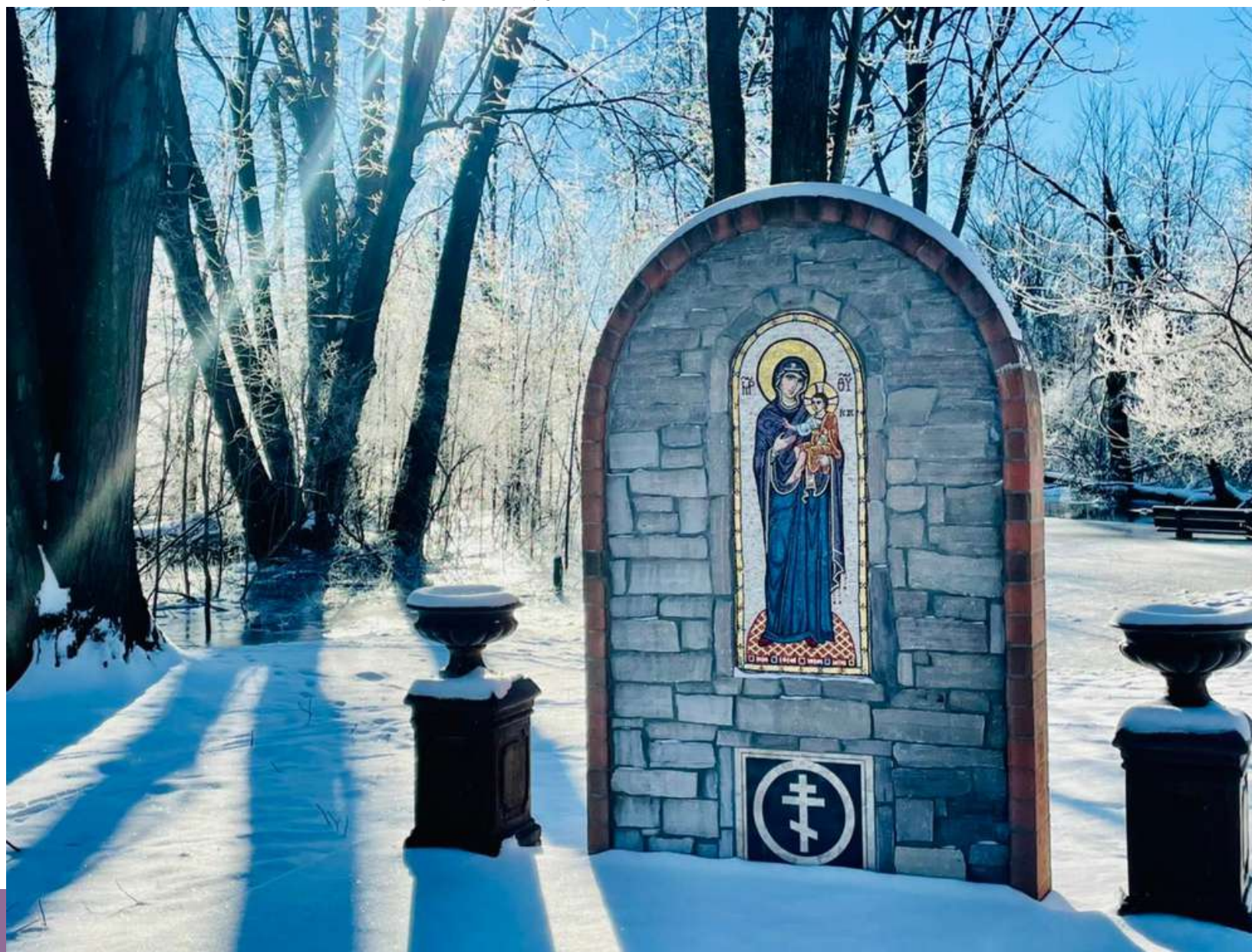


April 2022

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-750-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielstmm@gmail.com

2439 S. Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

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

Office Hours*:

Monday 10:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm

Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

***or by appointment**

APRIL 2022

Monthly e-Newsletter

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

From Darkness to Light

From the Desk of Fr. Gabriel

Before we tell the story of what is happening in our Church this month, I want to take us all back 15 years ago. At 5:52 PM on August 24th, 2007, destruction struck our little town of Fenton, Michigan. A F2 tornado touched down in the heart of the downtown area taking down trees, destroying properties, business, and leaving several families homeless as their houses were turned into a pile of scrap. On our own little property, still 8 months from construction being completed on our little Church, there were fallen trees that littered the ground. Our Lord worked through my predecessor Fr. Paul Jannakos, along with several members of the parish, to take those fallen trees, mill them, and use the wood to create a beautiful Iconostasis that rises up before us when we come into the Church to pray.

When I first visited this parish, I remember thinking how awesome it will be to pray in front of all these wonderful Saints that would be looking down on me through the "windows" of this iconostasis! Learning the story of how our Lord worked through so many people to turn a natural disaster into such a wonderful instrument of Grace, just added to the "wow" factor!

The movement of evil to blessings is really the theme of this entire Holy Week isn't it? It begins with the Church reminding us of how God has used the evil of death to show us His power, to give us Hope, and to strengthen us for our own impending falling asleep. We hear in the Gospel about the great friend of Jesus, Lazarus, who had fallen ill in the town of Bethany. When things began to get desperate, Lazarus's sisters, Mary and Martha, sent word to our Lord, asking for Him to come and to heal their dear brother, but He delayed in coming. A few days later, we hear how the sisters were overcome with tremendous despair, because their brother was unable to overcome his illness and died. Their world, and maybe even a small part of their faith, crumbled around them.

Our Lord did eventually come to Bethany, and we know the rest of the story! After testing Mary and Martha's faith in the midst of their despair, our Lord raised Lazarus from the dead! In the 1st ode of the compline service for Lazarus Saturday, we hear: "You have made the tears of Martha and Mary to cease O Lord and Savior, by raising Lazarus from the dead. In Your Power, You have endued a corpse with the breath of life!"

Imagine the joy that the sisters of Lazarus felt after their dear brother who had been into the tomb for 4 days, had been brought back to them! Jesus had shown them, and all of the onlookers of Bethany that in the face of disaster, Glory always triumphs!

News of this miracle didn't just stay in the little village of Bethany. Word began to spread throughout the region that the Messiah had come! Jesus made His way to Jerusalem, and was greeted by large crowds, who threw their cloaks on the ground and shouted with loud shouts of joy, that same greeting that we shout today: "Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"

UPCOMING THIS MONTH

- 1- PreSanctified with Potluck
- 6- Canon of Repentance
- 7- Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt
- 8- PreSanctified with Potluck
- 10- SMMOY Gathering
- 12- Parish Council
- 13- Pan-Orthodox PreSanctified with Potluck @SMM
- 14- Choir Rehearsal
- 15- Lazarus Saturday Vespers & Confessions
- 16- Pan-Orthodox Lazarus Saturday Liturgy with Public Proskomedia, SMMOY Sponsored Pancake Breakfast immediately followed by Palm Sunday Vespers
- 17- Palm Sunday & Parish Photo
- 17-23 HOLY WEEK SERVICES
- 20-21- Archbishop Alexander Visit with the Elevation of Deacon Mike
- 22- Parish Office Closed
- 24- GREAT & HOLY PASCHA
- 23- Parish Office Closed
- 24-30 BRIGHT WEEK
- 30- Vespers time going back to 5pm



From Darkness to Light cont.

*"Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness."
+St. John Chrysostom*

Prayers for our Sick and our Suffering His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman Archbishop Damaskinos

Vinne	Dawn	Joanne
Elaine	Jeff	Susan
David	Terry	Shirley
Michael	Michelle	Peter
Mason	Sarah	Norm
Pat	Rich	Arminda
Joseph	Harry	Tinna
Theresa	Judy	Vicky
Robert	Anthony	Mircea
Linda	Dorothy	
Hudson	Mary	
Dimitri	Silvia	
Damian	Megan	
Martin	Roger	
Terry	Jim	

The Church urges us to shout for joy and to remember, that evil has no power when it encounters the Glory of God: "Let us shout aloud O daughter of Jerusalem, for behold Your King comes to you! Let us keep feast with the children, and holding branches in your hands, let us sing His praises: Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He that comes, the King of Israel!"

Starting Palm Sunday evening, we will see darkness overshadow the world once again. We witness the greatest evil that has entered the earth. The joy of the feast we celebrated is overshadowed by jealousy, hate, and unbelief, as the Son of Man is betrayed by His own creation and sent to His death. On Good Friday, creation itself moans and groans. Rocks split. The curtain of the temple is torn in two. The earth itself trembles in fear. But after three days of unimaginable sorrow felt by creation, we once again see the Glory of God Triumph over evil.

This is the theme of our lives dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, and it is why Holy Week is such an important week for us as Orthodox Christians. This one week truly does propel us to new heights and a new understanding of how God works in the world. This one week shows us what God like humility looks like. This one week shows us how we are to react to the evils, trials and difficulties that we face on a daily basis. But most importantly, this one week shows us what True Love looks like.

Mother's With Child Catechumenate

Alexandra	Vince
Tailer	Carol
Erika	Jacob
Mia	Mary Ellen
Lauren	Timothy
Natalia	Daniel
Eleni	Andrew
Mat. Kaila	Jake
Michelle	Scott
Eleni	Collin

Seminarian Family

Alexander &
Danielle Earl

Anniversary of Parish Members Departed

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

Recently Departed

Phillip Moorman



HOLY WEEK

APRIL 15-24TH

Prayers for our Armed Forces

*Michael Oginsky - U.S.
Stephany Bishop - U.S. Navy
Patrick Tejkl - U.S. Marines
Lindsey Cazatt - U.S. Navy*

*Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers
Alex Suriano - Air National Guard
Dallas Watson - Air Force*

*Stephen Bondira- Coast Guard
Lt. Commander
Sarah Tyler- U.S. Air Force*

PARISH GREETERS

April 3

Scott & Tina Shephard

April 10

Steve & Sue Walton

April 17

George & Julie Jonascu

April 24

Freida Owens

COFFEE HOUR

April 3

Terry & Freida Owens

April 10

Brian & Tammy Arnes

April 17

Rdr Nathan & Amanda Auxier

April 24

**GREAT & HOLY PASCHA
(BRING YOUR BASKET)**

BELL RINGERS

April 3

Tonya Rice

April 10

Vivian Capatina

April 17

Renea Becklehamer

April 24

Cindy Welch

**WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!
BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES**

3- PAM HEIKKILA

4- ELIZABETH ZIATS & RACHAEL HILDRETH

5-JOHN WHITE

11-THEODORE COOLEY

12- MICHELLE ROSYNSKY

13-SAMUEL BONDIRA

14-JONATHAN WILKINSON

16-JOHN WOLF, MIA HILLAKER & JAMIL CZUBENKO

17- TINA SHEPHARD

18- ANNA JOSEPH

22- BRIAN ARNES

26-GEORGE JONASCU & SBDN. ROBERT LANTERMAN

27-INNA WALLS

30- ADELAIDE LANTERMAN

12- WILLIAM & SHARON WATSON

16-ALEX & ANASTASIA BRANOFF

16-RICHARD & LIZ ZIATS



EPISTLE READERS

April 3
Subdeacon John Auxier
Reader Chris Ballnik

April 10
Reader Nathaniel Auxier
Reader David Schutt

April 17
Jennifer Otis
Subdeacon John Auxier

April 24
Sue Walton
Reader Nathaniel Auxier



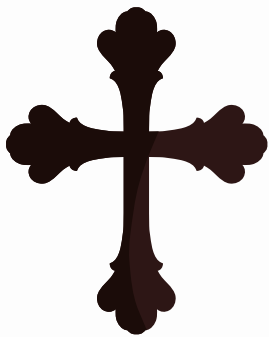
SCRIPTURE READINGS

April 3
Heb. 6:13-20
Mark 9:17-31

April 10
Heb. 9:11-14
Mark 10:32-45

April 17
PALM SUNDAY
Phil. 4:4-9
John 12:1-18

April 24
GREAT & HOLY PASCHA
Acts 1:1-8
John 1:1-17



Welcome
Scott & Collin into the
Catechumenate. May
God bless & Guide
their journeys



Many years to our
Seminarians on the
newly ordination of
Fr. Deacon Alexander
and his Matushaka
Danielle

The Church is opened for
private prayer
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
10am -3pm
or by appointment



"The Church is a hospital, and not a
courtroom, for souls. She does not
condemn on behalf of sins but grants
remission of sins."
+St. John Chrysostom

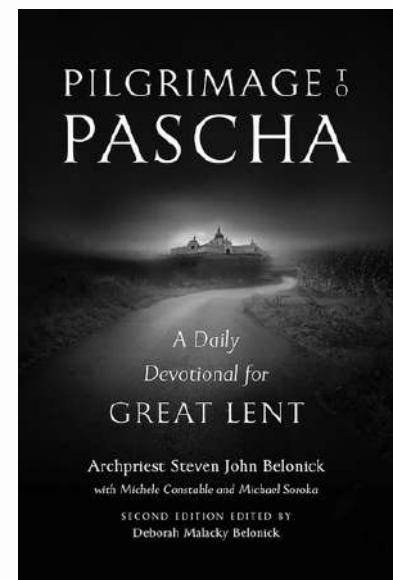
RECOMMENDED

READING

**PILGRIMAGE TO PASCHA: A
DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR
GREAT LENT**

**BY ARCHPRIEST STEVEN JOHN
BELONICK WITH MICHELE
CONSTABLE AND MICHAEL
SOROKA**

This unpretentious little book of meditations based on Scripture, ancient hymns, and writings from Church Fathers will nourish the souls of reflective seekers during the forty-day period of Great Lent. Authors of each meditation have delved deeply into the sins and shortcomings of their own hearts, enabling readers to share in a collective human experience - from darkness to light, from despair to hope, and from isolation to commonality in the body of Christ - as they move steadily toward our Lord's Resurrection.



MONTHLY FORECAST

Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt: On Thursday, April 7th, we will be reading the Life of St. Mary of Egypt in the Church, beginning at 6:30 PM. This reading will be live-streamed on our Facebook page, or it can be accessed on our YouTube page from prior years! Make it a priority during the first week of April to listen or read the life of this incredible Saint, who's repentance is an example to us all!

Pre-Sanctified and Potluck Schedule: We will be hosting the last Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy of the year at our parish on Wednesday, April 13th at 6:00 PM. Since we will have the other 3 churches joining us, we ask that everyone bring a Lenten dish to share for the potluck following the Liturgy! Remember to label your dish if it contains nuts.

Baptism and Chrismation Sunday: On St. Mary of Egypt Sunday April 10th, be sure to come a bit early to grab a seat, as we will be welcoming 8 new warriors for Christ via Baptism and/or Chrismation!

Lazarus Saturday: This year, we will be hosting the Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy on Saturday, April 16th, beginning with public proskomedia at 9:15 AM, followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:50 AM. There will be a pancake breakfast hosted by the SMMOY group following the Divine Liturgy. After breakfast, we will have Palm Sunday Great Vespers at an earlier time.

Palm Sunday and Parish Photo: Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 17th at 9:50 AM for Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy, followed by our annual parish photo. This will be the last photo we will take as a parish community prior to the expansion of our temple!

Holy Week Attendance: Just as we should be taking Clean Week as seriously as possible, so also do we need to devote all of our time and attention to the Holiest Week of the year. Holy Week begins on Friday, April 15th with Lazarus Saturday Vespers, and concludes at 11:30 PM on Saturday April 23rd for Pascha. Be sure to check the confession schedule to make sure we all enter this period with a renewed baptismal garment! Father Gabriel will not be hearing confessions after Great and Holy Tuesday as he prepares for Pascha.

Archbishop Alexander Visit & Protodeacon Michael Schlaack: We are excited to announce that Deacon Mike has been elevated to the role of protodeacon. Please keep him and the entire Schlaack family in your prayers. Archbishop Alexander will join us for Holy Unction on Great and Holy Wednesday (20th) and again on the morning of Great and Holy Thursday (21st) for the Divine Liturgy where he will formally elevate Deacon Mike. May God grant Deacon Mike many more blessed years in His Service.

Old Testament Readings for Children: There is a sign up sheet available in the Narthex for our children to read the Old Testament Readings on Great and Holy Saturday Morning! The children may borrow a book from the Church to practice their reading prior to that Saturday morning.

All Night Vigil: As is the custom at St. Mary Magdalene, the young adults and teens are invited to spend the night at the Church at the Grave Watch after Good Friday Services. Anyone wishing to take a shift at the tomb to read from the Scriptures is also welcome to sign up in the narthex. We will be live streaming the Tomb with no audio included for those who wish to read the psalms overnight at home.

Parish Office Hours: The parish office will be closed for regular business on Great and Holy Friday and Bright Monday.

Bright Week: Check the fliers for the service times and pan orthodox schedule for Bright Week! We will be hosting the Bright Monday Liturgy, April 25th, here at 10:00 AM!

Great Vespers Time Change: After Pascha, we will go back to our normal Great Vespers time of 5:00 PM until next Winter. Please mark your calendars accordingly!

Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt: On St. Thomas Sunday (May 1st), the children are all invited to participate in our annual easter egg hunt on the parish grounds!

BUILDING THE LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WOODS

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS ON THE FOUR PILLARS OF CHURCH GROWTH

What is Happening in the Pillar of Worship?

We began Great Lent in March with Clean Week, which saw absolutely wonderful attendance for all of the services! My thanks to the Choir and all who prayed and sang from their seats, as we brought in the beginning of Great Lent with tremendous zeal! I pray that we can continue this process throughout all of Great Lent, not only with the regular services we have here at SMM, but with all of the Pan Orthodox Services as well.

We are scheduled to begin services after Bright Week in the building next door. We have received the blessing of the Archbishop to try and move the altar table next door here. There will be a lot of work towards the end of April that will be needed for the temporary Church transition, so please keep an eye and an ear out for opportunities to help!

What is Happening in the Pillar of Community?

At our special parish meeting, the congregation voted to move forward with the entire construction project, and to take out financing to make up the shortfall of what we do not come up with. We will be financing with OCCIF (Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund) which loans to Orthodox Churches that are in our position of growth. The interest on any funds that are taken out will be used to fund other Orthodox Churches doing the same thing we are.

Our community is also set to expand on Sunday April 10th, which is the week before Palm Sunday. We will be welcoming 8 new warriors for Christ via Baptism and/or Chrismation during the Divine Liturgy that week! We also would like to extend our prayers to Scott and Collin who were brought into the catechumenate in March!

What is Happening in the Pillar of Education?

In March, we welcomed Fr. Josiah Trenham for an online pre-lenten retreat on his Patron King Josiah and the topic of repentance. We also gathered together for a Pan Orthodox Retreat at St. Nicholas with Fr. Bogdan Bucur, who is the patristics professor at St. Vladimir's seminary.

This past week, many of our families might have received a call from Terri Oginsky, who was sharing some information about a development happening in cooperation with St. John Roman Catholic School in Fenton. I recently met with the principal about having a small Orthodox "wing" at their school, in which Orthodox students would be able to attend at a special parishioner rate, attend weekly Divine Liturgies (in lieu of Mass so that they can receive the Eucharist), and eventually incorporate an Eastern Christian curriculum at the school to enhance what the students are already learning from the Roman Catholic West. If anyone would like more information, please reach out to me!

What is Happening in the Pillar of Stewardship?

I hope everyone had a chance to distribute the Lazarus Bags that were put together by St. Photini in late February. I also wanted to thank all of those who helped to cook and support our appeal for the Ukrainian Relief Fund, of which we were able to send a check for \$3,000! We give Glory to God for all of your support!



"AS MANY AS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST, HAVE PUT ON CHRIST!"

On Sunday, April 10th we will welcome 8 new warriors for Christ into our parish family through the sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation.

Please keep our catechumens in your daily prayers as they approach their entry into the faith!

St. Mary Magdalene (Mary Ellen McLean) Baptism

St. Timothy (Tim Kruger) Baptism

St. John the Forerunner (Dan Barnhart) Chrismation

St. Andrew the First Called (Andrew Barnhart) Chrismation

Righteous Jacob (Jake Barnhart) Chrismation

St. Nicholas the Czar Passion Bearer (Jacob Bowers) Chrismation

St. Anna (Carol Lizzio) Chrismation

St. Stylianos (Vince Lizzio) Chrismation



2022 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Friday, April 15th:

Vespers for Lazarus Saturday, 6:30pm (confession available)

Saturday, April 16th: Lazarus Saturday

Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene, 9:15 am, fellowship meal immediately followed by Vespers (confession available)

Sunday, April 17th: Palm Sunday

Divine Liturgy, 9:50am Bridegroom Matins, 7pm (confession available)

Monday, April 18th: Great & Holy Monday

Bridegroom Matins, 7pm (confession available)

Tuesday, April 19th: Great & Holy Tuesday

Bridegroom Matins, 7pm (confession available)

Wednesday, April 20th: Great & Holy Wednesday

Holy Unction, 7pm (fast from your noon meal for the sacrament)

Thursday, April 21st: Great & Holy Thursday

Divine Liturgy, 10am

Passions Gospels, 7pm

Friday, April 22nd: Great & Holy Friday

Royal Hours, 10am

Unnailing Vespers, 3pm

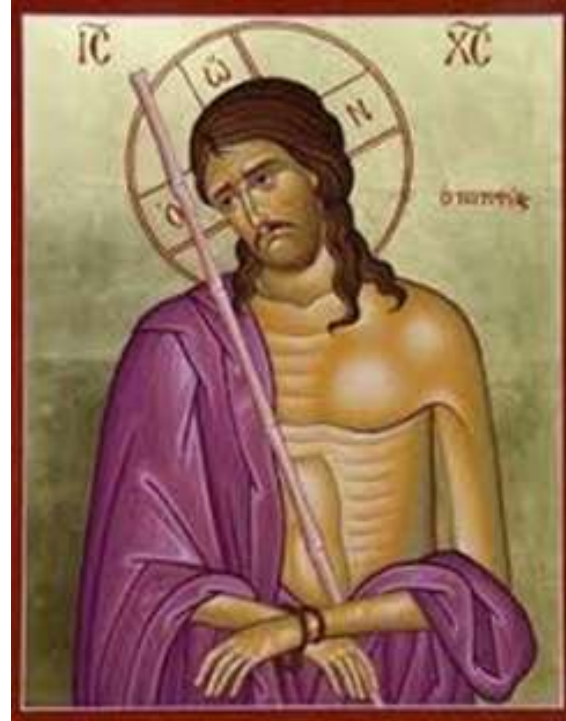
Lamentations & Procession, 7pm

All Night Vigil

Saturday, April 23rd: Great & Holy Saturday

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

Nocturns & Paschal Service, 11:30pm followed by agape meal



PASCHA & BRIGHT WEEK



Sunday, April 24th: GREAT & HOLY PASCHA

Agape Vespers, 1pm

Monday, April 25th: Bright Monday

Divine Liturgy, 10am at St. Mary Magdalene

Tuesday, April 26th: Bright Tuesday

Divine Liturgy, 10am at St. Nicholas

Wednesday, April 27th: Bright Wednesday

Divine Liturgy, 6pm at St. George

Friday, April 29th Bright Friday

Divine Liturgy 10am at Holy Assumption

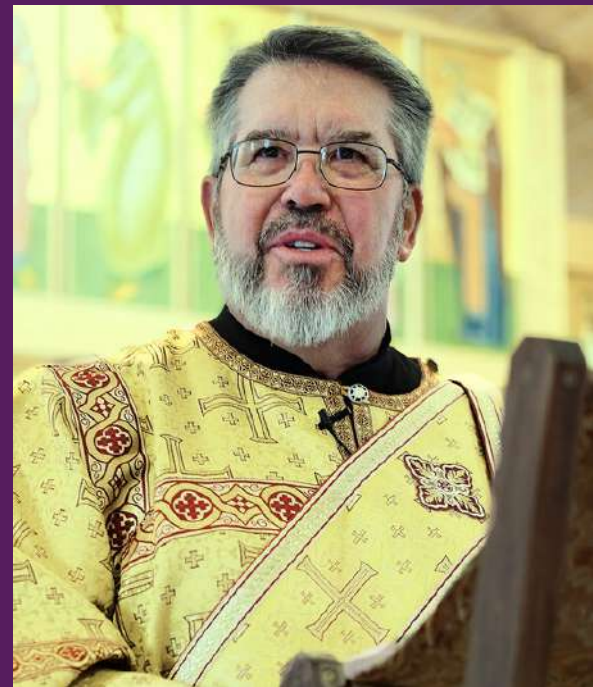
Saturday, April 30th

Great Vespers, 5pm at St. Mary Magdalene



ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER IS VISITING!

His Eminence, Archbishop Alexander, will be with us on Wednesday, April 20th to celebrate the Office of Holy Unction with our parish. The Archbishop will also join us the next day on Holy Thursday morning when he will be elevating our Deacon Michael to Protodeacon. Keep Deacon Mike and his Matushka Susan and the entire Schlaack family in your prayers and he humbly accepts this honor.



ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

2439 S. LONG LAKE RD FENTON, MI

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ILLUMINES ALL



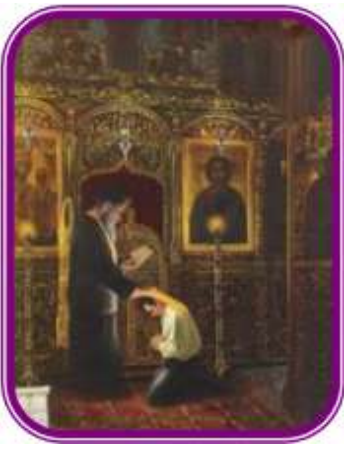
JOIN US FOR THE

LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

EVERY FRIDAY THROUGH GREAT LENT, 6:30PM

AS WE PREPARE, THROUGH PRAYER AND LOVE, TO JOURNEY WITH CHRIST TO GOLGOTHA AND
HIS HOLY RESURRECTION!

LENTEN CONFESSION SCHEUDLE



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.



To schedule an appointment outside of these times please reach out to Fr. Gabriel directly
810-750-1401 or
frgabrielmmm@gmail.com

Throughout Great Lent there will be regular confessions available on Saturday's following Vigils and every other Wednesday following The Canon of Repentance. There will not be confessions following Pre-Sanctified Liturgies.

HOLY WEEK CONFESSION SCHEUDLE

Friday, April 15th:	Following Lazarus Saturday Vespers
Saturday, April 16th:	Following Palm Sunday Vespers
Palm Sunday, April 17th:	Following Bridegroom Matins
Holy Monday, April 18th:	Following Bridegroom Matins
Holy Tuesday, April 19th:	Following Bridegroom Matins **
Holy Wednesday, April 20th:	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.

PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

Pascha is right around the corner and now is a good time to disconnect from electronics and refocus on your edification through spiritual reading. We have several books available in our parish lending library!

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



P

NOW AVAILABLE

Parish Kiosk Gift Certificates

For purchase at any value for any occasion. See Rebekah in the parish office to purchase yours as a gift today!

A K

R I

I O

We will have several new titles available in April, keep an eye out for some new books!

S S

What a great way to share your faith!

H K

UPCOMING CHOIR REHEARSALS



Holy melodists and hymnographers



St Romanos
the Melodist



St Kosmas
the Poet



St Sabbas
of Buzău



St Joseph the
Hymnographer



St John of
Damascus



St Andrew of
Crete



St John
Koukouzelis



The Holy Prophet
King David



St Gregory
Domestikos



St Cecilia



St Kassiani



St Joseph
the Merciful

Thursday, April 14th
6:30pm

Please see Reader
Greg with any
questions



APRIL'S CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

APRIL 3- TOPIC: HOLY UNCTION
APRIL 10- TOPIC: PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 17- NO CLASS PALM SUNDAY & PARISH PHOTO
APRIL 24- NO CLASS GREAT & HOLY PASCHA
MAY 1- TOPIC: PASCHA FOLLOWED BY EGG HUNT

March went by so quickly and we find ourselves in April and rapidly approaching Pascha.

We are preparing for Pascha in many ways. We have a small group of children preparing for First Confession. In just a few more weeks, they will participate for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

All of the children will continue to work with Anna Hamann on music for Palm Sunday. She will work with them during church school time so it becomes doubly important that children are at church school each week as they only have two more weeks to practice.

Church school will only meet two times this month. On April 3, children will learn about the Sacrament of Holy Unction and on April 10, the lesson will be about Palm Sunday. Both of these lessons give the children an opportunity to learn about these important events in our church life leading up to Holy Pascha. Classes will not meet on April 17, Palm Sunday or April 24, Holy Pascha. Church school will resume on May 1.

As always, we look forward to seeing all the children and thank you all for supporting their participation in Church School. A child's first and best teachers about the faith are their parents and there is no better place for all of us to learn than in church.

Yours in Christ,
Terri Oginsky
Church School Coordinator
989-906-0135
toginsky@gmail.com



ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH SCHOOL
INVITES YOU TO JOIN!

Pascha Egg Hunt

ALL SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

ST. THOMAS SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MAY 1ST

FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY & CHURCH SCHOOL

2439 S. LONG LAKE RD

FENTON, MI 48430



SMMOY

ST. MARY MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX YOUTH

Remember to encourage each other to attend
as many Lenten services as possible!

Mark your calendars!

Lazarus Saturday Pancake Breakfast
April 16th

ALL NIGHT VIGIL
Friday April, 22- Saturday, April 23rd

UPCOMING
GATHERING
APRIL 10TH
FOLLOWING LITURGY

**We need Old Testament Readers
for
Great and Holy Saturday Morning!**



COLLEGE CORNER

PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Katherine Arnes
Oliver Senter
Sydney Wilkenson
Renee Wilkenson
Katerina Jonescu
Katheryn Brcic
Alexandra Kekel
Abigail Arnes
Tea Jonascu
Ethan Durand
Justin Auxier

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is the official campus ministry organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America





COMMUNITY OUTREACH

“AN INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR
COMMUNITY OUTREACH LED BY THE
FAITHFUL OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH”

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

PASCHA CARDS FOR OUR SHUT-INS - BE SURE TO SIGN THE PASCHA CARDS THAT
WILL BE MAILED TO OUR SHUT-INS. SUE WALTON HAS THE CARDS FOR YOU TO
SIGN!

NO COMMUNITY EVENTS SCHEDULED UNTIL AFTER PASCHA

Please contact Deacon Mike or the Parish
office if you would like to join the efforts of
the Fellowship of St. Photini

*Truly, I tell you,
whatever you did for one of
the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.*
~MATTHEW 25:40

PACK A BASKET!



As is our tradition at St. Mary Magdalene Parish we encourage everyone to bring a Pascha basket to be blessed and shared following the Paschal service on April 23rd-24th. This will be an opportunity to break bread (and meats) with your brothers and sisters in Christ on the Feast of Feasts as we celebrate our Lord's Resurrection together!

For those of you who are new to the faith or unfamiliar with this tradition, the above illustration shows what a traditional basket may look like. However, as a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural parish this basket looks different to everyone! Some bring a very traditional basket while others may bring pizza or hot wings. Some bring a basket for their families, some bring crockpots to share. There is always more than enough to go around. The most important part of this tradition is the fellowship and celebrating the feast together! Please plan on staying following the Divine Services to continue the celebration, the church will remain open until the wee hours of the morning!

If you have any questions regarding our parish tradition reach out to your Godparent, Sponsor or the parish office.

CHRIS IS RISEN!

INDEED HE IS RISEN!



The Great and Holy Myrrh-bearer **Mary Magdalene**, equal to the apostles, and the patroness and protectress of our parish was a disciple of Jesus. She was Mary of Magdala, a town in Galilee. She was present at the crucifixion and burial of Christ. She was one of the first to see Him risen from the dead.
(Matthew 27:55-61, Mark 16:1-10)



In her icon, St. Mary Magdalene is depicted holding a red egg telling the story of her attending the Emperor's banquet. She is holding a vessel, this tells the story of her as one of the Myrrh-bearing women. Lastly it shows her holding a cross which tells of her martyr death.



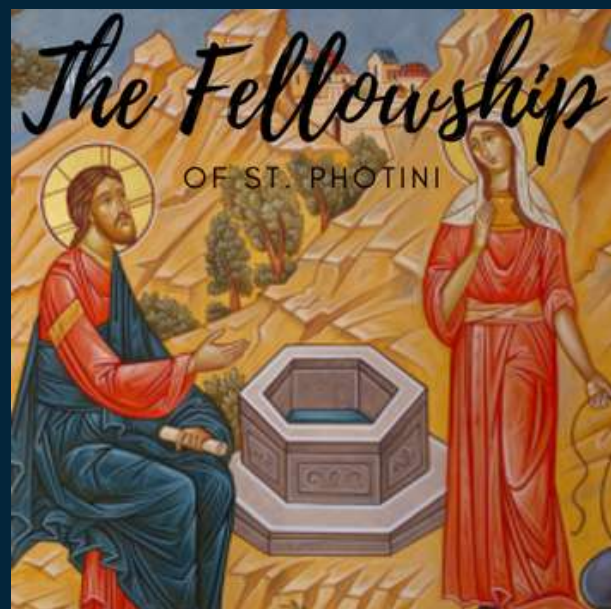
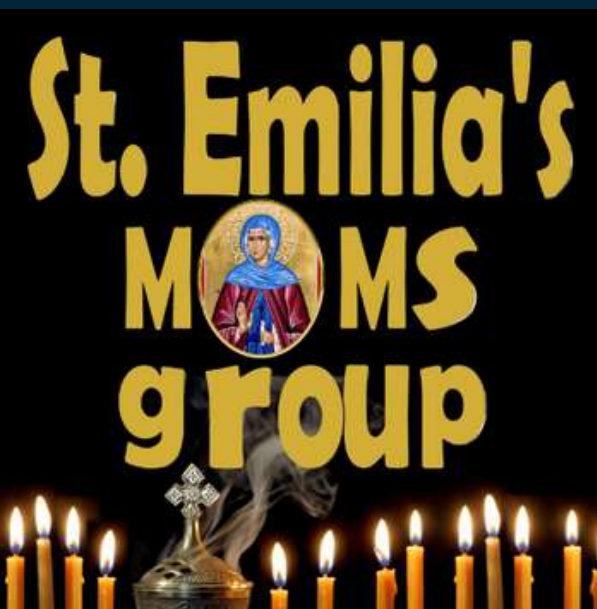
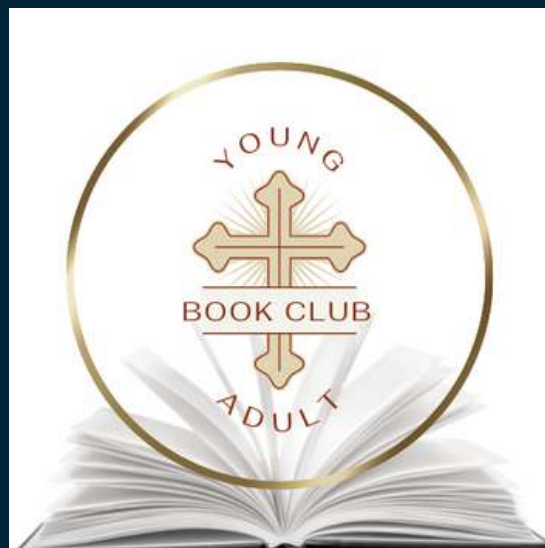
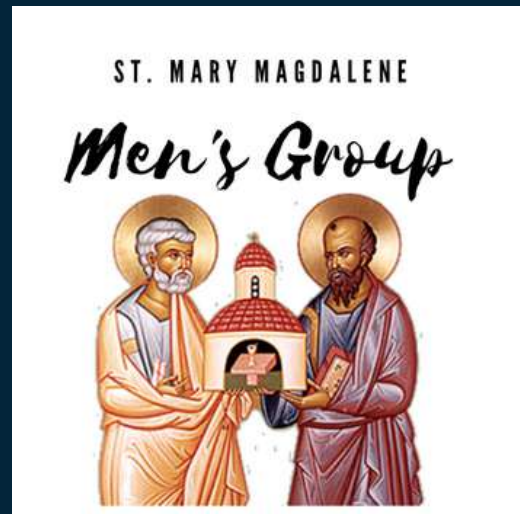
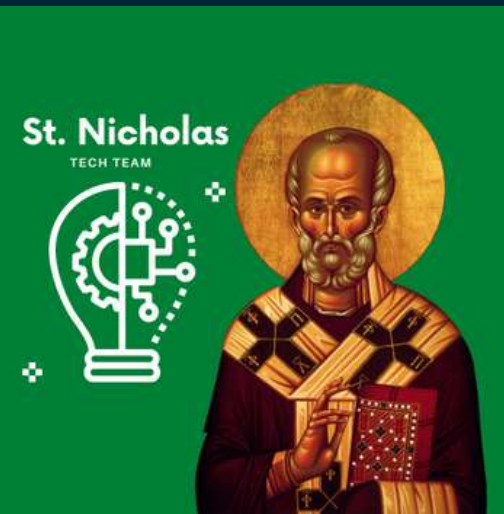
MIRACLE OF THE RED EGG

According to a pious tradition of the Church, St. Mary Magdalene, following the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, attended a banquet given by Emperor Tiberius. At the banquet she met the Emperor, and while holding a plain egg in her hand she exclaimed loudly, "CHRIST IS RISEN!" The Emperor laughed, and said that Christ rising from the dead was as likely as the egg in her hand turning red while she held it. Before Emperor Tiberius finished speaking the egg in her hand turned a bright red, and she continued to proclaim the Gospel to the entire imperial house.

Crack your eggs together to celebrate the shattering of Hades by the victorious Christ!
St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church - Fenton, MI



PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS





St. Mary Magdalene

Parish Council

Upcoming Meetings:

April 12th, 7:00pm
May 10th, 7:00pm

Parish Council Members

Joe Otis, Chair
Reader Chris Ballnik, Secretary
Ann Schutt, Treasurer
David Welch
Tina Shepherd
Subdeacon Andrew Durand
Rachel Burtka
Terri Oginsky

Alternate: Jay Rice



FELLOWSHIP AGAPE MEALS

Agape (Greek agapē): in the New Testament, the fatherly love of God for humans, as well as the human reciprocal love for God. In Scripture, the transcendent agape love is the highest form of love and is contrasted with eros, or erotic love, and philia, or brotherly love.

Sobornost: Divine-Human Oneness

Sobornost means spiritual harmony based on freedom and unity in love. It is a necessary component in our membership with the Body of Christ, for if we are not bound together in love, our freedom becomes our enemy, separating us from others and ultimately from Christ Himself. This concept was so important to early Christians that it was the basis for the agape meal, when Christians shared their food with one another after the celebration of the eucharistic banquet.

That the pre-communion fast would be broken after the Divine Liturgy with a communal meal (the love feast) clearly demonstrates the importance of community within the life of the Church. Sobornost is the divine human oneness we experience as members of the on Body, the Church, and is the moment when we who are many become one. It is the image of the unity of the Holy Trinity, finding its expression among the believers.

Sobornost is not the same as fraternity, a submission to a brotherhood for benefit of the individual. Rather, it is akin to *kenosis* (the relinquishment of divine attributes by Jesus Christ in becoming human) Sobornost is when the individual gives up self-benefit for the community or ecclesia.

We cannot truly be one in Christ if we do not seek out oneness with our fellow Christians. Nor can we be one with Christ if we routinely reject sobornost for heights of spirituality that make us so conscious of self that they separate us from our neighbor.

-"The Morning Offering" Abbot Tryphon November 16th

2022 AGAPE

MEAL SCHEDULE

April 24th: Pascha Celebration, bring your basket!

May 1st: Agape Meal bring a dish to pass - Egg Hunt for the kids.

June 12th: Holy Pentecost, bring a dish to pass

July 24th: First Responders Blessing, Main Meal provided please bring a dessert to share

August: No Agape Meal

September 18th: Agape Meal, bring a dish to pass

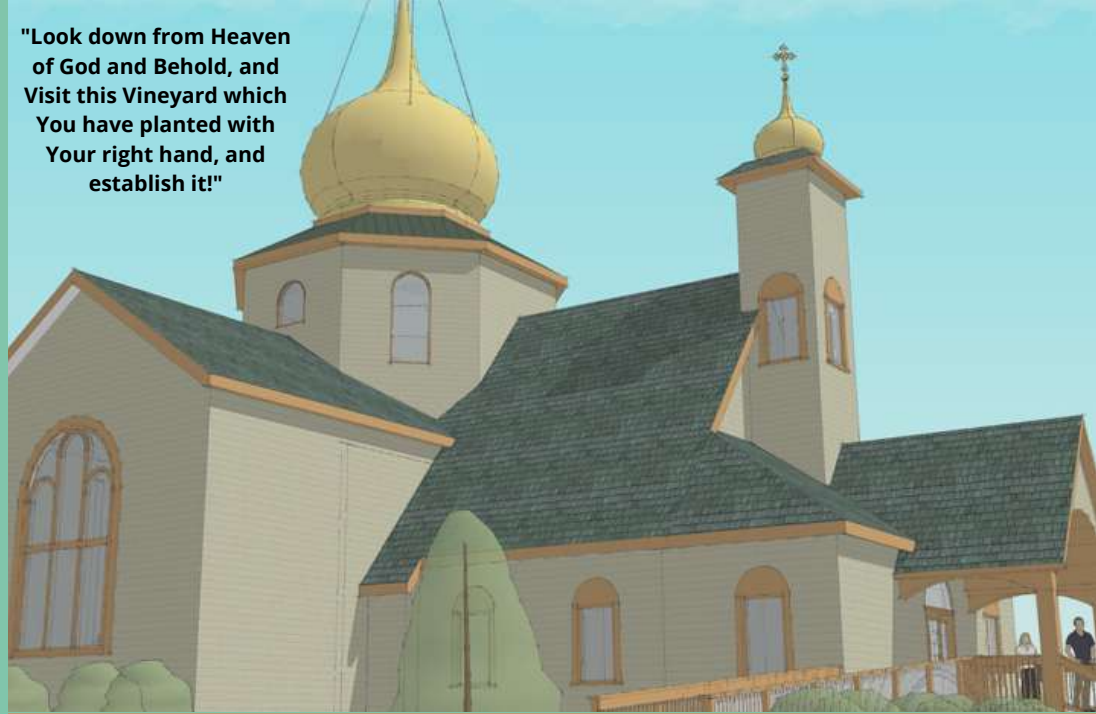
October 9th: October Fest bring a dish to pass

November 13th: Veterans Lunch, main dish provided, please bring a dish to pass

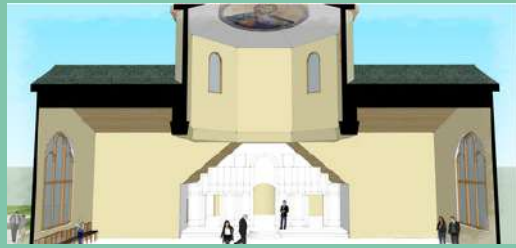
December 11th: Agape Meal (Fasting)

December 24th: Holy Supper

"Look down from Heaven of God and Behold, and Visit this Vineyard which You have planted with Your right hand, and establish it!"



Outdoors from the front of the building.



The inside of the Sanctuary.



Outdoors from the back of the building.



**St. MARY
MAGDALENE**
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

CONNECT WITH US

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church
2439 S. Long Lake Rd
Fenton, MI 48430
810-750-1401
smmocafernton@gmail.com
st-marymagdalene.org



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



EXPANDING THE MISSION

By the Grace of God, since the founding of the mission in 2002, our Lord has indeed allowed tremendous growth to our little parish in the woods. The time has now come, as was the hope of our founding members, to complete the expansion of our Church Temple in order to accommodate an ever growing parish family!

WORSHIPING IN THE CENTER OF THE CROSS

Beginning in 2019, the parish began to make plans for a future expansion with the goal of doubling the size of our current worship space, while still maintaining the "Little" Church feel by keeping the faithful in close proximity to the altar. The expansion calls for each side of the existing temple to extend out into the shape of a cross, leaving us to worship in the very center of the cross which is where Christians belong!



WINDOWS INTO THE PAST

Along with the new additions, we have been given the blessing to acquire the stain-glass icon windows from St. Tikhon's Monastery, the oldest Orthodox Monastery in the country, thus tying a small piece of History from the Orthodox Church in America to our little parish in the woods.

A TREMENDOUS BLESSING

We have received a commitment from a private donor who has offered to match any donation dollar for dollar, up to \$500,000! If God so wills that we are able to make the most of this incredible gift, we should be able to cover the cost of the expansion without the need of a mortgage!

If you would like to help take advantage of this blessing, checks can be made out to St. Mary Magdalene with the memo "Building Fund".

HOW CAN YOU HELP FULFILL THE MISSION?

The first and most important thing that all of us can do is to pray, by adding this prayer to your daily intentions:

"O Lord our God, we ask that you bless the good intentions and works of the faithful of St. Mary Magdalene parish, and by the Grace Guidance, and indwelling of the Most Holy Good and Life Creating Spirit, allow it to build up it's Holy Community to Your Glory. For unto You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen!"

How can you help?

1. Like and share our social posts to spread awareness
2. Keep us in your prayers as we embark on this new mission.
3. Give as you are able, remember we have a matching donor that will meet dollar for dollar up to \$500,000 so no amount of giving is too small!

How to give.

1. Checks can be made payable to St. Mary Magdalene with "building fund" in the memo line and mailed to St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church 2439 S. Long Lake Rd - Fenton, MI 48430
2. Visit our website at <http://www.st-marymagdalene.org> and click the donate button on the bottom right hand side of the page
3. Cash can be dropped at the Parish Office Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 10am & 3pm or by appointment.
4. The parish also has options available for investment transfers of appreciated stocks, bonds and mutual funds. For more information on this option call the parish office at 810-750-1401.



DETROIT'S ANNUAL
INTER-ORTHODOX SUNDAY LENTEN

Vespers 2022

13 MARCH: TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY

with Children's Procession of Icons
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX BASILICA OF ST MARY
18100 Merriman Rd, Livonia (between 6 & 7 Mile Rds)
The Very Rev Fr PAUL PATISTAS, Homilist

20 MARCH: ST GREGORY PALAMAS

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION ORTHODOX CHURCH
36075 W 7 Mile Rd, Livonia (between Newburgh & Farmington Rds)
The Very Rev Fr RADOMIR OBSENICA, Homilist

27 MARCH: THE HOLY CROSS

ST GEORGE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
18405 W 9 Mile Rd, Southfield (just W of M-10 & M-39 Fwys)
The Very Rev Fr MICHAEL VARLAMOS, Homilist

3 APRIL: ST JOHN OF THE LADDER

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
25225 Middlebelt Rd, Farmington Hills (between 10 & 11 Mile Rds)
The Very Rev Fr MICHAEL BUTLER, Homilist

10 APRIL: ST MARY OF EGYPT

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
39851 W 5 Mile Rd, Plymouth (just E of Haggerty Rd)
The Very Rev Fr JOHN BAKER, Homilist

Prayer. Education. Fellowship.

ALL ARE WELCOME - Services 6:00pm | Free-will offering | Refreshments follow

Officiated by members of the St John Chrysostom Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood | Responses by the Detroit Inter-Orthodox Vespers Choir

www.coccdetroit.org



@orthodoxdetroit

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

LET'S GET CONNECTED!

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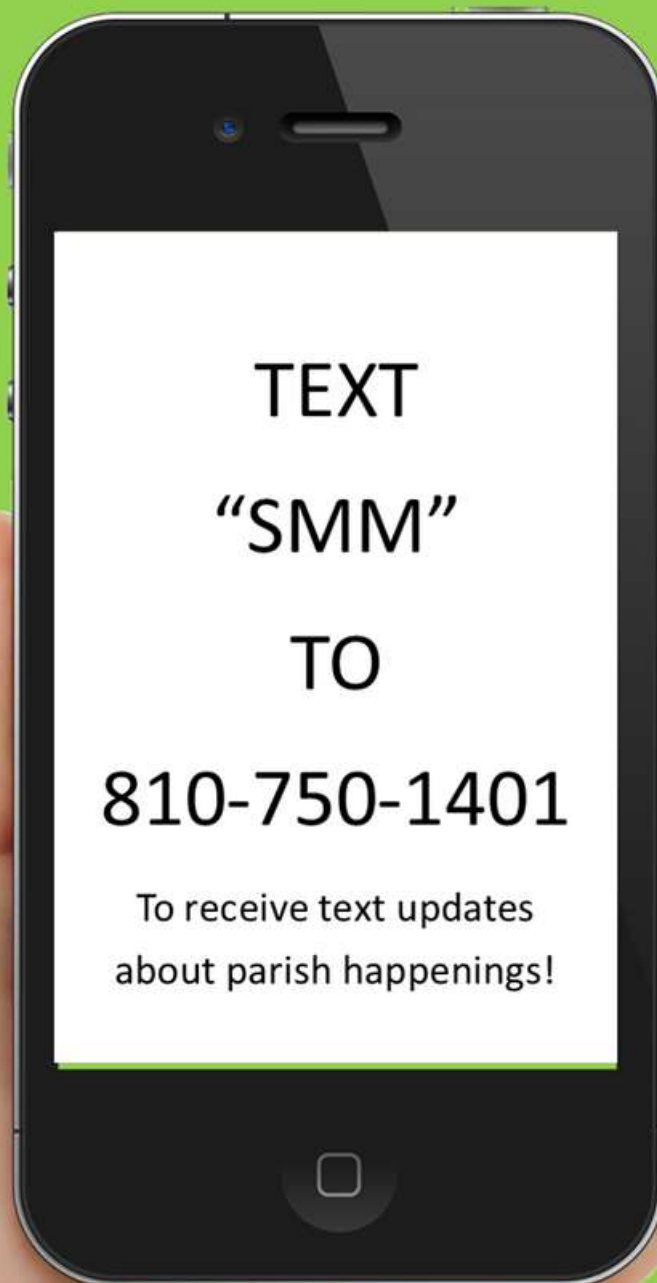
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St. MARY
MAGDALENE
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TEXT

"SMM"

TO

810-750-1401

To receive text updates
about parish happenings!



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Call: 248-318-7342

Donation of

\$500.00

REFERRAL PROGRAM

To benefit the Building Expansion Project

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 sold home!

Conne Terova
Real Estate One

Cell: 248-318-7342
cterova@gmail.com
teamterova.com

