

St. George Orthodox Church

5191 Lennon Road • Flint, MI 48507 • (810) 732-0720

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

February 13, 2022

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Father Michael Bassett, Assistant

Christ is in our Midst!

He is and ever shall be!

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*)

- Elaine Salim, Edward and Jennifer Salim, and Stacy and Jasen Sack and their families for the health of their families and in loving memory of husband, father, and grandfather **Ellis** (9 day).
- Majdi and Rula Alkazaha, Maher and Susan Qazaha, and Ziyad and Mary Ibrahim for the health of their family and in loving memory of uncle **Khalil** Ibrahim (3/9 day).

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 week:

- **Levi** Cooper ~ February 19th

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

- We pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Laurie** Crisp (+January 3rd, cousin of Lauren Zerka), **Ronna** Royer (+January 4th, mother of Fr. Bob), **Nael** Bannura (+January 13th, father of Amani Jarayseh), **Sub-deacon Brian** Thabit (+January 14th, relative of Fr. Michael), **Salwa** Haddad (+January 27th), **Asma** Abuaita (+January 29th, sister of Janet Abuaita), and Captain **Collin** Birnie (+February 4th, friend of Aren Bathish).
- 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, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Laila** Abud, **Anwar** and **Georgette** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsaouri, **Rose** Ayoub (mother of Cam Takach), **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Emil** Bathish, **Cynthia** Brooks (sister of Fr. Michael), **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, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **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** Salim, **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Bob** Teunion, and **Georgette** Yusuf; **Ghassan**, **Jasanta**, and newborn **Sophia** Al-Khouri (January 12th); **Mudaffer**, **Yara**, and newborn **Carla** Rishmawi (January 20th); **Joseph**, **Shadine**, and newborn **Jimmy** Hijazin who will be brought back into the life of our parish through the *Prayers of Churching*.
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Staci** and **Daniel** Bator, **Casandra** and **Daniel** Burbar and **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet) and **John** Timm.

“The hours spent closest to Paradise are the hours spent in church together with all our brethren when we celebrate the Divine Liturgy, when we sing, and when we receive the Holy Eucharist.”

St. Porphyrios, a modern day saint who fell asleep in the Lord in 1991

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GODPARENT SUNDAY LUNCH We are having a delicious meal hosted by our Church School today in celebration and in honor of all of our Godparents and Godchildren. Thank you to Majdi and Rula Alkazaha, Maher and Susan Qazaha, and Ziyad and Mary Ibrahim for donating the lunch! Everyone is invited to have a great time!

E-MEMO'S If you would like to be added to our Parishioner Email List and receive our weekly *St. George E-Memo*, please send your e-mail address to saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: March 6th, 13th, and 20th ~ 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). *During the Great Fast (March 7th - April 15th), no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, or their by-products are served.*

PROCEDURES 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**.

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

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 nija@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	<u>No fasting</u> the week following the Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican.
Monday	Bible Study: <i>Gospel of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist</i> 3-5pm SOYO Monday 6-8pm
Tuesday	Altar Society Dinner Meeting <i>for more information, see Theresa Farah</i> 6pm
Wednesday	Arabic-English Bible Study <i>Gospel of St. Matthew</i> 12-2pm
Thursday	Parish Council Dinner Meeting 6:15pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

Imitate the Publican ~ *The saints serve as models for our lives*

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

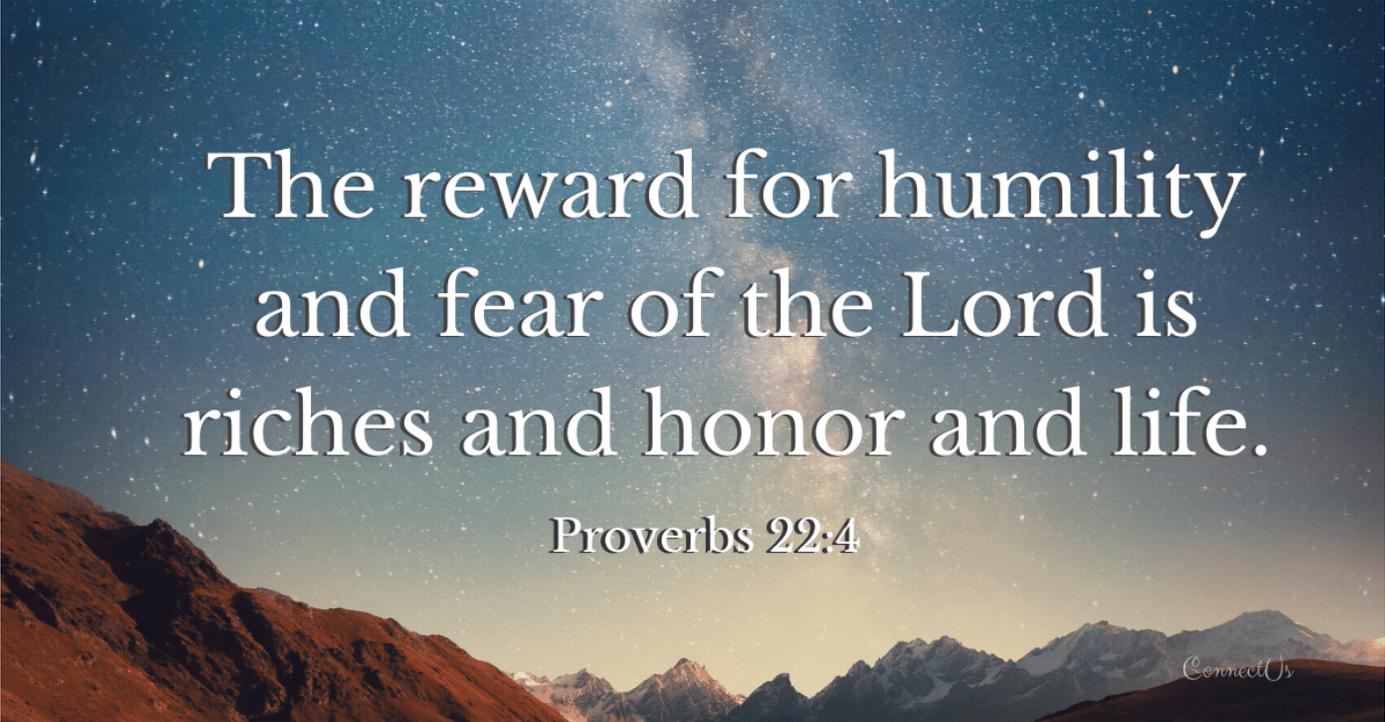
Our Orthodox Christian life is not designed to be invented as we go, for by the very nature of the Church we are instructed to use as our model of living, the lives of the saints that have gone on before us. Their lives are held up before us as examples of holiness. Their charity is to become our model of charity. Their sacrifice is to become the model of our sacrifice. Their asceticism is to be the model of our own asceticism. Their humility must be the model by which we are to lead lives in all humility.

Continued ⇨

Their love of God and neighbor must become the supreme example for our own struggle to love God above all else, and to love our neighbor as our self. Their willingness to suffer persecution for Christ's sake, must be the model by which we are willing to face persecution, and even martyrdom, for our faith.

Saint Syncletica, a 4th century desert mother, said, *"Imitate the publican and you will not be condemned with the Pharisee. Choose the meekness of Moses and you will find your heart which is a rock changed into a spring of water."* Whereas the Pharisee was proud before God and men for his piety and accomplishments, even boldly standing in the temple in all arrogance, thanking God that he was not like other men, the publican stood afar, head lowered, beating his breast and saying, *"God, be merciful to me a sinner!"* (Luke 18:13). The Lord Jesus Christ told his disciples that the publican went away justified.

We must take care of whom we set as the model for our own living, that we not take as our example the man who is worldly, self-centered, greedy, unloving, and devoid of any interest in the spiritual life. Rather, we must look to the saints as examples of how to live, and how to love, that we, like the publican, will stand before God having been justified.



The reward for humility
and fear of the Lord is
riches and honor and life.

Proverbs 22:4

ConnectUs

Want to know how Jesus showed us humility? Get out your bible, find the Gospel of St. John, and read Chapter 13. This happens right before Jesus is arrested, crucified, and rose from the dead on the third day! Love, FJ

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2022

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 13th	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3: 10-15 Gospel: Luke 18: 10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 20th	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 Gospel: Luke 15: 11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, 'Today I will be humble.' Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 27th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8: 8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 6th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13: 11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 13th	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 20th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 27th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4: 14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8: 34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 3rd	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9: 17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 10th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9: 11-14 Gospel: Mark 10: 32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 17th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4: 4-9 Gospel: John 12: 1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 22nd	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 24th NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: Jan 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!