

Let My Prayer Arise

By the Wood of the Cross

A Message from Fr. Gabriel

This coming month, we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving cross. We re-live the world's first coming into contact with the tree of redemption, by the uncovering the instrument of our salvation by Empress Helena in 326 AD.

In order to better understand this life-giving wood, and to prepare us better for the feast in which we celebrate in a few short weeks, we will once again ask for a "word" from St. Theodore the Studite, on the importance and magnitude of the wood of the cross.

How precious the gift of the Cross! How splendid it is to contemplate!

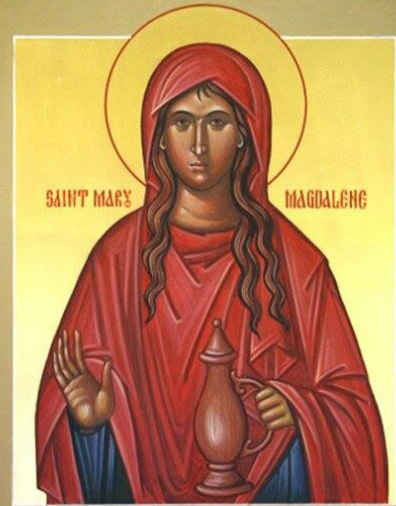
On the Cross, there is no mingling of good and evil, as in the tree of paradise! It is wholly beautiful to behold, and good to taste. The fruit of this tree is not death...but life. It is not darkness...it is light. This tree does not cast us out of Paradise...but rather opens the way for our return.

This was the Tree on which Christ, like a king on a chariot, destroyed the devil and lord of death, and freed the human race from tyranny. This was the Tree upon which the Lord, like a brave warrior in hands, feet, and side, healed the wounds of sin that the evil serpent had inflicted on our nature.

Continued Pg 3

August in Review:

Our parish family is blessed to welcome the newly illumined warrior of God Bob (Theophan) Forsyth into our parish family. We were also able to welcome our two newest Catechumens, Seth and Nyomi, into our family as they make their journey home.



September 2018

Inside this Issue

- Prayer Life
- 2018 Parish Report
- Monthly Forecast
- Fellowship of St. Photini
- Parish Youth
- OCF
- Adult Education

Important Dates to Remember

- 9/5 Annual Pet Blessing
- 9/8 Nativity of the Theotokos
- 9/9 Start of Church School
- 9/13 Exaltation of the Cross
- 9/25 Konevets Chior
- 9/26 Night under the stars



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:

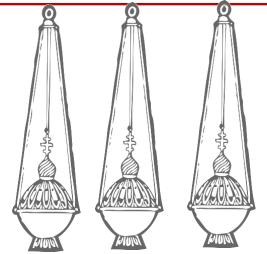
Mark 16: 1-8
 1 Corinthians 16: 13-24
 Matthew 21: 33-42



Prayer Life

Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| His Beatitude Metropolitan | Bryan |
| Theodosius | Doug |
| His Beatitude Metropolitan | Megan |
| Herman | Duncan |
| His Eminence Archbishop | Perpetua |
| Melchisedek | Pat |
| Archpriest Dimitri Vincent | Jan |
| Subdeacon Paul Hildreth | Kyle |
| Susan | Aiden |
| Vinnie | Lon |
| Autumn | Lon |
| Katherine | James |
| John | Joanna |
| Anne | Sandy |
| Katherine | Finn |
| Anastasia | Michael |
| Alex | Theodora |
| Elaine | Damian |
| Bill | Ella |
| Carol | Elnora |
| Anne | Michael |
| Carolyn | Peter |
| Manuela | James |
| Frankie | Michael |
| John | Maryann |
| Stacie | |



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		Seth Nyomi	Solome Daugherty Rachael Welch Renee Auxier Shannon

“By the Wood of the Cross” Cont.

*A tree once caused our death, but today, a Tree brings us life. **Once deceived by a tree, we have no repelled the cunning serpent by a Tree.** What an astonishing transformation! That death should become life, that decay should become immortality, that shame should become glory! Well might the holy apostle exclaim: “Far be it for me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me...and I to the world!”*

The supreme wisdom that flowered on the Cross, has shown the folly of worldly wisdom’s pride. The knowledge of all good, which is the fruit of the Cross, has cut away the shoots of wickedness. The wonders accomplished through this Tree were foreshadowed clearly, even by the mere types and figures that existed in the past.

Meditate on these if you are eager to learn! Was it not the wood of the tree that enabled Noah, at God’s command, to escape the destruction of the flood together with his sons, his wife, his sons’ wives, and every kind of animal? And surely the rod of Moses prefigured the Cross, when it changed water into blood, swallowed up the false serpents of Pharaoh’s magicians, divided the sea in one stroke, and then restored the waters to their normal course, drowning the enemy and saving God’s own people?

Aaron’s rod, which blossomed in one day in proof of his true priesthood, was another figure of the Cross. And did not Abraham foreshadow the Cross when he bound his son Isaac and placed him on a pile of wood?

By the Cross, death was slain and Adam was restored to life. The Cross is the glory of all the Apostles, the crown of the Martyrs, the sanctification of the Saints. By the Cross, we put on Christ and cast aside our former self, and by the Cross, we sheep of Christ have been gathered into one flock, destined for the sheepfolds of heaven.

Through the prayers of our venerable Saint Theodore, O Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us!



Monthly Forecast

2nd Annual Pet Blessing at Adopt a Pet Fenton:

On Wednesday, September 5th, we will be gathering at Adopt A Pet Fenton (13575 Fenton Rd. Fenton, MI 48430) at 6:30 PM for a short prayer service and blessing of animals. All leashed animals are welcome, as we ask for the prayers of St. Mammas, patron saint of animals!

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos:

With the beginning of the New Liturgical Year in September, we begin the 12 Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church with the Nativity of the Theotokos on Saturday, September 8th. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated as a Pan-Orthodox Community at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Burton!

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross:

Our parish community will be hosting the entire Pan Orthodox community for the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on Thursday, September 13th at 6:30 PM. Please make sure you clear your calendar for this incredibly beautiful and important feast day!

The Konevet's Choir Returns!

Making their return this year to the Michigan area, we will be once again blessed to host the world renowned Konevet's choir from St. Petersburg, Russia here to St. Mary's for a special concert on Tuesday, September 25th, at 7:00 PM. This is a free will offering concert which will go to benefit the Konevets Monastery in Russia and the missionary work of the choir!

Mortgage Update:

The Mortgage Balloon Payment came due in August, and the parish council decided to refinance with State Bank. The current balance is \$209,300, which means that since the Mortgage Initiative began in January of 2017, we have taken off over \$83,700 from the principal balances of our liabilities! It is the hope and prayer that this will be the last time we have to refinance a mortgage when it comes due in 5 years!

Night Under the Stars:

Come and join us on Wednesday, September 26th at the D Bar A Ranch Observatory in Metamora, for an outdoor Evening Compline service, a discussion on the cosmos around the campfire, and access to the D Bar A Ranch Observatory and telescope to get some up close images of Mars, Saturn, Star Clusters, Galaxies, and more! Compline begins just after sunset at 7:30 PM. An address can be found in the attached flier!

Metanoia Classes Starting in October!

Starting October 3rd and running until November 14th, we will be offering the Fall Semester of our Metanoia (Orthodoxy 101) Course for seekers, catechumens, and faithful who are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Faith. This semester's focus is on what the Ancient Christian Church believes about: Baptism, Chrismation, the Holy Eucharist, The Priesthood, Marriage, Unction, and Death. This course has been extremely fruitful, and has manifested several wonderful discussions about our faith in Christ, not only from Orthodox Christians, but from seekers from various Christian Denominations. Be sure to join us on Wednesday evenings after Compline, starting in October!



"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."

In September we will reach out to our local community, in conjunction with Adopt-a-Pet Fenton for our second annual Pet Blessing on September , 5th.

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

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

OCTOBER:

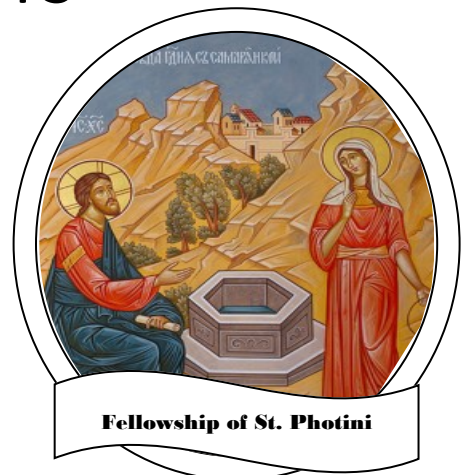
Cancer Blankets

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.' "



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 !!!

OUR PARISH YOUTH



St. George Pre-School: As most of you know, St. George, one of our sister parishes in Genesee County, started the first local Orthodox Child Care and Pre-School at their Church this past summer. If you know of anyone who either lives or works near Flint, I encourage you to spread the word about this school, which is a great opportunity to help kids grow in their faith! See the attached flier for more details and for contact information!

Our church school year is starting back up again Sept. 9th with a blessing of students and a quick class following for the kids to “meet” their teacher and other kids in the class! We have done some rearranging of our volunteers so your child may have a new teacher this year!

We have some fun fall activities on the calendar for October, so keep an eye out for those announcements! We are also looking into doing a candle fundraiser to help off set some of the costs of the church school program and activities- stay tuned for more info on that!

Thank you to all of our volunteers, we are all looking forward to another great year!

Church School Begins September 9th

COLLEGE CORNER

Flint OCF:

The month of August was eventful for the Flint OCF. On the 18th, we volunteered with Carriage Town Ministries to help with their "Back to the Books" event for underprivileged children. There were over 100 kids. The day included a Bible lesson, story time and educational games. Before they left, we handed out shoes, backpacks and other necessary items to kids and their moms. Then on the 25th, we volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. We made 3 dog houses for the Humane Society and hung a huge (very heavy) sign on the side of the road. Our next meeting will be the first week of September and we'll be having our 2nd annual OCF bonfire!

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

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

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

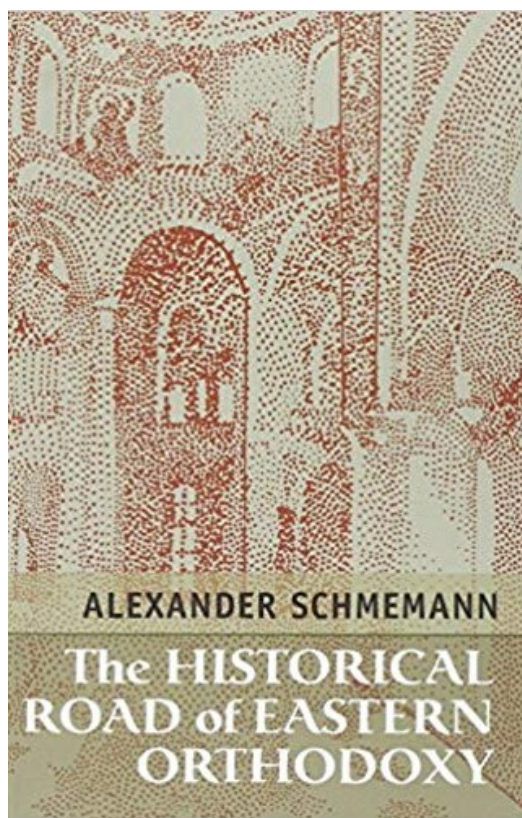
Adult Education

Recommended Reading



Historical Road of Eastern Orthodoxy

By: Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann



A stimulating interpretation of the history of Eastern Christianity, this book serves as a general introduction to the Orthodox Church and is widely read by Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike. As Schmemmann himself said This book is not a scholarly investigation into the history of the Orthodox Church nor a mere manual. It is a reflection on the long historical pilgrimage of Orthodoxy, an attempt to discern in our past that which is essential and permanent and that which is secondary, mere past. It is my sincere hope that in reading this book Western Christians may realize that our past is also their past, or rather, our common past, that essential 'term of reference' without which no mutual understanding is possible. As the Eastern isolation of Orthodoxy is coming to an end, as it becomes more and more implanted in the West, it becomes urgent that its history be known and understood.



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

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!

Coffee Hour Volunteers

September 2nd:

Bruce Watson & Rebecca Lazar

September 9th:

David & Cindy Welch

September 16th:

Marisa Bailey

September 23rd:

John & Renee Auxier

September 30th:

Chris Ballnik

Parish Greeters

September 2nd:

David & Cindy Welch

September 9th:

Scott & Tina Shephard

September 16th:

Wes & Donna Nakagiri

September 23rd:

Roland & Lori Drummond

September 30th:

Pat Smith

Epistle Readers

September 2nd:

Sbdn Andrew Durand & Jenni Otis

September 9th:

Rdr. Brian Walton & Sue Walton

September 16th:

Rdr. Chris Ballnic & Sbdn Andrew Durand

September 23rd:

Rdr David Schutt & Rdr Brian Walton

September 30th:

Janet Wiese & Rdr. Chris Ballnik

Wishing you many blessed years!

Happy Birthday

- 10– Harriet Raphael
- 11– Emma Khoury & Alexandra Cooley
- 13– Margaret Shipley
- 19– Jeremy Becklehamer
- 20– Abigail Arnes & Trisha Shephard
- 27– Tatiana Tyrell
- 29– Jeremy Blohm
- 30– Robyn Ballnik

Happy Anniversary

- 6– Joseph & Jenni Otis
- 6– Fr. Dn Michael & Susan Schlaack
- 14– David & Jaclyn Daugherty
- 25– Bruce Watson & Rebecca Lazar
- 28– John & Pat Matts





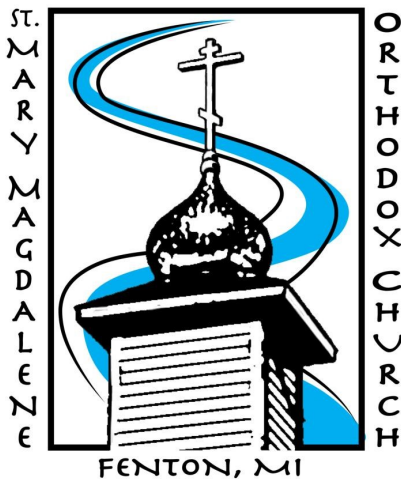
Adopt - A - Pet



A friend for life



2nd Annual Community Pet Blessing



Wednesday, September 5th @ 6:30 PM
Adopt a Pet Fenton
13575 N Fenton Rd. Fenton, MI

Join us for the 2nd annual Pet Blessing, sponsored by Fenton Adopt-A-Pet. The blessing will be officiated by Fr. Gabriel Bilas of St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church. Bring your own leashed or crated pets to be blessed, and receive an icon of St. Mammias, patron saint of animals!
All animals are welcome!

For More Information, contact the Church at (810) 750-1401 or Adopt a Pet Fenton at (810) 629-0723

st-marymagdalene.org or adoptapetfenton.com



If you are looking for a safe, nurturing, and fun learning environment for your child within a Christian setting this is where you need to be! We encourage all to stop in, tour our center and meet our Program Director and team!

We will provide developmentally appropriate programs focusing on each child's growth and needs in the following areas:

- ❖ Arts
- ❖ Language and Cognitive
- ❖ Literacy
- ❖ Mathematics
- ❖ Physical
- ❖ Science and Technology
- ❖ Social and Emotional
- ❖ Social Studies
- ❖ Spiritual

**NOW ENROLLING for the
Summer and Fall**

Meet our team:

- ❖ Priest: Joseph Abud
- ❖ Protodeacon: Michael Bassett
- ❖ Preschool Ministry: Leslee Abud
- ❖ Program Director: Jessica Blake
- ❖ Administrator: Kelly Dotson

07/10/2018

St. George Preschool & Childcare

Programs

Infants

Toddlers

Preschool

Latchkey

We Are Located At

5191 Lennon Rd
Flint, MI 48507
810-732-1500

stgeorgeschool17@gmail.com

saintgeorgeflint.org/preschool.html

FB: St. George Preschool &
Childcare

Questions?

Call or email us

A Ministry of St. George Orthodox Church

State of MI Childcare License: DC250393111

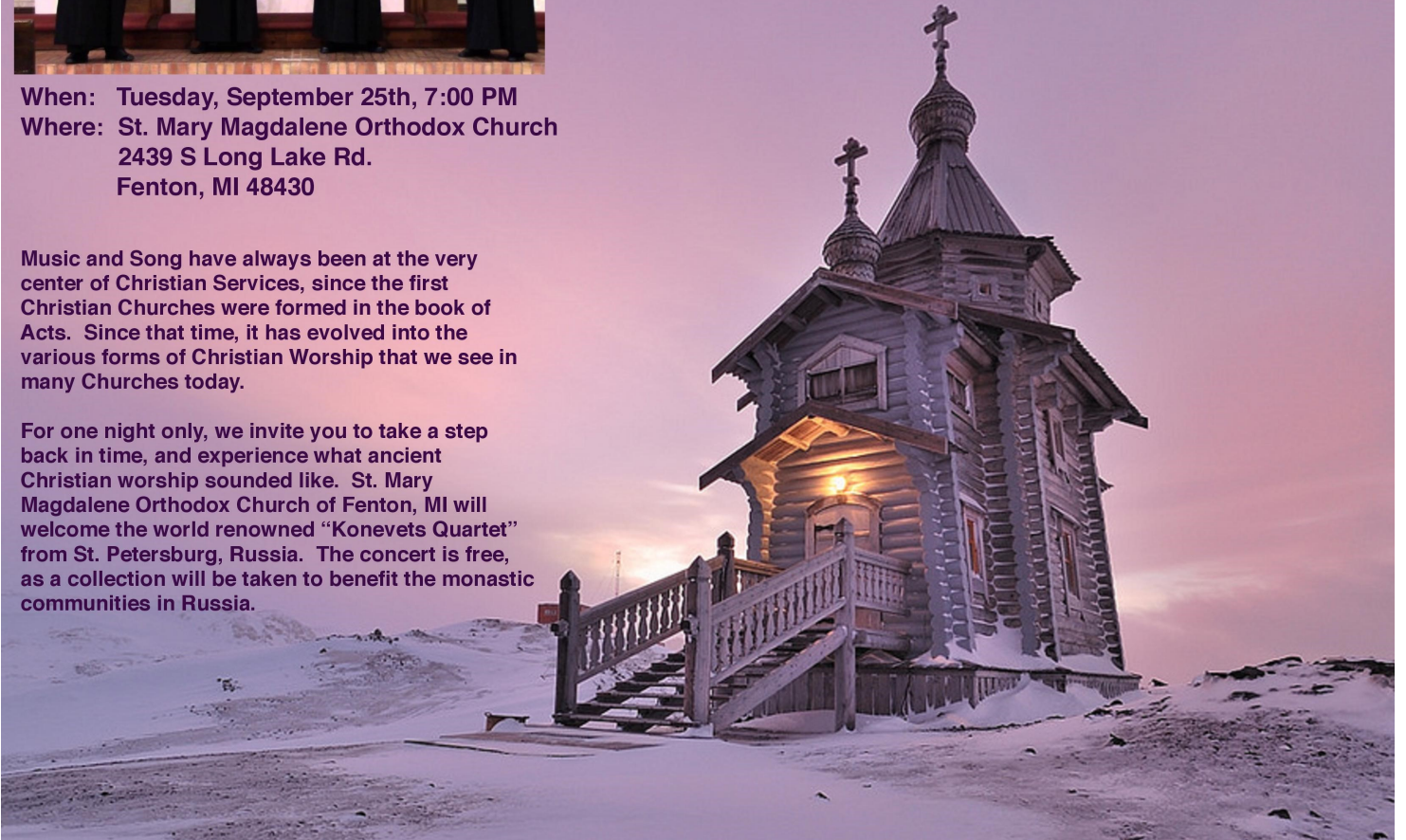


The Konevets Quartet Presents
“Ancient Christian Music”

When: Tuesday, September 25th, 7:00 PM
Where: St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church
2439 S Long Lake Rd.
Fenton, MI 48430

Music and Song have always been at the very center of Christian Services, since the first Christian Churches were formed in the book of Acts. Since that time, it has evolved into the various forms of Christian Worship that we see in many Churches today.

For one night only, we invite you to take a step back in time, and experience what ancient Christian worship sounded like. St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church of Fenton, MI will welcome the world renowned “Konevets Quartet” from St. Petersburg, Russia. The concert is free, as a collection will be taken to benefit the monastic communities in Russia.



NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

OBSERVING AND DISCUSSING THE HEAVENS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH



Schedule of Events

Wednesday, September 26th at the D Bar A Ranch Observatory
880 E Sutton Rd. Metamora, MI 48455

7:30 PM: Evening Compline

8:00 PM: Discussion around the Campfire led by Fr. Gabriel

8:45 PM: Views from the Observatory of Several Planets and Galaxies

Come and join us for an evening under the stars, as we discuss the vast symbology and science behind the cosmos! After the stars come out, we will be gathering at the large telescope located in the D Bar A Ranch Observatory to get some up close images of Mars, Saturn, various star clusters, galaxies, and nebulae! Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

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.

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

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!