

Let My Prayer Arise

“Now What?”

On the first day of April this year, we celebrate as a Church our Lord's triumphal coming into the Holy City of Jerusalem. We stand mystically present in those same streets, as God Himself mounts a colt that has never been ridden, and is surrounded by the praises of the entire world who has come out to meet Him. On that day, we sing in the streets and acknowledge that the Messiah is here! God's Son is amongst us! He has come...dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ, and has made His triumphant entry into the world and into our lives.

“Now What?”

Holy Week....the week of our Lord's Passion is now upon us, and we are faced with some difficult decisions when it comes to how important our love and faith in our Lord's sacrifice is in our lives.

A Message from Fr. Gabriel

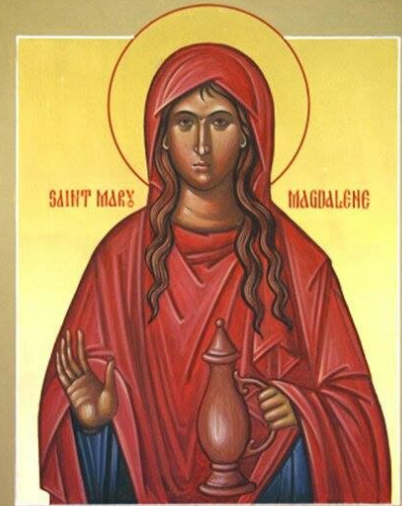
Will we meet His love for us with acceptance? Or Rejection?

Do we return His sacrifice with a sacrifice of our own, or do we turn our backs on Him?

When a recreational conflict arises that gets in the way of the extremely important worship services of Passion week...do we have the tendency to think: “my will be done...” or “Thy will be done”?

In the Gospel reading for Palm Sunday, we are presented with two figures who show the world where each of these paths ultimately lead. The first example is of Mary, the woman who anointed the feet of Jesus. Out of love for Christ, she took her most valuable possession in life, an alabaster jar of myrrh worth a fortune, and gave it up to God. This jar was meant to last someone for years...if not for a lifetime. It was probably passed down to her by her parents, and would have been her most precious

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April 2018

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March in Review:

- ♦ -We were blessed this past month to welcome His Eminence Archbishop Alexander to our parish for Vespers and a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy! A big thanks to all those who helped cook, organize, serve, and sing during that exciting weekend!
- ♦ Our Parish received a copy of the weeping icon of the "Tender Heart", which was touched to the original weeping icon in Taylor, Pennsylvania. Several pilgrims from the parish experienced the miracle while taking a pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery.



This Month's Scripture Readings

Sunday, April 1st:

Isaiah 37:33-38:6

Genesis 12:12-18

14:27-15:4

Sunday, April 8th:

Acts 1:1-8

John 1:1-17

Sunday, April 15th:

Matthew 28:16-20

Acts 5:12-20

John 20:12-20

Sunday, April 22nd:

Mark 16: 9-20

Acts 6:1-7

Mark 15:43-16:8

Sunday April 29th:

Luke 24:1-12

Acts 9:32-42

John 5: 1-15



Prayer Life

Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and sisters.

His Beatitude Metropolitan

Theodosius

His Beatitude Metropolitan

Herman

Archpriest Dimitri Vincent

Susan

Vinnie

Autumn

Katherine

John

Anne

Katherine

Anastasia

Alex

Elaine

Solome

Bill

Carol

Anne

Carolyn

Barbara

Manuela

Frankie

John

Stacie

Bryan

Doug

Megan

Duncan

Eva

Perpetua

Pat

Jan

Kyle

Aiden

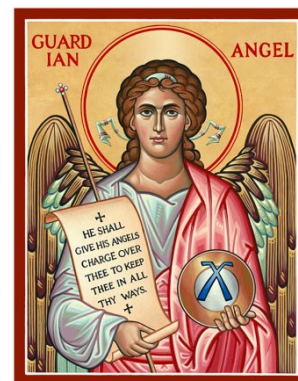
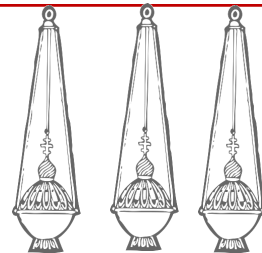
Lon

Lon

James

Joanna

Sbdn. Paul

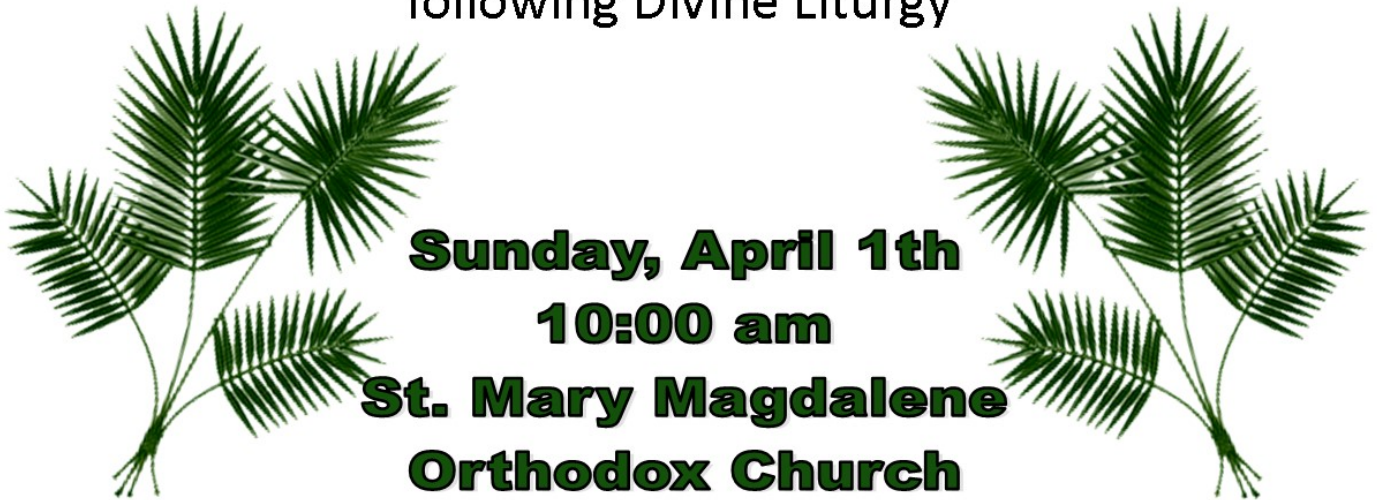


| Armed Forces | Recently Departed this Life | Catechumens | Mother's Child |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Matthew Beck - Air Force Michael Oginsky - U.S. Marines Patrick Tejkl - U.S. Marines Lindsey Cazatt - U.S. Navy Stephanie Bishop - U.S. Navy Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers Alex Suriano - Air National Guard Dallas Watson - U.S. Air Force Seraphim Lazar- Watson - U.S. Air Force | Lynn Mark Eva | Robert Forsyth | Christine Suriano Rachael Welch Ann Owens Kristen Jakubus Amanda Kothamdapani Shannon |



The Feast of Palms

Join us on Palm Sunday for our annual parish photo
following Divine Liturgy



Sunday, April 1th
10:00 am
St. Mary Magdalene
Orthodox Church

2439 S Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430



2018 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Friday, March 30:

Lazarus Saturday Vespers 7:00pm

Saturday, March 31:

Preparation of Gifts, Raising of Lazarus Divine Liturgy and Lenten Breakfast, combined at St. Mary Magdalene 9:30am

Palm Sunday Vespers immediately following pancake breakfast at St. Mary Magdalene

Sunday, April 1: PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:50am

Bridegroom Matins 7pm

Monday, April 2: HOLY MONDAY

Bridegroom Matins 7pm

Tuesday, April 3: HOLY TUESDAY

Bridegroom Matins 7pm

Wednesday, April 4: HOLY WEDNESDAY

Holy Unction 7pm

Thursday, April 5: HOLY THURSDAY, INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10am

Passions Gospels 7pm

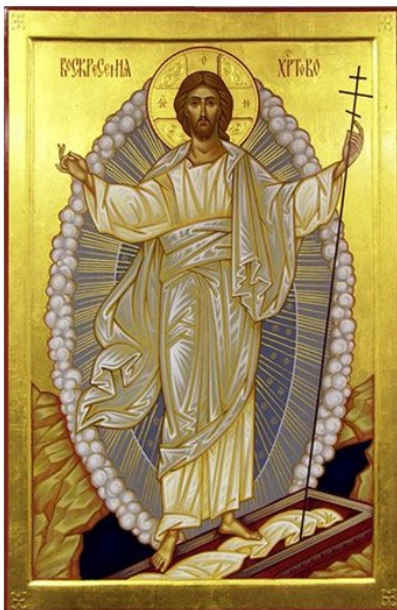
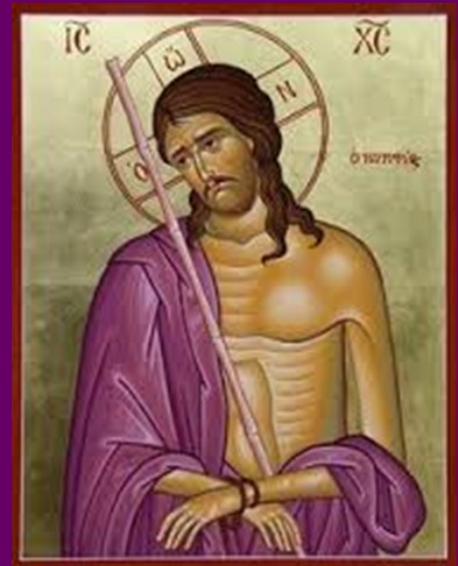
Friday, April 6: GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

Holy Friday Vespers 3pm

Lamentations and Procession with the Shroud 7pm

Saturday, April 7: HOLY SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with the Old Testament Readings 10am



THE PASCHA OF OUR LORD

Saturday, April 7: HOLY SATURDAY

Paschal Nocturnes, Matins, Divine Liturgy and Feast 11:30pm

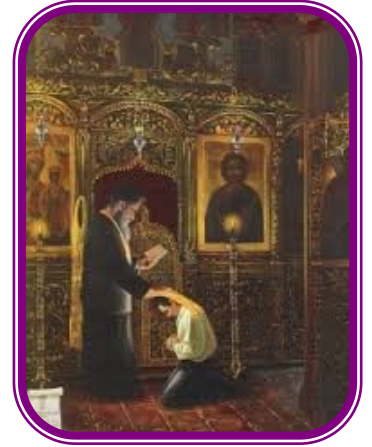
Sunday, April 8: HOLY PASCHA!!!

Agape Vespers 2pm

Holy Confession:

“Sin is a wound; repentance is a medicine. Just as there are for the body wounds and medicines, so for the soul are sins and repentance. However, sin has the shame and repentance possesses the courage”

St. John Chrysostom



Confession Schedule for Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 1st: After Bridegroom matins - 8:30 PM

Holy Monday, April 2nd: After Bridegroom Matins - 8:30 PM

Holy Tuesday, April 3rd: After Bridegroom Matins - 8:30 PM

Holy Wednesday, April 4th: After Unction to 9:00 PM**

Holy Friday, April 6th: Between 4pm and 6pm

**After Holy Wednesday Evening, Father Gabriel will be making preparations for Holy Pascha, and confessions will be difficult to schedule.

“Now What?” Cont.

possession. But in an extravagant act of Love, she broke the jar open and recklessly anointed Jesus from head to toe.

That beautiful sacrifice that Mary made in the Gospel, is an example of someone who fully accepts the coming of God into their life. This is what it means to serve the Lord...Who is and always needs to be **our first and supreme love in this life!** When we have this mentality towards God, we come to the realization that Christ is our greatest possession! When we are able to separate ourselves from the things that tie us down in this world... when we make our Christian lives a priority over EVERYTHING ELSE...the result is **incredible** joy.

The other path which we sometimes fall into is the same temptation that Judas succumbed to. On this joyous occasion, Judas could have gone to Mary and asked to help bathe Christ's feet in this myrrh. Instead, the devil was placed on his shoulder and caused him to **judge** the love that Mary had shown. He looked at her devotion to God, and for his own personal greed he asked : “Shouldn't this have been used for the poor?” . We of course learn that he said these things not because he loved the poor, but because Judas wanted to use a love offering to Jesus for himself.

We see this in our own fallen existence every day. Even with the knowledge and faith of what Christ did for us, we still fall into the trap of Judas, and spend our lives with priorities that are placed **above** the Love of God. Instead of waking up and thanking God for the breath He gave us to start another day, we rush downstairs to put the coffee pot on, and turn on the local news station to see what is going on that day.

Rather than go to Church on a day OTHER than Sunday morning, we so often spend Saturday Evenings out on the town. If we do come to Vespers, there is a temptation at times, to have our minds on what activities we have after services, instead of what is being chanted and prayed.

Rather than ending the day by shutting our eyes and saying *“In your hands, I commit my spirit,”* our minds are else-

where, either on the glowing television set in front of us, or on preparing for what the next day holds.

Sometimes in our lives, we all have to admit that Christ is not the priority...and other things in life tend to take precedent over appreciating His love for us. We know from the example and ultimate fate of Judas, that when someone rejects the light and love of Christ, they find themselves in the darkness of a world that ultimately leads to an existence void of hope... and full of despair. This is why, dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, as we approach Holy Pascha, **our priorities need to change right here...and right now.** We cannot afford to treat this Holy Week and Pascha like we have treated all of the ones past.

**The Greatest Week of our Christian Lives starts today!
Our journey and submission towards Love starts now!**

Let us now honor Him who came to show light to a darkened world. Let us praise Him who **healed** the sick, who **received** the love offering of Mary, and who **endured** the betrayal of Judas, all because He is the Lord of Love Who has come to save His people.

May we now journey with Him as He transforms death and allows all of those who seek a life of Christ to taste the fountain of immortality and everlasting life.

Blessed Holy Week and Pascha! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!



Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople

The Pascha Sermon



The Catechetical Sermon of St. John Chrysostom is read during Matins of Pascha.

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in no-

wise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; he gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

And he shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one he gives, and upon the other he bestows gifts. And he both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this,

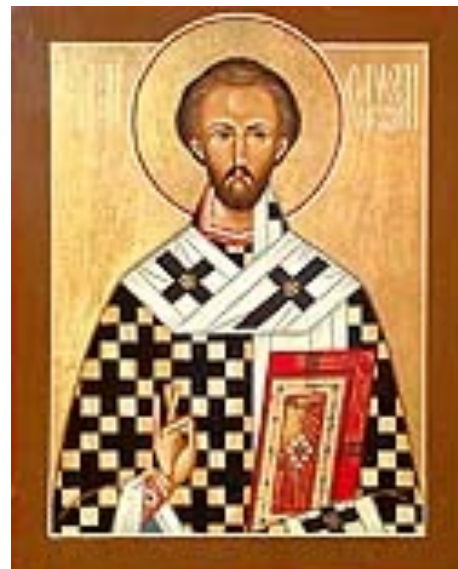
did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown.

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.

For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages.

Amen.



Healing Our Diseases: The Church as a Spiritual Hospital

We were blessed to have Very Reverend Father Josiah Trenham as our speaker for our annual Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat.

There were several great sessions on how to combat and heal our spiritual diseases in the only way possible, through The Church.

It was wonderful to come together with our Brothers and Sisters from all four Flint Parishes for this reenergizing Lenten Discussion.



Monthly Forecast

Palm Sunday:

Remember that our annual parish photo will be taken Sunday, April 1st following Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy. We will also have several Chrismations that day, so please make every effort to be present.

Holy Week & Pascha:

Please see the attached Holy Week flyer in the bulletin for service times and dates. Remember that our faith needs to take precedent over all other activities in our life, especially during the most Holy Week of the year.

Bright Week:

The Pan-Orthodox Community of Flint will be offering 3 Bright Week Liturgies, please see the Monthly Calendar for times and details.

Parish Youth Easter Egg Hunt:

Our annual parish youth Pascha Egg Hunt will be moved from after Agape Vespers to St. Thomas Sunday. We hope this move will encourage more participation of our kids and parents!

Parish Outreach Brainstorming Session:

We need your help! Please consider attending our Community Outreach brainstorming session on Saturday, April 28th at 3pm. We will be having discussions on the makeup of our outreach programs to the community.

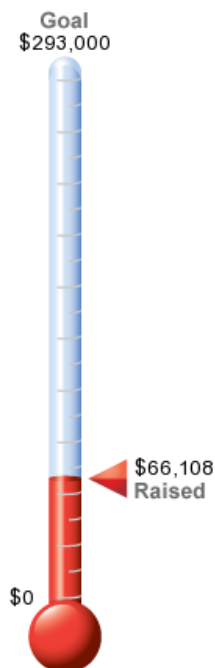
Metanoia:

Our Metanoia (Formerly Orthodoxy 101) will start again on Wednesday, April 25th, following Small Compline at 6pm

Great Vespers:

Starting in this month, Great Vespers will be moved back to the regular 5pm time throughout the upcoming months.

Mortgage Initiative



All Night Vigil:

Calling all teens, college students, young adults and families: If you are interested in participating in the All Night Vigil following the Good Friday Services, please see Fr. Gabriel for more details.

Sunday School

End of Year Celebration & Graduation:

The end of the year Sunday School Graduation and Recognition will be on Sunday, May 6th following Divine Liturgy. Please bring your children so that they may enjoy this celebration with their friends and church family.

Diocesan Conference:

Mark your calendars now! St. Mary Magdalene will be hosting the Diocesan Conference from June 29–July 1st. The Weeping Iveron Icon of the Mother of God will be here during the conference.

Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Ellwood City, PA



Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Ellwood City, PA



St. Tikon's Monastery, Waymart, PA



Parish Replica of the Kardioitsa "The Tender Heart"
Myrrh Streaming Icon in Taylor, PA

Pilgrimage to Eastern, PA



"For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you took me in,
I was in prison and you came to me,
I was sick and you visited me, I
was naked and you clothed me."

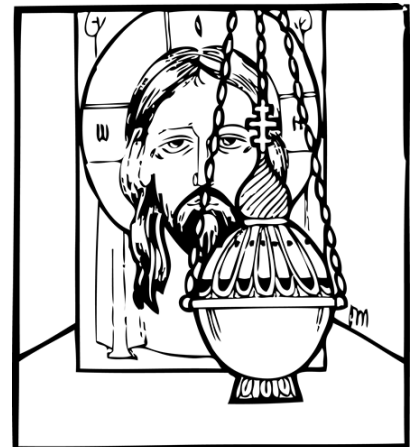
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Several months ago, the Church began a new ministry entitled Matthew 25, which was a way to promote outreach into our local community for our parishioners. Although we have done a small measure of good in the community, the ultimate hope was to expand the ministry to go beyond simply a fundraiser for other local charities and outreach programs.

In cooperation with the Compassion and Action program, on Saturday, April 28th at 3:00 PM in our education center, our community will be holding a "Community Outreach Brainstorming Session", to think of some ways that we can incorporate the CiA ministry with the efforts of the Matthew 25 initiative. The objective will be to find ministry opportunities that will allow us to share the love of Christ in our surrounding communities. Bring your ideas with you and help us make St. Mary Magdalene a beacon of Christian faith and love in the little corner of the world where God has planted us!

Saturday, April 28th

3:00pm



Important Church School

Dates to Remember:

April 6th: All Night Vigil for teens & families

April 8th: PASCHA

April 15th: Shortened Lesson & Easter egg hunt

May 6th: End of Year Celebration & Graduation

This month's topics:

April 1: Ezekiel

April 8: PASCHA!

April 15: 3 Holy Youths

April 22: Daniel

April 29: Minor Prophets



This is our LAST month of church school for the year! **May 6th will be our end of year "graduation" and a short presentation on what we have learned this year!** No class April 8th as this is Pascha!

This year we will have our Egg Hunt on St. Thomas Sunday (April 15th) after a quick church school lesson! Make sure your children are present to participate!

Parents be on the look out in the coming weeks for a survey to be sent out-just to get an idea of where we stand on the class days, times etc! What worked and/or didn't work this year!

Anyone interested in becoming a part of our church school team please contact Mat. Laura or Fr. Gabriel! We are looking for lead teachers and helpers!

2017-18 Church School Volunteer Assignments

Coordinator: Jennie Otis

Ages 3-5: Mat. Laura, Tammy Arnes

Ages 6-9: David Welch, Chris Ballnik, Cindy Welch
(Back up) Renea Becklehamer (Fill-in)

Ages 10-12: Renee Auxier, Christine Auxier

Teen Group: Sbdn. Andrew Durand, Meghan Durand, Sharon Watson

Upper High School & OCF: Fr. Gabriel & Dn. Michael

Child Care: Tammy Arnes, Joyce Ballnik, Renea Becklehamer, Elaine Boucher, Terri Oginsky, Joe Suriano

ALL NIGHT VIGIL



Teens & Families
Friday, April 6th
following Lamentations

COLLEGE CORNER

Flint OCF:

March was a good month for the Flint OCF. On March 6th we met at St. Mary Magdalene and our guest speaker, Fr. Gabriel Bilas, talked about death. It was a great talk and a fascinating group discussion. On March 24th, we met at St. George with Fr. Robert Royer. He will be talking about practical spirituality. And on March 30th, we met at St. Mary Magdalene with guest speaker Rebekah Humphreys where she discussed her recent trip to the Holy Land!

Prayers for our college students:

Greg Auxier
Nathaniel Auxier
Katherine Arnes
David Schutt
Katherine Schutt
Oliver Lazar Senter
Elena Bucciarelli
Emmanuel Watson
Zachary Wilkinson
Douglas Wilkinson
Laura Khoury
Rachael Hildreth

Prayer of a Student

Christ my Lord, the Giver of light and wisdom, who opened the eyes of the blind man and transformed the fishermen into wise heralds and teachers of the gospel through the coming of the Holy Spirit, shine also in my mind the light of the grace of the Holy Spirit. Grant me discernment, understanding and wisdom in learning. Enable me to complete my assignments and to abound in every good work, for to You I give honor and glory. Amen.

Prayers Before Study

Most blessed Lord, send the grace of Your Holy Spirit on me to strengthen me that I may learn well the subject I am about to study and by it become a better person for Your glory, the comfort of my family and the benefit of Your Church and our Nation. Amen

Christ, the true light, who enlightens and sanctifies every person coming into the world, let the light of Your countenance shine upon me (us) that I (we) may see Your unapproachable light; and guide my (our) steps in the way of Your commandments, through the intercessions of Your all-holy Mother and of all the Saints. Amen.

Prayer After Study

I thank You, Lord our God, that again on this occasion You have opened my eyes to the light of Your wisdom. You have gladdened my heart with the knowledge of truth. I entreat You, Lord, help me always to do Your will. Bless my soul and body, my words and deeds. Enable me to grow in grace, virtue and good habits, that Your name may be glorified, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Reminder Every Sunday there are college group discussion/classes following Divine Liturgy. Deacon Michael will be leading the discussion. During this time of preparation for the Pascha of our Lord please make every effort to attend.



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (OCF) is the official campus ministry organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.



"METANOIA"

LEARNING TO CHANGE ONE'S HEART FOR GOD



St. Vladimir the Great, a prince of Kievan Rus in the 10th century, sent envoys to all of the civilized world, looking at the various religions that were being practiced at the time. The response that impressed him the most, was the group that returned from an Orthodox Christian service in Constantinople, where his servants marveled at this ancient Christian service saying: *"We knew not whether we were in heaven, or still on earth."*

In a Christian World now littered with various denominations, each teaching a different version of the same Gospel, have you ever wondered or thought about what the earliest Christians taught, how they worshiped, and what believed? Now is your opportunity to come and experience what those emissaries saw over 1000 years ago!

Fr. Gabriel will be offering a 14 week introductory course on the Eastern Orthodox Faith, whose worship and teachings have not changed since the time of Christ and the Apostles.

When: Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 PM Starting April 25th

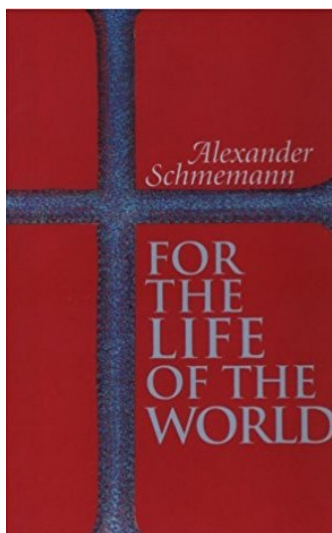
Where: St. Mary Magdalene Education Center, Fenton, MI (810) 750-1401

Adult Education

Recommended Reading



For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy By Fr. Alexander Schmemmann



In *For the Life of the World* Alexander Schmemmann suggests an approach to the world and life within it, which stems from the liturgical experience of the Orthodox Church.

He understands issues such as secularism and Christian culture from the perspective of the unbroken experience of the Church, as revealed and communicated in her worship, in her liturgy - the sacrament of the world, the sacrament of the Kingdom.



**Our Library is growing!
Don't forget to
donate and checkout!**

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!

Coffee Hour Volunteers

April 1st: (Lenten)

Jeremy & Renea Becklehamer

April 8th:

PASCHA!

April 15th:

Doug & Melissa Auxier

April 22nd:

Brian & Tammy Arnes

April 29th:

Andrew & Meghan Durand

Parish Greeters

April 1st:

Scott & Tina Shephard

April 8th:

Elaine Boucher

April 15th:

David & Cindy Welch

April 22nd:

Pat Smith

April 29th:

Steve & Sue Walton

Epistle Readers

April 1st: Jennifer Otis & Rdr.

John Auxier

April 8th: Sue Walton & Rdr

Nathan Auxier

April 15th: Sbdn. Andrew Du-

rand & Jennier Otis

April 22nd: Rdr. Brian Walton

& Sue Walton

April 29th: Rdr Chris Ballnik &

Sbdn. Andrew Durand

Wishing you many blessed years!

Happy Birthday

- 4– Liz Ziats
- 4– Rachael Hildreth
- 14– Johnathan Wilkinson
- 15– James Bailey
- 17– Tina Shepherd
- 22– Brian Arnes
- 25– John Tyrell

Happy Anniversary

- 12– William & Sharon Watson
- 16– Alex & Anastasia Branoff
- 16– Richard & Liz Ziats





PASCHA EGG HUNT

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2019 2:00 PM
ST. MARY MAGDALEN ORTHODOX CHURCH
2439 S LONG LAKE RD, FENTON, MI 48430



Pascha egg hunt for our children will follow
St. Thomas Sunday Liturgy
ALL are welcome!!

MAY
19



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND SELF- DEFENSE COURSE

Offered by Colemine Muscle

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church Saturday, May 19th 1:30-4:45 PM

In our state of Michigan, there unfortunately has been an increase in the Human Trafficking cases amongst Young Women and Children. On Saturday, May 19th at the Church Hall, we will be joined by Officer Thomas Cole and his wife Amy, as they lead a Women's Self Defense and Self Awareness Course. Please take the time to join us that afternoon, for a class that could save you and your families life one day.

Referral Program To Benefit The St. Mary Magdalene Mortgage Initiative



Conne Terova
Real Estate One
Cell: (248) 318-7342
Email:
cterova@gmail.com
teamterova.com

Know anyone who is looking to buy or sell a home in the state of Michigan? Conne Terova of Real Estate One is offering an incentive program to benefit the St. Mary Magdalene Mortgage Initiative, by offering a \$500.00 donation to the Church's Mortgage Balance for every referral that results in a closed transaction! The referral program runs from now until December 31, 2018!