

# Let My Prayer Arise

## A Wonderful Life of Compassion

A Message from Fr. Gabriel

There is a popular movie that is always on television during this time of year that I am sure many of you have seen...and if you have not seen it, I invite you to come out of the cave you have been living in and set your DVRs over the next few weeks!

The movie is called "It's a Wonderful Life" with Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed.

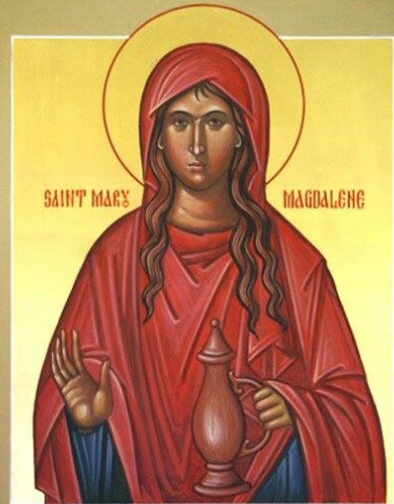
The main character in the film, George Bailey, was a man whose family engrained in him the importance of helping others in need. He took over the family business of a "building and loan", and when Mr. Potter and the big banks would not help families who were about to become homeless, George would come in, have compassion, and bail them out.

On the day of his wedding, which happened to coincide with the stock market crash in the 1920s, George gave up his wedding money and his honeymoon to give to the people whose savings accounts had been reduced to nothing! Even at the expense of himself and his own happiness...when he saw the panic at the banks, he stopped the car...and he went and helped others.

George eventually got into some financial trouble because of a mix up at the end of the film, and was visited by an angel who gave him the chance to see just how different the world would have been if he had not been born. He saw friends who he had helped turn into greedy and awful people. He saw his neighbors ruled by sin and greed, and the town that he had once loved, fall into despair and ruin.

The ending of the movie (and I hope I am not spoiling a movie that came out in 1946 for anyone) shows George realizing that all of the wonderful and selfless things he did for his neighbors, especially in their time of need, all added up to a truly wonderful life.

There is a similar story that we read about in the Gospels regarding the importance of Charity in our spiritual life. I am sure that every Christian child has heard about the importance of the parable of the Good Samaritan, which paints a rather dark picture of life...similar to the one that George experienced from the angel.



November 2018

### Inside this Issue

- Prayer Life
- Monthly Forecast
- Fellowship of St. Photini
- Parish Youth
- OCF
- Adult Education

### Important Dates to Remember

- 11/1 Soul Luncheon
- 11/8 Divine Liturgy 10am
- 11/11 Agape Meal
- 11/14 Seminarian Gift Card Collection Begins
- 11/12 Fr. Gabriel's talk to OCW
- 11/13 Parish Council Meeting
- 11/20 Liturgy at St. George 6pm
- 11/20 Thanksgiving Service 6pm



Continued Pg 3

*This Month's Scripture Readings*

**November 4th:**

Matthew 28:16-20; 10:1, 5-8

1 Corinthians 12:27-13:8

Ephesians 2:4-19

Luke 8:41-56

**November 11th:**

Mark 16:1-8

Ephesians 2:14-22

Luke 10:25-37

**November 18th:**

Mark 16:9-20

Ephesians 4:1-6

Luke 12:16-21

**November 25th:**

Luke 24:1-12, 10:38-42; 11:27-28; 13:10-17

Hebrews 9:1-7

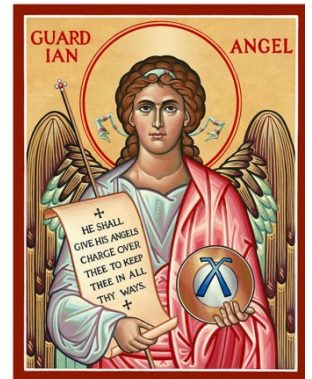
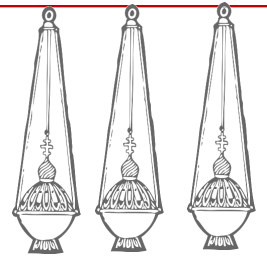
Ephesians 5:9-19



# Prayer Life

Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and

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



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	Andrew	Seth Nyomi Shannon	Matushka Laura Bilas Solome Daugherty Renee Auxier

### **“Most Holy Theotokos Save Us” Cont.**

A man, walking down the dangerous streets of life, is mugged and left for dead on the roadside. After the mugging, a priest walked past the man who was left for dead...followed by a Levite. We are never told the reasons they walked by, but we can certainly guess that they are not unlike the reasons we walk by some of the beggars on the streets of Flint or Detroit. The Levite, a religious leader, was probably on his way to work and couldn't be bothered, and the priest was probably too concerned about the law of not being able to touch someone who was bloody.

We then hear about the third man, the Good Samaritan, who stops and shows compassion on the beaten man. This is the first thing that our Lord is trying to tell us to do in our busy lives when there are those in need...STOP. This is the first act of compassion...and the one thing that the bad examples in the parable did not do.

In life, we tend to get caught up in the “waves of business” don't we? We are always on the move...always needing to get to the next job, always needing to do the next errand, or complete the next task. And it is the Church, in Her wisdom, that is always telling us to try and slow down!

When we say our prayers at night...we don't rush in the door, put our keys down, take our coats off, pick up our prayer book, and start reading. When we come to services at the Church we shouldn't be rushing out the door because we are 15 minutes late...running into the Church when we get here, and then pick up a book and expect to “dive right in”. We are told to “stop”. The Divine Liturgy tell us to “Lay aside all earthly cares”...and only then can we begin to pray.

Charity, like the spiritual life before we begin to pray, also requires us to stop for a few minutes like the Samaritan. It requires us to take a second out of the business of our lives...and stop to begin an action of mercy. It is when we don't stop that we are saying, like the priest and Levite, that we can't be bothered by the plight of others in our lives.

After he showed this first act of care, the Good Samaritan began his charity by pouring oil and wine into the man's wounds, putting him on his own mule, transporting him to a nearby inn, and giving money to the innkeeper to ensure ongoing care. And if that wasn't enough, the Samaritan then paid for any future expenses that his mugged man might have incurred!

So not only did he stop and show compassion, not only did he share his time, oil, wine, money, and mule with the mugged man, he then went and enlisted the help and support of another person to assist!

As a parish community, all of us are given chances through the work of the St. Photini Outreach Program, to participate in our God-Given responsibility to help others. It is why we have projects like the Lazarus Bags, collecting of school supplies, making blankets for cancer patients, making meals for hungry children...all of these things are done so that each and every one of us can take a moment to stop and show an act of compassion to our brothers and sisters in need.

Perhaps the most important part of the parable of the Good Samaritan, as well as the lessons that we can learn from “It's a Wonderful Life”, is the command that Christ gave after He told this incredible story of charity: “Go and do likewise”. So as we approach this Holy Season of Advent...do as the Master commanding that if one simple act of compassion can affect the lives of so many...imagine what an entire life full of compassion, coming from an entire parish family, can do for the dangerous streets of the world that we live in.

# October in Review:

+October was an extremely blessed month, full of activity here at St. Mary Magdalene. Here are a few highlights!

- Construction was completed on the Church building, as all of the damaged wood trim was replaced and painted, to make the Church look like new! We also received a donation of paint to have the Education Center and Office Building painted to match the Church! A big thank you to our private donors who helped make this possible!
- We also received donations of the 5th bell to add to our set, as well as commissioned the final icon of the crucifixion for the altar table. Both of these items will be coming to the Church in the coming months!
- Continuing with the blessings from October, we also received an anonymous donation of \$100,000 dollars, which was used to greatly reduce the balance of the Church Mortgage, putting us closer to a complete pay-off! Once the mortgage is out of the way, a strategic plan will be made to start working on a much needed Church expansion! Glory to God!
- Among the Fall Fun activities that our parish community participated in was a trip (albeit a cold one!) to Spicer's Cider Mill in Fenton for some Cider and Doughnuts. We also had our 3rd annual chili cook-off, where Rdr. Kyle Lanterman took home the first place prize of an icon of St. Ephrosynos, the patron Saint of cooking! The month ended with our annual Trunk or Treat (indoors this year due to rain), where we had well over 25 children participate!
- Our St. Photini outreach ministry continued to grow in October, as families were asked to make fleece blankets for patients who are suffering from cancer treatments. We also partnered with FOCUS Detroit to purchase and put together 350 meals for hungry children in Detroit. Thank you to all who organized the projects and participated in the community outreach!



# Monthly Forecast

**Metanoia Classes Begin!:** We will continue the fall semester of Metanoia through November 14th. We will be talking about a variety of topics that have to do with the Orthodox Faith, including what we believe about the sacraments, death, and theodicy (why bad things happen to good people). Please let Fr. Gabriel know if you will be regularly attending so that he can print a workbook for you to follow along!

**Orthodox Mom's Group:** The first meeting of the Orthodox Mom's Group will be taking place on Saturday November 3rd at 6:00 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to mom's to build relationships with each other, as well as offer some of the children a way to get to know each other! Please see Addie Lanterman or Renea Becklehamer if you would like to be apart of this group!

**Feast of the Archangels:** We will be celebrating Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Archangels on Thursday, November 8th, at 10:00 AM! Please be present for this important Feast Day!

**Time Change:** Please note that Saturday Vespers and Vigil, starting November 10th, has been pushed up to 4:00 PM to accommodate those who have difficulty driving in the dark!

**Vigil's Beginning!:** During the major fasting periods of the Church, we will be celebrating a "Cathedral Style" (abridged) Vigil service in place of Great Vespers. The first one will be Saturday November 17th at 4:00 PM. Please make the extra effort to be present on Saturday's during Advent!

**Feast of the Presentation of the Theotokos** will be celebrated on Thursday, November 20th with the Pan Orthodox Clergy at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Flint, beginning at 6:00 PM.

**Thanksgiving:** We will be holding a Thanksgiving Molebin Service on Wednesday, November 21st, at 6:00 PM here at the Church. Come and give thanks for all that we have been blessed with this past year, and celebrate the Feast of Thanksgiving with your parish family!

**Gathering the Lost Sheep:** On Monday, November 12th Fr. Gabriel will be speaking at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Bloomfield Hills to the Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan Group. The topic is "Gathering the Lost Sheep; How can I help my family/friends actively return to the Church/faith?"

**Seminarian Gift Card Drive:** We will once again be collecting gift cards and donations for seminarian families who are in need during the Christmas Break. Most families who attend seminary do not have the funds to purchase gifts for their children (or for each other), as many have given up their careers and regular income to follow a calling to serve the Lord. Please consider purchasing a gift card for a seminarian family, by taking a tag from the Nativity Tree located in the Vestibule (after November 14th) , and returning the corresponding gift card.



"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 will once again be collecting gift cards and donations for seminarian families who are in need during the Christmas Break. Most families who attend seminary do not have the funds to purchase gifts for their children (or for each other), as many have given up their careers and regular income to follow a calling to serve the Lord. Please consider purchasing a gift card for a seminarian family, by taking a tag from the Nativity Tree located in the Vestibule (after November 14th) , and returning the corresponding gift card.

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/DECEMBER:

Seminarian Gift Cards

### FEBRUARY 2019:

Lazarus Bags

### May 2019:

St. Gabriel Mother's Day Project

### GREAT LENT:

Heartland Hospice Visitation

### ST. PETER & PAUL FAST:

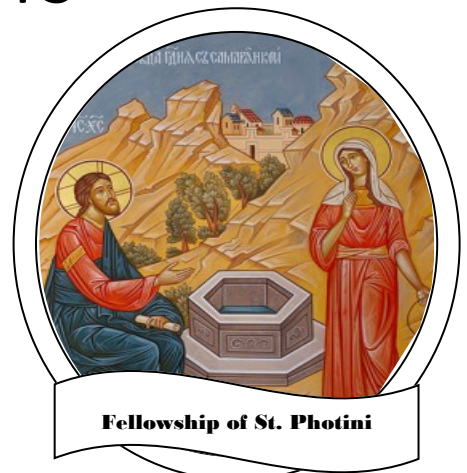
Summer Feeding with FOCUS

### 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.' "

### 2018-2019 Church School Events

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



### This Month's Topics

11/4 Theophany  
11/11 Temptations of the Devil  
11/18 The Wedding of Cana  
11/25 Calling of the Fisherman

Thank you to all who supported our Candle fundraiser, we appreciate your support and orders should be arriving in a few weeks!

We braved the cold (and SNOW!) for our annual outing at Spicer's Cider Mill! Thanks to everyone who came out, next year we will pray for more seasonable weather! We also had great participation in our 3rd annual Trunk-or-Treat (despite the rain)!

This month we will be continuing with our lessons on the Gospels/Great Feasts!

Looking ahead:

December 9th: No class for our annual St. Nicholas Day Celebration (parents watch for more information about this day)

December 16th will be our last class for 2018, resuming regular classes on Jan 13th 2019!

### **Our volunteers this year:**

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

# COLLEGE CORNER

Flint OCF:

Continues to meet throughout the Month of November. We will be attending a retreat with the FOCUS Ministry on November 17 & 18th

## Prayers for our college students:

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



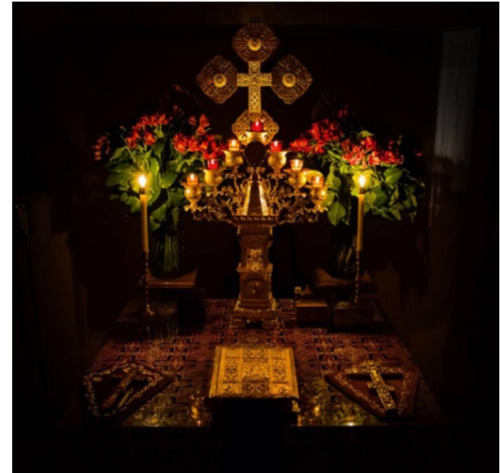
**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (OCF)** is the official campus ministry organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.





# "METANOIA"

LEARNING TO CHANGE ONE'S HEART FOR GOD



**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 they believed? Now is your opportunity to come, discuss, and learn about the fullness of what the Ancient Christian Faith is all about!**

**Classes will begin in October, every Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30 PM.**

## **Fall Semester, 2018**

<b>Wednesday, October 3rd:</b>	<b>What Happens to Us at Baptism?</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 10th:</b>	<b>The Incredible Mysteries Surrounding the Eucharist</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 17th:</b>	<b>What is Repentance and Why is Confession Needed?</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 24th:</b>	<b>A Royal Priesthood and a Holy Nation</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 31st:</b>	<b>The Eternality of Marriage</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 7th:</b>	<b>For the Healing of Soul and Body</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 14th:</b>	<b>The Mystery of Death in the Ancient Christian Church</b>

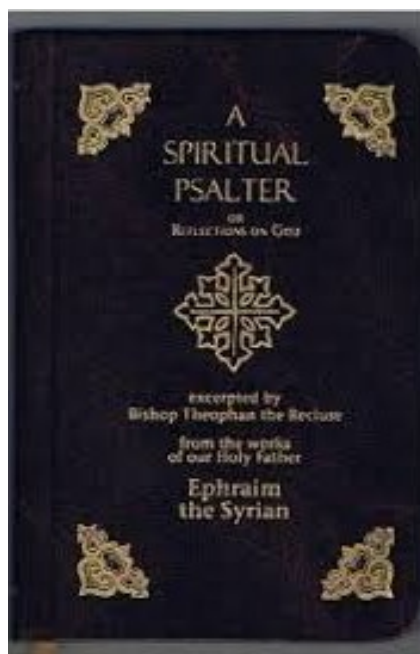
*Adult Education*

# Recommended Reading



## A Spiritual Psalter

This collection of writings by Saint Ephrem the Syrian, compiled by Saint Theophan the Recluse, is arranged in the manner of a Psalter, divided into kathismata. The writings cover a variety of spiritual matters, ranging from repentance and contrition, to meditations on the Incarnation and hymns to the Theotokos. Includes a life of Saint Ephrem the Syrian.



AVAILABLE FOR DIGITAL DOWNLOAD:

<https://www.stnicholasoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/spiritual-psalter-or-reflections-on-god-ephraim-the-syrian.pdf>



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

# THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!

## Coffee Hour Volunteers

### November 4th:

Brian & Tammy Arnes

### November 11th:

Jeremy & Renea Becklehamer

### November 18th:

Doug & Melissa Auxier

### November 25th:

Andrew & Meghan Durand

## Parish Greeters

### November 4th:

Roland & Lori Durmmond

### Novmeber 11th:

Wes & Donna Nakagiri

### November 18th:

Mia Jonascu

### November 25th:

Pat Smith

## Epistle Readers

### November 4th:

Sue Walton & Rdr Nathan Auxier

### Novmeber 11th:

Sbdn Andrew Durand & Jenni Otis

### November 18th:

Rdr Brian Walton & Sue Walton

### November 25th:

Rdr. Chris Ballnik & Sbdn Andrew Durand

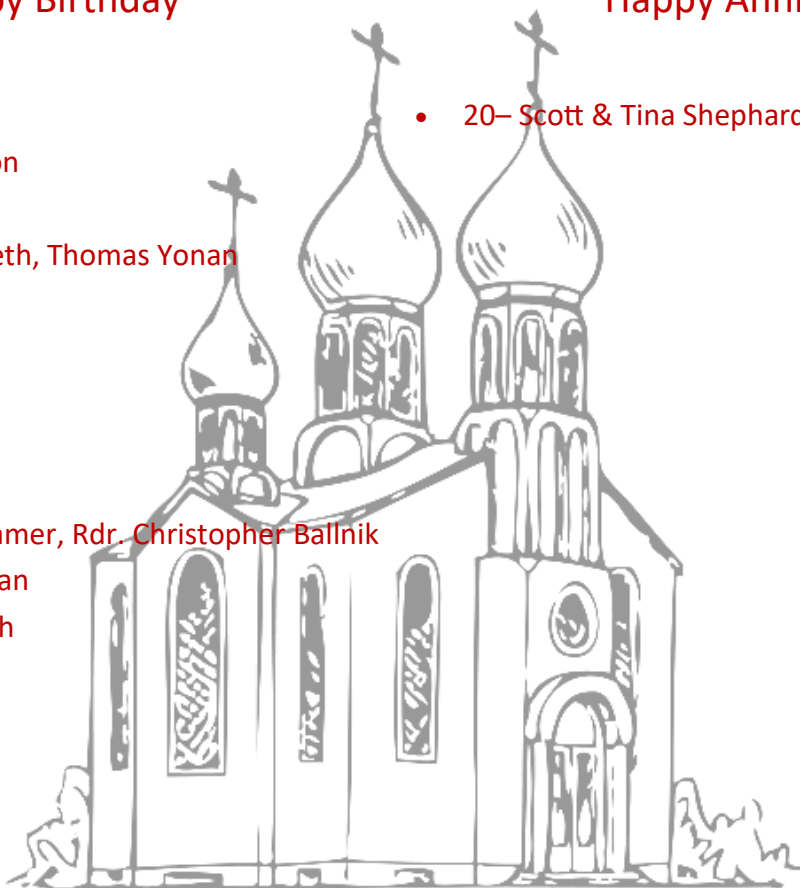
## Wishing you many blessed years!

### Happy Birthday

- 2– Sawyer Yonan
- 4– Zachary Wilkinson
- 6– Gregory Auxier
- 7– Sbdn. Paul Hildreth, Thomas Yonan
- 11– Brian Walton
- 12– Susan Walton
- 14– Dr. Janet Frick
- 15– Justin Auxier
- 19– Pam Grubaugh
- 22– Renea Becklehamer, Rdr. Christopher Ballnik
- 23– Daniel Lanterman
- 28– Michelle Forsyth
- 29– Julia Auxier
- 30– Ezekiel Watson

### Happy Anniversary

- 20– Scott & Tina Shephard



## Seminarian Gift Cards

We will be collecting gift cards and donations for seminarian families who are in need during the Christmas Break. Most families who attend seminary do not have the funds to purchase gifts for their children (or for each other), as many have given up their careers and regular income to follow a calling to serve the Lord.

Please consider purchasing a gift card for a seminarian family, by taking a tag from the Nativity Tree located in the Vestibule (after November 14th), and returning the corresponding gift card.



Advent Gift Giving 2018



# Cookie Walk & Craft Sale

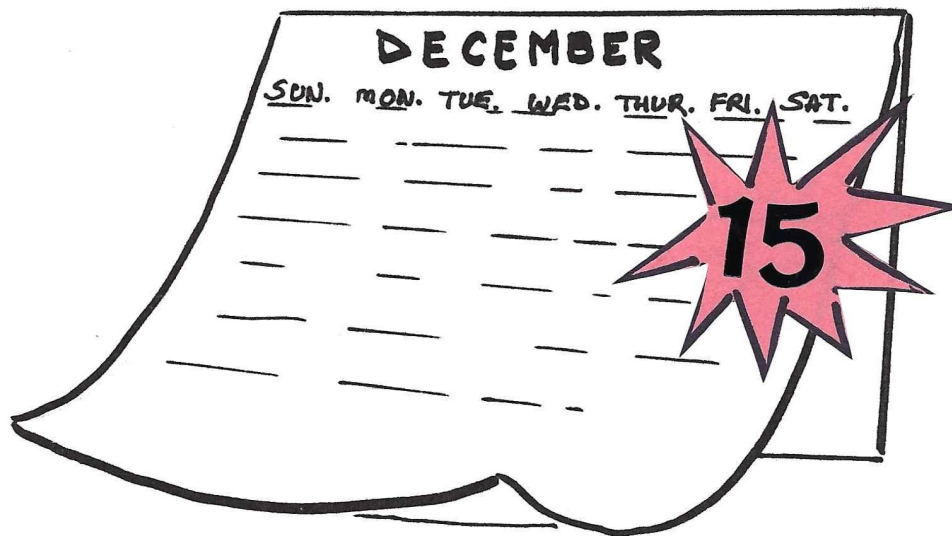


Coming soon:

Saturday, December 15, 2018

Bakers - Crafters - Volunteers  
are needed!

Mark your Calendars!



Look for more information and a sign-up sheet.

Any Questions?

See:

Pat Smith, Rebecca Lazar or Liz Ziats

# Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan

## 2018 SPEAKER SERIES

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

### 2018 OCW Board of Directors

Mary Ann Dadich – President	Mary Stanesa – Programming
Helen Martin – Vice President	Grace Kovacevic – Trustee
Effie Iwankowski – Secretary	Mary Lafter – Trustee
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](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](mailto:cterova@gmail.com)**  
**[teamterova.com](http://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!