



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

April 2021

Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-750-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielmmm@gmail.com

2439 S. Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

<http://www.st-marymagdalene.org>

Office Hours*:

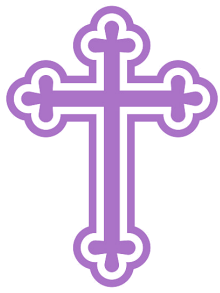
Monday 10:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm

Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

*or by appointment





St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH



Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-720-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielstmm@gmail.com

2439 S. Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

<http://www.st-marymagdalene.org>

MONTHLY BULLETIN

APRIL 2021

Important Dates

to Remember:

- ✝ 4/2 Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm
- ✝ 4/7 Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy at St. Nicholas, 6:00pm
- ✝ 4/9 Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm
- ✝ 4/13 Parish Council Meeting
- ✝ 4/14 Small Compline, 6:00pm
- ✝ 4/15 Live Reading of St. Mary of Egypt, 6:30pm
- ✝ 4/16 Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm
- ✝ 4/21 Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy at St. George, 6:00pm
- ✝ 4/23 Lazarus Saturday Vespers, 6:30pm
- ✝ 4/24 Pan-Orthodox Lazarus Saturday Liturgy, at St. Nicholas. 9:30am
- ✝ 4/25 Palm Sunday Liturgy, 9:50am & Bridegroom Matins, 7pm
- ✝ 4/26 Bridegroom Matins, 7pm
- ✝ 4/27 Bridegroom Matins, 7pm
- ✝ 4/28 Holy Unction, 7pm
- ✝ 4/29 Liturgy for the Institution of the Eucharist, 10am & Passions Gospels, 7pm
- ✝ 4/30 Unnailing Vespers, 3pm & Lamentations, 7pm
- ✝ 5/1 Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am & Nocturns & Paschal Divine Liturgy, 11:30pm

Inside this issue:

Birthday/Anniversary	5
Prayer List	6
Monthly Forecast	8
Parish Youth	12
Community Outreach	14
Lenten Information	15-
	22



The Smallest Cross

A message from Fr. Gabriel

In just a few short weeks, as we are doing here at the mid-point of Great Lent, we will once again find ourselves at the foot of the cross...gazing up at our Savior who gave up everything, in order to save his own creation. On Holy Thursday we will stand in the middle of a dark Church and experience perhaps the darkest moment of mankind's history...when we refused to deny ourselves and our pride, and participated in the earthly death of the Creator of all. On that evening we will sing:

*Today, He who hung the earth upon the waters, is now hung upon the cross.
He who is the King of the angels, is arrayed in a crown of thorns.
He who wraps the heavens in clouds is wrapped in the purple of mockery.
He who in the Jordan set Adam free, now receives blows upon His face.
The bridegroom of the Church, is transfixed with nails.
The Son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear.
O Christ...We venerate Thy Passion.
Show us also Thy Glorious Resurrection.*

While the Church throughout the centuries has hymned and showed us the importance of The Cross, there is a question that we should all be pondering as we reach this middle point of Lent: **"What does the cross mean for us?"** To the fallen world, the cross means nothing. It is a simple instrument used thousands of years ago to punish murderers. But to the Orthodox Christian, **the Cross is everything!**

Our Lord once spoke these words: **"Whoever desires to come after me, let him**

deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me!" Just as our Lord had to suffer through hardships in order to show His love towards mankind, so we too must also bear and overcome our own personal hardships through this life, not falling into despair or complaining when things don't go our way, but rather **relying** on the hope that our Lord provided us on Golgotha.

There is no other way to follow Christ than to suffer for His sake, because that is what He did for us. We bear our God given crosses in this life in the same way that Jesus bore His cross...with humility, perseverance, and hope in the resurrection. With that being said, why does it always feel like the crosses that we have been asked to bear through life seem so difficult and so heavy? Why is it that it seems that others have better lives than us? Why are their hardships so miniscule when compared to ours? Why does a denial of ourselves and a willingness to pick up our Crosses and follow Christ have to be so difficult? I'm sure that each of us can point to a day in our life, where rather than bearing our passions and difficulties, it feels as if our ankles are tied to them and they are dragging us through life, as our bodies hit and bounce out of every Michigan sized pothole that the world can throw at us.

There is a story about a monk who was out in the desert and was constantly complaining about his crosses. He prayed and prayed to his guardian angel telling him: *"I left the world and desired to devote my entire life to coming into communion with the living God! I am trying to bear my cross day after day, and all I seem to be getting is trial after trial!"*

Finally, after several days of offering his complaint, the monk's guardian angel came to him and said: *"Look, I have grown weary of your complaints, and I hope I don't hear any more of this. You don't like the cross you were given? Fine...come and pick out your own!"*

So the guardian angel took the monk to a room that was full of crosses! There were big ones, small ones, heavy ones, light ones, some that would fit on your neck, and others that could have been used on the biggest domes of the biggest Churches in the world. The guardian angel said to the monk: *"I'm going to let you alone to decide which cross you want."*

The monk was thrilled and loved this idea! He went and gazed at the wall of crosses, until he finally came across one that he was attracted to. Of course, since he had been through hardships in his life, the cross he found was the smallest one of the bunch, barely big enough to fit a small chain through for him to wear it around his neck. He called the angel in and said: *"This one, this is the one that I want. It's perfect!"*

Surprisingly, the angel said: *"No, you can't have that one!"*

The monk was incredibly perplexed: *"You told me I could choose any cross that I wanted!"*

To which the angel replied: *"Yes, you can choose any cross in this room...except the one you came in here with in the first place!"*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, if we don't have the eyes of faith to understand what The Cross of Christ means to us, if our Lord's sacrifice and love is not the single most important thing going on in our lives, then the smallest crosses will seem like the biggest burdens. When our faith is weak and it is not infused with the hope of the resurrection, even the smallest daggers that the devil throws at us will destroy us. But if we keep The Cross always in our minds, when we see how beautiful it is, when we contemplate on the fruits that it has given us, when we realize the enormity of the cross that the creator of all bore for the sake of his fallen creation. When we see that it is our God Given crosses which provide for us a bridge to the life-saving passion of our savior, all of our struggles through life can be more freely embraced, and they become easier to bear.

May our Lord continue to bless our journey towards Golgotha, giving us the strength to persevere through the difficulties of this life, bearing up our Crosses with the same humility that our Lord had when He sacrificed His Life for the sake of the World.

A few updates from the Church....

Upstairs Loft Seating Available: Since we have (finally) welcomed back the choir to their proper place in the Church, the upstairs loft is now available for additional seating. While we will still stream the services downstairs, if you would like to be in the Church, there are spots up there now!

Joining With the Choir: His Eminence has blessed those that have been vaccinated to join the choir once again. I just ask that you speak with Greg, Anna, or Elena before joining the choir so that we do not have too many on one part.

Month in Review

What a joyous beginning to Great and Holy Lent that we had in March! It was incredible to finally be in Church again to work on our spiritual lives together during Clean Week, to bring our icons to process around the Church while showing the world the Triumph of Orthodoxy, and to begin the Great Fast towards Holy Pascha as one parish family once again. Thank you all who came, who watched and prayed with us from afar, and who sang and help set up for the many services that we had in the Church!

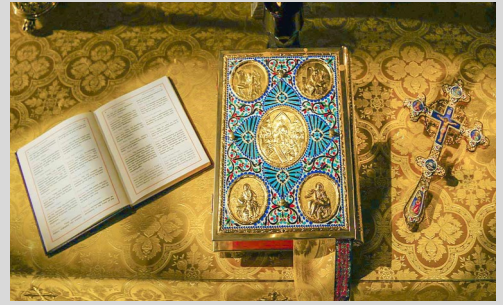
Recommended Reading

"The Lenten Spring" by Fr. Thomas Hopko

The Church welcomes the Lenten spring with a spirit of exultation...with the enthusiasm of a child... The tone of the church services is one of brightness and light." Thus the author begins the first of forty meditations on Great Lent, casting out the gloom and darkness with which many Christians approach this holy season and revealing, in a simple, clear and beautiful manner, its true meaning.

In his meditations, Fr Hopko draws on his long experience as a pastor and teacher, working with young and old throughout the country, to present to the modern reader the relevance of the Church's two-thousand-year-old tradition of preparing to greet our Lord's Resurrection. In his work he also makes extensive use of all facets of the church tradition: inspiring scriptural and liturgical passages from the Lenten services, the spiritual wisdom of the ancient saints and fathers, as well as the teachings of modern guides to the Christian life.

All Christians who undertake the yearly journey to the blessed Pascha of our Lord will find inspiration and guidance in these meditations. All can enjoy reading and rereading them and share in the profound thoughts of the author as they make their own spiritual way through this holy season.



This Month's Sunday Scripture Readings

April 4th:

Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Mark 8:34-9:1

April 11th:

Hebrews 6:13-20

Mark 9:17-31

April 18th:

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 10:32-45

April 25th:

Philippians 4:4-9

John 12:1-18



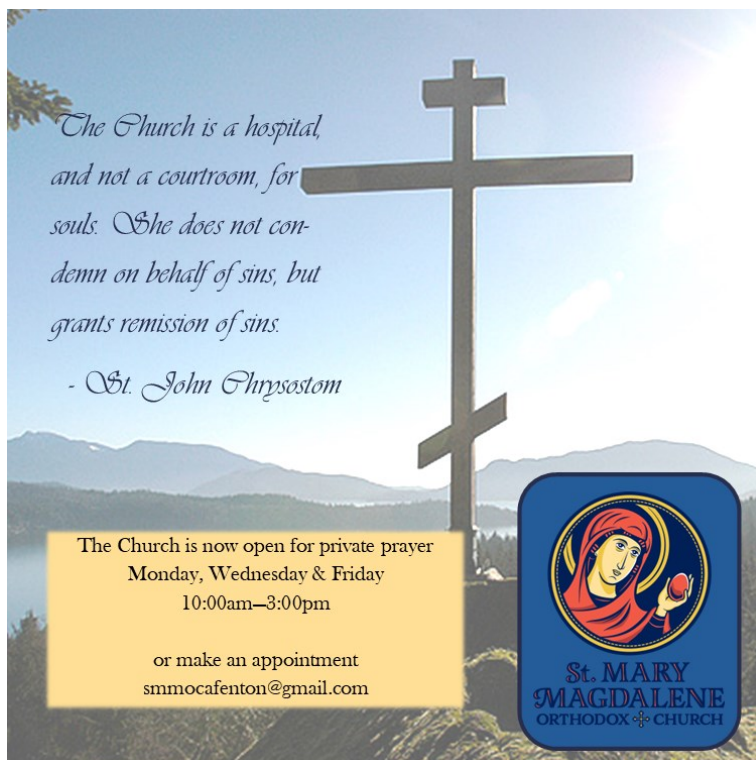
WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- ✝ 4– Elizabeth Ziats, Rachael Hildreth
- ✝ 11– Theodore Colley
- ✝ 13– Samuel Bondira
- ✝ 14– Johnathan Wilkinson
- ✝ 16– John Wolf, Jamil Czubenko
- ✝ 17– Tina Shephard
- ✝ 22– Brian Arnes
- ✝ 26– Sbdn. Robert Lanterman, George Jonascu
- ✝ 27– Inna Walls
- ✝ 30– Adelaide Lanterman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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



PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

Don't forget while you are social distancing to turn off the T.V. and to utilize our wonderful parish lending library to help feed your spiritual growth . Simply sign-out the book you are borrowing on the sheet next to the bookshelf in the Parish Education Center. The parish lending library can be accessed Sunday after Liturgy or during office hours.

The Library covers the following topics and MORE!

- ✝ Introduction to Orthodoxy, Orthodox Theology, Patristics, Spiritual Study, Children's Books, Service Books, Orthodox Living & Prayer, Orthodox Ethics, Church History, Lives of the Saints, Liturgical Theology

Office Hours

The Church Office and Sanctuary will now be open from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for private prayer and reflection, phone inquiries, deliveries, or for setting an appointment with Fr. Gabriel.

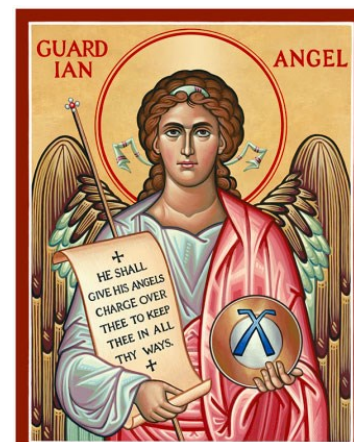
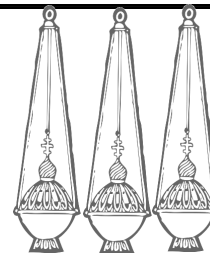
Prayer Life

Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and sisters

Metropolitan Herman
Archpriest Joseph
Matushka Laura
Anastasia
Alex
Elaine
Peter
David
Michael
Mason
Pat
Joseph
Linda
Tonya
Arminda
Ryan
Dimitri
Damian
Thom

Theodore
Bill
Joann
Ahron
Linda
Joane
Irene
Bruce
Carol
Debra
Christy
Nancy
Tonya
Kim
Mike
Graham
Rachael
Ronald
Dawn

Wendy
Michael
Gabriel
Eric
Kira
Natalie



Armed Forces

Matthew Beck; Air Force
Michael Oginsky; U.S. Marines
Patrick Tejkl; U.S. Marines
Lindsey Cazatt; U.S. Navy
Stephany Bishop; U.S. Navy
Jason Wilburn; Army Rangers
Alex Suriano; Air National Guard

Armed Forces Cont.

Dallas Watson; Air Force
Bradley Grimes, Seraphim Lazar-Watson; Air Force
Stephen Bondaria— Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander
Sarah Tyler—U.S. Air Force

Catechumens

Alyssa
William
Anthony
Anastasia
David
Christian
Emily

Anniversary of Parish Member's Repose

1- Richard Philips
6- Louis Gejoff
17- George Raphael
23- Daniela Szatmari-Voicu
27- Samuel Caldarea

Mother's With Child

Christina
Anna
Christine
Shannon
Matushka Laura
Inna

Seminarian Family

Alexander & Danielle Earl

Recently Departed

Parish Greeters

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Epistle Readers

Primary

Back-up

April 4th:
Scott & Tina Shephard

April 11th:
George & Julie Jonascu

April 18th:
Seth & Mia Hillaker

April 25th: (Palm Sunday)
Scott & Tina Shephard

April 4th:
Terry & Frieda Owens

April 11th:
Chuck & Minka Owens

April 18th:
Rdr. John & Renee Auxier

April 25th:
Seth & Mia Hillaker

April 4th:
Sue Walton

April 11th:
Sbdn. Andrew Durand

April 18th:
Rdr. Brian Walton

April 25th:
Rdr. Christopher Ballnik

April 4th:
Rdr. Nathan Auxier

April 11th:
Jenni Otis

April 18th:
Sue Walton

April 25th:
Sbdn. Andrew Durand

ALL NIGHT VIGIL



Teens & Families
Friday, April 30th
following Lamentations

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

2439 S Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

The light of CHRIST illumines all



Join us for the
Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts
Friday Evenings 6:30pm March 20th—April 16th

Join us as we prepare, through prayer and love, to journey with Christ to Golgotha and His Holy Resurrection!

Monthly Forecast

Pan Orthodox PreSanctified Liturgy:

As always, keep an eye on the schedule regarding the Pan Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy time and locations! On April 7th we will be meeting at St. Nicholas and on April 21st we will be meeting at St. George! These services are held at 6:00pm

Reading of the life of St. Mary of Egypt:

As has been a small tradition, we will be streaming the reading of the life of St. Mary of Egypt live and on our Facebook page on Thursday, April 15th, at 6:30 PM. Keep up with our social media pages and our live stream schedule for more information. Join us in hearing about this incredible Saint who we celebrate the week before Holy Week! All are welcome to come in person if you are able.

Children and the Old Testament Readings:

A sign up will be available in the vestibule for our children to have the chance to read from the 15 old testament readings assigned for Holy Saturday Morning Divine Liturgy. This has always been such a beautiful tradition, one that we had to miss this past year! Use this time of Great Lent to practice the readings with your children!

Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy:

This year's Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy will be held at St. Nicholas on Saturday, April 24th, beginning at 9:30 AM. This is also traditionally when we perform the preparation of the gifts publicly before Divine Liturgy, so bring your families list of living and departed with you to the service! This is a great opportunity for those new to Orthodoxy and our children to see the preparation of the gifts.

All Night Vigil Sign Up:

As in years past, you can sign up to read from scripture throughout the night on Great and Holy Friday, up until the beginning of our Divine Liturgy on Saturday Morning. The sign up will be available in the vestibule! If you are unable to come in person, the church will be live streaming the tomb all night for your to read your psalms at home.

Monday Basketball:

We will continue our basketball Monday's at Hope Lutheran Church in Linden on April 5th, 12th, and 19th, beginning at 6:00 PM!

Confessions for Great Lent:

There are plenty of opportunities for Lenten Confession this month. Every Saturday after Vigil, as well as beginning Lazarus Saturday Vespers (April 23rd) until April 27th following Bridegroom matins. Keep an eye on the schedule and try to beat the rush that inevitably occurs during Holy Week! Father will only be able to hear confession follow Holy Tuesday by appointment, do not delay!

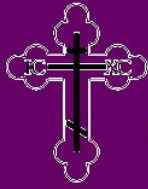
Coffee Hour Resumes:

By the Grace of God, our normal coffee hour has resumed downstairs following Divine Liturgies! Join us for some socially distanced and outdoor fellowship as the weather gets nicer!

Holy Week

See the flyer below for the schedule for Holy Week. Mark your calendars now to ensure attendance at ALL services.





2021 Holy Week Schedule

Friday, April 23rd:

Lazarus Saturday Vespers 6:30pm

Saturday, April 24th:

Preparation of Gifts and Raising of Lazarus Divine Liturgy combined at St. Nicholas 9:30am

Palm Sunday Vespers at St. Mary Magdalene 4pm

Sunday, April 25th: PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:50am

Bridegroom Matins 7pm

Monday, April 26th: HOLY MONDAY

Bridegroom Matins 7pm

Tuesday, April 27th: HOLY TUESDAY

Bridegroom Matins 7pm

Wednesday, April 28th: HOLY WEDNESDAY

Holy Unction 7pm

Thursday, April 29th: HOLY THURSDAY, INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10am

Passions Gospels 7pm

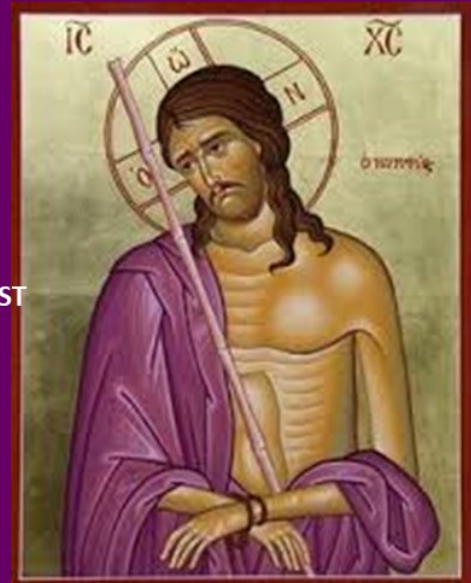
Friday, April 30th: GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

Holy Friday Vespers 3pm

Lamentations and Procession with the Shroud 7pm

Saturday, May 1st: HOLY SATURDAY

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



The Pascha of our Lord

Saturday, May 1st: HOLY SATURDAY

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

Sunday, May 2nd: HOLY PASCHA!!!

Agape Vespers 1pm

St. Mary Magdalene Service Schedule
Great and Holy Lent
2021

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church
 2439 S. Long Lake Rd
 Fenton, MI 48430
 (810) 750-1401
 st-marymagdalene.org

Clean Week (1st Week of Great Lent)

Sunday, March 14th: Liturgy and Forgiveness Vespers, 9:50am
Monday, March 15th: Matins, 9:00am & Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30pm
Tuesday, March 16th: Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm
Wednesday, March 17th: Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm
Thursday, March 18th: Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm
Friday, March 19th: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm
Saturday, March 20th: Vigil for Orthodoxy Sunday, 4pm

2nd Week of Great Lent

Sunday, March 21st: Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy, 9:50am
Wednesday, March 24th: Pan-Orthodox Pre-Sanctified @ SMM, 6pm
Thursday, March 25th: ANNUCIATION Liturgy @ Assumption, 10am
Friday, March 26th: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm
Saturday, March 27th: Memorial Saturday 3:30pm, Vigil 4:00pm

3rd Week of Great Lent

Sunday, March 28th: Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am
Friday, April 2nd: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm
Saturday, April 3rd: Vigil & Confessions 4:00pm

4th Week of Great Lent

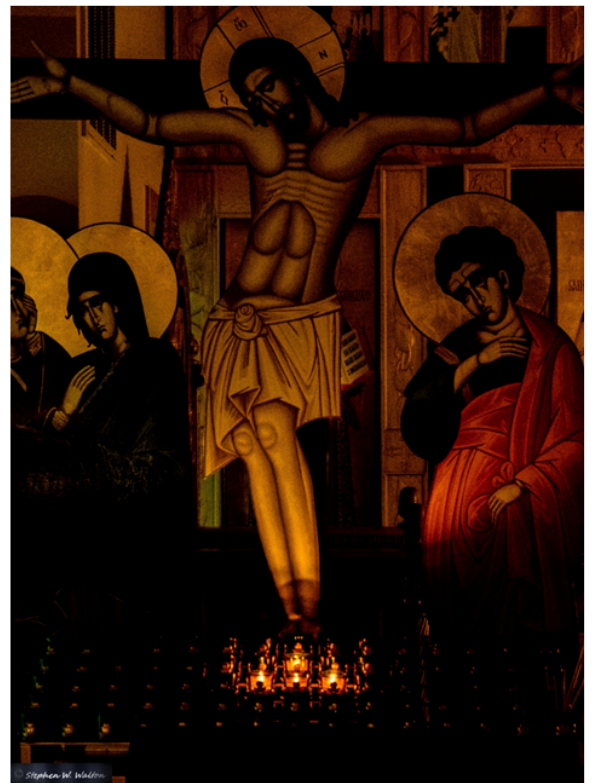
Sunday, April 4th: Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am
Wednesday, April 7th: Pan-Orthodox Pre-Sanctified @ St. Nicholas, 6pm
Friday, April 9th: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm
Saturday, April 10th: Vigil & Confessions 4:00pm

5th Week of Great Lent

Sunday, April 11th: Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am
Wednesday, April 14th: Compline & Confessions, 6:00pm
Thursday, April 15th: Live Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt, 6:30pm
Friday, April 16th: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm
Saturday, April 17th: Vigil & Confessions 4:00pm

6th Week of Great Lent

Sunday, April 18th: Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am
Wednesday, April 21st: Pan-Orthodox Pre-Sanctified @ St. George, 6pm
Friday, April 23rd: Lazarus Saturday Vespers & Confessions, 6:30pm
Saturday, April 24th: Lazarus Saturday Liturgy @ St. Nicholas 9:30am,
 Palm Sunday Vespers & Confessions 4pm



Holy Week

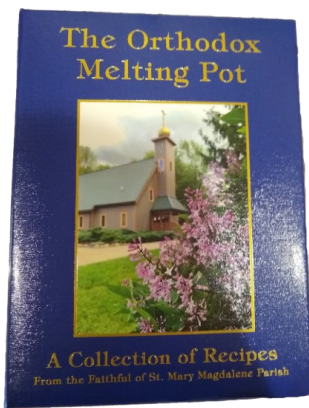
Sunday, April 25th:	+Palm Sunday Liturgy, 9:50am	+Bridegroom Matins, 7:00pm	
Monday, April 26th:	+Bridegroom Matins, 7:00pm		
Tuesday, April 27th:	+Bridegroom Matins, 7:00pm		
Wednesday, April 28th:	+Holy Unction 7:00pm		
Thursday, April 29th:	+Liturgy 10:00am	+Passions Gospels, 7pm	
Friday, April 30th:	+Unnailing Vespers, 3:00pm	+Lamentations, 7:00pm	+All Night Vigil TBD
Saturday, May 1st:	+Liturgy of St. Basil & Old Testament Reading 10am	+Nocturns & Pascal Liturgy, 11:30pm	

Parish Kiosk



“The Orthodox Melting Pot”

A Collection of Recipes from the faithful of St. Mary Magdalene Parish



The Parish Cookbook is available for a suggested donation of \$25 each. Please use the specific envelope designated for the cookbook to make your donation. If you would like a copy shipped to you please contact the parish office

New Arrivals in the kiosk this month!

- ✦ **Adult & Young Adults Books**
 - ✦ **Children’s Books**
 - ✦ **Home Altar Items**
 - ✦ **Psalters**
 - ✦ **Spiritual Psalters**
 - ✦ **Lenten Materials**
 - ✦ **Pascha Gifts**
 - ✦ **Icons**
-and more!!!**



Our Parish Youth

March Church School Announcements

For our Lenten Youth Almsgiving we will be collecting items needed for families who foster children in need. Often, these children come to their foster families with just the clothes on their back. These families turn to places like the Foster Closet of Michigan to get the basic items needed for these children.

Items Needed

(Here is a list of Items for donating)

New or very gently used Clothing (Preemie – Teenage)

New or very gently used Shoes

Coats

Snow Pants/Snow suits

Boots

Non-Drop down Cribs

Toddler beds/Crib Mattress'

Any type of Stroller

Unexpired Car seats/Booster Seats

High Chairs/Booster Seats

All Baby Items

Halloween Costumes

Packs of Socks

Packs of Underwear

Bikes

Hygiene Products

Luggage

Duffel Bags

New or very gently used Books

New or very gently used Pajamas

New or very gently used Outfits

Toiletries

Homemade Items: Blankets and Pillow Cases

Any items a child may need or want

Part of Lenten almsgiving is giving of yourself to others. We are asking that each family come together with their children and donate gently used clothing, toys, furniture etc. (see the list of items needed). Have your children pack up these items and bring them to the church.

We will be collecting items for the months of March & April and will be making a donation after Pascha.

Please see Tonya Rice or Matushka Laura with any questions.

Foster Closet



of Michigan

Parents you have been sent Pre-Lent through Pentecost workbooks for the younger children that will be distributed February 14th. If your children give Fr. Gabriel completed sheets he has goodies for them!

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



Prayers for our college students:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Katherine Arnes | Katerina Jonescu |
| Katherine Schutt | Katheryn Auxier |
| Oliver Lazar Senter | Alexandra Kekel |
| Elena Bucciarelli | Lauren Serafimovski |
| Zachary Wilkinson | Abigail Arnes |
| Douglas Wilkinson | |
| Sydney Wilkinson | |



Calling all Mothers!

The last few months have been a difficult time for many. With all of the changes in life and scheduling, balancing motherhood has been challenging to say the least. Check in on each other and be a listening ear until we can meet together again!

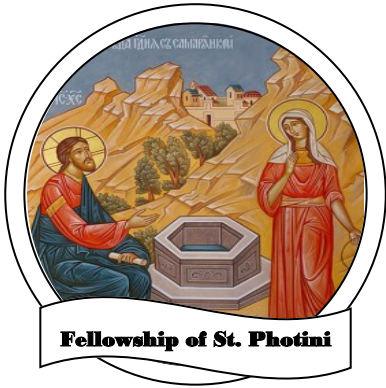
For more information about our St. Mary Magdalene Men's Group, please contact Tom Chitalas.



St. Mary Magdalene
Young Adults

Please see Peter Hamman
to be added to the online young adult group.

FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI



“An inclusive opportunity for community outreach led by the faithful of St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church”

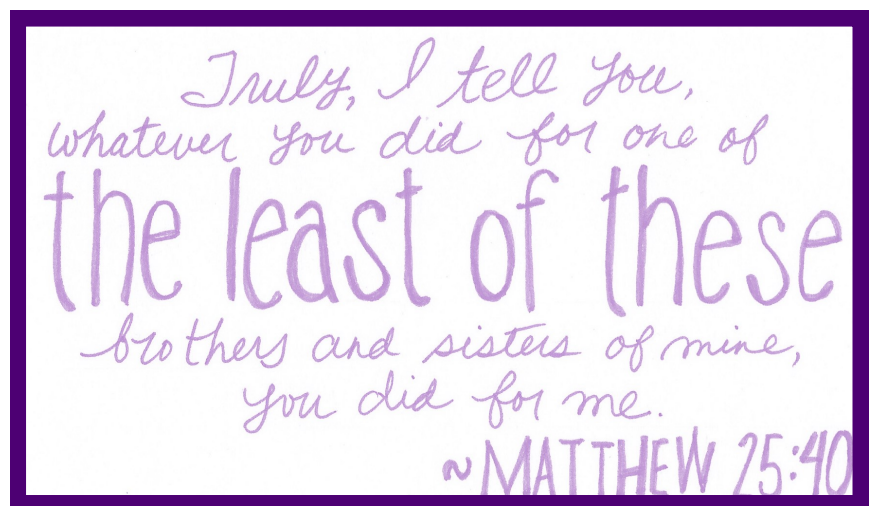
Our parish youth is taking part of their Lenten Almsgiving by donating their gently used items to the Foster Closet of Michigan... but they need our help. (see page 12)

The Foster Closet of Michigan is also in need of **new** boys underwear in ALL sizes (toddler to adult) as well as ethnic hair care products (suggested is ‘Cantu’ hair product line, available at Walmart and other stores) If you would like to make a monetary donation Tonya Rice has offered to shop for these items to be donated. We will be making “hair care kit” grab bags for foster parents to utilize as they ‘shop’ for emergency needs of this children.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

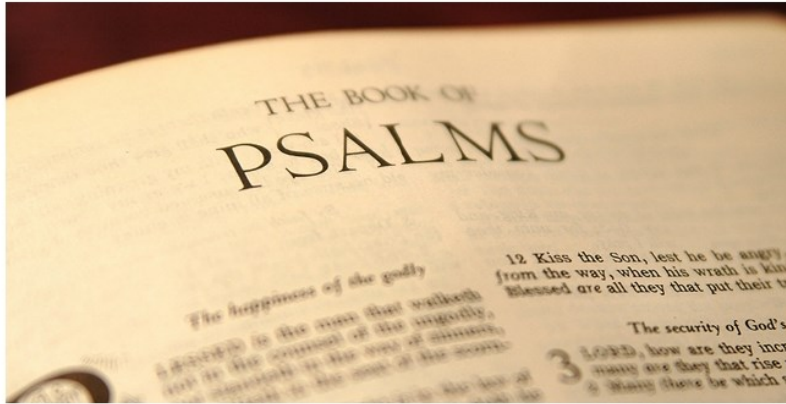
Sorting Items for the Foster Closet of Michigan with Tonya Rice for delivery. All items need to be sorted and organized before donation. If you would like to help with this process please contact Tonya Rice.

Please contact Theophan Forsyth, Terri Oginski or Rebekah Humphreys if you would like any information about upcoming projects or would like to donate to the works of the Fellowship of St. Photini.



St. Mary Magdalene Lenten Psalm Group

Preparing for Pascha by Praying the Psalms



The Goal:

To draw nearer to Christ and one another during the Lenten Fast, by praying the Psalms together as a community, as we journey together towards Holy Pascha.

How it Works:

The Orthodox Church divided the book of Psalms into 20 sections (called a Kathisma). In our St. Mary Magdalene prayer group, we will each be assigned a different section each day, throughout the 40 days of the fast. By the end of Lent, our parish will have read through the entire book of Psalms twice. If everyone is keeping up with their individual sections every day, it also means that our parish community together is praying the entire book of psalms daily!

Added Bonus:

As we go through the journey together, there may be a specific prayer request that you might ask the group to assist you in, whether it is for someone who is sick, suffering, or maybe someone who recently departed. Feel free to email the group email, asking for specific prayer requests to be sent out.

What do I Need?

All you need is a bible, an email address, and some time each day to pray!

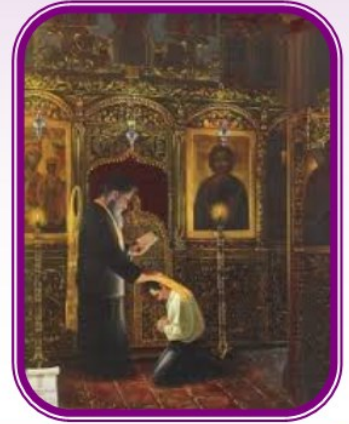
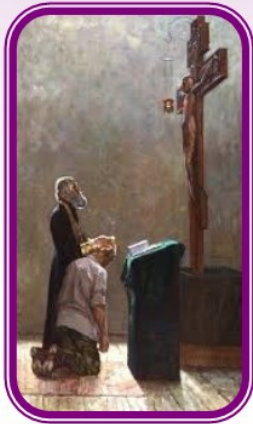
How Do I Join?

There will be a sign up sheet available at the Church, or you can email smmpsalmgroup@gmail.com

Holy Confession:

In confession, the sacrament of repentance, we come to Christ and receive His divine forgiveness. We are allowed once more to enter into Holy Communion with Him in the Church. We are reinstated into that life which we received in baptism and are renewed with that power which we were given in chrismation.

Throughout Great Lent there will be confessions available on Saturday's following Vigils and every other Wednesday following Compline.



Confession Schedule for Holy Week

Friday, April 23rd: Following Lazarus Saturday Vespers

Saturday, April 24th: Following Vespers

Palm Sunday, April 25th: After Bridegroom matins

Holy Monday, April 26th: After Bridegroom Matins

Holy Tuesday, April 27th: After Bridegroom Matins**

Holy Wednesday, April 28th: There will be no confession following Holy Unction

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

Orthodox Churches of Genesee County, Michigan

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 S. Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1401
St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

2021 Great Fast and Bright Week



Pan-Orthodox Divine Services

Great Compline (*Mondays, 6:30pm*) We will celebrate the Great Compline service together every Monday night at St. George. This beautiful service allows us to experience the Great Fast more deeply. Confessions will be available from 6pm–6:30pm and after the service.

Lenten Hours (*Wednesdays, 10:30am*) at St. Nicholas.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy (*Wednesdays, 6pm*) We will celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy and the Great Feast of the Annunciation together according to the schedule below. Holy Communion is given at both. To partake of Holy Communion, please be prepared with prayer and fasting (*no eating or drinking after 12 Noon*). Confessions will only be available prior to the Liturgy from 5:30pm–6pm. Unfortunately, we will not be having Potluck Lenten Meals this year.

March 6th **Pre-Lenten Retreat** led by Fr. Maximos Conostas (*more information to follow*)

March 24th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 6pm

March 25th **Great Feast of the Annunciation Divine Liturgy** at Assumption 10am

April 7th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 6pm

April 21st **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. George 6pm

April 24th **Preparation of Gifts, Raising of Lazarus Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 9:30am

Bright Week (May 2nd-8th)

May 3rd **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 10am

May 4th **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 10am

May 5th **Paschal Evening Liturgy & Feast of St. George** at St. George 6pm

May 7th **Paschal Divine Liturgy & Life-giving Font** at Assumption 10am

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

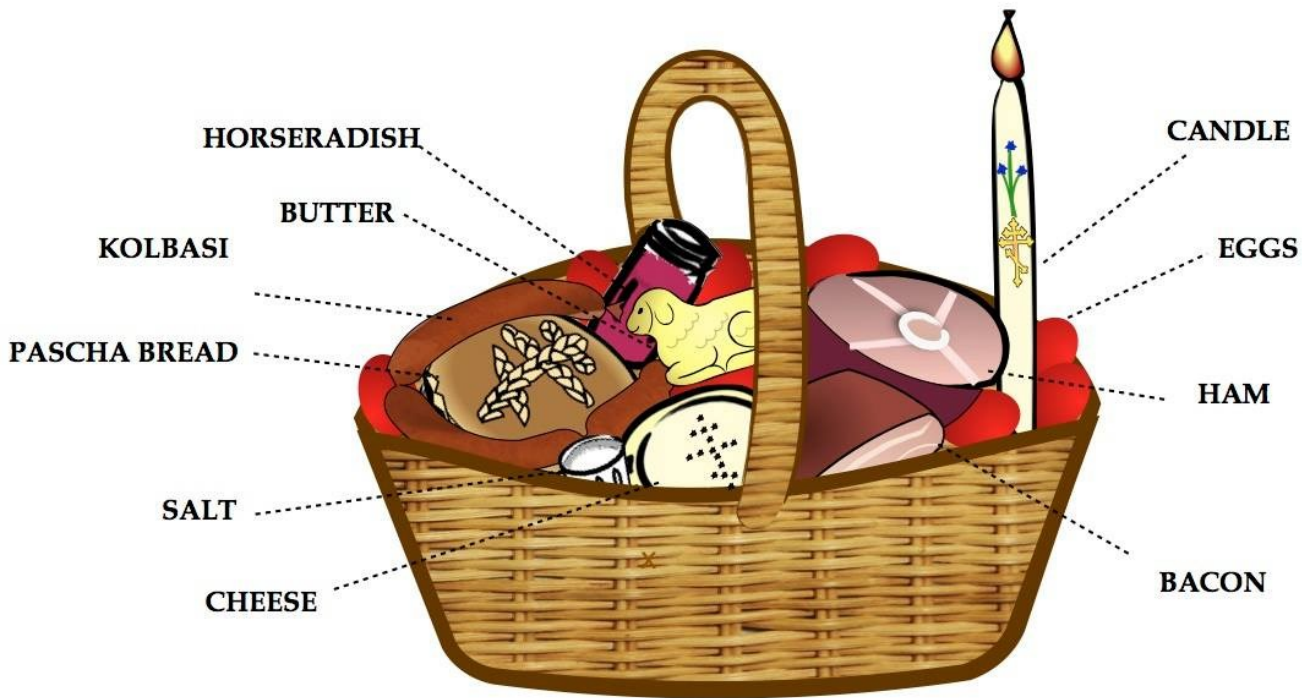
ALL NIGHT VIGIL



Teens & Families
Friday, April 30th
following Lamentations

HOW TO PUT TOGETHER A TRADITIONAL EASTER BASKET

"TEXT ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY FR. BASIL KRAYNYAK, GCU MESSENGER, APRIL, 1979" ILLUSTRATED BY FR. JONATHAN BANNON



PASCHA - The Easter Bread (Pron. Pa-ska.) A sweet yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread. Usually round loaf baked with a golden crust decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross (+) of dough is placed on top encircled by a plait given it a crowned effect or Greek

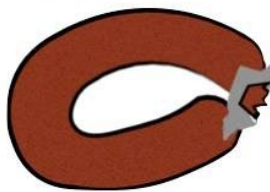
CHEESE - (Rusyn: Hrudka or Sirec) A custard type cheese shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. Also creamed cheese is placed in a small dish and both are decorated with symbols (see Pascha) out of cloves or pepper balls.



HAM - (Rusyn: Šunka - pron. shoon-ka.) The Flesh meat popular with the Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer Lamb or Veal. This is usually well roasted or cooked as well as other meats so the festivity of the day will not be burdened with preparation and all may enjoy the Feast.

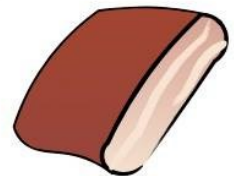


BUTTER - (Rusyn: Maslo pron. ma-slo.) This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a figure of a Lamb or small cross and decorated as the cheese. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

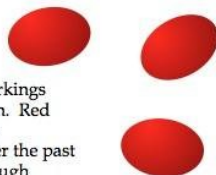


SAUSAGE (Rusyn: Kolbasi-pron. kolbus-i.) A spicy, garlic sausage of pork products indicative of God's flavor and generosity.

BACON - (Rusyn: Slanina pron. sla-ni-na) A piece of uncooked bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy to us.



EGGS (Rusyn: Pisanki pron. pi-sun-ki) Hardboiled eggs brightly decorated with symbols and markings made with beeswax, indicative of new life and resurrection. Red eggs are also traditional date back to a story with St. Mary Magdalene. Having been dyed with onion skins saved over the past year, red shows the color of life and victory that came through Christ's blood.



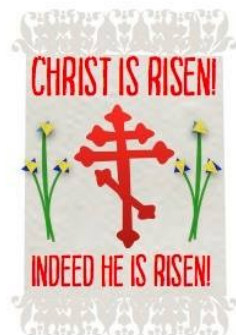
SALT - (Rusyn: Sol' pron. sol') A condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his duty to others.



HORSERADISH (Rusyn: Chrin pron. khrin) Horseradish mixed with grated red beets (optional) symbolizes the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter-sweet red colored mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.

These articles are placed in a wicker basket. A decorated candle is placed inside and is lit at the time of the blessing. A linen cover usually embroidered with a picture of the Risen Christ or symbol with the words "Christ is Risen" is placed over the food when brought to the Church.

In some places a large Easter Bread (Pascha) is made and brought separately in a large linen cloth. If the origin of the people was from a wine growing area, a sweet wine may be brought



Bright Week

Schedule



Pan-Orthodox Churches of Genesee County

Sunday, May 2nd:	Agape Vespers	1:00pm	At St. Mary Magdalene (2439 S. Long Lake Rd– Fenton, MI)
Monday, May 3rd:	Bright Monday Liturgy	10:00am	At St. Mary Magdalene (2439 S. Long Lake Rd– Fenton, MI)
Tuesday, May 4th:	Bright Tuesday Liturgy	10:00am	At St. Nicholas (2143 S. Center Rd– Burton, MI)
Wednesday, May 5th:	Bright Wednesday Liturgy & St. George Patronal Feast	6:00pm	At St. George (5191 Lennon Rd– Flint, MI)
Friday, May 7th:	Bright Friday Liturgy	10:00am	At Holy Assumption (2245 Baldwin Rd– Grand Blanc, MI)




Pascha Egg Hunt

Sunday, May 9th following Divine Liturgy
St. Mary Magdalen Orthodox Church
2439 S Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430



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


Mother's Day Chicken BBQ

An illustration of a white chef's hat with a black outline, set against a yellow circular background. The hat is surrounded by several kitchen tools, including two red-handled spatulas and two black-handled spatulas, all arranged in a circular pattern around the hat.

***St. Thomas Sunday, May 9th, during
the Paschal Egg Hunt.***

Outdoor dining is available.

*We will be roasting
chickens on our b.b.q.
and will have hot
dogs for the kids. All
sides will be provid-
ed. Stay tuned for
more information!*

A decorative graphic of kitchen utensils including a yellow spoon, a red knife, a yellow fork, a red knife, a yellow fork, a red knife, a yellow fork, and a red spoon, arranged in a row.



Again this summer, our own "Farmer Joe", will be planting and bringing excess produce to coffee hour to sell as a mini farmer's market to benefit our building fund. Below are some of the varieties that Joe is able and eager to plant!!! If you do not see what you are looking for than please talk with Joe as he is able to plant more!

To request fruits & veggies ahead of time please talk to Joe following any of the Divine Services or contact the parish office. Here is the list of what is available from "Farmer Joe"

Tomatoes - Various colors and sizes, Large/Med/Small(cherry/grape) - Red, Orange, Yellow, "black" (brownish purple), white. I grow mostly all vining type tomatoes, vertically, on a fence for better yields and healthier plants from the improved airflow. I do have one semi-dwarf bush type red tomato if someone wants a more compact plant or to do in a large pot (5 gal minimum).

Peppers - NOTE all peppers start out green and ripen to different colors, similar to tomatoes, a "green pepper" (like a green tomato) just isn't ripe. Sweet "Bells" : Golden California Wonder (yellow/gold), Orange Gourmet, and Joe's "Quick Red" (not a true "bell", this pepper may have resulted as a cross between a red bell pepper and one of my "deli tray" peppers described below, its in-between a bell pepper and deli tray sweet pepper size but I kept because I liked that it was larger than my deli peppers but ripened much quicker than a normal bell pepper) Sweet "deli tray" style: The seed for these "little sweeties" literally came from the red, yellow, and orange sweet peppers off of a deli tray nearly 20 years ago. They are the size/shape of a Jalapeno but are very sweet and ripen quickly; once producing you can pick several ripe peppers per week from them. I call them "Short and Sweet" red, orange, or yellow. These do great in pots, even indoors in a sunny window over winter!

Hot peppers - Shishito (100-1k SHU), Cherry Bomb (2.5k-5k SHU), Jalapeno (3.5k-8k SHU), Chili de Arbol (15k-30k SHU), Aji Pineapple (100k-150k SHU), Ghost (1M+ SHU), Scorpion (1-1.4M SHU)

Muskmelon - my own "landrace" melon grown for 10+ years from about 30 different heirloom varieties.

Watermelon - red seeded varieties, small & medium size

Squash - Acorn, Buttercup, Butternut, Joe's blue hubbard , yellow and green Acorn, Buttercup, Butternut, Joe's blue hubbard summer squash ("zucchini")

Pumpkins - various sizes* (pumpkins and some squash will readily cross with different varieties so sizes may be quite variable)

Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Radish, Corn, Arugula, Bulk Mixes Lettuce, Bush & Pole Beans

Beans - Green bush beans, Green, Yellow, and Purple Pole beans

Snap Peas

Swiss Chart

Lettuce - a mix of mostly different shape/color leaf lettuces with some romaine mixed in; this constantly evolving mix comes from

whatever lettuces are hardy enough to survive the winter at my home garden and produce new seeds (often crossing with each other) the following summer.

Please be aware that most of my seed I have grown myself for many years (some 20+) and therefore in any given season there may be "accidental" crosses resulting in the offspring being off type from the mother plant. For me this can be exciting as that is what has lead me to some of my own unique varieties that exist no where else in the world.



St. George Church is looking for a special person to lead our Preschool & Childcare Ministry.

The Preschool has been in operation since 2018 and has had over 30 children in attendance. Though currently closed and without a Program Director we have a valid Child Care License. With proper staffing and leadership it could be reopened at any time.

Dn. Michael, Kh. Leslee, Kelly (our Church Secretary) and others are ready to assist you!

We have a list of previous clients as well as a growing list of families looking for the intimate, faith based setting that we offer. Rooms are set up, in place, and waiting for children! Curriculum is purchased, learning centers are in place, and there is plenty of outdoor playspace!

This is an excellent opportunity for the right person to provide a needed service / ministry to the community and help generate revenues for St. George Church and have nearly full autonomy with minimal risk.

If you are interested or you know someone who might be, contact the Preschool at 810-732-1500, stgeorgeschool17@gmail.com, or talk with Dn. Michael or Kh. Leslee.

Referral Program To Benefit The St. Mary Magdalene Church Expansion



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 Church Expansion Fund by offering a \$500.00 donation for every referral that results in a closed transaction!