



John W. Koenig - 12/2004

2160 EAST MAPLE ROAD • TROY, MI 48083 / Office Phone (248)589-0480

V. Rev. Archpriest Joseph Antypas, Pastor / Residence Phone (248)813-0366

The Observer

Issue No. 1

Forefeast of Sunday before Theophany of Christ

Tone 3

Eothinon 6

Reflection: On the Divine Liturgy: Our Souls and Bodies

The priest continues the prayer before the Gospel reading with the words, "For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God."

The illumination of our bodies? We can well understand that the Light of the World illumines our souls. But how and in what measure does He illumine our bodies?

A few lines earlier the same prayer declared: "trampling down all carnal desires." Can the same flesh be both trampled down and illumined? The flesh in itself is good, having been created and blessed by God. Wounded and weakened by the sin of our first parents, however, the flesh often becomes the origin of various temptations. It can become a wall of separation, an egocentric barrier, an instrument of struggle against the Spirit.

Those, however, are deviations. The flesh, such as God thought and purposed it, is an instrument of our salvation. It is in this sense that God is the principle of love between man and woman, making a sacrament of their conjugal union. For this reason, too, God obliges us to preserve our body and our physical health, as well as to pray for the sick. And God has exalted our flesh to such heights that He even assumed human flesh in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is for this reason that the liturgy, in the prayer before the reading of the Gospel, can exhort us to "trample down" all desires of the flesh (those desires that are in themselves evil insofar as they separate us from God and from our brethren) while speaking at the same time of the "illumination of our bodies" as well as of our souls.

Since we are going to hear the reading of the Word of God, let us ask, together with the prologue of the Gospel of St John, that this Word "become flesh" within us, that it might dwell within us and penetrate us, to the extent that our body itself becomes its transparent covering.



Epistle:

*O Lord, save Thy people and
bless Thine inheritance. Unto
Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.
The Reading from the Second
Epistle of St. Paul to St.
Timothy. (4:5-8)*

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come.

(continued on page 2)

Gospel:



St. Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

(continued on page 2)

Please Pray For The Health And Spiritual Welfare Of:

David Khoury, Nichole Roedding, Michael, Andrew and James Muawad, Mark Mackool, Marion Severs, Fares Fakhoury, Yvonne Holwey, Gladys Solomon, Said Muawad, Minerva Basila, Nour Dahdal, Sue Williams, Rose Baz, Jeannie Packard and Jacque Williams.

Epistle:

(Continued from page 1)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Gospel...

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Epiphany Service

Just a reminder, we will have the Blessing of the water Service, Wednesday, January 5th, 2022 at 6:30p.m., following the evening Divine Liturgy of the Feast of Theophany.

Epiphany Prayer

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descended upon the waters. Today the waters of the Jordan are transformed into healing by the coming of the Lord. Today the transgressions of men are washed away by waters of the Jordan. Today Paradise has been opened and the Sun of Righteousness shines down upon us. Today we have been delivered from darkness and illuminated with the light of the knowledge of God. Today the Master hastens toward baptism that He may lift man up to the heights. Today the Master buries in the waters the sin of mortal man. Today the Master receives testimony from on High, that He is the beloved Son. Today the Master Comes to sanctify the nature of the waters.

Contribution : Updates & End of Year Statements

Attention parishioners...You need to update your pledges contributions, Archdiocese dues and other church commitments for the year 2021. We ask that you do so as soon as possible. The 2021 year end statements will be sent out in **January 2022.**

A.J. DESMOND & SONS

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

For your family's peace of mind, contact us to begin your advanced planning

Woodward
248-549-0500

Troy • Crooks Rd
248-362-2500

Troy • Rochester Rd
248-689-0700

www.AJDesmond.com



LICENSED & INSURED
MASTER PLUMBER

WaterWorkPlumbing.com

Senior Discounts 248-213-9248
24 Hr. Emergency Service

\$20 OFF ANY SERVICE

GoldCorp, Inc.

21600 Greenfield Road, Suite 100
Oak Park, Michigan 48237

248-968-1212

Walid Khalife



GRANITE TRANSFORMATIONS
For Kitchens & Baths

248-509-0605

2061 E. Maple Rd.
Troy, MI 48083

248-427-0200

31205 Grand River Ave.
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

LYNCH & SONS

Funeral Directors

"A Family Tradition
of Dignified Service"

www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

1368 North Crooks Road
(1 block south of Maple Rd.)

(248) 435-0660

PERFORMANCE ORTHOPEDICS

James Bicos, M.D.

Orthopedic Surgery
Orthopedic Sports Medicine Surgery
Board Certified, Fellowship Trained

Main Office
24255 W 13 Mile Rd
Ste 100 • Bingham Farms, MI

Troy Office
6905 Rochester Rd
Troy, MI

248-988-8085

www.performanceorthopedics.com



ROYAL OAK
HEATING • COOLING • ELECTRICAL

INSTALLATION • SERVICE • SALES

bryant
Factory Authorized
Dealer
Heating & Cooling Systems

Electrical • Furnaces • Air Conditioners • Boilers
Humidifiers • Hot Water Heaters • Thermostats

WE OFFER MAINTENANCE PLANS!

Includes cleaning, 10% off parts and NO overtime charges!

Please call our office for more details.

(248) 542-9353

www.royaloakheating.com

10% OR \$20 OFF SERVICE CALL when you mention St. George

(One coupon per customer per service call. Customer must present coupon to salesperson at the time of service. Coupons may not be used in conjunction with any other offers, senior discount or installs of equipment). Exp 02/23/21

We've Missed You!

Welcome Back to Mass

Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are
by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

www.ParishesOnline.com

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!

ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **Craig Davis** to place an ad today!
cdavis@4LPi.com or **(800) 477-4574 x6259**

Troy Family Care



Nada
Hana-Bachuri, MD



Wafa
Barkho, MD



Tessa
Gaggio, PA-C

41069 Dequindre Road, Suite 103 | Troy, MI 48085
t 248-844-4120 | Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Ascension Michigan | © Ascension 2021. All rights reserved.

- Supervised weight-loss program available
- Same-day appointments
- Virtual visits/telehealth visits
- Safe in-person care
- Accepting new patients
- Walk-ins welcome

Ascension
Medical Group



2-D-3-2

For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com

15-0263

Holy Bread Of Oblation

For Sunday, January 02, 2022

- For the health and spiritual welfare of Jordan Rayis, on the occasion of his Birthday, offered by his grandparents, Fr. Joseph & Khourieh Elen and family.
- For the health and spiritual welfare of the Valijan & Antypas families, offered by Dr. Sevak & Christina Valijan.

Coffee & Donuts

- This Sunday's coffee & donuts are offered for the good health of the Valijan & Antypas families, offered by Dr. Sevak & Christina Valijan.

Special Coffee & Donuts
sponsorship — Cost \$250.00

January 09 - Ghassan & Pat Elian
January 16 - The Ragheb & family

- **Call the church office for sponsorship.**

December Parish Council Meeting

- The December Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 06, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Offered but not posted

- In loving memory of Laila Jaser Nshaiwat (1 year Obs.), offered by her family.

Home Blessings

Home blessings will begin shortly. If you are interested, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office as soon as possible.

_____ Yes, I would like my home blessed
_____ No, I would like to wait

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Time Preferred: ____ AM ____ PM

A Heartfelt Thank You

- To all those who contributed to the Christmas coupons for poinsettias, food for the needy, gift certificates, and miscellaneous items used during the Feast of the Nativity and Christmas greetings.
- To all the volunteers and those that help us on a weekly basis with the Observer and other tasks.
- For those who participate in Church Service & Contribute for the welfare of our Church, chanters, altar servers, ushers, & readers, and members of the choir.
- And last but not least to **George Semaan and Family** for sponsoring the Christmas Breakfast which was served after the Christmas Divine Liturgy.
- To all we express our thanks and gratitude for a holy and blessed, healthy, and peaceful New Year.

*The Clergy and Parishioners of
 St. George would like to wish
 Liturgical Publications Inc.
 a Merry Christmas and
 Happy New year
 and we would like to thank them
 for their help and their cooperation.*

2022 Pledge Envelopes

- The 2022 Pledge Envelope boxes are available in the alphabetical order at the Galleria. Please stop by and pick up yours and the boxes of your family members. If you know of anyone that does not have a pledge number, please let the office know. Thank you.

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH
2160 EAST MAPLE
TROY, MI 48083

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WARREN, MICHIGAN
Permit No. 101

Dated Material

THE OBSERVER, Published Weekly,
St. George Orthodox Church, Troy, MI
Issue date and Issue number on cover,
Publication free.

Happy Birthday....

- 1/1- Norma Zakhem
Fadi Al Khouri
- 1/3-Cathy Mackool
- 1/4 -Jordan Rayis
- 1/5- Fahimeh Fakhoury
- 1/6- Antonios Wehbe



***May the Lord Jesus Christ bestow his
blessings upon them***

Welcome

St. George is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, under the Primacy of His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph, Archbishop of New York and of all North America, and whose auxiliary Bishop is Anthony who resides in Toledo, Ohio The mission of St. George Church is to serve God in the Greater Detroit Area by commitment to the Gospel Command and to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ through faith, hope, and love.

St. George Church follows the faith and practice of the Apostles and Disciples of Christ handed down by the ancient Christian fathers and twenty centuries of Church tradition. Genuine Christian life nurtures and stimulates our spiritual and moral development.

To join the community of St. George of Troy or to find out more information, please give your name, address, and telephone number to one of the ushers. Father Joseph will be happy to contact you and answer any questions. We hope this day will be spiritually rewarding for you. Please join us in the

Do You Know It Costs....

- \$ 60.00 per baptized Soul for Archdiocese dues totaling \$40,000 per year?
- \$6,000.00 a month for utilities alone?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP?

Please use your pledge envelopes **regularly** and help us meet our challenges.

CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL ADDRESSES

St. George website www.stgeorgeoftroy.com.

Father Joseph - father@stgeorgeoftroy.com

Church Office - office@stgeorgeoftroy.com

The Observer - observer@stgeorgeoftroy.com

SOYO - www.sgot.weebly.com

Church: www.stgeorgetroy.weebly.com

Sunday, January 02, 2021

Epistle Readers:

English Reader: Dr. Elias Antypas

Arabic Reader: Dolla Khalife

Ushers: Dr. Sevak & Christina Valijan, Amanda Jahshan, Mina Shammas.