

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

July 31, 2022

Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor
Father Michael Bassett, Attached

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*)

- Elias Hanna, Najwa Joubran, Wafaa Elias, and Feryal Joubran for the health of their families and in loving memory of brother-in-law **Tony** Al-Sakali (1 year).
- Fares and Sahar Abdallah for the health of their family especially daughter **Crystal** on the occasion of her birthday ~ *May God grant her many years!*
- Anwar and Janet Abueita on the occasion of their 45th wedding anniversary and for the health of their children and grandchildren, **Tony, Chrissy, Haleena, Maliyah, Tony, Michael, Iliyana, Tony, Jenny, Mathew, Lukas, John, Jacqueline**, and newborn **Leah Elizabeth** ~ *May God grant them many years!*

Baptism/Chrismation Days

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for their teachers and/or students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church:

- **Ryan Helal** ~ August 1st

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: **Althea** Kresbach (+June 23rd, aunt of Kh. Pam Bassett), **Jose** Ramirez (+June 24th, known to Reem Bathish), **Stojan** Prusac (+June 25th, from St. Nicholas, friend of parishioners), **Charles** Thabet (+June 28th, uncle of Fr. Michael), **Issa** Ishaq (+July 5th, relative of parishioners), **Imad** Isaac (July 6th, friend of St. George), **Lorraine** Nadar (+July 5th, aunt of Cam Takach), **Vicki** Toma (+July 6th, sister of Fr. Joe), **Rhoda** Wheat (+July 9th, sister of Ron Haddad), **Dolores** Bator (+July 12th, grandmother of Dan and Staci [Farah] Bator), and **Nuha** Odeh (+July 15th, aunt of Giries Odeh and Mousa Rishmawi).
- 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, **Sally** Abuaita, **Suheil** and **Abeer** Abuaita, **Khader** AbuAita, **Shafiq**a Abuaitah, **Laila** Abud, **Jane** Abueita, **Chelsy** Abufarha, **William** Alsahouri, **Danny** Andoni, **Sharon** Ballreich (sister of Nancy Silpoch and Deborah Salim), **Kh. Pam** Bassett, **Emil** Bathish, **Douglas** Coone, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Jimmy** David, **Victor** David, **Elias** Gantos, **Mariam** Ghanim (mother of Manal Abuaita), **Jamil** Ghantous, **Denise** Ghattas, **Phyllis** Good, **Nadia** Ibrahim (mother of Ziyad), **Daisy** Isaac, **Loretta** Karpelenia (mother of Denise Ghattas), **Judy** Mikhail, **Laura** Nassar, **Aida** Raffoul, **Deborah** Salim, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **Valland** Frangi (sister of Ron Haddad), **Michael** Zerka (uncle of Lauren Zerka), and newborn **Phoebe** **Caroline** Bator; **David**, **Joselien** [daughter of Issa and Esperanza], and newborn **Mariah** Khoury (June 24th); **Daniel**, **Casandra**, and newborn **Ezra** **Daniel** Burbar (July 1st); **John**, **Jacqueline** (daughter of Anwar and Janet), and newborn **Leah** **Elizabeth** Timm (July 15th).
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Jasanta** and **Ghassan** Al-Khourri and **Sandy** (daughter of Issa and Esperanza) and **Raad** Qumsieh.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Fares and Sahar Abdallah*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: August 28th, September 4th, 18th, and 25th ~ 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).



Our stewardship, offerings, and donations are needed. PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer your gifts! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) and donate on-line (*use the QR code to the left*) or you can bring or mail your offerings to St. George, 5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity and love of our St. George!

COMING EVENTS

Fasting Discipline	The Dormition Fast for the Dormition (<i>Falling Asleep or Assumption</i>) of the Virgin Mary begins on Monday, August 1 st and lasts until the feast on August 15 th . The traditional fasting discipline during this fourteen-day period is <i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil and their by-products, <u>except on Saturdays and Sundays</u></i> when <i>wine and olive oil</i> are allowed. On the Feast of our Lord's Transfiguration (August 6 th), <i>fish, wine, and olive oil</i> are allowed.
Tuesday	Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6pm Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7pm
Saturday	Combined Divine Liturgy for the Transfiguration <i>التجلي</i> of our Lord on Mt. Tabor at St. George 10am Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

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Godly Friendships ~ The Connection Between Godly Friendships and Spiritual Progress

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

It is easy to feel trapped by our bad habits. We don't like certain behavioral patterns that have become habitual, and we feel helpless in our attempt to change. Growing as Christians is often fraught with failure, and we find ourselves stuck. Our spiritual progress feels more like a treadmill, only seemingly moving forward, yet noticing the scenery is remaining the same.

Sometimes the only way to move forward is to commit to changing our environment. If we have friendships that keep us from growing, perhaps it is time to leave those friendships behind. Back in the 1960's I hung around with a group of friends, in Berkeley, California, where we'd gather in a coffee house, talking about the poetry books we were going to publish, and the novels we were going to write, but all we did was talk.

One young man shocked the rest of us one day, when he announced he was no longer going to come to the coffee house. He'd decided it was just a waste of time. If he was ever going to make something of himself, he had to make the break. He told us he wanted to go to medical school, and was therefore planning to put all his energy into completing his college degree with the best grades he could possibly get. We all tried to convince him that he could accomplish all of that without abandoning the coffee house scene, but he wasn't convinced. That was the last evening he'd ever join the rest of us.

His decision haunted me, for deep down I knew he was right. My life was going nowhere, and I was feeling increasingly unfulfilled, both spiritually and intellectually. Within six months I made the decision to move to Portland, Oregon, for a fresh start. Abandoning those friends was the best decision I could have made, for none of us was motivated to go beyond that little coffee house ghetto we'd created for ourselves.

continued ⇨

Sometimes the only way to make the changes in our lives that are needed for spiritual growth is to walk away from relationships that are keeping us stuck. As Christians, it does make a difference who we hang out with. If we have friendships with individuals who are simply not interested in things of a spiritual nature, we will find ourselves wasting precious moments in our journey to God.

Having friendships with fellow Christians is the only way we can keep ourselves centered in Christ. If we want to deepen our faith, we need to spend time with people who desire the very same thing. We can build a stronger relationship with Christ by spending time with people whose goals and values are the same as ours. If we waste our time with people who are only pursuing worldly pleasures, we'll end our life doing the same. The time God has allotted us must not be squandered. If we keep company with people whose goals are of a spiritual nature, and whose lives are centered in Jesus Christ, our goals will be the same, and we will grow as a people who are truly part of the Body of Christ.

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**IN MARK 2
JESUS HEALED A
PARALYZED MAN
BECAUSE OF HIS
FRIENDS FAITH,
WHO YOUR
FRIENDS ARE IS
A BIG DEAL**

Get out your bibles and find the Gospel of St. Mark, chapter 2. Read verses 1-12 and learn how important it is to have great friends. Love, FJ



Orthodox Christian
PRISON MINISTRY

PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY

Did you know that there are Orthodox Christians practicing their faith in prison?

Or that there are prisoners who are ready to repent of their crimes and embrace the Orthodox Church?

Who will minister to them?

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church. OCPM corresponds with thousands of prisoners across the country and provides spiritual books, Bibles, icons, and catechism courses. OCPM trains Orthodox priests and laypeople to enter prisons and minister to prisoners.

2MILLION

ICONS DISTRIBUTED TO PRISONERS

46,047

BIBLE STUDIES, DAILY READINGS, AND SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS SENT IN 2021



Together we can fulfill the Lord's commandment to visit Him in prison (Matthew 25:36 – "I was in prison and you visited me.")

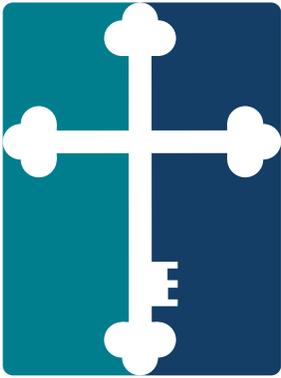
Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry
276 5th Avenue, Ste. 704-3183
New York, NY 10001

347-868-6957
info@theocpm.org

WWW.THEOCPM.ORG



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Orthodox Christian
PRISON MINISTRY

WHO WE ARE

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church in the US and an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops.



OUR MISSION

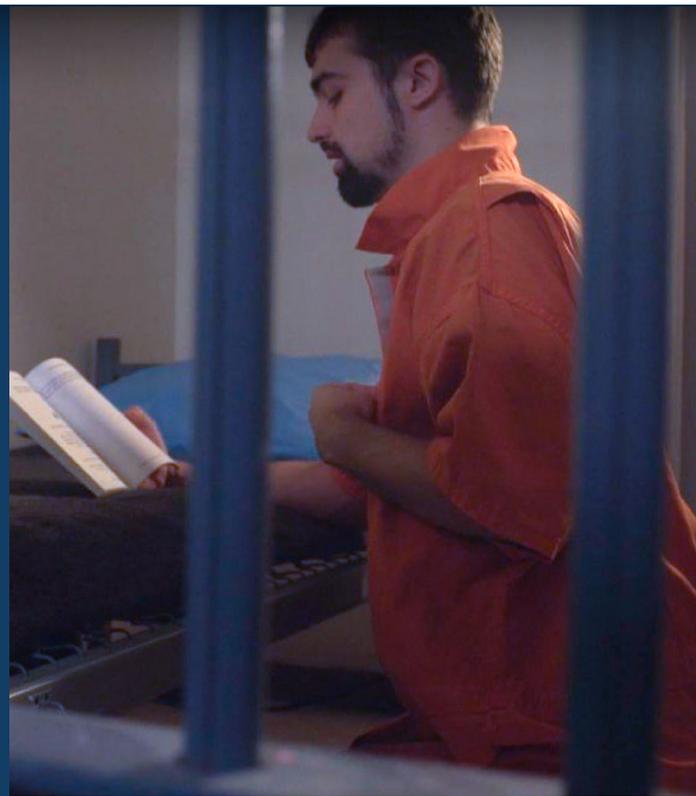
Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry serves those who are incarcerated and their families, and provides resources, training, and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed and God is glorified.

WHAT OCPM DOES

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) proclaims the love of Christ to men and women who are incarcerated. We do this by applying the teachings of the Orthodox Faith to correspond with thousands of prisoners, providing them personalized spiritual care, Bibles, books, icons, catechism, and study courses. For those wishing to live an Orthodox way of life, we advocate on their behalf for correctional facilities around the country to recognize the Orthodox faith, so that priests can enter prison facilities and administer the Sacraments and Services.

As the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church, we provide resources and training to local parishes and clergy, enabling them to offer local solutions and fulfill Christ's command to visit Him in prison. As a result, families are reunited, marriages are healed, and thousands of incarcerated men and women have a new sense of peace and restored order in their lives.

- We correspond with prisoners to provide personalized spiritual care, Bibles, books, icons, catechism, and study courses.
- We publish our own books and icons, which have been designed for use in prison and are printed to meet the stringent rules of prison mailing rooms.
- We catechize prisoners in the Orthodox faith through a series of correspondence study courses.
- We train Orthodox priests and laypersons to visit and counsel those in prison and to provide the Sacraments.
- OCPM advocates for correctional facilities around the country to recognize the Orthodox faith so that priests can enter prisons and administer the Sacraments and the services.



BY THE NUMBERS

Prisoners hear from OCPM, on average, **120** times per year.

46,047 Bible studies, daily readings, and spiritual reflections were sent to prisoners in 2021.

6,606 personalized letters were sent and received by OCPM

YOUR GIFT TO OCPM IMPACTS REAL LIVES

- From an Orthodox Christian in prison: "I have completed the Orthodox Christian Catechism study course . . . The course was excellent and perhaps the most comprehensive Biblical presentation of the Faith I have come across. Truly wonderful!"
- "I look forward to the next studies . . . I am at a loss for words at the humanity I feel you have brought into my world. Thank you."
- "God bless you all. I am so very thankful to you all and my kids too. They have seen a big difference in my life thanks to you all. They told me to tell you thank you for all you have done and the difference you have made in my life."

INVITE AN OCPM SPEAKER TO YOUR PARISH

OCPM trains clergy and laity in the unique work that is prison ministry. Our chaplain/speakers have decades of experience in prisons at every security level. We are available for virtual and in-person seminars. Reach out to us to speak with our prison ministry experts or access our publications and resources. Email us at communications@theoocpm.org.

“
I AM AT A
LOSS FOR
WORDS AT THE
HUMANITY
I FEEL
YOU HAVE
BROUGHT
INTO MY
WORLD.
THANK YOU.
”

WWW.THEOCPM.ORG
(347) 868-6957

FOR DONATIONS AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

276 5th Avenue, Ste. 704-3183
New York, NY 10001

FOR THOSE IN PRISON WISHING TO CORRESPOND WITH US

P.O. Box 227
Rosemount, MN 55068