

# St. George Orthodox Church

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Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

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

January 23, 2022

# Glory to Jesus Christ!

## *Glory Forever!*

### 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.

**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 in our Banquet Center! 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. We believe Holy Communion to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Holy Communion can be given to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting (no food or drink from midnight the night before), the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, and being at peace with others. Everyone else, including visitors, are invited to receive the final blessing of the priest and Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy. Again, welcome!

### Holy Bread Offerings (*Oblations*)

- We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Edward** Shadeed (+December 27<sup>th</sup>, brother-in-law of JoAnn Hawkins), **Jim** Simpson (+December 27<sup>th</sup>, uncle of Kelly Sanderson), **Laurie** Crisp (+January 3<sup>rd</sup>, cousin of Lauren Zerka), **Ronna** Royer (+January 4<sup>th</sup>, mother of Fr. Bob), **Nael** Bannura (+January 13<sup>th</sup>, father of Amani Jarayseh), and **Sub-deacon Brian** Thabit (+January 14<sup>th</sup>, relative of Father Michael).

- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Metropolitan Paul** and **Archbishop John** who are in captivity, **Sahar** Abdallah, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janet), **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar** and **Georgette** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alshahouri, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Ranna** Esho (friend of Batoul Burbar), **Averie** Fisher (niece of Doug and Sandy Thomas), **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Phyllis** Good, **Amy** Handley (friend of Nataly Odeh), **Daisy** Isaac, **Salwa** Isaac, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother Denise Ghattas), **Nicola** Khoury, **Lan** Kiley (niece of Raji and Sue Salomon), **Rafat** Nasri, **Laura** Nassar, **Aida** Raffoul, **Roger** Saadeh, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** and **Ellis** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, and **Georgette** Yusuf; **Ghassan**, **Jasanta**, and newborn **Sophia** Al-Khoury (January 12<sup>th</sup>).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Casandra** and **Daniel** Burbar, **Yara** and **Mudaffer** Rishmawi, and **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet) and **John** Timm.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** is not hosted today ☹️. Please offer a donation to help cover our costs ~ thanks!

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Available dates: January 30<sup>th</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is in the 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. **For more information, contact Manal Abuaita** (810-577-0028).

**PROCEDURES** As of early December, Fadi Rishmawi, Parish Council Chairman and Fr. Joe cancelled all activities, except Divine Services, because more and more parishioners were getting the covid virus. Further, while in our church building, everyone must properly wear masks. Please remember we can venerate icons at this time by bowing (*not kissing or touching*) and the same for the priest's hand and the chalice at Holy Communion. We all want the safest place for all of our parishioners to worship. We know that combining masks, vaccines, and boosters will protect ourselves and our community against this fast-changing virus. **PLEASE FOLLOW:**

1. Everyone must properly wear a mask inside our church building.
2. Pews in the back of the church are for **those who are not vaccinated** and **those who would like to be social distanced**.

### THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS ...

❖ **Fr. Michael** and the organizers of our annual fundraiser (virtual this year) for Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction, MI. Special thanks to all who participated and donated. If you would still like to donate, checks can be made out to St. George; or if cash, please memo the envelop "Dormition Monastery". Donations can also be made online at our website: [saintgeorgeflint.org](http://saintgeorgeflint.org).

**E-MEMO'S** If you would like to receive our weekly *St. George E-Memo*, please send your e-mail address to [saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com](mailto:saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com).

**HOLY WATER BOTTLES** We celebrated the Theophany (Baptism) of our Lord on January 6<sup>th</sup>. As part of this celebration, Fr. Michael blessed water for all parishioners to take home. If you haven't picked yours up, they are in the Narthex.

**ARE YOU VACCINATED? DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND NEED ANSWERS?** We are blessed to have many medical professionals in our parish and they want you to get the Covid-19 vaccine. There is lots of wrong information on TV and social media. Don't be fooled; it could cost you, your family, or friends in a tragic way! If you have any questions or need truthful information, please contact Dr. Lindsey (Farah) Brunner by text ONLY please at 810-908-9213. If you or someone you know needs help to make an appointment or be driven to one, please call the office 810-732-0720.

**TEXTING FR. JOE?** Fr. Joe does not see or use texting services. If you need to contact him, please call the church 810-732-0720, his cell 810-444-9108, or by email [njja@aol.com](mailto:njja@aol.com).

**2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS** Please pick yours up (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name is not listed, let Fr. Joe know. The calendars (*please take 1 per family*) are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary ~ thank you, Ladies! **Parents**, please make sure your children get their *Offering Envelopes* in the Lounge

### **COMING EVENTS**

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline ( <i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i> ) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.
Saturday	<b><i>Great Vespers and Confessions</i></b> 5pm

## **The Poor ~ *The Saints Serve as our Guides in Serving the Poor***

*by Abbot Tryphon, head of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington*

In many parts of the American countryside one can find the remnants of poorhouses (sometimes called workhouses), institutions run by local county or state governments as a means of dealing with the issue of the unemployed poor and homeless. These poorhouses were often located in rural farming communities, and could resemble rather bleak mental hospitals or prisons. Those residing in these poorhouses were seen as dishonorable, lacking moral character, and devoid of any industriousness. They were poor because they were lazy.

These poorhouses resembled reformatories precisely because poverty was seen as the result of a total lack of initiative on the part of the poor. Those who were forced to live in these institutions, either alone, or as families, were subjected to a penal labor regime of manual labor, sometimes even subjected to physical punishment. More often than not, poorhouses shared space with prison farms, and other penal or charitable public institutions, housing paupers (mainly elderly and disabled people) at public expense. These institutions were common in the United States beginning in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and declined in use after the introduction of Social Security in 1935.

Most poorhouses operated working farms that produced at least some of the produce, grain, and livestock they consumed. Residents were expected to provide labor to the extent that their health would allow, both in the fields and in providing housekeeping and care for other residents. Rules were strict and accommodations minimal. Hardly the place one would want their elderly relatives to be forced to reside, or a place for our nation's children to be raised. Yet, given the bleak statistics of our nation's homeless, these poorhouses were at least warm shelters for desperate families, and homeless elderly.

*Continued ⇒*

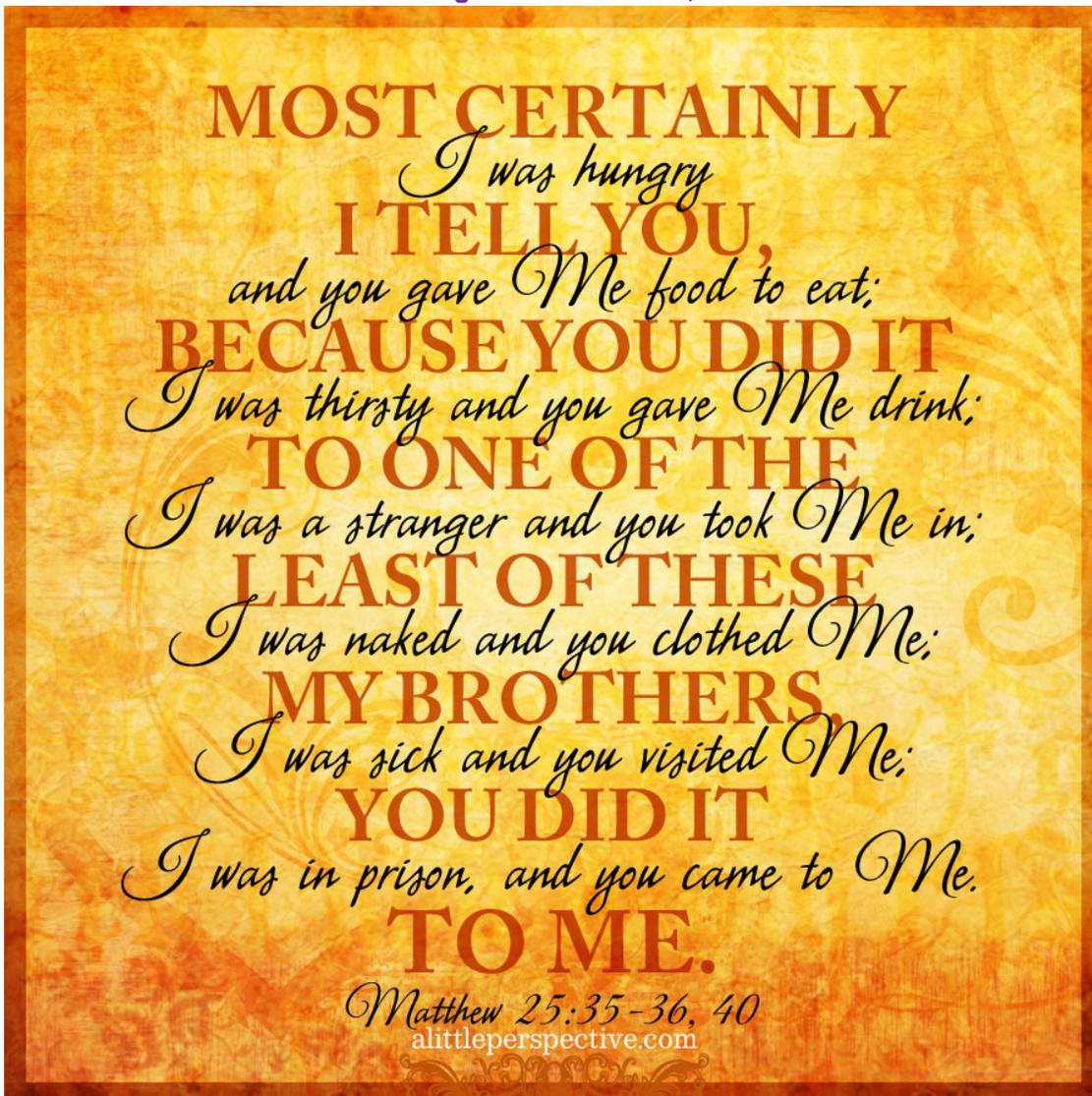
## The Church's Witness to Poverty

Our Orthodox Church is very clear in her teaching regarding the poor. Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us by His example as the great *philanthropos* (Greek meaning "lover of mankind") and we can do nothing less than follow His example. Christ commanded us to love and serve the poor and the hungry. He told us we must care for the sick and suffering, and that we must visit those in prisons, and cloth the naked.

The Church's liturgical hymns and seasons are filled with the commemoration of saints who were known for their love of the poor. Saint Basil the Great of the third century established Church sponsored hospitals and mental institutions. Saint Nicholas of Myra of Lycia distributed money to those in need. Saint John the Almsgiver was one of the most charitable Patriarchs of the Byzantine Empire. Saint Joseph of Volokhlamsk emphasized the ancient monastic tradition of hospitality and care for the poor, and Saint Elizabeth the Grand Duchess established hospitals for the poor and destitute in Russia. The newly canonized saint, Mother Maria Skobtsova, served soup kitchens and established houses of hospitality in World War II France.

These holy saints provided unique examples to the rest of us of what it means to be Christians. They showed forth the Light of Christ by following His example of love for the poor, by giving of their talents, time and money to those in need. Orthodox Christians described the saints as exemplary people whose lives are worthy of emulating. They show us the way to live out the Gospels, and point, by their lives, the Way of Christ.

*Get out your bible, find the Gospel of Saint Matthew, and read Chapter 25. You will see what our Lord says about being ready, doing something with the gifts/skills/talents God has given you, and when we see anyone, know you are looking at Christ! Love, FJ*





# GODPARENT SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

We are excited to announce the  
21<sup>st</sup> Annual **Godparent Sunday**  
sponsored by our Church  
School.

This day will allow our Godparents and Godchildren to “reconnect” with each other and help us understand the joy and beauty of that special relationship! Please make note of the following:

*2021-22 Church School Theme*

- ❖ *Children (or parents) INVITE your Godparents to Divine Liturgy and Meal as soon as possible!*
- ❖ *Godparents INVITE your Godchildren to Divine Liturgy and Meal as soon as possible!*
- ❖ *Godparents and Godchildren should prepare themselves with Confession before February 13<sup>th</sup> so they can participate in Holy Communion together!*

⇒ An **Invitation** (to be sent by Godparents to Godchildren or Godchildren to Godparents) is on the **previous page!**



***A delicious meal for Godparents, Godchildren, and our  
WHOLE parish Family is being planned!***

There is no cost for the meal, but free-will offerings will be accepted!  
~~ All offerings go to our Christian Education Program ~~



# Godparent Sunday February 13<sup>th</sup>

*2021-22 Church School Theme*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

On Sunday, February 13, 2022 we will be having "Godparent Sunday" at St. George Orthodox Church. It would be an extra special day if you would attend the Divine Liturgy with me. Matins begin at 8:50am and Divine Liturgy begins at 10am. If we are prepared, we can receive Holy Communion together. Fr. Joe is available for confessions on Saturdays after Great Vespers at 5pm, by appointment during the week, or from 8:30am-9:30am on Sunday mornings.

We are planning a delicious meal following the service that day and I pray you could plan on staying and enjoying it with me!

I hope that we can be together on this special day!

Love in Christ,

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