

# St. George Orthodox Church

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Web Site: [saintgeorgeflint.org](http://saintgeorgeflint.org)

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

September 9, 2012

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS**

**SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS**

**HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS ANCESTORS OF GOD, JOACHIM AND ANNA** (Virgin Mary's parents)

Tone – 5

3<sup>rd</sup> Matins Gospel {*Mark 16:9-20*}

Altar Servers: **St. Peter** team {Branden Jones, Captain}

Next Week – **St. George** team

Confessions

8:30-9:30am

Matins p.44

8:50am

Divine Liturgy p.91

10:00am

Memorial Service

Trisagion p.183

**Welcome to St. George!** Every Sunday we remember the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The word "*Liturgy*" means *work of the people* which means everyone participates through singing, praying, hearing the teaching, and opening our hearts to allow God's grace to enter. For those who have committed themselves to the Orthodox Faith (through Baptism and/or Chrismation) it also means, if prepared, the reception of Holy Communion. Preparation includes the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, prayer, being on time for church, being at peace with others, attending the Divine Liturgy regularly, and fasting (no food or drink from midnight the night before). If you are new, just visiting, or have any questions, please introduce yourself to Father Joe. Please know that everyone is invited to venerate the Holy Gospel and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy. All are welcome to our Coffee Fellowship in the hall after Liturgy.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. John Chrysostom** {*The Golden-Mouth*}, we sing these special hymns:

### **First Antiphon – Verses from Psalms 131, 86, and 45**

Verse 1. Lord, remember David and all his meekness.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse 2. Lo, we heard of it at Ephrathah: we found it in the fields of the wood. *Refrain*

Verse 3. Glorious things are spoken of Thee, O city of God. *Refrain*

Verse 4. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her early in the morning.

*Refrain*                      Glory to the Father ... , now and ever ... . Amen. *Refrain*

### **Second Antiphon - Verses from Psalm 131**

Verse 1. The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; and He will not turn from it.

*Refrain:* O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

Verse 2. Of the fruit of your body will I set upon your throne. *Refrain*

Verse 3. There will I make the horn of David to grow: I have prepared a lamp for My Anointed.

*Refrain*

Verse 4. For the Lord has chosen Zion: He has desired it for His dwelling place. *Refrain*

Glory to the Father... now and ever ... . Amen. *Only begotten Son...*

### **Third Antiphon – Verses from Psalms 131, 45, and 64**

Verses 1-3 Here will I dwell, for I desired it. The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle.

Holy is Thy temple, wonderful in righteousness.

**Refrain: Troparion of the Birth of the Virgin Mary—Tone 4**

Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shown from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

مِلاذُكَ يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ. بِشَرِّ الْمَسْكُونَةِ كُلِّهَا. لِأَنَّهُ مِنْكَ أَشْرَقَ شَمْسُ الْعَمَلِ الْمَسِيحِ إِلَيْنَا. فَحَلَّ  
اللعنة ووهبَ البركة. وأبطلَ الموتَ ومنحنا الحياةَ الأبدية.

### **Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel**

**Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 5**

Let all us believers give praise and worship to the Word. Of one essence with the Father and with the Spirit, and who is eternal. Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He did willingly ascend in the flesh to be hung from the cross and to suffer pain and death, and to lift up the dead by His glorious resurrection.

**Troparion of the Nativity (Birth) of the Virgin Mary—Tone 4 (as above)**

**Troparion of the Ancestors—Tone 2**

As we celebrate the memory of Thy righteous ancestors, O Lord our God, through them we beseech Thee to save our souls.

**Troparion of St. George—Tone 4**

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.

بِما أَنْتَ لِلْمَأْسُورِينَ مُحَرَّرٌ وَمُعْتِقٌ، وَلِلْفُقَرَاءِ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ عَاضِدٌ وَنَاصِرٌ وَلِلْمَرَضَى طَبِيبٌ وَشَافٍ  
وَعَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مُكَافِحٌ وَمُحَارِبٌ أَيُّهَا الْعَظِيمُ فِي الشُّهَدَاءِ جَاوِرِجِيوسُ اللَّابِسُ الظُّفْرَ تَشَقَّ إِلَى  
المسيحِ الإلهِ فِي خَلاصِ نُفُوسِنَا.

**Kontakion for the Nativity (Birth) of the Virgin Mary—Tone 4**

By your holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death; your people do celebrate it, having been saved from the penalty of their transgressions, crying to you: *The barren gives birth to the Theotokos who nourishes our life.*

**Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18** {Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross}

**Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17** {Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross }

### **Holy Bread Offerings**

- George, Hanna, Jalal, and Suheil Abuaita and Families for the health of their families and in loving memory of parents **Nahil** (11 years) and **Issa**.
- St. George Parish Council for the health of their families and the community of St. George -- *May God grant them many years!*

### 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 coming week:

- ◆ **Nadine Khoury** – Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>      ◆ **Miar Abu-Aita** – Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>      ◆ **Angel Abuaita** – Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>

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

- This morning we pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Bernie Towns** (+August 2<sup>nd</sup>, friend of Dannie Jones), **Lamar Williams** (+August 16<sup>th</sup>, friend of Dr. Lindsey Farah), and **Mariam Abuaita** (+August 21<sup>st</sup>, mother of Androlla Abuaita).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Khouriya Janet Peters**, **Nayef Aboujamra**, **Philip Abuaita**, **Cesar Banna**, **Clemence** (Dn. Mike's mother) and **Jonathan Bassett**, **George Damouni** (brother of Lina Burbar and May Gantos), **Samira Gantous**, **Camille Ghantous**, **Nadera Ghantous**, **Phyllis Good**, **Carol Haddad**, **Roland Haddad**, **George Ishak** (nephew of Amira Hanna), **Gabby Joubran** (brother-in-law of Najwa Joubran), **Betty Khouri**, **Jean Khouri**, **John Khouri**, **Mariam Khoury**, **Norma Lazar**, **Lourice Matta**, **Megan Meade** (relative of Bob Teunion), **Elaine Shaheen**, **Michael Silpoch**, **William Sophiea Jr.**, **Bob Teunion**, **Ivy Alkhoury** and the newborn **Simon** (July 31<sup>st</sup>), and **Huda Abusaada** and the newborn **Layan** (August 17<sup>th</sup>).

### Communion Hymn (for the Lord's Day)

(Refrain) Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest.

(Verse) Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! (Refrain)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### Reception of Holy Communion

- Please remember ONLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED THEMSELVES may partake of Holy Communion.
- If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion. If you have a special need, please let one of the ushers know so we may assist you.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHURCH SCHOOL KICK-OFF KAFTA LUNCH** Our Ladies Auxiliary invites EVERYONE to help Kick-Off the new year! Adults = \$7; Children 14 and younger = \$5.

**FR. JOE—OUT-OF-TOWN** Fr. Joe will be attending the Assembly of Bishops Meeting in Chicago, IL from this afternoon until Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. *For emergencies only if while Fr. Joe is away*, please call Fr. Angelo Maggos (Assumption, 810-732-2660), Fr. Paul Jannakos (St. Mary Magdalene, 810-629-4427), or Fr. Matthew Butrie of St. Nicholas (St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 810-744-0070). Please pray for Fr. Joe's safe travels.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> -- sign-up poster is in the Hall. Hosting information is in the Hall and 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 NEWS** from Janet Abueita, Director (810-691-0956)

Dear parents, we need to set a good example for our children. We need to send them the right message about our Divine Services. We will continue giving on time slips for the children when they come on time for Divine Liturgy on Sunday as in the past. At the end of the year when we give out awards for Perfect and Excellent Attendance, it means that the child was in church and then went back to Church School. We all need to work together as a team to teach our children how important it is to come to Divine Liturgy and other Divine Services. They need to know that the church school is an extension of what they learn in church. If you have any questions or concerns please talk with me or Father Joe. Thank you and God Bless.

**September 9<sup>th</sup> — JOACHIM AND ANNA**

Saint Joachim, the son of Barpathir, was of the tribe of Judah, and was a descendant of King David, to whom God had revealed that the Savior of the world would be born from his seed.

The couple lived in Nazareth of Galilee. They were childless into their old age and all their life they grieved over this. They had to endure derision and scorn, since at that time childlessness was considered a disgrace. They never grumbled, but fervently prayed to God, humbly trusting in Him. Once, during a great feast, the gifts which Joachim took to Jerusalem as an offering to God were not accepted by the priest Reuben, who considered that a childless man was not worthy to offer sacrifice to God. This pained the old man very much, and he, regarding himself the most sinful of people, decided not to return home, but to settle in solitude in a desolate place.

When St Anna learned what humiliation her husband had endured, she sorrowfully entreated God with prayer and fasting to grant her a child. In his desolate solitude the righteous Joachim also asked God for this. The prayer of the saintly couple was heard. An angel told them that a daughter would be born to them, Who would be blessed above all other women. He also told them that She would remain a virgin, would be dedicated to the Lord and live in the Temple, and would give birth to the Savior. Obeying the instructions of the heavenly messenger, Sts Joachim and Anna met at the Golden Gate in Jerusalem. Then, as God promised, a daughter was born to them and they named her Mary.

St Joachim died a few years later at the age of 80, after his daughter went to live in the Temple. St Anna died at the age of 79, two years after her husband.

Sts Joachim and Anna are often invoked by couples trying to have children.

**COMING EVENTS**

|               |                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| This Week     | The traditional fasting discipline ( <i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil or their by-products</i> ) is observed on Wednesday and Friday. |
| Sunday-Thurs. | <b>Assembly of Bishops 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Chicago</b> (Fr. Joe attending)                                                                      |
| Wednesday     | <b>SOYO Wednesday</b> 7-9pm                                                                                                                                  |
| Thursday      | <b>Elevation of the Cross Combined Vespers Liturgy at St. George</b> 6pm                                                                                     |
| Saturday      | <b>Combined Great Vespers at St. Nicholas</b> 4:30pm                                                                                                         |

Prayer Service to

# ***Begin the Church School Year***

**'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God ... truly I say unto you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.' And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands upon them. {Mark 10:14-16}**

## **Students**

*{Students, please come and stand on the Solea}*

*Priest:*        **You are children of God, made in God's own image and likeness. You are made to know God and to love Him. God loves you and desires that you should become like His Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Will you pray each day, praising and thanking God, and taking time to be alone with Him?**

*Children:*        **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest:*        **Will you spend time during the week to review what you have learned in the Church, and to share this knowledge with your friends and family?**

*Children:*        **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest:*        **Will you live as a true Christian in school, with your friends, and at home?**

*Children:*        **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest:*           **Into Your hands, O God, we place these Your children; support them in their successes and failures, their joys and sorrows. As they grow in age, help them to grow in faith, in love, and in knowledge of You, their God and Savior.**

*Everyone:*       **Amen.**

## **Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents**

*{Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents, please stand}*

*Priest:*           **God has given into your keeping the souls of your children fashioned in His own image and likeness. You are but sojourners on this earth and our souls are incomplete until they are found in God. Your children are given into your care, but belong to God. The vocation of parents is impossible without the constant help of God.**

**Therefore, will you be responsible for seeing that the children of our parish are brought up in the Orthodox Faith?**

*Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents:*       **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest:*           **Will you, by your prayers and example, help these children to grow into the full stature of Christ?**

*Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents:*       **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest:*           **Will you bring your children -- and yourselves -- regularly to the Church Services, Holy Sacraments, and our Educational programs; along with sharing in worship, study, and prayer with your children?**

*Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents:*       **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest:*           **May God our Father, who by Baptism adopts us as His children, grant you the wisdom, humility, and love to fulfill your task. May the Lord Jesus Christ, who brought salvation to the home of Zacchaeus, fill you and your home with His sanctification. May the Holy Spirit, who has made the Church to be one, keep you in His peace.**

*Everyone:*       **Amen {Parents, Grandparents, & Godparents may sit}**

# **Church School Teachers**

*{Church School Teachers, please stand}*

*Priest:*        **Today, we recognize the men and women of our parish who have responded to the Lord's invitation to share with others the Gospel message and to make disciples of all people. Their witness makes us aware of our call in Christ to be of service to others. God bestows on His Church gifts, like that of teaching, to strengthen and build up His Church.**

**Will you continue to grow as disciples of the Lord by listening to the Word of God, living by His teachings, and sharing His commands with others?**

*Teachers:*     **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest:*        **Will you prepare yourselves to fulfill all of the responsibilities that this teaching ministry requires, in fostering the faith to those entrusted to your care and faithfully teach the True Faith to your students?**

*Teachers:*     **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest:*        **Then, we -- the community of St. George -- accept with thanks your willingness to respond to God's call.**

**O God, Author and Creator of all things, bless the good intentions of our teachers, your servants, as they offer themselves in this teaching ministry. Assist them in all things, guide the work of their hands. Graciously grant them to begin this work and to complete it to the glory of You-the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

*Everyone:*     **Amen.**

## **Everyone**

*{Please Stand}*

*Priest:*        **Brothers and sisters, you realize that we all share in the ministry of teaching. Will you pledge your support for the Parents, Grandparents, Godparents, and Teachers of our children as they carry out their teaching ministry?**

*Everyone:*     **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest:*        **Master, Lord our God, You commanded that everything be done for Your glory. By Your blessing, stretch forth Your helping hand to us Your servants as we**

begin this Church School year. Grant these children a heart that is open to Your teachings and protect them from the Evil One. Bless the good intentions of Your people. Protect us from worldly wisdom and deceit.

For You are a good God who loves mankind, and to You we give glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Everyone:* Amen.

*The priest blesses everyone with Holy Water.*

Continually pray that the staff, teachers, and students of our Church School program will be guided by the love, wisdom, and joy of the Holy Spirit. With our commitment, encouragement, prayers, and support, they can, and will, overcome the ungodly things of this world which they learn from school, TV, sports, etc.

**May God grant all of us  
many years!**