St. George Orthodox Church
5191 Lennon Road
Flint, MI 48507-1050

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A Church of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

THE VOICE

of St. George

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January 2019

Volume 28, Number 5

Namedays, Birthdays and Anniversaries

January 1 to January 31, 2019

Birthdays

January

1 Abrahim Y. Abousamra
Abeer Alyateem
Luai Helal
Ameera Rishmawi

2 Anthony "Tony" Y. Abueita
Denise Ghattas

3 Joseph "Joe" Farah
Diane G. Ghattas
Yacoub N. Iseid
Susan Qazaha

4 Jeneviav "Jennifer" A. Abuaita

5 Eman Abuaita
Ivy Amor Khouri
Karam Nassar

6 Essa AbuAita
Charles "Chuck" Koory

7 Johnathan W. AbuFarha
Matthew Alatrash

8 Issa Ishaq
Sandra "Sandy" K. Thomas

9 Tamara Haddad
Dalia Masaad
Andrew McDonald
Julie K. Salim

11 Mary Khoury
Adam Monkaba

12 Lana Abu-Aita
Halim Ghazale

13 Khalil Abousamra
William "Will" D. Sophiea

14 Alexander "Alex" J. Ghattas
Mario M. Khouri

15 Amirah B. Abuaita
Anaam Abueita
Issa S. Odeh
Jamil "Jim" A. Rishmawi

16 Carri L. Farah
Daniel "Danny" P. Tijerina

17 Rania AbuAita

18 Anwar "Andy" Y. Abueita
Anthony I. Daoud

19 Elias S. Abuaita
John A. Farah

20 Rimi H. Abuaita

21 Julian M. Alkazaha
Qusta Hayek
Michael Mortensen

22 Housam Abousamra
Leland "Lee" M. Harris
Dannie E. Jones

23 Tikeyha J. Alexander
Daniel "Danny" Gantos

24 Jamil N. Haddad
Deborah "Debbie" Salim
Robert M. Teunion

25 Hazar G. Abu-Aita
Elaine Fakhoury
Rene E. Hanna
Marlen F. Odeh
Essa B. Shomali

26 Reema Khoury

27 Leslee A. Abud
Christina Deligorges

28 Sami H. Abuaitah
George Khoury

29 Alexander G. Benson
Nihal Fanous
Benjamin Monkaba

30 Majd Abufarha

31 Emma M. Joseph

Namedays

January

1 Basel Hanna Abuaita
Basil Andoni
Basem Souheil Nassar

3 Jeneviav "Jennifer" Anton Abuaita
Jennifer Jeaneen Farah
Jennifer Amal Zarour

14 Benjamin Gary Benson
Nina Thomas Smith

17 Anthony Khaled Abuaita
Anthony "Tony" Yacoub Abueita
Anthony Robert Anwar Abueita
Anthony Wayne Abu-Farha
Anthony Issa Daoud
Tony Fakhoury
Hubert Anthony Rodriguez

21 Maximus Raed Abuaita

22 Majd Timothy Abuaita
Timothy "Tim" S. Beers

25 Gregory "Greg" Lotof Farah

Wedding Anniversaries

January

10 Mr. and Mrs. George Gantous

17 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hamati

18 Mr. and Mrs. Issa Abu-Eita

27 Mr. and Mrs. Issa Abufarha

28 Drs. Ronald Shaheen & Kathy Kudray

God Grant You All Many Years!

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN

Mother Abbess Gabriella & The Community of
The Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery on
Thursday, January 17, 2019, at St. George Church for our

~ 7th Annual Winter Dinner To Support ~

The Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Monastery

Donation Requested

$35 Adult / $25 Student

The Mothers will be bringing the Monastery Gift Shop to Flint!

Evening Schedule

- ✓ *5:30 - Vespers sung by the Mothers of Dormition Monastery*
- ✓ *6:15 - Social Time & Bookstore Open*
- ✓ *6:45 - Dinner & Speakers*
- ✓ *8:30 - Benediction*

Names	Donation

See Your Parish Rep to make a reservation, volunteer your time or be a sponsor
OR: Contact St. George Church at 810-732-0720

- ✓ Assumption..... Lori Photiou
- ✓ St. George ..... Dn. Michael Bassett
- ✓ St. Mary Magdalene .... Dn. Michael Schlaack
- ✓ St. Nicholas ..... Deborah Adams

~ 100% of your donation goes to Dormition Monastery ~

ALL ACTIVITIES TO BE HELD AT ST. GEORGE CHURCH

5191 Lennon Rd., Flint, MI 48507

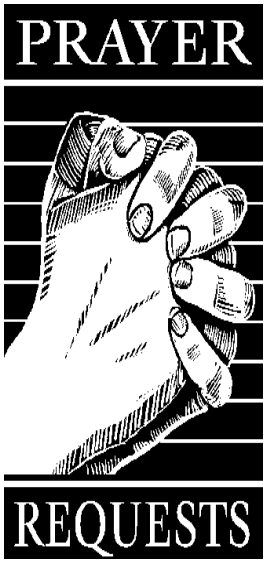
mtb 11/21/2018

Daily Prayer Life

- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Najah** Qumseih (+November 17th, daughter of Salwa Abu-Aitah), **Jamil** Turjman (+November 18th, nephew of Khaled Al-Khouri), and **Hanna** Abuaita (+December 6th, brother of Kh. Suhela Qassis, George, Jalal, and Suheil Abuaita).

May their memory be eternal!

- Remember our parishioners and those who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Metropolitan Paul** and **Archbishop John** who are in captivity, **Bishop Alexander** (Ottawa and Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York), **Laila** and **Sahar** Abdallah, **Androlla** Abu Aita, **Manal** Abuaita, **Ceasar** and **Naila** Banna, **Emil** and **Hiam** Bathish, **Alex** and **Panayiotis** Deligorges, **Vera** Farah, **Betty** Froberg, **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Roland** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nemer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** and **Nicola** Khoury, **Danny** Mortensen, **Heather** Nassar, **Karam** Nassar, **George** and **Renee** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** and **Nancy** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr., and **Lois** Teunion.; *all first-responders, those suffering in the Middle East and City of Flint; the supporters and benefactors of St. George, the members of our Parish Council, Ladies Auxiliary, Teen SOYO, Altar Servers, Altar Society, Chanters, Choir, Church School, OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship), Preschool Ministry, and Ushers.*



- Remember the servants of God who are with child: **Jenny** (Hanna) Abuaita, **Ola** (Michael) Alqazaha, Dr. **Lindsey** (Dr. Ryan) Brunner, **Walaa** (Rami) Khoury, and **Karen** (Nicholas) Shaheen {Drs. Ron and Kathy's son}.

➢ *Please update Fr. Joe whether the following should remain on our prayer list!*

- Remember the family and friends of St. George parishioners: **Kinan** Turjman (nephew of Sahar Abdallah), **Nancy** Maes, **Trish** Lee, **Bryan** Stewart, **Bryan** Campbell, **John** Hanley, and **Aaron** Avery (family/friends of the Bassetts), **Jim** and **Marianne** Crawford (Dormition Monastery), **Michel** Abuaita (father of Mary Khoury), **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Youssef** and **Georgette** Damouni (parents of Lina Burbar/May Gantos), **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Abdulnour** Hanna (brother of the Hanna, Elias, Joubran families), **Victoria** Zerka and **David** Hill (friends of Timothy Beers), **Maha** Qassis and **Nadia** Ibrahim (sister/mother of Ziyad), **Shafeka** Qurpan and **George** Ishak (mother/nephew of Amira Hanna), **Joann** (Haddad) Merrelli (former parishioner), **James** Gorr (father of Dr. Melissa Bathish), **Elias** Ibrahim and **Taghrid** (uncle/friend of Rula Alkazaha), **Hanna** Abu-Nimer (relative of Karam and Aida Nassar), **Sandra** Fromather (cousin of Diana Rishmawi), **Scott** Lints (friend of Mary Jo Ghattas), **Tom** Ellenburg and **Patrick** Haley (friends of Sally Joseph), **Saliba** Musleh (father of Julianna Abuaita), **Ibtisam** Odeh (cousin of Elham Ishak), **Megan** Meade and **Casey** Webb (relatives of Bob and Lois Teunion), **Dennis** Perez (from St. Mary Magdalene), **Sanaa** Alqassis (former parishioner), **Eva** Saseen (niece of George and Jeanette Nassif), and **Fran** Khoury (relative of Evelyn Delbridge).

Congratulations and God bless:

❖ **Gabriella Ghattas** and **David Ayyash** who were recently engaged to be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

❖ **Layth** and **Dina (**Abuaita**) Maymoun** who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on November 25th.

- The newly elected 2019 officers of our *St. George Parish Council*:
  Anwar Abueita, Chairman **Fadi Rishmawi**, Vice Chairman
  Emil Abueita, Treasurer **Aida Nassar**, Secretary
  - Special thanks to **Jeanette Nassif** who completed 6 years on our Parish Council and for her dedicated and hard-working service to her beloved St. George family.

Announcements

FASTING DISCIPLINE FOR JANUARY From Christmas through January 4th, there is no fasting as we continue to celebrate our Lord's Nativity (Birth). Saturday, January 5th, is a fasting day (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products* is observed) in preparation for our Lord's Theophany (Baptism) on Sunday, January 6th. The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products)* is observed on all other Wednesdays and Fridays.

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND BLESSING OF WATER This great feast takes place on Sunday, January 6th. If you would like to have your home and/or business blessed, please email or call the office. Fr. Joe will contact you to schedule a day and time.

Bishop Anthony's Speaker Bureau Fund

The Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest answered the call of Bishop Anthony when he requested the establishment of a Speaker Bureau Fund. This fund enables His Grace to bring in special speakers to our Conferences and workshops throughout our Diocese. His goal is *"…to witness and reach out to our communities and attract new members through education at our diocesan gatherings"*. Gifts may be given by a group or individuals.

Honor His Grace Bishop ANTHONY on his Birthday & Name's Day of the Feast of St. Anthony the Great, January 17th. Send your donation to:

Bishop Anthony's Speaker Fund
c/o Mary Polson, Treasurer Midwest Antiochian Women
416 South Fork Road, Glasgow, KY 42141

Contribute by January 1st and a Birthday & Name's Day greeting will be sent in your name to His Grace.

7TH ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX WINTER DINNER (SEE FLIER!) This is taking place on Thursday, January 17th here at St. George (all proceeds support the Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction, MI!). ***Vespers*** will be sung by the Nuns at 5:30pm. **Social Hour** with *Displays and Gift Shop from the Monastery*, along with *visiting with the nuns* is at 6:15pm. **Dinner and Presentations** begin at 7pm with the **Benediction** at 8:30pm. The cost is $35 for Adults and $25 for Students. To make your reservation or any questions, please see Protodeacon Michael TODAY. Deadline for reservations is January 13th.

SUMMER CAMP The Summer Camp Program at the Antiochian Village (about 1½ hours from Pittsburgh) serves young people ages 9-17 who come from parishes throughout the Archdiocese. The main goal of the camp program is to *"present to young people a living experience of the Holy Orthodox Faith in their relationship with God and other campers in an uncluttered, natural environment"*. For more information and to register, please check out their website at: https://avcamp.org/summer-camp/. We go to the 2nd Session, June 30th-July 12th. If you have questions, would like more information, or have registered for camp, please speak with our Camp coordinators, Anaam Abueita (810-686-9744 or anaamabueita@gmail.com) or Leslee Abud (810-695-2177 or laabud@aol.com)

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS We are now able to take Credit or Debit Card purchases and donations. If you would like to make a purchase or a donation, please come to the office during normal Office Hours (*see back page*) or call to do it by phone.

Coming Events in February

2nd	**Presentation of our Lord in the Temple**
10th	**Godparent Sunday**

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

Our average monthly offerings need to be $22,832 to meet our 2019 Budget. Our offerings in November were $9,015 which means we were **short $13,817**! Please support the work of God through St. George.

Teen SOYO Wants YOU!!!

All teens of St. George are encouraged to participate in our Teen SOYO (*see Calendar for days and times*). Our group will not be happy until all teens of St. George are participating! Whoever is reading this, please pass it along to a teen in your house or to Godchildren, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, sons, & daughters. It doesn't cost a thing to attend, we do fun stuff, and the company is great. If you would like more information, call or text our coordinators, Nataly Odeh at 810-449-8834 or Mariana Yacoub 810-814-0022.

☞ If you know of a parishioner who has given birth, fallen ill, or admitted to the hospital, please call the church office or let Father Joe know.

Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.
(Mark 10:14)

Some Reflections on God

By St. Ephraim the Syrian

We confess one and the same individual as perfect God and perfect Man. He is God the Word, which was flesh.

For if He was not flesh, why was Mary chosen? And if He is not God, whom does Gabriel call "Lord"?

If He was not flesh, who was laid in a manger? And if He is not God, whom did the angels who came down from heaven glorify?

If He was not flesh, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes? And if He is not God, in whose honor did the star appear?

If He was not flesh, whom did Simeon hold in his arms? And if He is not God, to whom did Simeon say: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace"?

If He was not flesh, whom did Joseph take when he fled into Egypt? And if He is not God, who fulfilled the prophesy: "Out of Egypt have I called my Son"?

If He was not flesh, whom did John baptize? And if He is not God, to whom did the Father say: "This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased"?

If He was not flesh, who hungered in the desert? And if He is not God, unto whom did the angels come and minister?

If He was not flesh, who was invited to the marriage in Cana of Galilee? And if He is not God, who turned the water into wine?

If He was not flesh, who wore a man's garment? And if He is not God, who healed the woman with an issue of blood when she touched His garment?

If He was not flesh, who spat on the ground and made clay? And if He is not God, who gave sight to the eyes of the blind man with that clay?

If He was not flesh, who wept at Lazarus' grave? And if He is not God, who commanded him to come forth out of the grave four days after his death?

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Jesus Christ is God and man!

The joy and mystery of the Nativity (Birth) of Christ is precisely because He is both God and man. Not half one and half the other, but fully God and fully man.

God is with us, understand all ye nations and submit yourselves for God is with us!

Song of the Orthodox Church from Great Compline and the Christmas Fast Service

A Compassionate People

We Christians must be a compassionate people

It is right that we consider the teachings of the Orthodox Church concerning our duties to those who have less then we. Saint John Chrysostom taught that, "the poor are not the spectacle of human misery and suffering that evokes compassion or disgust, but they are the icons of Christ, the presence of Christ in the broken world."

The compassionate sharing of our resources with those in need is a primal teaching of our Church and a virtue that must be practiced if we are to be true to the teachings of Our Lord. The communal nature of the Church was taught by Saint Paul himself, and all who would call themselves Christians are obligated to be compassionate to those who lack basic resources to sustain their lives.

We must remember that we are all, rich or poor, required by the Gospels to share with those around us. Christian nations from the time of Byzantium have taxed the wealthy in order to provide for the least of their people. The heretical teachings being floated about that abundance and prosperity are signs of a strong Christian faith, has infected many in our nation. They want to defend and protect the wealth of a few at the expense of those who have the least, as though the least among us deserve their station in life. The disparity between the very wealthy and the poor has never been this extreme in our nation's history.

That almsgiving leads us to God is so pivotal to our faith, Saint Basil the Great exhort even the poor to share their meager goods with others. The Christian culture of compassion requires all of us to find ways to lift up the least among us. We cannot remain secure in our own well-being, while ignoring the needs of the poor and the elderly.

Saint John of Kronstadt in his First homily on the Beatitudes says: *"Can wealthy people be poor in spirit? Of course, they can, if they do not regard themselves as being great people only because they have perishable wealth and can do whatever they want with its help. How can they be poor in Spirit? They can when they sincerely recognize that their wealth— and the wealth of the whole world, for that matter –means nothing in comparison with the immortal soul, and that wealth is a gift from God not only to us but to our neighbors as well, for material surpluses are given to us to help the poor. When the wealthy recognize that with all their material treasures they are extremely poor and destitute in spirit, they will not be high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy: that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life. (I Timothy 6:17-19)."*

A compassionate heart leads to God as it places others above self. The rich man who values his money while ignoring the needs of the poor endangers his eternal life, for it is more difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. A wealthy Christian is a philanthropic man who cares for the poor and destitute, and shares that which God has given him, thus storing up in heaven the treasures that are eternal.

To Tithe is to Love!

The Bible says a "tithe" is giving 10% of our income to God through His Holy Church. In the Old Testament, the tithe was the maximum.

For Christians (yes, US!), the tithe is the minimum!

Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7

ALL of our **240 families** are asked to make an Offering. Why? Because it is such a blessing to give back to God a little of what He has given us!

- Our 2019 Budget approved at our annual Parish General Assembly in November is $249,200.
- To meet our budget, our weekly offerings need to average: $4,793
- Number of Families who need to offer: ALL THOSE WHO BELONG TO OUR ST. GEORGE FAMILY!
- Offering Range: ***according to how God has blessed you!***

Your commitment is NEEDED!!!
Please fill out your 2019 Offering Form -- as soon as possible.

2019 Offering Form

St. George Orthodox Church ~ Flint, Michigan

I Want To Be Counted!

Frequency	Amount	% of Income
Weekly	$	
OR Twice Monthly	$	
OR Monthly	$	
OR Quarterly	$	
OR Annually	$	

~ All Offerings Are Treated Confidentially ~

Please fill out completely.

Name(s)	
Address	
City	
ZIP	
Telephone	

Please CHECK this box if it applies to you.

☐ I have a concern and wish to be contacted or visited by the priest.
☐ I have a concern and wish to be contacted or visited by a Parish Council Member.

Signature: _____ Date:_____

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse" (Malachi 3:10)

Seeing the rich bringing their gifts and then a widow bringing a few pennies, Jesus said, "Truly I say to you that this widow has put in more than all." (Luke 21:3)

2019 بطاقة التبرعات لعام

كنيسة القديس جورج للروم الاورثودوكس فلنت، متشغن

أريد أن أكون معدودا !

الدفعات	المبلغ	% من قيمة الدخل
اسبوعيا	$	
مرتين بالشهر	$	
شهريا	$	
كل ثلاثة شهور	$	
سنويا	$	

كل التبرعات يتم التعامل معها بسرية تامة

الرجاء تعبئة كل البطاقة.

الاسم / الأسماء	
العنوان	
المدينة	
الرقم	
رقم الهاتف	

الرجاء اختيار المربع الملائم

☐ **لدي الإهتمام والرغبة في أن يتم الإتصال بي أو الزيارة من قبل الكاهن.**
☐ **لدي الإهتمام والرغبة في أن يتم الإتصال بي أو الزيارة من قبل أعضاء مجلس الكنيسة.**

الامضاء _____التاريخ _____

هاتوا العشور جميعها الى بيت الجزية (ملاخي 10:3)

عندما رأى الأغنياء يتقدمون بتبرعاتهم والأرملة الفقيرة تقدم القليل قال يسوع: "الحق أقول لكم أن هذه الأرملة الفقيرة قد ألقت أكثر منهم جميعا" (لوقا 3:21)

January

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thu*	*Fri*	*Sat*
		1 New (Civil) Year **Circumcision of Christ** **Basil the Great**	**2**	**3** **Venerable Genevieve of Paris**	**4** **Royal Hours for Theophany 6pm**	**5** **Great Vespers and Confessions** 5pm
6 **Theophany of our Lord** **Blessing of the Waters**	**7** Bible Study 3-5pm	**8**	**9** Arabic Bible Study 12-2pm SOYO Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm	**10**	**11**	**12** Burch Baptism 2pm **Great Vespers and Confessions** 5pm
13 **Martyrs Hermylos and Stratonikos of Belgrade**	**14** **Nino, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia** Bible Study 3-5pm	**15**	**16** Arabic Bible Study 12-2pm SOYO Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm	**17** **Anthony the Great** **Dormition Monastery Winter Dinner** *(see flier)* Great Vespers 5:30pm	**18** OCF @ St. George 7pm	**19** **Great Vespers and Confessions** 5pm
20 **Venerable Euthymios the Great**	**21** **Venerable Maximos the Confessor** Bible Study 3-5pm	**22** **Apostle Timothy** North End Soup Kitchen 9am-12:30pm Exploring our Faith 6-8pm	**23** Arabic Bible Study 12-2pm SOYO Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm	**24** Parish Council 6:15pm	**25** **Gregory the Theologian**	**26** **Great Vespers and Confessions** 5pm
27 **Translation of the Holy Relics of John Chrysostom**	**28** Bible Study 3-5pm	**29**	**30** Arabic Bible Study 12-2pm SOYO Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm	**31** **Unmercenary Healers Cyros and John**		

2019

St. George Orthodox Church
5191 Lennon Road • Flint, Michigan 48507 • (810) 732-0720
V. Rev. Fr. Joseph M. Abud, Pastor
Protodeacon Michael Bassett
Web Site: *saintgeorgeflint.org*

Divine Services for the Lord's Day

- Saturday
  Great Vespers and Sacrament of Repentance {Confession*} **5:00 PM**
- Sunday
  Sacrament of Repentance {Confession*} **8:30 AM—9:30 AM**
  Matins {Arabic & English} **8:50 AM**
  Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**

Church School follows Holy Communion from September to May

* Confessions may also take place by appointment with Father Joe during the week.

Major Feast Days (see *Orthodox Churches of Greater Flint* schedule of Divine Services)

2018-19 Theme for Church School, Creative Festivals, and our Parish Life Conference

Parish Council, Departments, & Organizations

PARISH COUNCIL • Anwar Abueita, Chairman 810-771-7152 or andydollar007@aol.com
Parishioners may attend meetings and speak during "Parishioner Comments".

ALTAR SERVERS • Subdeacon George Gantous, Head Sacristan 810-714-7332 or gantousgeorge@yahoo.com

ALTAR SOCIETY • Theresa Farah, Coordinator 810-412-6041 or theyungwon@aol.com

CHOIR • Elias Abueita, Director 810-620-4897 or eliasabuaita.124@gmail.com

CHURCH SCHOOL • Janet Abueita, Director 810-771-7152 or cooeita@aol.com

LADIES AUXILIARY • Manal Abuaita, President 810-659-5351

TEEN SOYO • Coordinators Nataly Odeh (natalyodeh22@gmail.com or 810-449-8834) and Mariana Yacoub (myacoub0214@icloud.com or 810-814-0022).

USHERS • Jimmy David 810-515-1314 and Anwar Abueita 810-771-7152 or andydollar007@aol.com Coordinators

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • Subdeacon Salim Hanna, Parish Coordinator 810-875-3127 or salimh91@gmail.com

Office Hours

OFFICE MANAGER: Kelly Dotson kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com
Monday 10am-4pm; Tuesday and Wednesday 1-4pm; Thursday and Friday 10am-4pm