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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #251
Flint, MI

Address Service Requested

A Church of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

THE VOICE

of St. George

Published Monthly with Special Editions by St. George Orthodox Church -- Flint, MI

November 2017

Volume 27, Number 3

St. George Orthodox Church
Ladies Auxiliary
5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507

Thanksgiving Bake Sale

Sunday, November 19th

The Ladies will be selling a variety of pastries: cookies, pies, cakes, Arabic sweets, etc. If you have any questions, see any member of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Please fill out the form below and send it to the Church with your check or give it to any member of the Ladies Auxiliary by November 12th

Thank you for your Support!

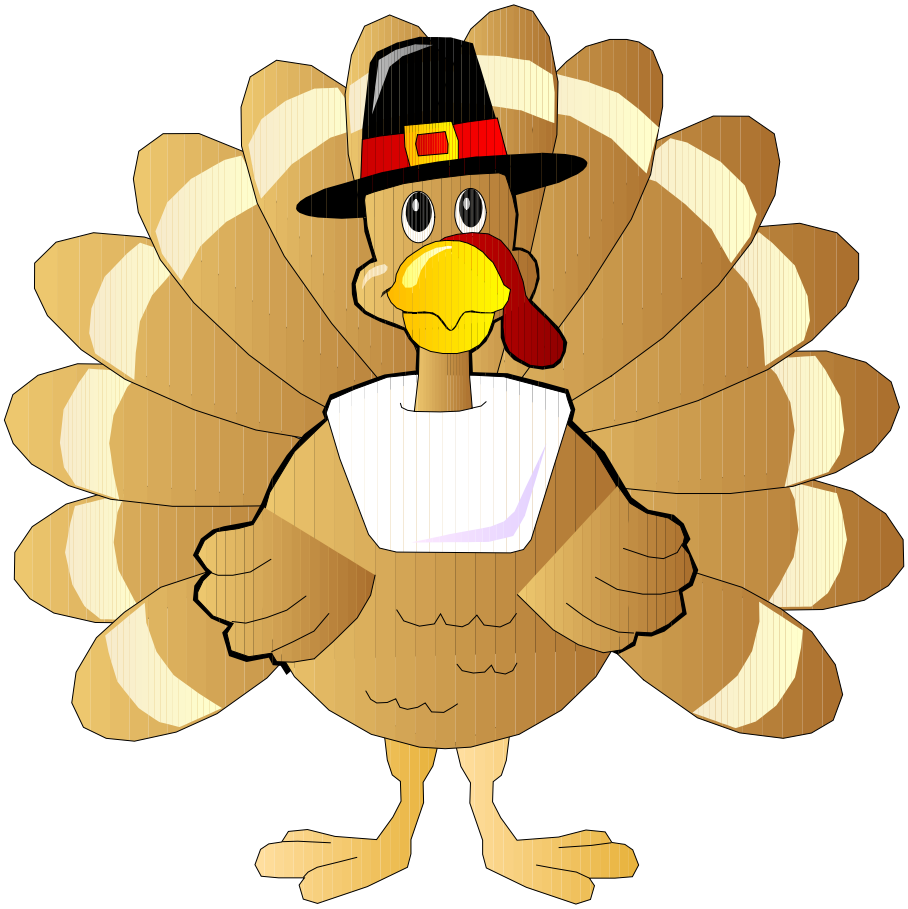
DEADLINE is November 12th!!!

Order Form

Item	Number of Dozens	Price ($15 per dozen)
Spinach Pies		
Meat Pies		
Date Cookies		
TOTAL		

Name_____

Fall Harvest PARISH Thanksgiving Celebration!!!



Saturday, November 11th

Our Church School children *(Kindergarten thru 12th Grade)* are to be dropped off at 2pm. They will prepare their part of the meal, set the tables, do crafts, and have a great time together! We are asking that all parents are back by **5pm** so their child is sitting next to them praying at Great Vespers. Following Great Vespers, we will all enjoy the meal prepared by our children!

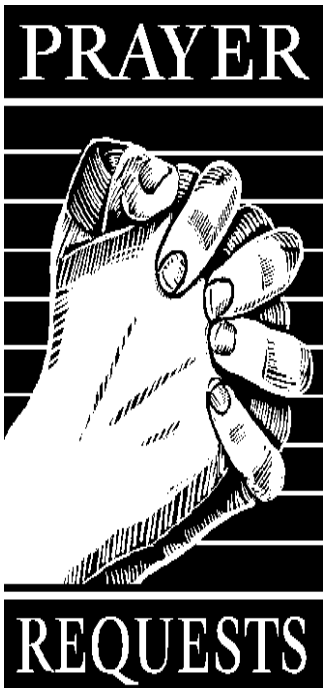
<u>This is for ALL parishioners – see you there!</u>

Daily Prayer Life

- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Bishop Antoun Khoury** (+October 2nd), **Clemence Bassett** (+September 19th, mother of Deacon Michael), **Cathern Henry** (+October 1st, former parishioner), **John McShosh** (+October 2nd, former parishioner), and **Samira Barham** (+October 7th, aunt of Janet Abueita).

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, **Sahar Abdallah**, **Salwa Abu-Aitah**, **Androlla Abu Aita**, **Hanna Abuaita**, **Shafiqa Abuaitah**, **Jane Abueita**, **Abla Abufarha**, **Hiam Andoni**, **Ceasar** and **Naila Banna**, **Emil Bathish**, **Tom David**, **Vera Farah**, **Phyllis Good**, **Carol Haddad**, **Roland** & **Ronald Haddad**, **Salwa Haddad**, **Daisy Isaac**, **Daniel Isaac**, **John Isaac**, **Nawal Iseid**, **Sally Joseph**, **John** & **Nakhleh Khoury**, **Nicola Khoury**, **Danny Mortensen**, **Basem** and **Laura Nassar**, **George** and **Renee Nassif**, **Aida Raffoul**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **Mary Salim**, **Michael Silpoch**, **William Sophiea Jr**.; *those who are suffering in the Middle East, Ukraine, the City of Flint, from the recent Hurricanes, Mexico Earthquake, and Las Vegas Tragedy; 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, Ushers, and OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship).*



- Remember the servants of God who are with child: **Ola Alqazaha** and **Lameese (**Abu-Aitah) **Porada**.

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

- Remember the family and friends of St. George parishioners: **Jonathan Bassett**, **Cynthia Brooks**, **Catherine Verbosky**, and **Shawna Hale**, (family/friends of Dn. Mike and Pam Bassett), **Kinan Turjman** (nephew of Sahar Abdallah), **Michel Abuaita** (father of Mary Khoury), **Mariam Ghanim** (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Youssef** and **Georgette Damouni** (parents of Lina Burbar and May Gantos), **Asma Abuaita** (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Abdulnour Hanna** (brother of the Hanna, Elias, Joubran families), **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), **Jenna Marsico** (niece of Jim Delbridge), **Scott Lints** (friend of Mary Jo Ghattas), **Tom Ellenburg** (friend of Sally Joseph), **Saliba Musleh** (father of Julianna Abuaita), **Ibtisam Odeh** (cousin of Elham Ishak), **Megan Meade** and **Casey Webb** (relatives of Bob Teunion), **Elaine Gejoff**, **Marcella Moorman**, and **Dennis Perez** (from St. Mary Magdalene), **Gloria Zelenko** (from St. Nicholas), and **Sanaa Alqassis** (former parishioner).

Congratulations and God bless:

❖ **Marc Nassif** BBC Senior Managing Director who was recently named to *Crain's Business 2017 40 Under 40*! Marc is a former parishioner (now at the Basilica of St. Mary-Livonia, MI) and the son of George and Jeanette Nassif.

❖ **Tony** and **Chrissy Abueita** on the birth of **Ilianna Sophia** (September 20th).

❖ At the 21st annual Arab-American Heritage Council (AAHC) *Ensure the Legacy Banquet* in October, it was a proud night for St. George! A number of parishioners participated and/or received awards: **Vera Farah** was honored as the *Arab-American of the Year* and was introduced by her son the **Honorable Joseph J. Farah**; **Alexandra Nassar** (President), **Said Farah** (Treasurer), and **Katrina Khouri** (member) of the AAHC Board of Trustees; **John Salomon** and **Lubna Jones** are on the Advisory Council; Executive Director **Devin Jones** beautifully spoke on the mission and work of the AAHC; and Alexandra Nassar presented College Scholarships of which one went to **Shane Gantos** who will be attending the University of Michigan-Flint and is the son of proud parents *Dr. David* and *May*. All of our parishioners who were present were also very proud of **Majd Abuaita** (son of Khaled and Sally) and **Michael Hayek** (son of Walid and Amal) who did a wonderful job singing "*the Star-Spangled Banner"*!

Announcements

FASTING DISCIPLINE FOR NOVEMBER The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products)* is observed on Wednesdays and Fridays the first two weeks. . On Wednesday, November 15th, we begin the traditional forty-day ***CHRISTMAS*** *(Advent)* ***FAST*** in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25th. The Fast is divided into two periods. The first period is November 15th through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline *(no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, oil and their by-products)* is observed on all days except Tuesdays and Thursdays when *wine and oil* are permitted and Saturdays and Sundays when *fish, wine, and oil* are permitted.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS at 2:00AM on Sunday, November 5th. Before going to bed on Saturday night, November 4th, please remember to set your clocks BACK (*"fall back")* one hour.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please mark your calendars and come to help out during our once-a-month commitment at the Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, November 28th from 9am-12:30pm. If you have questions or want to sign-up, please contact Jim and Evelyn Delbridge (810-630-2353).

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT We have this on the 2nd Friday of the month (November 10th). Registration is at 6:30pm and Play begins at 7pm. This is organized and chaired by Hiam Andoni. If you would like to help out for a couple of hours, volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Hiam (810-813-1076 or handoni@hotmail.com) for more information.

FR. JOE—OUT-OF-TOWN Fr. Joe and Leslee will be on vacation from November 19th after Divine Liturgy to November 29th. Sunday Divine Services (***Matins*** at 8:50am and ***Liturgy*** at 10am) will be celebrated as normal on November 26th. ***For emergencies only while Fr. Joe is away,*** please call Protodeacon Michael Bassett (St. George, 989-627-9580) or Fr. Matthew Butrie (St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 810-744-0070). Please pray for Fr. Joe and Leslee's safe travels.

PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB We meet on Tuesdays 6-8pm at St. George. We are continuing in our current book *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers* throughout October. All are invited to join! Any questions or if you would like more information, contact Protodeacon Michael Bassett frdnmike@gmail.com or 989-627-9580.

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 below) or call to do it by phone.

TOASTMASTERS Learn to share your stories, become an engaging speaker, and improve your leadership skills! Join *Genesee Toastmasters* every Wednesday morning 7:30-8:30am in the church lounge. Adults of every age and stage are welcome! Check out www.geneseetoastmasters.org for more information.

2017 PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY Our annual **General Assembly** will be held Sunday, November 12th, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Members in good standing both spiritually (attending church) and in their financial stewardship are considered Voting Members and may speak and vote on any non-canonical matter presented at the meeting. Please review the Report Packet that will be sent and plan on attending. Childcare with lunch and activities will be provided by Teen SOYO for the duration of the meeting for those parents staying for the meeting.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER is defined in our Constitution as: *all persons, regardless of sex, eighteen (18) years of age and over, who have been baptized and accepted as members of the Holy Orthodox Church according to its teachings, who accept, profess and practice the faith and discipline of the Holy Orthodox Church and who subscribe to the temporal maintenance of the Parish, through payment of such dues, pledges and assessments.*

General Assembly Proxies are given to those who cannot attend the meeting because of medical treatment or illness, those confined to their homes, or those with written verification of a prior travel commitment. A VOTING member who cannot attend the meeting may have another VOTING member vote on their behalf. PLEASE NOTE: To better our procedures for Proxies, they are available in the church office beginning on Sunday, October 22nd and must be returned back to the office by Sunday, November 5th. Proxies received after November 5th will be considered invalid. If you have any questions, please speak with a member of our Credentials Committee (Dannie Jones, Anwar Abueita, or Fr. Joe).

Coming Events in DECEMBER

16 **Parish Christmas Program** *hosted by our Church School*
24 ***Christmas Divine Services*** Xmas Matins 4:50pm / Christmas Divine Liturgy 6pm

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

Our average monthly offerings need to be $20,047 to meet our 2017 Budget. In September, our offerings were $11,990 which means **we were short $8,057!** Please support the work of God through St. George.

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

☞ If you have an item that you would like to place in the Weekly Bulletin, please call the church office by 12 Noon of the Wednesday before.

☞ **REGULAR Office Hours** Our secretary, Kelly Dotson, works on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays 10am-4pm; Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1-4pm. You can reach Kelly during office hours at: kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com or 810-732-0720.

☞ If you would like to offer Holy Bread (*Holy Oblation*) in memory of a loved one, for the health or safety of a loved one, or to commemorate a special occasion, you may phone the church office (810-732-0720) by 12 Noon of the Wednesday before.

☞ If you would like to host Coffee Fellowship in memory of a loved one, the occasion of a birthday or anniversary, or in thanksgiving to God, sign up on the poster in the Lounge or speak with Manal Abuaita.

St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn

Remembered in the church on Saturday, November 4th with Divine Liturgy at 10am

The holy bishop was probably born on or about November 8, 1860. Fleeing Damascus due to religious persecutions, Michael and Mariam Hawaweeny went to Beirut where the saint was born and baptized with the name Rafla. They returned to Damascus in 1861, and sent their son to elementary school. Although the boy was a good student, his father could not afford for him to continue his studies. Providentially, Deacon Athanasios Atallah (later Metropolitan of Homs) arranged for Rafla's acceptance as a student of the Patriarchate of Antioch in order to prepare for the holy priesthood.

In 1879, Rafla was tonsured a monk by Patriarch Hierotheos and became his personal attendant. Later, he was sent to the Theological School at Halki, where he was ordained to the diaconate in 1885. Upon graduation, Deacon Raphael returned to his homeland and accompanied the Patriarch of Antioch on his pastoral visitations to various parishes.

The saint's thirst for knowledge was so great that he asked the Patriarch to permit him to continue his theological education in Russia, promising to return as the Patriarch's Russian-language secretary. Deacon Raphael was accepted at the Theological Academy at Kiev, and in 1889 he was appointed as head of the Antiochian representation Church (metochion) in Moscow. At the request of the Patriarch of Antioch, he was ordained to the holy priesthood, then raised to the rank of archimandrite.

The Antiochian Patriarchate had been under the rule of foreign bishops since 1766. This was an intolerable situation for Father Raphael, who wrote many articles urging that the administration of the Church of Antioch be returned to its native clergy and people. His outspoken criticisms led Patriarch Spyridon to suspend Father Raphael from priestly functions. Eventually, St. Raphael was persuaded to ask the Patriarch's forgiveness. The Patriarch reinstated him, but transferred him to the canonical jurisdiction of the Church of Russia. While teaching at Kazan's Theological Academy, Archimandrite Raphael was invited to come to New York to become the pastor of that city's Arab Orthodox community.

St. Raphael arrived in New York on November 2, 1895. One of the first things he did was to establish the church of St. Nicholas in New York. The parish later moved to Brooklyn. In addition to his pastoral duties there, he was given responsibility for all the scattered children of Antioch in North America. He spent the rest of his life traveling across the continent seeking out Orthodox Arabs and gathering them into a harmonious spiritual family in the Church. He comforted his people in sorrow and shared their joys. He baptized their children, blessed their marriages, and buried their dead. He was a beloved spiritual father who organized many parishes and provided priests to serve them. At the time of St. Raphael's death, the Arab mission had 30 parishes and 25,000 faithful.

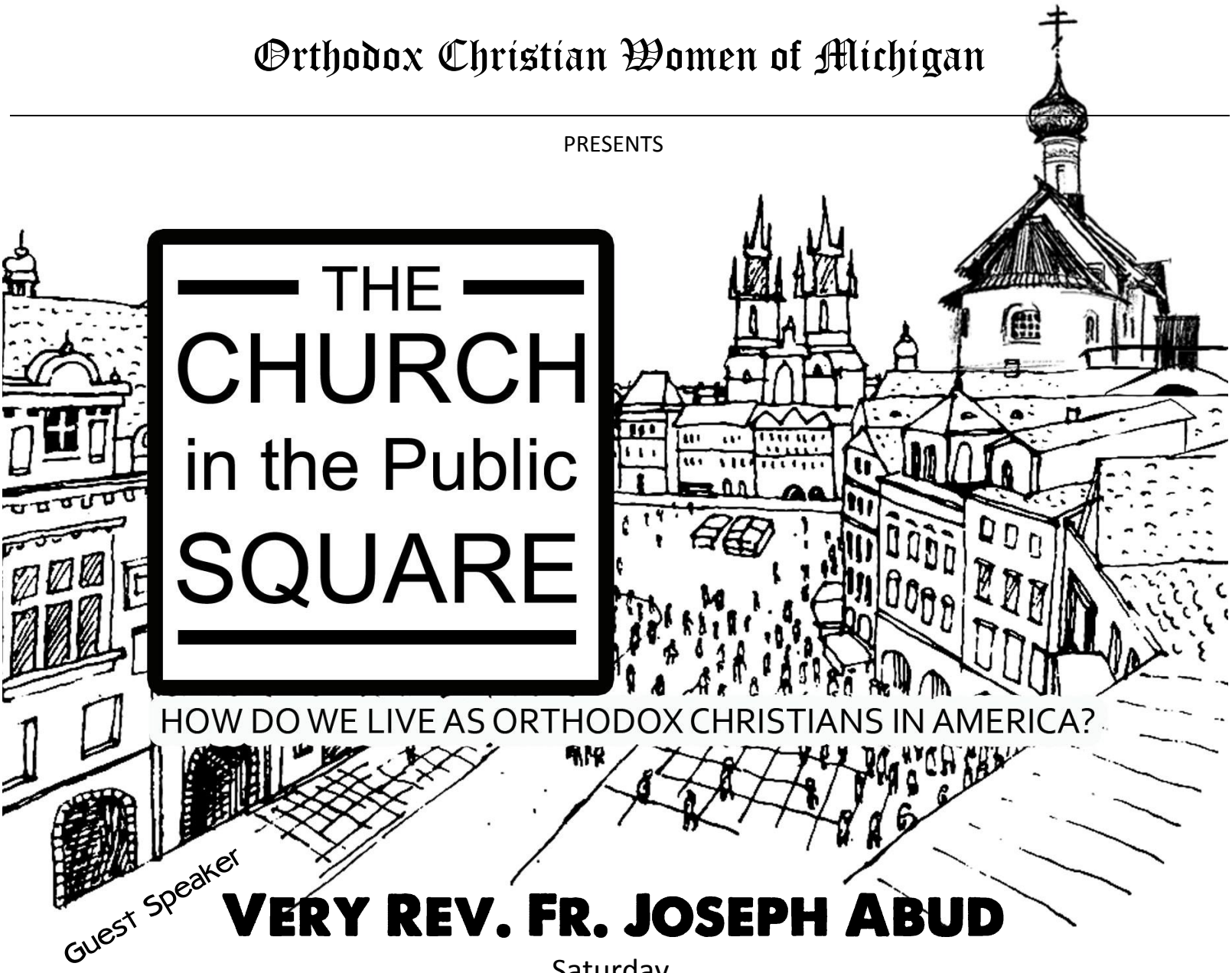
As many people know, St. Raphael was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America (1904). He was also a tireless laborer who strove to build up the Church (1 Corinthians 14:12), and his great love and sacrifice for his flock mark him as a true pastor. The books and articles he has left behind give us an indication of his personality. He was a man of prayer who was consumed with zeal for the house of the Lord (Psalm 68:9). He protected his flock from false teachings and from straying into other pastures. He bore illness and affliction with patience, ever glorifying the Name of the Lord.

On February 27, 1915, he rested from his labors and fell asleep in the Lord. We honor him as our father, teacher, and heavenly intercessor.

By his holy prayers, may we be accounted worthy of the heavenly Kingdom. Amen.

Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan

PRESENTS



THE CHURCH in the Public SQUARE

HOW DO WE LIVE AS ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA?

Guest Speaker

VERY REV. FR. JOSEPH ABUD

Saturday

November 18, 2017

10 A.M.

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
20500 Anglin St. (at Eight Mile Rd.)
Detroit, MI 48234

ALL are welcome to join us in fellowship! Refreshments will be served.

Mary Ann Dadich, OCW President
586-775-4799
mdadich811@gmail.com
www.coccdetroit.org/ocw.html

Like our Facebook Page (and invite your friends):
Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan - OCW

We accept contributions for ZOE For Life!, Orthodox Detroit Outreach, & South Oakland Shelter.

What do Jesus, the Bible, and the Church Fathers Say about Tithing and Giving to God?

by John G. Panagiotou, American Orthodox Institute

"Where your treasure is there will your heart be also." (*Matthew 6:21)* These words of Jesus have resonated within the hearts of people for two thousand years. What was Jesus talking about? What do Jesus, the Bible, and the Church Fathers have to say about tithing and giving to God?

The Scriptures have no less than 2,350 verses having to do with money and money management. Jesus speaks about money and money management more than any other topic including heaven, hell, salvation etc. The topic is very important for the Christian life.

In a verse that is often misquoted, St. Paul the Apostle writes, *"the love of money is the root of all evil". (1Timothy 6:10)* St. Paul teaches our Lord realizes we have needs to meet in order to live and to carry out His work. God is, however, a jealous God, and demands our full commitment with nothing else taking priority over His Lordship in our lives. This is why the Apostle Paul warns his first century Christian congregation that the *love* of money is evil.

All that we have is on loan from God; it is all gifts. What we do with our time, talent, and treasures will have to be given account of on the last day (Judgement Day). This was the great sin of disobedience by Adam in the Garden of Eden. He abused his gift of stewardship, in other words taking care of that gift! King Solomon, who was the richest and wisest man of all time, expressed his feeling of the emptiness of materialism apart from God when he said, *"vanity of vanities, it is all a bubble that bursts".*

In the book of Genesis, the mysterious model priest of priests, Melchizedek, appears to perform one task alone: to collect the tithe (10%) from Abraham and to thus give a blessing upon him on behalf of the Lord. *(Genesis 14:18-20)* This clearly shows that Abraham, in his righteousness before God, gave of his first fruits (his best fruits) unto the Lord and in turn was blessed. (Fr. Joe's note: This is precisely what God is calling us to do and as members of St. George gives us the opportunity to do!) We as believers are called to give sacrificially of our best resources first, and God will take care of the rest as He did with our Father Abraham.

As individuals, when we become burdened with a mindset of having things (materialism: non-stewardship focused giving) we become slaves to our wealth instead of our wealth becoming our servants for the promotion of God's Kingdom. This clearly is not the way God intended it to be. Inevitably, we squanderer the gifts of our resources. Then a multitude of other problems emerge, namely, the bondage of debt. For truly, as the Preacher teaches in Ecclesiastes and Proverbs, *"the borrower is a slave to the lender". (Proverbs 22:7)*

If you want to know the spiritual state and strength of a church, just look at its stewardship report (Budget). Consistently, it tells it all because what people do with their money speaks volumes. We make disciples by giving people Jesus through preaching, teaching, the sacramental life, the liturgical life, and outreach ministries. It is to this end that our giving should be focused. If the *ecclesia* (Greek for "church") will do its job, Jesus has promised to be faithful and do His. Sacrificial giving for the Christian is not an option, but a joyful requirement. St. John Chrysostom in the 4th century speaks of this joyful requirement in his book ***On Wealth and Poverty*** when he writes that *the Christian owns nothing because God owns everything*.

With these things in mind, proper Christian stewardship for individuals and congregations should include the following four principles: 1) the glorification of God should be the focus; 2) giving should be sacrificial; 3) giving should be of the best of the first fruits of one's resources; and 4) debt has no place in this model.

If we would incorporate these four principles into our lives and the life of our church, the Lord has promised to do mighty and wonderful things in our lives and in the lives of all around us. A proper understanding of stewardship is not a luxury in our private life as a Christian and in our collective life as the Church. For us to really be "called out from the world" as the word *ecclesia* means, is to take up the mantle and responsibility of stewardship and all it demands.

2018 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)

2018 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)

I Say to You, Arise

Metropolitan Georges Khodr, Archdiocese of Mount Lebanon

Today's Gospel (St. Luke 7:11-16 read on October 8, 2017) is about a miracle that the Lord performed, which shows us once again that the chief reasons for Jesus' working miracles is that He loves people. He took pity on the widow of Nain and raised her son.

Miracles are not, at root, for the Lord to prove something. He did not do them to give us proof of His divinity, since He says, *"Believe in Me because of the words I speak to you. Otherwise, believe because of the works."* This is the weakest sort of faith, for us to follow Him because of miracles, while the strongest faith is for us to follow Him because of His words, because of the divine gift of words that no human pronounces, and because of the life that He spent among us, loving to the point of death. Therefore, in the Gospel of John the miracles are called "signs" because He uses them to indicate teaching. He uses them to demonstrate the aims of the Gospel and not to demonstrate might.

Christ did not reveal God's might as the Jews did. He revealed God's power in His own way. God's power was the cross. That is, He revealed a weakness that was, after the resurrection, determined to be in fact a strength. God comes down to humankind and lives with them. This is His power. He can cast aside His glory in order to be hidden among people. People desire power and it is one of their three temptations. Man is confronted with three temptations: the temptation of money, the temptation of power, or the temptation of glory.

Christ stepped down from all this, He refrained from this in order to die for something weak, so that His power might shine and so He might triumph in glory.

In this context, Jesus rose the youth from the dead and sent him to his mother. Here we must notice what Jesus said to this youth: *"I say to you, arise".* He could have just said, "arise", but He said, "I say to you, arise".

From behind the event, if each of us looks at his weakness and his spiritual death, at his fallenness, his decline and his abandonment, at the same time he looks at the splendor of Christ, because each of us is dead and Christ says to each of us by name, *"I say to you, arise".*

What every single one of us must believe is that Christ could have come to humankind even if there were only one human. The important thing is not that we say that Christ is the Savior of the world--and it is true that He is the Savior of all people--rather, the important thing is that every single one of us says, *"Christ is my own savior".* Each one of us can say this if he wants to reveal his weakness before Christ and confess it.

People talk about others and say they steal and kill and lie and cheat. I have never heard someone complain about himself and say publicly, "I lie. I cheat. I take illicit profit. I have murdered." True Christianity is for me to confess before all people that I am the sinner, an adulterer, a liar, a murderer. This is what the early Christians did when confession was public. They confessed their sins and not others' sins.

When someone confesses that he is a sinner, Christ says to him, *"I say to you, arise".* And at that moment he arises from his sin to become a new person.

لكَ أنتَ أقول قمْ

جاورجيوس مطران جبيل والبترون وما يليهما (جبل لبنان)

إنجيل اليوم عن عجيبة قام بها السيّد، وتظهر لنا مرّة أخرى أنّ السبب الرئيس في صنع يسوع للمعجزات هو أنّه كان يحبّ الناس. تحنّن على أرملة نايين فأقام ابنها.

ليست المعجزات أصلاً ليبرهن السيّد عن شيء. ما اقترفها لكي يعطي دليلاً على ألوهيّته وهو القائل: آمنوا بي بسبب الكلام الذي أكلّمكم به وإلاّ آمنوا بسبب الأعمال. هذا أضعف الإيمان أن نتبعه بسبب العجائب، لكن أقوى الإيمان أن نتبعه بسبب الكلام، بسبب العطاء الإلهيّ بكلمات لا ينطق بها إنسان، وبسبب الحياة التي قضاها بيننا حبًّا حتّى الموت. ولذلك في بشارة يوحنّا تُسمّى العجائب آيات لأنّه يشير بها الى تعليم، يدلّ بها على مآرب الإنجيل ولا يدلّ بها على جبروت.

لم يكشف المسيح جبروت الله كما كان يفعل اليهود. أظهر المسيح قوّة الله بطريقته هو، وكانت قوّة الله الصليب، أي أنّه كشف ضعفًا يُستَدّل منه من بعد القيامة على أنّه كان بالفعل قوّة. الله ينزل إلى البشر ويحيا معهم، هذه هي قوّته. إنّه يستطيع أن يتخلّى عن مجده ليكون مخفيًّا بين الناس. الناس يريدون قوّة وهي تجربة من تجاربه الثلاث. الإنسان أمام إغرائات ثلاثة: إغراء المال وإغراء الجنس وإغراء القوّة أو المجد.

تنازل المسيح عن كلّ هذا وعفّ عن كلّ هذا ليموت لشيء ضعيف حتّى تسطع قوّته وينتصر بالمجد.

في هذا الإطار أقام يسوع شابًّا من بين الأموات ودفعه إلى أمّه. لا بدّ من أن نلاحظ هنا ما قاله يسوع لهذا الشابّ: «لك أقول قمْ». كان يمكن أن يقول «قمْ» فقط ولكنّه قال: «لك أقول قم».

من وراء الحادثة إذا نظر كلّ منّا إلى ضعفه وإلى موته الروحيّ، إلى سقوطه وتدهوره واهترائه، ينظر بآن معًا إلى بهاء المسيح، لأنّ كلاًّ منّا ميت والمسيح يقول لكلّ منّا باسمه: «لك أقول قم».

وما ينبغي أن يؤمن به كلّ فرد منّا هو أنّ المسيح كان يمكن أن يأتي إلى البشر لو كانوا إنسانًا واحدًا فقط. ليس المهمّ أن نقول إنّ المسيح مخلّص العالم، وهذا صحيح هو منقذ كلّ الناس، ولكنّ المهمّ أن يقول كلّ فرد منّا: المسيح مخلّصي أنا. كلّ واحد منّا يمكنه أن يقول ذلك إذا أراد أن يكشف ضعفه أمام المسيح وأن يعترف به.

يتحدّث الناس عن غيرهم أنّهم يسرقون ويقتلون ويكذبون ويغشّون. وما سمعتُ يومًا إنسانًا يشكي نفسه ويقول علنًا: أنا أكذب، أنا أحتال، أنا آخذ ربحًا غير مشروع أو أنا قتلت، المسيحيّة الحقّ أن أعترف أمام كلّ الناس بأنّي خاطئ، زانٍ، كذّاب، قاتل. هكذا كان يفعل المسيحيّون الأوّلون لمّا كان الاعتراف علنيًّا. كانوا يعترفون بخطاياهم لا بخطايا غيرهم.

من يعترف بأنّه خاطئ يقول له المسيح: لك أنتَ أقول قمْ، فيقوم اليوم من موته ليصبح إنسانًا جديدًا.

Namedays, Birthdays and Anniversaries

November 1 to November 30, 2017

Birthdays

November

2 Batoul Burbar
Wafaa Elias
Nida Ishaq
Nicola "Nick" Khoury

3 Maher Alatrash
Zain Jaraysa

4 Elena E. Rodriguez

5 George AbuAita
Josalien Abuaita

6 Jillian S. Isaac
Moussa Khouri

7 Zayna D. Andoni
Nimer Iseid
Victoria "Vicky" I. Shamma

8 Salwa Abousamra
Jiries A. Abu-Aitah
Michael T. Bassett
Nisreen G. Rodriguez

9 Daisy A. Isaac
Naim R. Mashni

10 Suha E. Abueita

11 Erini Abuaita
Ibrahim Abufarha
Samantha M. Russell

12 Yvette M. Ghantous

13 Brian M. Silpoch

14 Daniel Daoud
George Fanous
Amanda Shamma

15 Issa "Chris" Y. Abueita
Timothy "Tim" S. Beers
Adrian "Anan" Khouri

17 Adeeb R. Bathish
Marissa L. McCann
Nashwa E. Meshraky
William "Bill" A. Shaheen Jr.

18 Majdi Alkazaha
Jamiel I. Shamma

19 Marcellus "Marcello" S. Abufarha
Melissa A. Bathish
Jolie G. Farah
Yasmeen Mitri
Mousa Rishmawi

20 Blanka AbuAita
Shafiqa Abuaitah
Michael J. Fanous
Mariah E. Tijerina

21 Issa A. Burbar
JoAnn M. Hawkins
Souheil Nassar

22 Souria Farah
Amira-Amy N. Helal

23 Adriana R. Abuaita
Khaled P. Abuaita
Issa T. David

24 Sharbel E. Abueita

25 Marcos L. Abuaita
Ramy Abueita
Ziyad Ibrahim
Terry A. Monkaba

26 Ariana H. Abuaita

28 Mike Abdallah
Sharon L. Abu-Aitah
Donald "Don" A. Hawkins

29 Lindsey C. Bathish

30 Fares Abdallah
Lina A. Elia
Mario Ibrahim
Issa G. Odeh

Namedays

November

8 Mike Abdallah
Angel Suheil Abuaita
Micheal Khaled Abuaita
Michael Anthony Yacoub Abueita
Michael G. M. Alqazaha
Michael T Bassett
Micheline El-Chaer
Michael Jeries Fanous
Michelle Farah
Michelle Hanan Farah
Shane Michael Gantos
Gabriella "Gabby" Freida Ghattas
Michael Hamati
Leland "Lee" Michael Harris
Michael Hayek
Mario Ibrahim
Michael Khal
Michael Joseph McCann
Kirolous Michael Meshraky
Gary Michael Monkaba
Michael Mortensen
Eddie Nassar
Angela Eyad Rishmawi
Aziz Michael Rishmawi
Michael "Mike" S. Rishmawi
Michael Aziz Rishmawi Jr.
Miguel Jesus Rishmawi
Micheline Russell
Reese Michael Salim
Brian Michael Silpoch
Michael "Mike" Joseph Silpoch
Victor Salim Zarour

11 Hadil Victor Habbas
Victor Hafez Habbas

14 Khaled Philip Abuaita
Philip Abuaita
Tamer Philip Abuaita
Evan Philip Isaac

15 Habeeb Ghattas
Habib Skafi

16 Matthew Khaled Abuaita
Levi (Matthew) Wesley Cooper
Matthew Wael Hayek
Souheil Nassar
Brendan Matthew Silpoch
Matthew "Matt" Marvin Thomas

21 Angela Marie Nassar

25 Laura Catherine Farah
Yasmine "Katie" Kathleen Farah
Katia Haddad
Katherine Devahn Joseph

God Grant You All Many Years!

25 Katia Haddad
Katherine Devahn Joseph
Katrina L. Khouri
Kathleen "Kathy" Lisa Kudray
Katrin Munir Mitri
Kelly (Katherine) Lynn Sanderson

30 Andrew Majdi Alkazaha
Andrew George Fox
Andrew McDonald
David Andrew Salim
Nicholas Andrew Shahin

Wedding Anniversaries

November

1 Mr. and Mrs. Samir Haddad
6 Mr. and Mrs. Nabeel Fakhoury
8 Mr. and Mrs. Ziyad Ibrahim
12 Mr. and Mrs. Salim Farah
16 Mr. and Mrs. Philip Abuaita
Mr. and Mrs. Emil Joseph
22 Mr. and Mrs. Maher Abufarha
27 Mr. and Mrs. Roger Isaac

ATTENTION!

If parishioners such as you, a family member, or friend's name does not appear in **THE VOICE** under *Birthdays, Anniversaries, or Namedays*, it is because we do not have your information on our church computer.

Please call the office 810-732-0720 or e-mail our church secretary, Kelly, at kellysecstgeorge@gmail.com and your name will be added.

God Grant You All Many Years!

November

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thu*	*Fri*	*Sat*
	***Assumption** 2245 Baldwin Road (between Holly & Fenton Roads) Grand Blanc 810-771-4611		**1** **Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian** Arabic/English Bible Study 12:30-2pm Parents & Teens 7-9pm	**2**	**3** **Dedication of the church of the Great Martyr George in Lydda**	**4** **Divine Liturgy** for *Raphael of Brooklyn* 10am **Great Vespers and Confessions** 5pm
5 **Martyrs Galaktion and Epistima of Homs** 10th-12th Grades w/ FJ	**6** Bible Study 3-5pm	**7** Ladies Auxiliary 5pm Pan-Orthodox Book Club 6-8pm	**8** **Archangel Michael, Gabriel, and all the bodiless powers of Heaven** Parents & Teens 7-9pm	**9** Michigan Clergy Deanery Lunch Meeting @ St. George 12pm	**10** Fr. Joe in Chicago for Wedding Euchre Tournament 6:30pm	**11** No Great Vespers Parish Thanksgiving Dinner 5pm
12 **John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria** Parish General Assembly	**13** **John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople** Bible Study 3-5pm	**14** **Apostle Philip** Pan-Orthodox Book Club 6-8pm	**15** Christmas Fast Begins Arabic/English Bible Study 12:30-2pm Advent Service 6pm Parents & Teens 7-9pm	**16** Altar Society Dinner Meeting 6pm	**17**	**18** **Orthodox Women Talk** by Fr. Joe (see flier) **Great Vespers and Confessions** 5pm
19 **Prophet Obadiah** Ladies Auxiliary Thanksgiving Bake Sale	**20** **Evening Divine Liturgy** *at *Assumption* 6pm	**21** **Great Feast: Entrance of the Virgin Mary into the Temple** Pan-Orthodox Book Club 6-8pm	**22**	**23** **Give Thanks to our Lord in all things!**	**24** **Clement, Bishop of Rome**	**25** No Great Vespers
26 **Venerable Alypios the Stylite**	**27**	**28** North End Soup Kitchen 9am-12:30pm Pan-Orthodox Book Club 6-8pm	**29** Arabic/English Bible Study 12:30-2pm Advent Service 6pm Parents & Teens 7-9pm	**30** **Apostle Andrew the First Called**		

2017

St. George Orthodox Church
5191 Lennon Road • Flint, Michigan 48507 • (810) 732-0720
Web Site: *saintgeorgeflint.org*

V. Rev. Fr. Joseph M. Abud, Pastor
Protodeacon Michael Bassett

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)

2017-18 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 810-620-4466 or eliasabuaita.124@gmail.com

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

LADIES AUXILIARY • Hiam Bathish, President 810-238-2152 or emilbathish4@gmail.com

TEEN SOYO • Majd Abuaita, President 810-610-8312 or majdabuaita@yahoo.com

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

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