

# The Martyr

## St. George Orthodox Church

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December 24, 2023

### Upcoming Services and Events

- Dec 24 - 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy with reception of Sally Balis into orthodox church followed by Christmas Vespers
- Dec 31 - 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy with prayer for the New Year.
- Jan 6 - Theophany (transferred to January 7)
- Jan 7 - 9:45 am - General Confession  
Divine Liturgy - Feast of Theophany (transferred from January 6) with the blessing of the holy water

### Prayers for the Blessing

Bishops Paul and John of Aleppo, *captive in Syria*.  
Father Stephen and Pani Debbie Masliuk  
Matushka Evelyn Kreta  
Abbot Archimandrite Seraphim  
*Military Deployment:* Robert Buckles  
*Those who are sick:* Christy & Christina Adams; Mildred Arendac; Juan Aguilar, Antonette Barmashi, Paul Betts; Sandra Bike; James Brideau; Jeannie Brideau; Debi Broadus; Jim Cerner; Joyce Chadwick; Frank Chamberlain; Bernard & Kerri Christenson; Julie Cipu; Marianna Coca; Anthony Cordero; George Costa, Rosemary Delaney, Charlie Demetri; Jenna Dionis; Patti Fischer; Louise Karoli Gallagher; George Galich; Luba Geeza, Mike Green; Patty Ivanov; George Jones; Bill Kovachi; Violet Laska; June Lopen, Jonathan Lubin, Thomas Matthews; Jaimie McCarvill; Zoe Michael; Michael Moras, Jr.; Theodore Morrison; Nezar Nassif, Kimberly Orosz; Pat Perrotta, George Piazza; John Rafail, Nadia Rehbinder, David; Schutte; Kelly Small; Charles & Joann Soter; Ted Tallcouch;

William Thomas; Paulette Todisco; Margaret Torre; Mary Valis; Alice Vasil; Joe Vitale; Michael Wilson

*If anyone should be added or removed from this list, please contact Kim O'Brien at [kimbrien720@gmail.com](mailto:kimbrien720@gmail.com).*

### Prayers in Memoriam

#### 40 Days

Prifteresha Lisa Bouteneff

#### December

- 24 Lena Costa (1972)
- 25 Harry Kamberis (1948)  
Thomas Tallcouch (1971)  
Theresa Goures (1980)  
Andromaqi Guri (1985)  
Elaine Marko (1988)  
George Polena (2004)
- 26 Kulla George Jordhamo (1988)  
Theodore Michael (1991)
- 27 Elpinichi Costa (1969)  
Emilia Gregory (1993)
- 30 Andromaqi Bedgio (1993)

### No Memorials

According to the teaching of the orthodox church, no memorials are served between Christmas (December 25) and theophany (January 6)

### Church School Recess

*"Small Enough to Care, Big enough to Share"*

This year, the Church School Holiday break will be on Sunday, Dec 24th & Sunday, Dec 31st. There will be no meeting with Fr Sergei or class instruction on those days.

Church School will resume on the 1st Sunday in January, Jan 7th.

### Reinstating COVID protocols

We have decided to reinstate several of our COVID protocols beginning tomorrow, Sunday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> – they include:

- 1- We are encouraging parishioners to wear masks
- 2- We will have windows open to bring in more fresh air. Please dress appropriately as the temperature in the church will be cooler.
- 3- There should be no contact with icons, crosses, chalice, and liturgical items. You may venerate the icons by simply making the sign of the cross and bowing towards them.
- 4- We will be returning to individual sanitized spoons for Communion.

These steps are being added in keeping everyone's health and safety in mind. We thank everyone in advance for their cooperation.

### A visit from St George Elves

On Saturday, Dec 16th, a group of "St. George Elves" delivered a bag of Christmas Cheer to some of our senior parishioners who are restricted at home or haven't been able to attend church services due to age or health. The gifts were assembled and delivered to help remind these parishioners that they remain in our thoughts and prayers. The Christmas Cheer bag contained homemade cookies, candies and baked treats, some seasonal teas, a home-made Christmas decoration, a Poinsettia plant, and a handmade card from one of our church school children. Our sincere thanks go out to: Pam Buzi, Sharon Buzi, Laura Chadwick, Laura Coughlin, Diane Cryan, Luba Csernica, Laura Denisevich, Sue Galich, Jennifer Goetz, and Kim O'Brien. We also wish to additionally thank our Church School children who created the holiday cards and Dave

Dougiello from Commerce Hill Funeral Home for a generous donation that was used to support this project.

### December Charity

For the month of December, our charity tray will benefit Caroline's Place <https://carolynsplace.org/>. This charity comes to us through the suggestion of Pauline Dionis who knows Sofia Cole, a parishioner of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Southbury. Sofia is a high school senior and the granddaughter of Father Vladimir Aleandro. She is a volunteer at Caroline's Place which is a Catholic pregnancy resource center in Waterbury.

Caroline's Place relies totally on individual donations so your generosity is especially appreciated. You can read more about the charity on the link above.

### Holy Water Bottles

Please remember to bring your water bottles to church for the Holy Water on **January 7**. There will be a few available for purchase at the candle desk as well.

### Collecting frozen Hams and Turkeys

As we did last year, over the next 3 months (from November 2023 through January 2024), St. George will be collecting frozen hams and turkeys. They can be placed in the church's freezers located in the Church Hall Storage Room.

This charity project's intent is to donate the hams and turkeys to local soup kitchens during February 2024 - this is typically when food donations are low.

Thank you again for your continued support of our various Charity efforts throughout each year!

### Pastoral Emergency Care

If there is an emergency, and you would like a priest to contact you, call Father Sergei at 203-331-2251 (cell), 203-713-6007 (home) or Bill Kovachi at 203-449-4404.

***"Small Enough to Care, Big enough to Share"***