

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH



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saintgeorgeflint.org

July 13, 2025

SATURDAY: VESPER SERVICE @ 400 P.M.

SUNDAY: ORTHROS @ 8:50 A.M. - DIVINE LITURGY @ 10:00 A.M.

CONFESSION BY APPOINTMENT

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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 Christian's believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signify-

Ing 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!

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL; VENERABLE STEPHEN OF MAR SABBAS MONASTERY

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللحن الرابع
إِنَّ تَلْمِذَاتِ الرَّبِّ تَعَلَّمْنَ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الْكَرَرُزْ بِالْقِيَامَةِ الْبَهْجِ، وَطَرَحْنَ الْقَضَاءَ الْجَدِيَّ، وَخَاطَبْنَ الرَّسُلَ مُفْتَخِرَاتٍ
وَقَائِلَاتٍ: سَبِي الْمَوْتُ وَقَامَ الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، وَمَنَحَ الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعَظْمَى.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

أبوليتيكيون لأحد الآباء القديسين باللحن الثامن
أَنْتَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا الْفَائِزُ التَّسْبِيحِ، يَا مَنْ أَسَّسْتَ آبَاءَنَا الْقَدِيسِينَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ كَوَاكِبَ لَامِعَةٍ، وَبِهِمْ هَدَيْتَنَا
جَمِيعاً إِلَى الْإِيمَانِ الْحَقِيقِيِّ، يَا جَزِيلَ الرَّحْمَةِ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

TROPARIAN OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

طروبارية القديس جاورجيوس على اللحن الرابع
بِمَا أَنْكَ لِلْمَاسُورِينَ مُحَرَّرٌ وَمَعْتَقٌ، وَلِلْفُقَرَاءِ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ عَاضِدٌ وَنَاصِرٌ، وَلِلْمَرْضَى طَبِيبٌ وَشَافٍ، وَعَنْ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
مُكَافِحٌ وَمُحَارِبٌ، أَيُّهَا الْعَظِيمُ فِي الشَّهَادَةِ جَاورْجِيُوسُ الْبَلْبَسِ الظُّفْرِ، تَشْفَعُ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهُ فِي خِلَاصِ نَفُوسِنَا.

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

باللحن الثاني

يا شَفِيعَةَ الْمَسِيحِيِّينَ غَيْرِ الْخَازِيَةِ، الْوَسِيطَةَ لَدَى الْخَالِقِ غَيْرِ الْمَرْدُودَةِ، لَا تُعْرِضِي عَنِّ أَصْوَاتِ طَلِبَاتِنَا نَحْنُ الْخَطَّاءُ، بَلْ تَدَارِكِينَا بِالْمَعُونَةِ بِمَا أَنْتَ صَالِحَةٌ، نَحْنُ الصَّارِخِينَ إِلَيْكَ بِإِيْمَانٍ: بِأَدْرِي إِلَى الشَّفَاعَةِ وَأَسْرِعِي فِي الطَّلِبَةِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ، الْمُتَشَفِّعَةَ دَائِمًا بِمَكْرَمَتِكَ.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Holy Fathers)

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O ye righteous.
Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

الرسالة (لأحد الآباء القديسين)

إفْرَحُوا بِالرَّبِّ وَابْتَهَجُوا يَا أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقُونَ.

طُوبَى لِلَّذِينَ غُفِرَتْ ذُنُوبُهُمْ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرِّسُولِ إِلَى تَيْطُسِ. (15-8:3)

يا ولدي تيطس، صادقة هي الكلمة وإياها أريد أن تقرّر حتى يهتمّ الذين آمنوا بالله في القيام بالأعمال الحسنة،

فَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْأَعْمَالُ الْحَسَنَةُ وَالنَّافِعَةُ. أَمَّا الْمُبَاحَثَاتُ الْهَدْيَانِيَّةُ وَالْأَنْسَابُ وَالْخُصُومَاتُ وَالْمُمَاحَكَاتُ النَّامُوسِيَّةُ فَاجْتَنِبْهَا، فَإِنَّهَا غَيْرُ نَافِعَةٍ وَبَاطِلَةٌ. وَرَجُلٌ الْبِدْعَةَ بَعْدَ الْإِنْذَارِ مَرَّةً وَأُخْرَى أَعْرَضَ عَنْهُ. عَالِمًا أَنَّ مَنْ هُوَ كَذَلِكَ قَدْ اعْتَسَفَ، وَهُوَ فِي الْخَطِيئَةِ يَقْضِي بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ. وَمَتَى أَرْسَلْتُ إِلَيْكَ أَرْتِيْمَاسَ أَوْ تِيخِيكُسَ، فَبَادِرْ أَنْ تَأْتِيَنِي إِلَى نِيكُوبُولِسَ لِأَنِّي قَدْ عَزَمْتُ أَنْ أَشْتِيَ هُنَاكَ. أَمَّا زِينَاْسُ مُعَلِّمُ النَّامُوسِ وَأَبْلُوسُ، فَاجْتَهِدْ أَنْ تُشَيِّعَهُمَا مُتَأَهِّبِينَ لِئَلَّا يُعَوِّزُهُمَا شَيْءٌ. وَابْتَغِ دُونَنا أَنْ يَقُومُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ لِلْحَاجَاتِ الضَّرُورِيَّةِ حَتَّى لَا يَكُونُوا غَيْرَ مُثْمَرِينَ. يَسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ جَمِيعَ الَّذِينَ مَعِي، سَلِّمُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَنَا فِي الْإِيمَانِ، النِّعْمَةُ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ. آمِينَ.

THE GOSPEL (For the Holy Fathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (5:14-19)

The Lord said to His Disciples: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

الإنجيل

(لأحد الآباء القديسين)

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر. (5:14-19)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ، أَنْتُمْ نُورُ الْعَالَمِ، لَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ تُخْفِيَ مَدِينَةً وَاقِعَةً عَلَى جَبَلٍ. وَلَا يُوقَدُ سِرَاجٌ وَيُوضَعُ تَحْتَ الْمِكْيَالِ، لَكِنِ عَلَى الْمَنَارَةِ لِيُضِيَءَ لِجَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ فِي الْبَيْتِ. هَكَذَا فَلْيُضِئْ نُورُكُمْ قُدَّامَ النَّاسِ لِيَرَوْا أَعْمَالَكُمْ الصَّالِحَةَ، وَيَمَجِّدُوا أَبَاكُمْ الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ. لَا تَتَّظَنُوا أَنِّي أَتَيْتُ لِأَحْلَ النَّامُوسِ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، إِنِّي لَمْ آتِ لِأَحْلَ لَكِنِ لِأَتَمِّمَ الْحَقَّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّهُ إِلَى أَنْ تَزُولَ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ، لَا يَزُولُ حَرْفٌ وَاحِدٌ أَوْ نَقْطَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ مِنَ النَّامُوسِ حَتَّى يَتِمَّ الْكُلُّ. فَكُلُّ مَنْ يَحُلُّ وَاحِدَةً مِنْ هَذِهِ الْوَصَايَا الصَّغَارِ وَيُعَلِّمُ النَّاسَ هَكَذَا، فَإِنَّهُ يُدْعَى صَغِيرًا فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ؛ وَأَمَّا الَّذِي يَعْمَلُ وَيُعَلِّمُ، فَهَذَا يُدْعَى عَظِيمًا فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ.

On July 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel; and Venerable Stephen of Mar Sabbas monastery. On this Sunday, we commemorate the 630 holy and God-bearing Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, which convened in Chalcedon in 451 against the Monophysites.

Verses

**Shunning opposite errors like the sea monsters Scylla and Charybdis,
The Fathers steer the Church on a straight course to safety.**

The Holy Fathers were, once again, concerned with the nature of Jesus Christ. The false teaching arose that Christ's human nature (considered by heretics as less perfect) dissolved itself in His divine nature (considered by heretics as more perfect): like a cube of sugar in a parcel of water. Thus, in that scenario, Christ had only one nature, the Divine. These false preachers were called Monophysites ("mono", meaning "one" and "physis", meaning "nature"), and they were led by Eutyches and Dioscorus. Monophysitism overemphasized the divine nature of Christ, at the expense of the human. The Fourth Ecumenical Council condemned Monophysitism and proclaimed that Christ has two complete natures: the divine and the human, as defined by previous Councils. These two natures function as equally perfect, without confusion, and are neither divided nor separate. The Fathers declared that at no time did they undergo any change.



**Ego, Humility, and a Humble Understanding of Giftedness
by Michael Haldas**

Humility, not ego or pride, is key to everything in life. Prioritizing the attainment of humility as the primary goal is a tough sell in today's culture. I was speaking to someone recently who kept saying that you have to have at least a little ego to be successful. I know that he, and others, believe this is true. But it's not the case. Yet this is how our culture justifies our misguided self-love. It makes me sad to see

Resisting being seduced by our ego is a worthwhile fight. Perhaps this illustration will be useful in waging this battle. Think about when you say, or maybe hear someone say, in admiration of a person's abilities and or their accomplishments, "wow that person is really gifted." Have you ever thought about what that really means? A gift is something you are given, not something that you created. If a person is really gifted, that means, in this context, that he or she is using well what he or she has been given. If we are being honest with ourselves we must admit most of us use that phrase contextually as if the person's abilities are completely of their own making. It's why we may strive to be other than what we are, not thinking about or appreciating our own gifts, but envying those of other people especially when they have led to worldly success. However, if we can keep the truth of this awareness in the forefront of our thought, it does help us to keep our egos at bay and give us some measure of humility that allows us to receive and cooperate with God's grace.

Here is something else that perhaps can help us maintain this understanding. I was recently having a conversation with someone who was being very gracious in their praise of some of the ministry-related work I do. I gently steered the conversation into more about how God operates, and this is why. Consider the Eucharist, our central act of worship. As Fr. Alexander Schmemmann (and others) have pointed out, God provides wheat and grapes. We cannot create them. We do not have the ability to create something out of nothing. They are given or gifted to us by God. But we then take what He provides, take what is freely offered and given in love, and do something with it. We refashion it into bread and wine, and then offer it back to Him in which case He then imbues it literally with Himself and offers Himself back to us in this manner.

This is how our own gifts and abilities work. We are literally gifted with a God-given a set of abilities and aptitudes that are innate. God is perfect love, therefore He grants us perfect freedom of choice (not freedom from choice). We can choose to use our gifts as we wish. If we love God and are wise, we will offer them back to Him and do things with them in our lives as best we can that are an expression of loving, which means humbly serving others. Whatever gifts we have are ultimately from Him and how we choose to use them works best when we do them in cooperation with Him and His purposes.

Our ego serves the enemy when we forget that this is the relationship of our abilities to reality. They come from God. I am never impressed by someone's raw abilities but rather how they use them in service to God.

For example, it's impressive to me if they have artistic gifts and create beauty in their chosen art form that uplifts people and consciously or unconsciously draws them to God. Or perhaps they are using their gifts in direct service to people who have less; or if they are gifted in business and create honest and ethical companies that employ many, provide good products and services, and operate with integrity; God is the source and they are doing His work. When they view their talents as such, they truly are blessed.

Most importantly, it is the path to salvation which begins and ends with the living cooperation between our free will and God's grace

FATHER AMIN AND THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO THANK KH. RENA HOULI, MARY KHOURY, SUHAIR AWWAD, JANET ALSAHOURI, AND NATALY ODEH, WHO ACCOMPANIED OUR CAMPERS TO THE AV.



57TH BIENNIAL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

Archdiocese Convention

July 20 – 27, 2025



9300 Bryn Mawr Avenue
Rosemont, Illinois 60018
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OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS

BELOVED MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF ST. GEORGE

EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. (2 CORINTHIANS 9:7)

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 below) 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! Online Donations will accept Credit / Debit Cards or ACH (transfers from a banking account) and can be set for automatic donations. Call the Church Office (810-732-0720) if you need help with this.

Automatic Giving. Did you know most banks and credit unions offer automatic bill payment services? You can set it up so they send a check from your account to St. George for the amount you designate. This can be a onetime event or done automatically weekly/monthly. Just call or go online with your banking institution to get the form you need.



Holy Oblation offered for

- The health of Gisele; George, and Troy Farah and their families, and in loving memory of Said (40 Day).
- The health of Soad Abuaita and her family, and in loving memory of Reader Fouad (6 month).
- The health of Karam and Aida Nassar and their family, and in loving memory of Said Farah.
- The health of our campers , drivers, and chaperones who left to AV this morning.
- The health of those who are afflicted by the bombing of Prophet Elias Orthodox Church in Damascus; and in loving memory of the martyrs of that bombing.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: Sahar Abdallah, Abeer Abuaita, Issa and Jane Abueita, Marianne, Samer and Louna Sophia Abuaita, Soad Abuaita, Philip and Janett Abuaita, Rasha Abuaita, Sami and Shafiq Abuaitah, Georgette Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, Fr. Joseph Abud, Munther Alkahush, Basil Andoni, Naila Banna, Kristy Corcoran, Vera Daoud, Elias Gantos, Subdeacon George and Suad Gantous, Phyllis Good, Patty Harris, Daisy Isaac, Danny Mortensen, Karen Mortensen, Laura Nassar, Adam Odeh, Betty and Richard Ramsdale, Sdn. Dr. Elie and Samia Sadik, Kelly and Steve Sanderson, Cathy Sisco, Norma Sophiea, Gary Stewart, Elaine Shaheen, Richard Shaheen, Nancy and Michael Silpoch, Elias Qumseya, Anoud Rihani, our Catechumens who are under instruction to become members of our Orthodox Faith: Maria Kirk; our Expectant Parents: Christine and Matthew Krinock, Miar and Fadi Odeh, Laila and Steven Ismail, Michelle and Peter Shahin, and Angel and George David.

Departed this life in the hope of the resurrection and life eternal of our father's mother's brother's sister's relative Sons daughters may the Lord God remember in his kingdom.

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.