by bowing (*not kissing or touching at this time*) and the same for the

priest's hand and the chalice at Holy Communion. Further, **only our clergy and chanters may sing**. We all want the safest place for all of our parishioners to worship. We know that combining masks and vaccines will protect ourselves and our community against this fast-changing virus. **PLEASE FOLLOW:**

1. Everyone is encouraged to wear a mask inside our church buildings.
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 are not vaccinated** and **those who would like to be social distanced**.

**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) and an 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).

**MY CHURCH BAGS** These were put together for our *Preschool* Children! PARENTS, please see your child takes care, replaces all of the items, and returns the bag to the rack by the Narthex Table at the end of Divine Liturgy ~ thank you ❤️!

**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 [Infarah2009@hotmail.com](mailto:Infarah2009@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.**

<b><u>COMING EVENTS</u></b>	
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.
Monday	<b>Bible Study:</b> <i>Gospel of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist</i> 3-5pm <b>SOYO Monday</b> 6-8pm
Wednesday	<b>Arabic-English Bible Study</b> <i>Gospel of St. Matthew</i> 12-2pm
Saturday	<b>Great Vespers and Confessions</b> 5pm

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**AVOIDING ISOLATION~ *Community is the Essential Element to Living the Christian Life***

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

Christianity is a communal faith, one that requires its followers to be actively involved with others. The Church's worship is communal, and salvation itself is a corporate act, one that necessitates interaction with others. One is not "saved" in a vacuum, but as

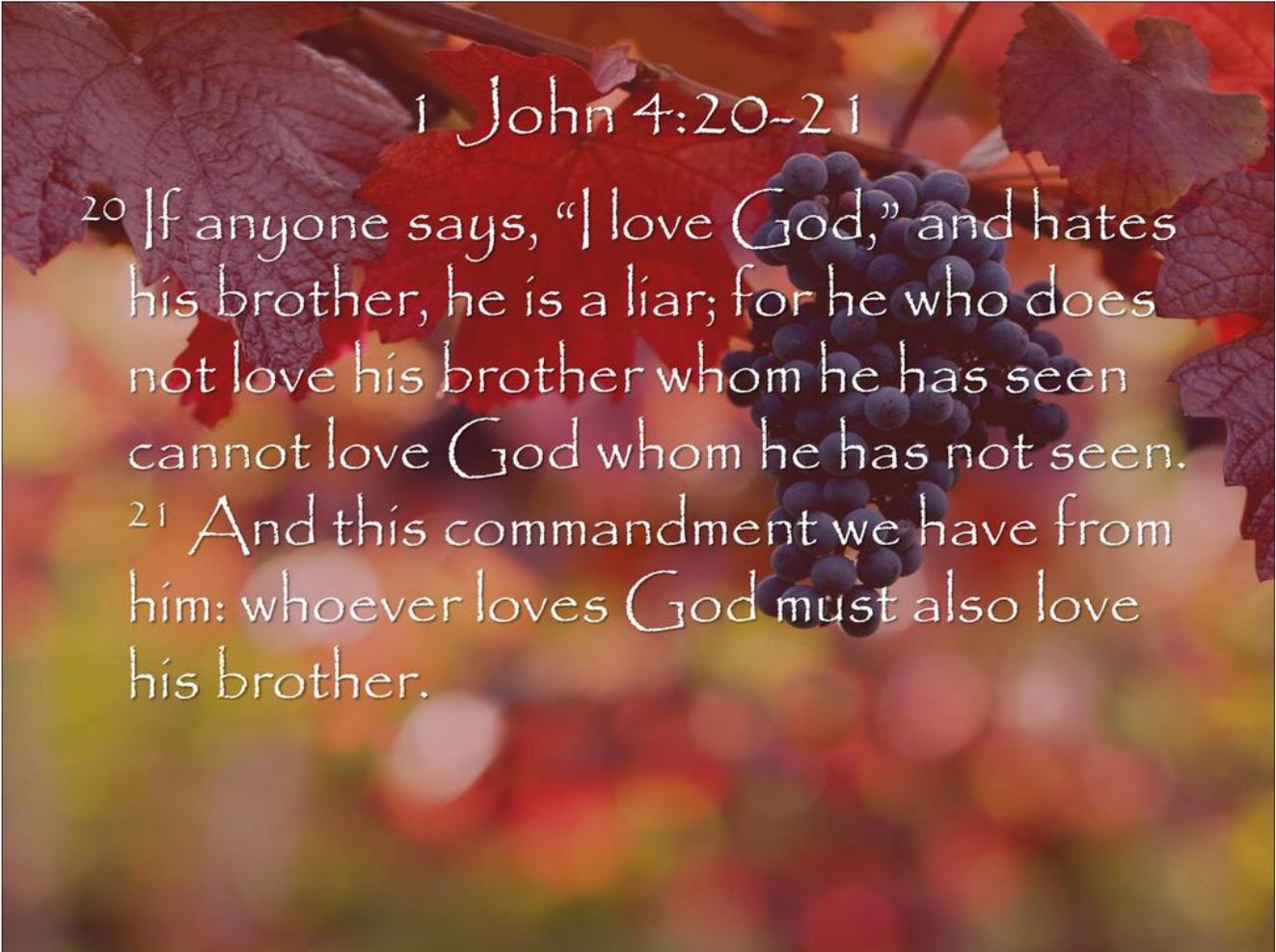
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part of the corporal life of the Church. Your salvation must be as much a concern to me, as is my own salvation. My relationship with Christ is not about me, but about us. Our sins are not just against God, but against the Body of Christ, the Church. Our love of God cannot be leading to salvation if we do not love others, for just as the Lord said, "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 John 4:20).

Given the communal nature of the Church, it is particularly alarming to see increasing numbers of people isolating themselves from others. Many have turned to the Internet as the primary source of interaction with others, finding "friendships" with people who will never be met in person. The importance of social interaction in the central square, as seen in traditional villages where the cafe life and church were the primary source of fraternal interaction, has pointed the way to a future of increased estrangement from each other.

Isolated from others, the communal nature that is an important element in what it means to be human, is lost. It is thus imperative that we guard against the temptation of spending too much time in front of the computer, and too little time with others. The sight of young people sitting in coffee houses, together, yet apart, is troubling. Mobile phones, text messaging, iPods, communication through email, and countless hours on Facebook, leads to the furtherance of an isolation that is murdering the soul. As humans, we are meant to be together, for it is in our lives together that we grow in mind and spirit. It is in community that we learn to love God. For friendships to be limited to on-line chat rooms is a tragedy of major proportions, one that will ultimately be the ruin of society.

*Get out your bible, find the 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of St. John, and read Chapter 4 where the above verse comes from ~ if you have time, read the whole letter, it's beautiful!. Love, FJ*



## 1 John 4:20-21

<sup>20</sup> If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

<sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.