

Let My Prayer Arise

Climbing the Mountain

A Message from Fr. Gabriel

August tends to be an extremely busy month in the life of an Orthodox Christian. We are blessed every year towards the end of the summer, to celebrate two of the twelve major feast days of the Liturgical Year; the first of which is on August 6th, in which remember when our Lord was Transfigured on Mt. Tabor in front of His disciples.

Transfiguration is a feast day which we Orthodox Christians sometimes take for granted. We read this story in the gospel, we come to Liturgy, we get our fruit blessed (a wonderful Orthodox Tradition, symbolizing the flowering and fruitfulness in the life of the kingdom of God), and then we go back to our daily lives as if nothing had happened. This is a trend that has to stop!

When our Lord was transfigured on Mt. Tabor, it certainly wasn't something that the Disciples had taken lightly! For them, it was an "aha" moment that had been building throughout the early parts of Christ's ministry. Peter had just confessed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and now, before their eyes, they see their Rabbi shining with a light that was brighter than the sun!

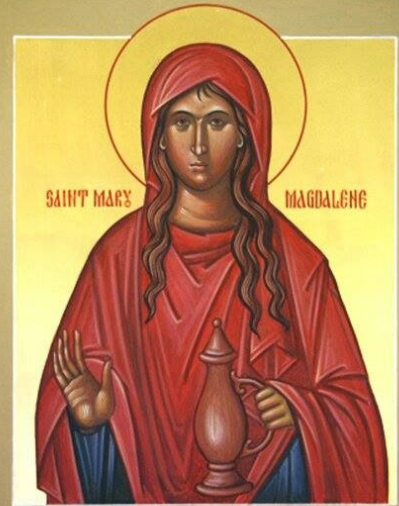
Even though Jesus had spent His entire ministry healing people, performing miracles, and teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven, this entire scene had to come as a bit of a shock to the Disciples, who were then seeing with their own eyes how much God loves and wants to help mankind! They no doubt said to themselves: "Here we have been eating and drinking with this man. We have been conversing with him as a friend. We have watched Him sleep, watched Him walk

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July in Review:

This past month was one that was full of incredible blessings, highlighted by the visit of the Holy Myrrh Streaming Iveron icon from Hawaii, where we welcomed well over 1,000 people to our little Church in the woods, to venerate and celebrate God's Grace in the world.

Along with the Baptism of Luke Shephard, and the success of the Third Annual First Responders Blessing, July was a month that our parish family will not soon forget!



August 2018

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Important Dates to Remember

- 8/5 Blessing of the Harvest
- 8/11 St. Photini Habitat for Humanity Project
- 8/14 Dormition Matins, Lamentations and Procession
- 8/15 Pilgrimage to Holy Dormition Monastery
- 8/26 Chrismation of Bob (Theophan) Forsyth
- 8/29 Liturgy for the Beheading of St. John the Baptist



This Month's Scripture Readings

August 5th:

John 21:1-14
 1 Corinthians 4: 9-16
 Matthew 17: 14-23

August 12th:

John 21: 15-25
 1 Corinthians 9:2-12
 Matthew 18: 23-35

August 19th:

Matthew 28: 16-20
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Matthew 19: 16-26

August 26th:

Mark 16: 1-8
 1 Corinthians 16: 13-24
 Matthew 21: 33-42

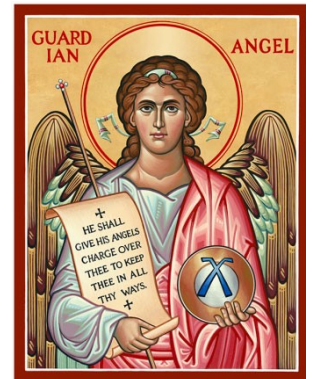
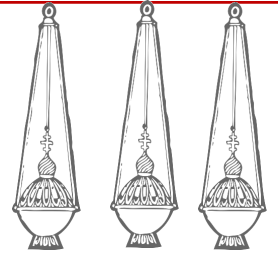


Prayer Life

Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and sisters.

His Beatitude Metropolitan
 Theodosius
 His Beatitude Metropolitan
 Herman
 His Eminence Archbishop
 Melchisedek
 Archpriest Dimitri Vincent
 Subdeacon Paul Hildreth
 Susan
 Vinnie
 Autumn
 Katherine
 John
 Anne
 Katherine
 Anastasia
 Alex
 Elaine
 Bill
 Carol
 Anne
 Carolyn
 Manuela
 Frankie
 John

Stacie
 Bryan
 Doug
 Megan
 Duncan
 Perpetua
 Pat
 Jan
 Kyle
 Aiden
 Lon
 Lon
 James
 Joanna
 Sandy
 Finn
 Michael
 Theodora
 Damian
 Ella
 Elnora
 Michael



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	Bill	Robert Forsyth	Solome Daugherty Christine Suriano Rachael Welch Kristen Jakubus Shannon

“Climbing the Mountain” Cont.

in the villages, climb mountains, weep when He is sad, get scrapes and bruises like the rest of us, get tired and fatigued...and yet He is SO MUCH MORE than just a man.”

We ourselves have this same type of thinking during Holy Week, when we walk with our Lord to Golgotha, allowing these same types of questions to come into our minds. We stand at the foot of the cross and say: “How can the Son of God, whose face was brighter than the Sun at transfiguration, allow his head to be splattered with blood flowing from the crown of thorns that was wrongfully placed on His head? How can the creator of all, whose garments were whiter than a fresh snow fall glistening in the sun, allow Himself to



be stripped and placed in a robe of scorn, to be spit and mocked? How can the man who now stands between the greatest of prophets, be put to the same death as two thieves, with nails piercing through His hands and feet, as He painfully and slowly awaited death?”

The answer to all of our questions are found in the celebration of the Transfiguration! Our Lord chose to participate in all of these things in order to LIFT what we are...in order to change the sad state we find ourselves in, and join it to His Glory! He did all of those things so that we could have it within ourselves to live as sons and daughters to the Father Who is in Heaven. He did all of these things, so that we would all have the ability to become True Human Beings once again.

How incredible is that to hear? At baptism, we were given the power to once again live as True Human Beings...to have the ability to become like gods through His Grace. Mired in the midst of the fallen world however, this path is an extremely difficult one to follow. Have you ever wondered with Christ was transfigured on a mountain, and not in some closet or house of the Disciples? He did it so that we could be reminded, that in order to be transfigured, we have to climb the mountain. It takes EFFORT to achieve greatness!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Labor...for your salvation. Work out your own personal transfiguration with fear and trembling, and never surrender your mind and body to the weakness of satisfaction! Take custody of your life, not only where it has been, but where it is going...and always face the beginning of every day with your minds on the things above!

So as we look forward to His Holy Transfiguration, may we not forget to ask God for the strength to gain the Glory which never ceases!



Monthly Forecast

The Dormition Fast Begins:

From August 1st until August 15th, we enter into the annual Dormition Fast to help prepare us for the Dormition of our Blessed Mother. During this time, please try your best to refrain from eating meat or dairy, and endeavor to increase your spiritual reading by looking over the book "The Life of the Virgin Mary" (Published by: Holy Apostles Convent and Dormition Skete, 1989).

Vacation Church School Begins:

From Monday, August 6th to Thursday, August 9th, the 3rd annual Vacation Church School begins at St. George Orthodox Church in Flint, at 6:00 each evening! The theme this year is "Noah's Ark", and the cost is only \$12 per child for the entire week! We are also in need of volunteers for the event, so please see Fr. Gabriel if you are able to help out!

The Feast of Holy Transfiguration:

On the Sunday, August 5th, don't forget to bring your grapes and other fruits in a basket to be blessed following the Divine Liturgy! On Monday, August 6th, we will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM for the Feast of the Transfiguration!

Divine Liturgy for the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

On Wednesday, August 29th, we will be celebrating the Feast day of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist with Divine Liturgy beginning at 10:00 AM.

Chrismation of our Catechumen

On Sunday, August 26th, after several months of study and discernment, Bob Forsyth will be received into the Orthodox Church through Chrismation! This will happen during the Divine Liturgy that day, and will be followed by our monthly Agape meal, so that we can all give thanks as a parish family for welcoming our newest warrior for Christ to the Ancient Christian Faith.

Pardon our Dust:

In the July meeting, the parish council voted on a bid for a construction company to come in and replace the wood pecker damaged trim of the Church. The work is scheduled to begin sometime during the first weeks of August. While this will not effect any of the weekend or feast day services, the construction might have an impact on Wednesday Compline services. Please check your email and weekly bulletin during those first few weeks to see if compline is scheduled!

Services and Pilgrimage for Holy Dormition

On Tuesday, August 14th, at 7:00 PM, we will be having Matins, Lamentations, and a Procession to honor the Dormition of our Most Blessed Lady Theotokos. This is an extremely beautiful service which mirrors closely the service during Great and Holy Friday. It is extremely important that all of our faithful mark this date on their calendar, and be present for the funeral of our Blessed Mother!

On August 15th, we will all be taking our annual pilgrimage to Holy Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction for their Feast Day! The Outdoor Liturgy begins at 10:00 AM! Unction will be at 2:30pm and Vespers will be served at 5:30pm



"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."

This month the Fellowship of St. Photini will be hosting multiple outreach opportunities. We will be holding our annual school supply drive. We will also be collecting used eye glasses and sunglasses to be sent to those in need.

For our Dormition Fast service event, the Fellowship of St. Photini will be volunteering for Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, August 11th from 9:00 to 3:00. The location is still TBD, but details will be available shortly and it will likely be in or around Flint. We can meet at church to carpool and leave around 8:30. Please bring your own lunch and be dressed in clothes you don't mind getting dirty, because we will probably be doing housework, construction, painting, yard work and/ or other labor.

Please contact David Schutt, Roland Drummond, Bob Forsyth or Rebekah Humphreys if you would like any more information about upcoming projects or would like to donate to the works of The Fellowship of St. Photini.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST:

School Supply Drive
Eye Glass Drive

DORMITION FAST:

Habitat for Humanity

OCTOBER:

Cancer Blankets

DECMEBER:

Seminarian Gift Cards

ADVENT FAST:

FOCUS Backpack Feeding



"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' "



Back to School Supplies Drive

Donations will benefit children in the Fenton Community

Supplies Needed

Sharpened #2 pencils	Play dough	Hand sanitizer
Colored pencils	Scissors	Individually packaged snacks
8 pack washable markers	One-inch 3 ring binder	Slider or Ziplock bags (gallon, quart, sandwich, or snack size)
24 pack (no larger) crayons	2 pocket folder w/ prongs	
Dry erase markers	Marble composition books	
Highlighters	Spiral wide-ruled notebooks	Additional Items:
Dry erase markers	Flashcards (add, subtract, multiply)	Back packs
Pencil bag or box	Kleenex	Lunch boxes/bags
Pink pencil top erasers	Paper towel	
Large rectangular eraser	Napkins	
Sticky notes (large and small)	Baby wipes	
Index cards	Clorox wipes	
Glue sticks		

*Please drop your donations off at St. Mary Magdalene Church
2439 Long Lake Road, Fenton Michigan by Monday, August 27*



PLEASE DONATE

USED GLASSES, SUNGLASSES, CLIP-ONS

Since March 2000 Optometrist Dr. Bradley Habermehl

(Recipient of Rotary International Service Above Self Award)

donates 1 week each year to treat avoidable blindness where eye care is not available. Dr. Habermehl and other volunteers visit a different village in Mexico each year.

Donated glasses are neutralized, cleaned, disinfected and categorized by trained inmates who have passed a national optician exam.

Why not volunteer in the United States?

He says his hands are tied as The Food and Drug Administration says it is illegal for anyone to dispense used glasses here in this country.

!!! THANK YOU !!!

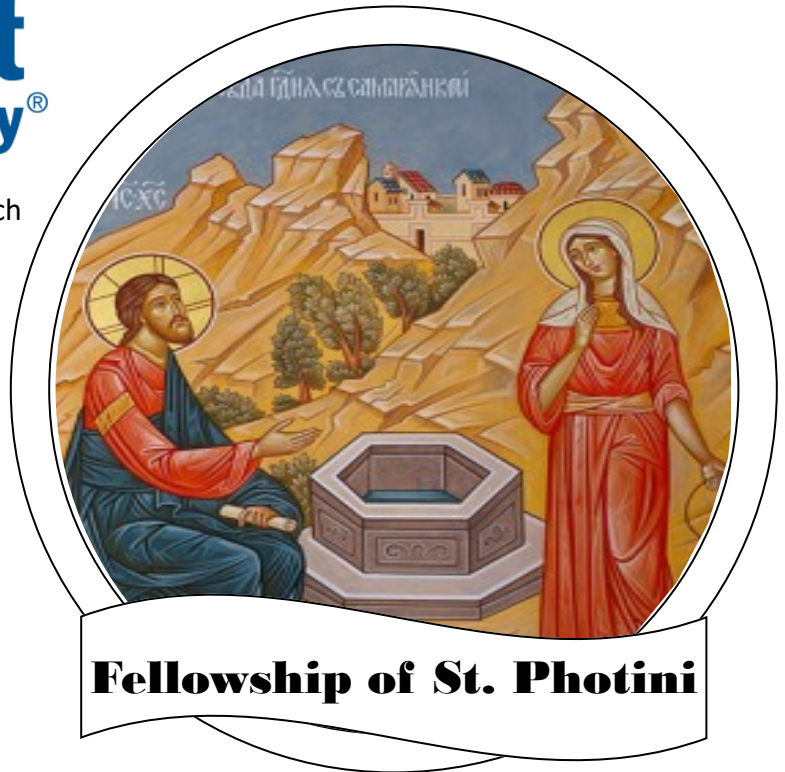


Habitat for Humanity Community Service Outreach

Saturday, August 11th
9am—3pm

Please pack a lunch

See David Schutt for more information or
to volunteer for this project



Important Church School Dates to Remember:

August 6-9th: Vacation Church School

September: Regular Church School Resumes

**Calling all church school teachers,
volunteers and parents!**

This is just a reminder that we will be starting church school back up again in September. We will not be doing class before Liturgy, but we WILL be moving up the time we head out to the annex! Stay tuned for further information!

Anyone who is interested in teaching or helping out with the program please see Mat. Laura or Fr. Gabriel! Looking forward to getting another great year underway!



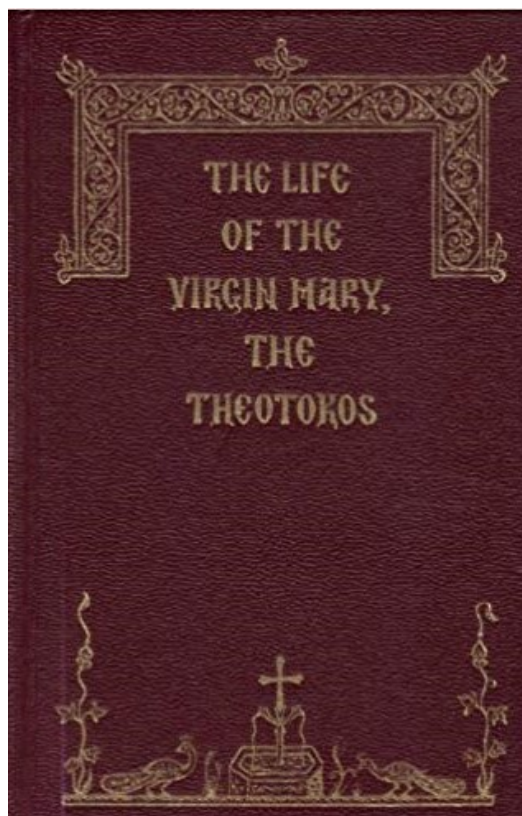
**OUR
PARISH
YOUTH**

Recommended Reading



The Life of the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos

One of the common things that people ask Orthodox Christians, is where we get all of the stories and information about Mary, since the Bible is very vague on any details surrounding her life before and after Christ.



This complete text of the Life of the Virgin Mary, shows how Scripture is actually full of references pertaining to the Blessed Mother, most of which comes to us from the Old Testament. This book also includes many references from Early Christian Saints, including a lot of excerpts from the Proto-evangelion of the Apostle James (which is one of the main sources for the life of Mary).



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

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!

Coffee Hour Volunteers

August 5th:

Kurt & Ann Schutt

August 12th:

Katherine Senter

August 19th:

Scott & Tina Shephard

August 26th:

Steve & Sue Walton

Parish Greeters

August 5th:

Pat Smith

August 12th:

Steve & Sue Walton

August 19th:

Scott & Tina Shephard

August 26th:

Elaine Boucher

Epistle Readers

August 5th: Sbdn. Andrew Durand & Janet Wiese

August 12th: Nathan Auxier & John Auxier

August 19th: Jennifer Otis & Sbdn Andrew Durand

August 26th: Sue Walton & Nathan Auxier

Wishing you many blessed years!

Happy Birthday

- 2– Charles Owens
- 4– Julie Yonan, Sophia Forwerck, Doug Lyon
- 8– Douglas Phillips
- 16– Denis Perez
- 17– Elaine Gejoff
- 18– William Watson
- 21– Tamara Arnes
- 25– Manuela Kemp
- 28– Stephen Walton
- 31– Blaine Forsyth

Happy Anniversary

- 2– Douglas & Renee Wilkinson
- 15– Stephen & Susan Walton
- 17– Doug & Melissa Auxier
- 17– Michael and Anne Houry



Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan

2018 SPEAKER SERIES

<p>Saturday, March 10 at 10AM MARY & THE ORTHODOX WOMAN Fr. Joshua Genig, Speaker St. Thomas Orthodox Church 29150 Ten Mile Rd., Farmington Hills</p>	<p>Saturday, July 14 at 9AM ANNUAL RETREAT THE SPIRITUAL ADVISOR/FATHER CONFESSOR: What role does he play in my life? Fr. Dusan Koprivica, Speaker Holy Dormition Orthodox Monastery 3389 Rives Eaton Rd., Rives Junction</p>
<p>Monday, April 16 at 7PM ORTHODOX SAINTHOOD: How is it established? Who are some of our Modern/ American Saints? Fr. John Artemas, Speaker St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church 760 W. Wattles Rd., Troy</p>	<p>Monday, September 17 at 7PM MUSICAL RESPONSES IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH: Chant, Choir, Congregational Singing Petra Koprivica, Panel Leader Basilica of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church 18100 Merriman Rd., Livonia</p>
<p>Monday, May 21 at 7PM ORTHODOX MEDIA MINISTRIES: In Detroit & Beyond! John E. Lazar, Speaker St. Lazarus Ravanica Serbian Orthodox Cathedral 4575 E Outer Dr. (@ Van Dyke), Detroit</p>	<p>Monday, October 15 at 7PM FASTING: Why? When? How? Who, me? Fr. Lev Kopistiansky, Speaker Assumption Greek Orthodox Church 21800 Marter Rd., St. Clair Shores</p>
<p>Monday, June 18 at 7PM CARING FOR OUR ELDERLY: Individually & as a Church Community Karen Todorov, Speaker Holy Ghost Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church 38500 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights</p>	<p>Monday, November 12 at 7PM GATHERING THE 'LOST SHEEP': How can I help my family/friends actively return to the Church/faith? Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Speaker St. George Greek Orthodox Church 43816 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills</p>

The mission of the Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan is to serve God, the faithful of His Orthodox Church and the world. This purpose shall be fulfilled through programs and charitable works that promote Orthodox unity, fellowship, and witness, Orthodox Christian values, lay leadership and education, spiritual growth and renewal and interpersonal support.

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Helen Martin – Vice President	Grace Kovacevic – Trustee
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Loretta Gates – Treasurer	Nora Wojciechowski – Trustee
Fr. Laurence Lazar – Spiritual Advisor	

For more information, contact Mary Ann Dadich, mdadich811@gmail.com or 586-775-4799. Like our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Orthodox-Christian-Women-of-Michigan-OCW-440819592966158/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

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!