

Let My Prayer Arise

A Look at What He has Loved

A Message from Fr. Gabriel

This entire month of December, our hearts should be filled with anticipation, as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Joy of the Nativity of our Savior! We stand now at the threshold of the Winter Pascha... awaiting the moment where the world changes forever!

He is coming my dearest brothers and sisters in Christ...but He doesn't come in a very "King" like manner. We will hear on the 23rd of this month, the Gospel passage that recites our Lord's lineage, which is full of kings and noblemen. This is of course fitting, since we know that Christ is the King of Heaven...the maker of everything that we see around us. But when this King of Kings came into the world, He wasn't born in a great temple in Jerusalem. He wasn't surrounded by the riches of the Jewish Kingdom. He wasn't born on a featherbed in the middle of Herod's palace. These of course were the places that the Jewish Nation was expecting the Messiah to be born, since He was the one who would lead the Jewish Nation to prosperity!

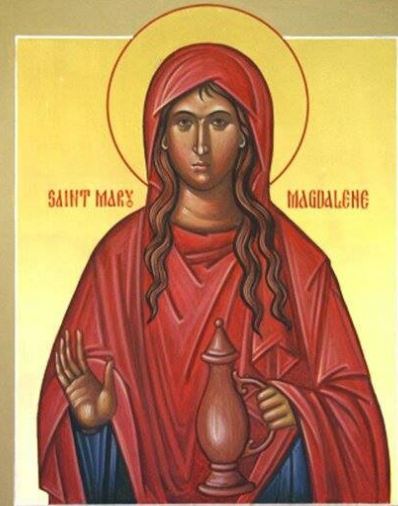
But no...

He was born in a place where you and I would not dare to even sleep in our worst nightmares. He was born in a small cave, next to animals who were eating and leaving their droppings as they walked by. Instead of being put in a warm, soft, and comfortable bed, He was put into a feeding trough made out of stone.

Continued Pg 3

November in Review:

After a very busy October, November offered our entire parish family a chance to settle down and prepare for the Nativity season. A big thank you to all who helped organize our first Soup Luncheon Fund-raiser, which will be going to purchase some new altar covers for the Church sometime next year! Thank you also to all of our greeters and coffee hour volunteers, who have been extremely welcoming to all of the visitors that we have had this month! Lastly, thank you to all who donated toward the Seminarian Gift Card Nativity Drive!



December 2018

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Important Dates to Remember

- 12/1 Lenten Retreat
- 12/2 Baptismal Liturgy
- 12/2 St. Emilia Mom's Group
- 12/4 Begin Advent Book Study
- 12/5 Liturgy for St. Nicholas
- 12/9 St. Nicholas Visit
- 12/13 Liturgy For St. Herman
- 12/16 Annual Meeting
- 12/24-12/26 Celebration for the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ



This Month's Scripture Readings

December 2nd:

Luke 24:12-35; 18:18-27

Ephesians 6:10-17

December 9th:

Luke 24:36-53; 8:16-21; 17:12-19

Galatians 4:22-31

Colossians 1:12-18

December 16th:

John 20:1-10

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 14:16-24

December 23rd:

Genesis 14:14-20

Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17;
10:14-21

John 20:11-18

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Matthew 1:1-25

December 30th:

John 20:19-31

Galatians 1:11-19

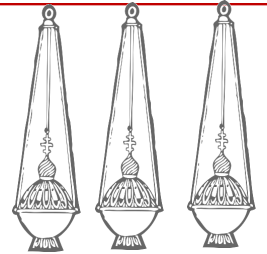
Matthew 2:13-23



Prayer Life

Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and

His Beatitude Metropolitan	Kyle
Theodosius	Lon
His Beatitude Metropolitan	Lon
Herman	Joanna
His Eminence Archbishop	Sandy
Melchisedek	Ella
Archpriest Dimitri Vincent	Elnora
Subdeacon Paul Hildreth	Theodora
Manuela	Peter
Vinnie	Perpetua
Autumn	Don
Katherine	Sean
John	James
Anastasia	Michael
Alex	Maryann
Elaine	John
Frankie	Rose Marie
John	Jay
Damian	
Stacie	
Bryan	
Michael	
Carolyn	
Aiden	
Megan	
Pat	



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	Rick	Seth Nyomi Shannon	Matushka Laura Bilas Solome Daugherty Renee Auxier

“A Look at What He Has Loved” Cont.

If we read and understand the history of our Lord’s lineage, we know that the place where Christ came into the world, does not hold a candle to the filth that mankind was covered in during the time of the Nativity.

If we take a look back at those names read in our Lord’s family genealogy, we get a pretty good picture of both the good and bad of the human race. Sure, we hear names in that long list that should bring warmth to our hearts: Noah, Abraham and the Patriarchs, Boaz, Jesse, David, Solomon, Hezekiah, King Josiah, all of these are beautiful references that show us that even before Christ, there was still some semblance of human virtue that was truly beautiful to behold!

But then we are reminded of the filth. Some of those family members throughout the generations were downright scandalous. Tamar seduced her father in law and conceived by him because he would not marry her to his son. Manasseh was a wicked king who betrayed God and tried to turn all of His people towards idolatry. Even the great King David had moments of weakness, when he impregnated Uriah’s wife while he was fighting on the front lines for the Kingdom. David even had Uriah killed in order to hide his sin!

Incest, idolatry, murder...all of this and so much more, makes up the filth that our Savior was born into. He had a real genealogy like we all do, filled with the good, the bad, and the ugly...and He embraced all of them, and us, with unconditional love. Our Lord came down to this stench, in order to raise us up. Behold the power of love and humility!

St. Ambrose of Milan wrote in the 4th century: “He was in a manger, so that we might be able to be in the altar. He was on earth, so that we might be in the stars. And He had no place in the inn...so that we might have many mansions in paradise.”



Do we need more proof of our Savior’s love for mankind? God came into the midst of all of this...knowing full well the fate that awaited Him at Golgotha. He knew that he was going to lead a life of perpetual humiliation, one that was climaxed when the human race who He came to save, betrayed Him and nailed Him to the cross.

What more could we possibly ask from a humble savior, Who was willing to come so far...and endure so much...out of his love for mankind. This month, we will gather together to celebrate and honor that love, which we most certainly do not deserve. We will come to the vigil service and weep together, realizing how fortunate we truly are to have a God who unconditionally loves us. Despite our flaws, despite our ingratitude for all of the blessings we have been given, no matter how many times we lash out at Him in anger for not getting what we want in this life, He is always waiting for us with arms extended...waiting to embrace us and welcome us into a life of perfection with Him in paradise.

NATIVITY SCHEDULE

2018

Sunday, December 23rd: Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday, December 24th: Christmas Vigil 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25th: NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 26th: Divine Liturgy for the Theotokos 10:00 a.m.



Advent Confessions: Please make sure that you make time this advent season for the Holy Sacrament of Confession. Fr. Gabriel is available after compline on Wednesday evenings (see schedule) or on Saturday's after vigil. If these do not work for your schedule, email him to make other arrangements.

THEOPHANY SCHEDULE

2019



Saturday, January 5th Vigil and Blessing of the Water
4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 6th: Divine Liturgy, Blessing of the River and Lamb Roast
10:00 a.m.

The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

Article from oca.org

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian). Caesar Augustus decreed that a universal census be made throughout his Empire, which then also included Palestinian Israel. The Jews were accustomed to be counted in the city from where their family came. The Most Holy Virgin and the Righteous Joseph, since they were descended from the house and lineage of King David, had to go to Bethlehem to be counted and taxed.

In Bethlehem they found no room at any of the city's inns. Thus, the God-Man, the Savior of the world, was born in a cave that was used as a stable.

"I behold a strange and most glorious mystery," the Church sings with awe, "Heaven, a Cave; the Virgin the Throne of the Cherubim; the Manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain is laid." (Irmos of the 9th Ode of the Nativity Canon).

Having given birth to the divine Infant without travail, the Most Holy Virgin "wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger" (Luke 2:7). In the stillness of midnight (Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15), the proclamation of the birth of the Savior of the world was heard by three shepherds watching their flocks by night.

An angel of the Lord (Saint Cyprian says this was Gabriel) came before them and said: "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). The humble shepherds were the first to offer worship to Him Who condescended to assume the form of a humble servant for the salvation of mankind. Besides the glad tidings to the Bethlehem shepherds, the Nativity of Christ was revealed to the Magi by a wondrous star. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Theophylactus, commenting on Saint Matthew's Gospel, say that this was no ordinary star. Rather, it was "a divine and angelic power that appeared in the form of a star." Saint Demetrius of Rostov says it was a "manifestation of divine energy" (Narrative of the Adoration of the Magi). Entering the house where the Infant lay, the Magi "fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11).

The present Feast, commemorating the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, was established by the Church. Its origin goes back to the time of the Apostles. In the Apostolic Constitutions (Section 3, 13) it says, "Brethren, observe the



feastdays; and first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month." In another place it also says, "Celebrate the day of the Nativity of Christ, on which unseen grace is given man by the birth of the Word of God from the Virgin Mary for the salvation of the world."

In the second century Saint Clement of Alexandria also indicates that the day of the Nativity of Christ is December 25. In the third century Saint Hippolytus of Rome mentions the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, and appoints the Gospel readings for this day from the opening chapters of Saint Matthew.

Troparion:

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, / Has shone to the world the Light of wisdom! / For by it, those who worshipped the stars, / Were taught by a Star to adore You, / The Sun of Righteousness, / And to know You, the Orient from on High. / O Lord, glory to You!

Kontakion:

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / And the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! / Angels with shepherds glorify Him! / The wise men journey with a star! / Since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a Little Child!

In 302, during the persecution of Christians by Maximian, 20,000 Christians of Nicomedia (December 28) were burned in church on the very Feast of the Nativity of Christ. In that same century, after the persecution when the Church had received freedom of religion and had become the official religion in the Roman Empire, we find the Feast of the Nativity of Christ observed throughout the entire Church. There is evidence of this in the works of Saint Ephraim the Syrian, Saint Basil the Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, Saint Ambrose of Milan, Saint John Chrysostom and other Fathers of the Church of the fourth century.

Saint John Chrysostom, in a sermon which he gave in the year 385, points out that the Feast of the Nativity of Christ is ancient, and indeed very ancient. In this same century, at the Cave of Bethlehem, made famous by the Birth of Jesus Christ, the empress Saint Helen built a church, which her mighty son Constantine adorned after her death. In the Codex of the emperor Theodosius from 438, and of the emperor Justinian in 535, the universal celebration of the day of the Nativity of Christ was decreed by law. Thus, Nicephorus Callistus, a writer of the fourteenth century, says in his History that in the sixth century, the emperor Justinian established the celebration of

the Nativity of Christ throughout all the world.

Patriarch Anatolius of Constantinople in the fifth century, Sophronius and Andrew of Jerusalem in the seventh, Saints John of Damascus, Cosmas of Maium and Patriarch Germanus of Constantinople in the eighth, the Nun Cassiane in the ninth, and others whose names are unknown, wrote many sacred hymns for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, which are still sung by the Church on this radiant festival.

During the first three centuries, in the Churches of Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria and Cyprus, the Nativity of Christ was combined together with the Feast of His Baptism on January 6, and called "Theophany" ("Manifestation of God"). This was because of a belief that Christ was baptized on anniversary of His birth, which may be inferred from Saint John Chrysostom's sermon on the Nativity of Christ: "it is not the day on which Christ was born which is called Theophany, but rather that day on which He was baptized."

In support of such a view, it is possible to cite the words of the Evangelist Luke who says that “Jesus began to be about thirty years of age” (Luke 3:23) when He was baptized. The joint celebration of the Nativity of Christ and His Theophany continued to the end of the fourth century in certain Eastern Churches, and until the fifth or sixth century in others.

The present order of services preserves the memory of the ancient joint celebration of the Feasts of the Nativity of Christ and Theophany. On the eve of both Feasts, there is a similar tradition that one should fast until the stars appear. The order of divine services on the eve of both feastdays and the feastdays themselves is the same.

The Nativity of Christ has long been counted as one of the Twelve Great Feasts. It is one of the greatest, most joyful and wondrous events in the history of the world. The angel said to the shepherds, “Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, glorifying God and saying: Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Those who heard these things were astonished at what the shepherds told them concerning the Child. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen” (Luke 2:10-20).



Thus the Nativity of Christ, a most profound and extraordinary event, was accompanied by the wondrous tidings proclaimed to the shepherds and to the Magi. This is a cause of universal rejoicing for all mankind, “for the Savior is Born!”

Concurring with the witness of the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church, in their God-inspired writings, describe the Feast of the Nativity of Christ as most profound, and joyous, serving as the basis and foundation for all the other Feasts.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Monthly Forecast

Choir Practices for Advent: The entire choir is asked to come to the practices during December, as we prepare for the Christmas Vigil and Divine Liturgy! Practices begin at 9:20 on Sunday Mornings, unless otherwise noted in the calendar!

Advent Retreat: On Saturday, December 1st, there will be no Vigil at the Church, as we will all gather together at our sister parish of St. Nicholas in Burton, for an Advent Retreat given by our Archbishop Alexander entitled: "The Theology of the Old Testament". The retreat starts at 3:00 PM, followed by Great Vespers at 5:00 PM

Baptismal Liturgy: Sunday, December 2nd, we will be beginning Divine Liturgy a little earlier than normal, as we will be having the Baptism of Addie Elizabeth Joseph! Prayers in the back of the Church begin at 9:40 AM!

St. Emilia Mom's Group Meeting: Following Divine Liturgy on December 2nd will be the second meeting of the St. Emilia Mom's Group after Divine Liturgy! The meeting will take place in the Education Center next door! Bring your coffee and snacks with you!

Advent Study: On the first three Tuesdays of December (the 4th, 11th, and 18th) we will be having our Advent study of the writings of St. John Cassian. The class begins at 7:00 PM! If you are unable to make it physically, email Father Gabriel about connecting remotely via Skype.

St. Nicholas Day Liturgy: On Wednesday, December 5th, we will gather together at our sister parish of St. Nicholas to celebrate their patronal feast day! Vespers Divine Liturgy begins at 6:00 PM!

St. Nicholas Visiting St. Mary Magdalene: On Sunday, December 9th, St. Nicholas will be paying our parish a visit! Please make sure that all of our children are present on this day! There will be an agape meal following the Divine Liturgy to celebrate the feast!

Divine Liturgy for St. Herman of Alaska: We are blessed to house the relics of St. Herman of Alaska here at the parish. On Thursday, December 13th, we will be having Divine Liturgy for his feast day, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Annual Meeting: Please note that the annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 16th, following the Divine Liturgy! Please check your emails for the 2019 budget and 2018 financials. ***If you have any questions or comments regarding the budget, please plan on attending the parish council meeting that is scheduled for **December 10th at 7:00 PM!*****



"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."

Fellowship of St. Photini needs your help to reach those in need in our communities.

We are grateful to all who donated toward the seminarian gift card drive. These families appreciate your support beyond words!!

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

NOVEMBER/DECMEBER:

Seminarian Gift Cards

FEBRUARY 2019:

Lazarus Bags

May 2019:

St. Gabriel Mother's Day Project

GREAT LENT:

Heartland Hospice Visitation

ST. PETER & PAUL FAST:

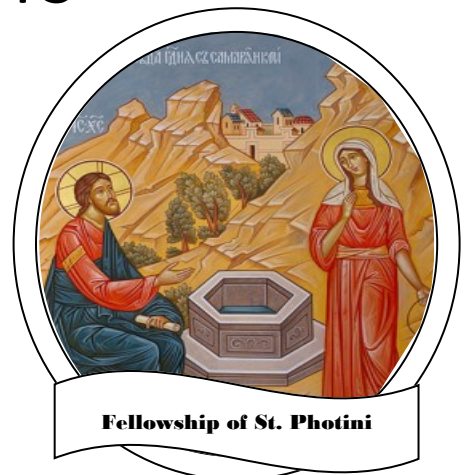
Summer Feeding with FOCUS

DORMITION FAST:

Habitat for Humanity

ADVENT FAST:

Backpack Feeding with FOCUS

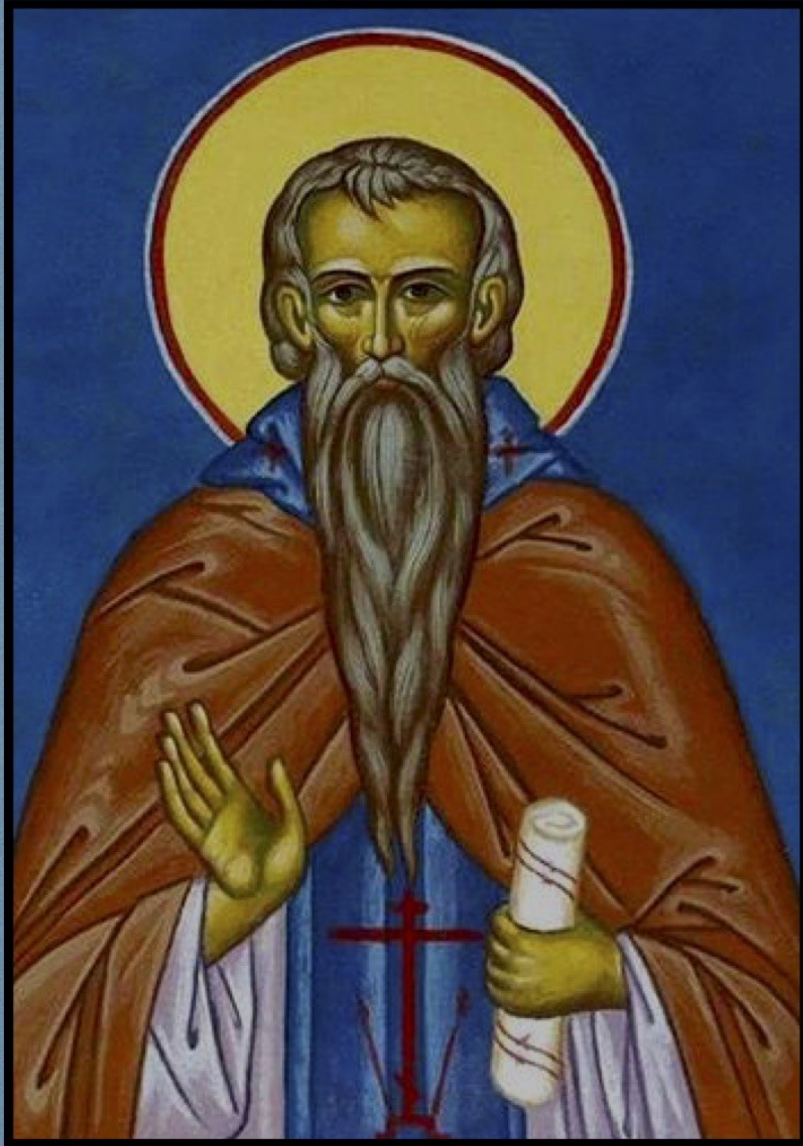


"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' "

2018 ADVENT ADULT EDUCATION

THE CONFERENCES

LETTERS FROM ST. JOHN CASSIAN ON DISCERNMENT, PRAYER,
PERFECTION, AND SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE



ST. JOHN CASSIAN

Aside from reading the Divine Scriptures, one of the biggest blessings that we have been given throughout Church History is the writings of the Saints. Through them, we learn how to reach spiritual perfection, not only in this life, but also in the next!

During this Holy Advent Season, we will be studying the writings of one of the great early western Saints, St. John Cassian (360-345 AD). In particular, we will be looking at his "Conferences", where he discusses topics such as Spiritual Discernment, the importance of prayer, on Spiritual Perfection, and on Spiritual Knowledge.

Class Schedule

Tuesday, December 4th, 7:00 PM
Discernment

Tuesday, December 11th, 7:00 PM
On Prayer

Tuesday, December 18th, 7:00 PM
On Perfection and Spiritual Knowledge

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH
2439 S. LONG LAKE RD. FENTON, MI 48430
ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG

Adult Education

2018-2019 Church School Events

December 2— Last Day of Class before Nativity Break

December 9— St. Nicholas Visit

March 10—No Class, Forgiveness Sunday

April 21— No Class, Palm Sunday

April 28— No Class, Pashca

May 5— Annual Easter Egg Hunt

May 12— Graduation & Ice Cream Social

OUR PARISH YOUTH



Our volunteers this year:

**Renee Auxier, Doug Auxier,
Chris Ballnik, Renea Beckle-
hamer, Theresa Cooley, Lori
Drummond, Sbdn. Andrew Du-
rand, Meghan Durand, Terri
Oginsky, Jenni Otis, Sharon
Watson, Cindy Welch, David
Welch, Mat. Laura**



- Thank you to everyone who supported our candle fundraiser, we were able to raise \$400 for the church school program! We expect the order to be delivered soon and will be distributed out as soon as we have them!
- December brings us to our annual St. Nicholas Day celebration! We will not have class on December 9th in order to welcome a special visitor after Liturgy!
⇒ Parents be sure to be practicing the hymns at home with your kiddos so they are ready!
- **December 2nd** will be our last class for the 2018 calendar year! We will break for Nativity through Theophany and resume normal classes **January 13th!**
- We will have two teachers unavailable starting sometime mid-February, while we do have a plan, we could always use more volunteers! If you are interested in helping out in their absence until the end of the year (early May) please let Mat. Laura know!

**Thank you to all of our parents and teachers for
your support this year!**

COLLEGE CORNER

Flint OCF: The Flint OCF hasn't had an official meeting since the end of October, when we hung out at Crossroads Village. Our next meeting is this Friday, November 30th at Crystal Fieldhouse Ice Arena in Burton where we'll be ice skating

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
Sydney Wilkinson

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

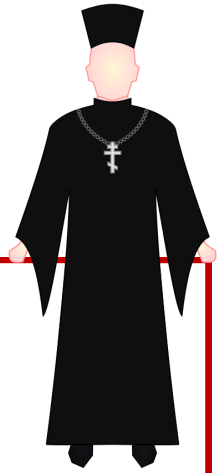
I thank You, Lord our God, that again on this occasion You have opened my eyes to the light of Your wisdom. You have gladdened my heart with the knowledge of truth. I entreat You, Lord, help me always to do Your will. Bless my soul and body, my words and deeds. Enable me to grow in grace, virtue and 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.

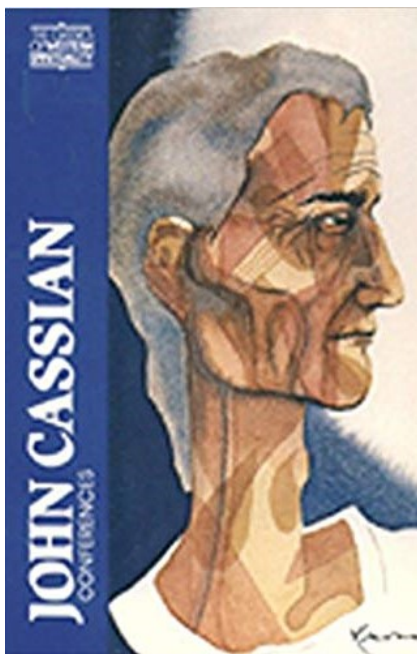


ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (OCF) is the official campus ministry organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.

Recommended Reading



John Cassian: Conferences (Classics of Western Spirituality)



St. John Cassian (c. 365-c. 435) journeyed to the West to found monasteries in Marseilles and the region of Provence. Conferences is his masterpiece, a study of the Egyptian ideal of the monk.



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

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!

Coffee Hour Volunteers

December 2nd:

Steve & Elizabeth Kekel

December 9th:

Pat Matts

December 16th:

Michael and Annie Khoury

December 23rd:

Andy Marko

December 30th:

John & Janet Wiese

Parish Greeters

December 2nd:

Steve & Sue Walton

December 9th:

Scott & Tina Shephard

December 16th:

Elaine Boucher

December 23rd:

David & Cindy Welch

December 30th:

Roland & Lori Drummond

Epistle Readers

December 2nd:

Rdr. David Schutt & Rdr. Brian Walton

December 9th:

Janet Wiese & Rdr. Chris Ballnik

December 16th:

Rdr John Auxier & Rdr. David Schutt

December 23rd:

Sbdn. Andrew Durand & Janet Wiese

December 30th:

Rdr. Nathan Auxier & Rdr. John Auxier

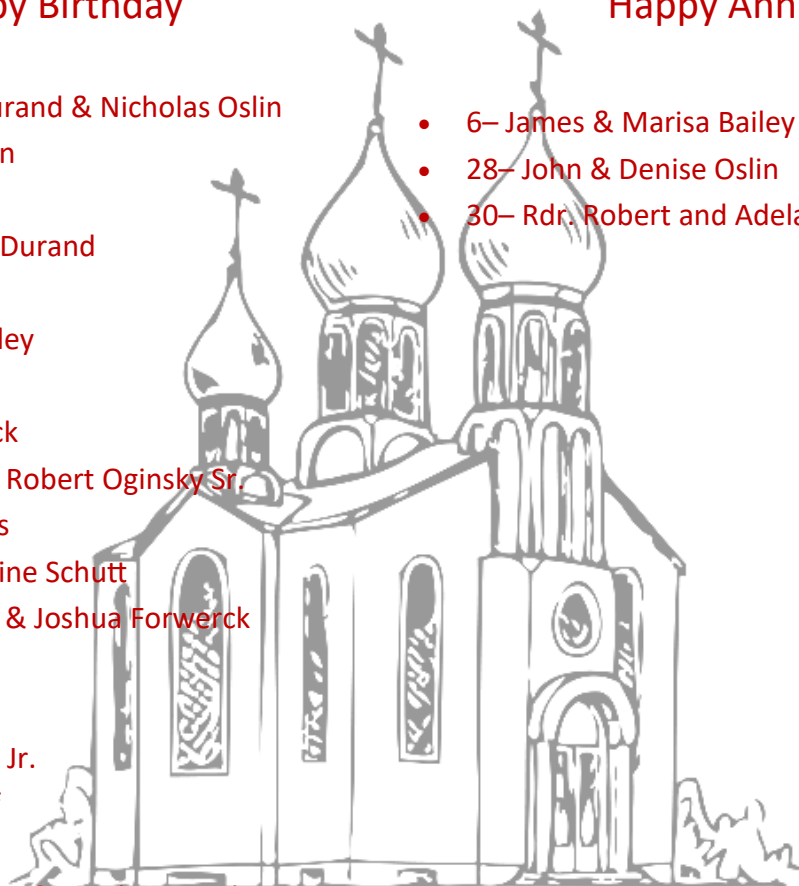
Wishing you many blessed years!

Happy Birthday

- 3– Sbdn Andrew Durand & Nicholas Oslin
- 4– Emma Lanterman
- 5– Richard Ziats
- 6– Romanos Royer-Durand
- 7– Doug Wilkinson
- 8– Christopher Cooley
- 11– Lucille Bilas
- 12– Richard Schlaack
- 13– Anne Khoury & Robert Oginsky Sr.
- 14– Mat. Laura Bilas
- 17– David & Katherine Schutt
- 18– Elizabeth Kekel & Joshua Forwerck
- 19– Maura Burtka
- 21– David Welch
- 23– Robert Oginsky Jr.
- 24– George Branoff
- 30– Kristen Wolf
- 31– Christine Suriano & Isaiah Durand

Happy Anniversary

- 6– James & Marisa Bailey
- 28– John & Denise Oslin
- 30– Rdr. Robert and Adelaide Lanterman



The Orthodox Churches of Genesee County

Assumption (Greek) 2245 Baldwin Road ❖ Grand Blanc, MI 48439 ❖ 810-771-4611

St. George (Antiochian) 5191 Lennon Road ❖ Flint, MI 48507 ❖ 810-732-0720

St. Mary Magdalene (OCA) 2439 South Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1701

St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

Come, Join Us for this Advent Talk by Archbishop Alexander!



The Theology of the Old Testament

Often we read from Genesis in the Scripture readings at Vespers and Presanctified Liturgies. There is the story of creation, but there is more. It is this "more", beginning with Genesis 1, that Archbishop Alexander will explore for us.

**Saturday,
December 1, 2018**

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
2143 S Center Rd
Burton, MI 48519
(810) 744-0070**

stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

3 pm Talk by Archbishop Alexander

5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions

No RSVP required.

Guest Speaker

Archbishop Alexander (Golitzin)

Archbishop Alexander is bishop of the Diocese of Toledo (OCA) and has his D.Phil. from Oxford under the direction of Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware). He was tonsured a monk of Simonopetra Monastery on Mount Athos by Elder Aimilianos in 1986. He taught at Marquette University for 23 years where he focused on ancient ascetical and mystical texts. Many of his writings are available at <https://www.marquette.edu/maqom/> The Jewish Roots of Eastern Christian Mysticism. His book *The Living Witness of the Holy Mountain: Contemporary Voices from Mount Athos* was reprinted this year.

Member Churches of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North America - A Vision of Orthodox Unity



Cookie Walk & Craft Sale

Saturday, December 15th

10am—3pm

Bake goods and Crafts

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

2439 S. Long Lake Rd

Fenton, MI 48430

Any questions? See Pat Smith, Rebecca Lazar or Liz Ziats

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN

Mother Abbess Gabriella & The Community of
The Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery on
Thursday, January 17, 2019, at St. George Church for our

~ 7th Annual Winter Dinner To Support ~

**The Dormition of the Mother of God
Orthodox Monastery**

Donation Requested
\$35 Adult / \$25 Student

**The Mothers will be
bringing the Monastery
Gift Shop to Flint!**

Evening Schedule

- ✓ 5:30 - *Vespers sung by the Mothers of Dormition Monastery*
- ✓ 6:15 - *Social Time & Bookstore Open*
- ✓ 6:45 - *Dinner & Speakers*
- ✓ 8:30 - *Benediction*

Names	Donation

**See Your Parish Rep to make a reservation, volunteer your time or be a sponsor
OR: Contact St. George Church at 810-732-0720**

- ✓ Assumption..... Lori Photiou
- ✓ St. George Dn. Michael Bassett
- ✓ St. Mary Magdalene Dn. Michael Schlaack
- ✓ St. Nicholas Deborah Adams

~ 100% of your donation goes to Dormition Monastery ~

**ALL ACTIVITIES TO BE HELD AT ST. GEORGE CHURCH
5191 Lennon Rd., Flint, MI 48507**

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!