



**ST. MARY MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.st-marymagdalene.org

Photo from the Sunday of Orthodoxy

**2439 S. Long Lake Rd
Fenton, MI 48430**

Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-750-1401

**Church Email:
SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com
Father's Email
frgabrielsmm@gmail.com**

Office Hours*:
Monday 10:00am-3:00pm
Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm
Friday 10:00am-3:00pm
*or by appointment

WORSHIP WITH US!



Weekly Service Schedule*
Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:40am
Wednesday Divine Liturgy, 10:00am
Saturday Vespers & Confessions, 4:00pm

*check the monthly calendar for any possible changes to this schedule and for weekday Divine Liturgies.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES THIS MONTH

3- Canon of Repentance & Confession, 6:00pm

5-Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm

10-Presanctified Liturgy at St. George, 6:00pm

11-Reader's Akathist Canon of St. Mary of Egypt, 6:00pm

12-Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm

13-Baptisms & Chrismations, 10:00am, Soul Saturday, 3:30pm

17- Canon of Repentance & Confession, 6:00pm

18-Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt, 6:30pm

19-Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm

24- Baptism, 3:30pm & Presanctified Liturgy, 6:00pm

26-Vespers for Lazarus Saturday, 6:30pm

HOLY WEEK APRIL 17-MAY 4 (SEE DETAILS BELOW)

Great Lent is in full swing! Visit the Great Lent Page of our website for the full service schedule!



2439 S. Long Lake Rd
Fenton, MI 48430
(810) 150-1401

Email: smmocafernton@gmail.com

wwwst-marymagdalene.org

DONATE



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

2024 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Friday, April 26th::

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

Saturday, April 27th: Lazarus Saturday

Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy at Holy Assumption, 9:15 am

Great Vespers & Confession at St. Mary Magdalene, 4:00pm

Sunday, April 28th: Palm Sunday

Divine Liturgy, 9:40am & Parish Photo

Bridegroom Matins, 7pm (confession available)

Monday, April 29th: Great & Holy Monday

Bridegroom Matins, 7pm (confession available)

Tuesday, April 30th: Great & Holy Tuesday

Bridegroom Matins, 7pm (confession available)

Wednesday, May 1st: Great & Holy Wednesday

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

Thursday, May 2nd: Great & Holy Thursday

Divine Liturgy for the Institution of the Eucharist, 10am

Passions Gospels, 7pm

Friday, May 3rd: Great & Holy Friday

Royal Hours, 10am

Unnailing Vespers, 3pm

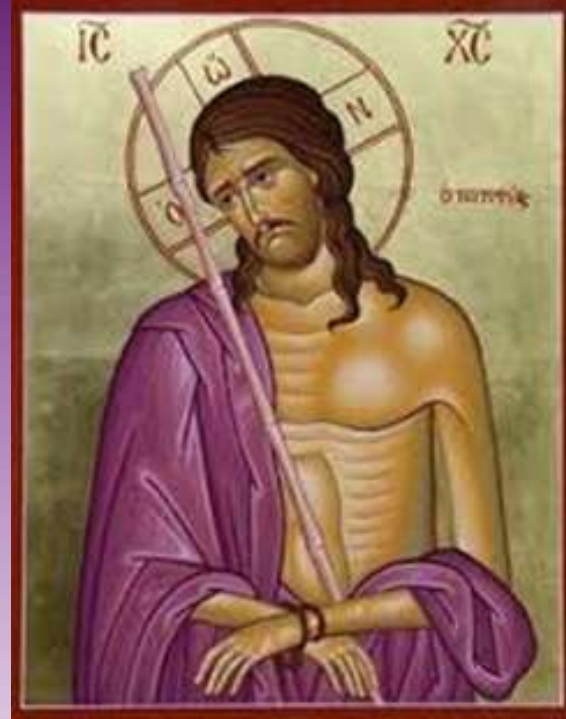
Lamentations & Procession, 7pm

All Night Vigil

Saturday, May 4th: 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, May 5th: GREAT & HOLY PASCHA

Agape Vespers, 1pm

Monday, May 6th: Bright Monday

Divine Liturgy, 10am at St. Mary Magdalene

Tuesday, May 7th: Bright Tuesday

Divine Liturgy, 10am at St. Nicholas

Wednesday, May 8th: Bright Wednesday

Divine Liturgy, 6pm at St. George

Friday, May 10th: Bright Friday

Divine Liturgy 10am at Holy Assumption

Saturday, May 11th: Bright Saturday

Great Vespers, 5pm at St. Nicholas

MONTHLY FORECAST

Parish Happenings!

BAPTISMS & CHRISMATIONS

One of the tremendous blessings we will have this month is the Baptisms and Chrismations of 22 new warriors for Christ! The dates for these services include: Saturday, April 13th beginning at 10:00 AM, Sunday, April 21st beginning at 9:40 AM, and Wednesday, April 24th, beginning at 3:30 PM. Please keep all of our catechumens and new born children in your daily prayers as they prepare to participate in the Holy Mysteries of God!

CANON OF REPENTANCE & CONFESSIONS

On Wednesday, April 3rd and Wednesday April 17th, beginning at 6:00 PM, we will be serving the Canon of Repentance while confessions are offered in the Church. Do not wait until the week before Holy Week to have your Lenten confession! If you cannot make it to these canons, or to Vigil on Saturday evenings, please set up a separate appointment with Fr. Gabriel.

PALM SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for April 28th, which is Palm Sunday! We will be taking our annual parish photo in the newly renovated Church following the Divine Liturgy! Be sure to be present!

PAN ORTHODOX DIVINE SERVICES

There are two Pan Orthodox Presanctified Liturgies remaining this Great Lent. The first is on Wednesday, April 10th at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church beginning at 6:00 PM. The second is here at St. Mary Magdalene on Wednesday, April 24th at 6:00 PM. Both of these Liturgies will be followed by a Lenten Pot Luck meal!

PAN ORTHODOX LAZARUS SATURDAY AND PUBLIC PROSKEMEDIA

As is the tradition of the Pan Orthodox Churches of Genesee County, we will be having a joint Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday at Holy Assumption Greek Orthodox Church on Saturday, April 27th. Before the Divine Liturgy, parishioners have the opportunity to offer names for commemoration for the Proskemia Service. This will begin at 9:15 AM, with Liturgy starting around 10:00.

PARISH MOVING NIGHT

Following Vigil on Saturday, April 20th we will gather to watch the "Man of God" movie. Bring a Lenten snack to share!

CHARITABLE GIVING:

St. Mary Magdalene

Your generosity is so appreciated over the last several months of our building project. While the majority of major items have been completed we still have several small items to complete. You can help by donating through our Amazon wish-list or a donation to the building fund. We still also have our day to day operating expenses (utilities, liturgical supplies, education, etc.) So please consider an extra Paschal offering with your regular tithes!

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Lenten Retreat with Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick

On Saturday, April 6th, beginning at 10:00 AM, we will be hosting our Pan Orthodox Lenten Retreat, followed by Pan Orthodox Great Vespers and Confessions. On Sunday, April 7th, we will be joined by Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick from Ancient Faith Radio, who will also be offering the Sunday Homily!



CLIMBING THE LADDER TOWARDS HOLINESS

There is an INCREDIBLE Saint who the Church reminds us of on the 4th Sunday (April 14th) of our Lenten Journey. His name was St. John, and he spent 40 years in a cave about a half mile from the Monastery on Mt. Sinai, struggling in the arena of solitude.

Can you imagine the spiritual effects of spending 4 decades of your life doing nothing but prayer, fasting, and drawing nearer to God? He was intimately connected with Christ in a way that many could only dream of! St. John's holiness, his way of life, and the miracles wrought through him by God Himself, became known all throughout the world.

Naturally, there were others that sought to follow and emulate St. John's asceticism. Towards the end of his life, St. John received a written request by the abbot of a Raithu (a monastery located near the Red Sea), who addressed him as *"the supernatural angelic father of fathers and incomparable teacher"*. The abbot asked St. John to write down the steps they must take to live and find the angelic life through monasticism, and it is this writing that the Church remembers today: The Ladder of Divine Ascent: A list of 30 steps that a faithful ascetic must ascend if He is to reach communion with God.

We have many different tools in our life that are used to help us ascend to a higher plain. In the recent construction of the Church, I have literally seen it all: Classic wooden ladders, machines called "Booms", scissor lifts, scaffolding, and even a

space for a future elevator. Perhaps the only popular mode of ascension I haven't seen is an escalator, which is one of the more popular modes of ascension that is used in our own day and age.

There are many Christians in the world (and perhaps even a few of them Orthodox) that see our journey up to heaven as riding on an escalator. The popular belief is that if we make a small effort to get in, it will securely and comfortably take us to our destination. It is safe, smooth, and foolproof...we just have to get on and go for the ride. *"Sola Fide...faith alone will get us where we want to go."*

For Orthodox Christians like St. John Climacus, to simply step on the ladder wasn't enough. Ascension into the Angelic life isn't electric and automatic. If we want to ascend, we have to put forth an effort and climb one step at a time.

I remember a few years ago (when I was in better but not "the best" shape), I took part in a "Tackle the Tower" event in downtown Cleveland to raise support for the Ronald McDonald House charity. The goal was to ascend the stairwell of Terminal Tower, a 52-flight climb, and be timed for your efforts. The reward was a cool sip of water, a pat on the back, and a ride back down the elevator when you were finished.

I remember standing in line and, wanting to show off to my future wife and mother-in-law, when the timer went off for my run, I shot up the stairs like a bullet. My Mother-in-law, who had dragged me to this event, immediately warned me to slow down or I would never make it to the top. I must have ascended 3 or 4 floors before I realized that this was going to be a lot harder than I thought...because the higher I climbed, the more difficult it was to even have the motivation to go on further. I can't tell you how many times I wanted to give up because I was out of breath. My body was screaming for me to stop and take elevator back down. There were teams of volunteers that were spread out throughout the stairwells to encourage those who were slowing down to keep going. By the time I reached the top floor, I wasn't met with a cool sip of water, but with paramedics toing an EKG on me to make sure I was going to be ok!

I was reminded of this embarrassing episode from my life when I was meditating on our Lenten Journey and on the Ladder of Divine Ascent. On that first day of the Great Fast, we too shot out into the Lenten Desert like a bullet! Increased spiritual reading, increased prayers and services, a greater focus on what goes into and what comes out of our mouths. Inevitably, as we began our climb, we realized that this wasn't going to be an easy victory.

CLIMBING THE LADDER TOWARDS HOLINESS

CONTINUED

During these first few weeks of April, Great Lent begins to weigh down on so many people. The temptations are there to break our ascetism, to miss weekday services, and to continue with the business of the world during the most sacred time of the year. I cannot tell you how many phone calls and conversations I have had with many of you, each dealing with a different kind of physical or spiritual affliction that became more intense during these past few weeks of ascetical struggle. Despite the feeling of being beaten down, exhausted, and tired, the only spiritual advice that the priest can offer is to "keep going". Like those volunteers on the steps of that tower, so we too have the Saints... those incredible men and women who have already ascended the tower...motivating and cheering us on.

St. John himself in the Ladder encourages us, saying:

"Ascend dear brothers and ascend eagerly! Be resolved in your hearts to ascend and to hear Him who says: "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of our God, who makes our feet like hind's feet, and sets us upon high places, that we might be victors with His song."

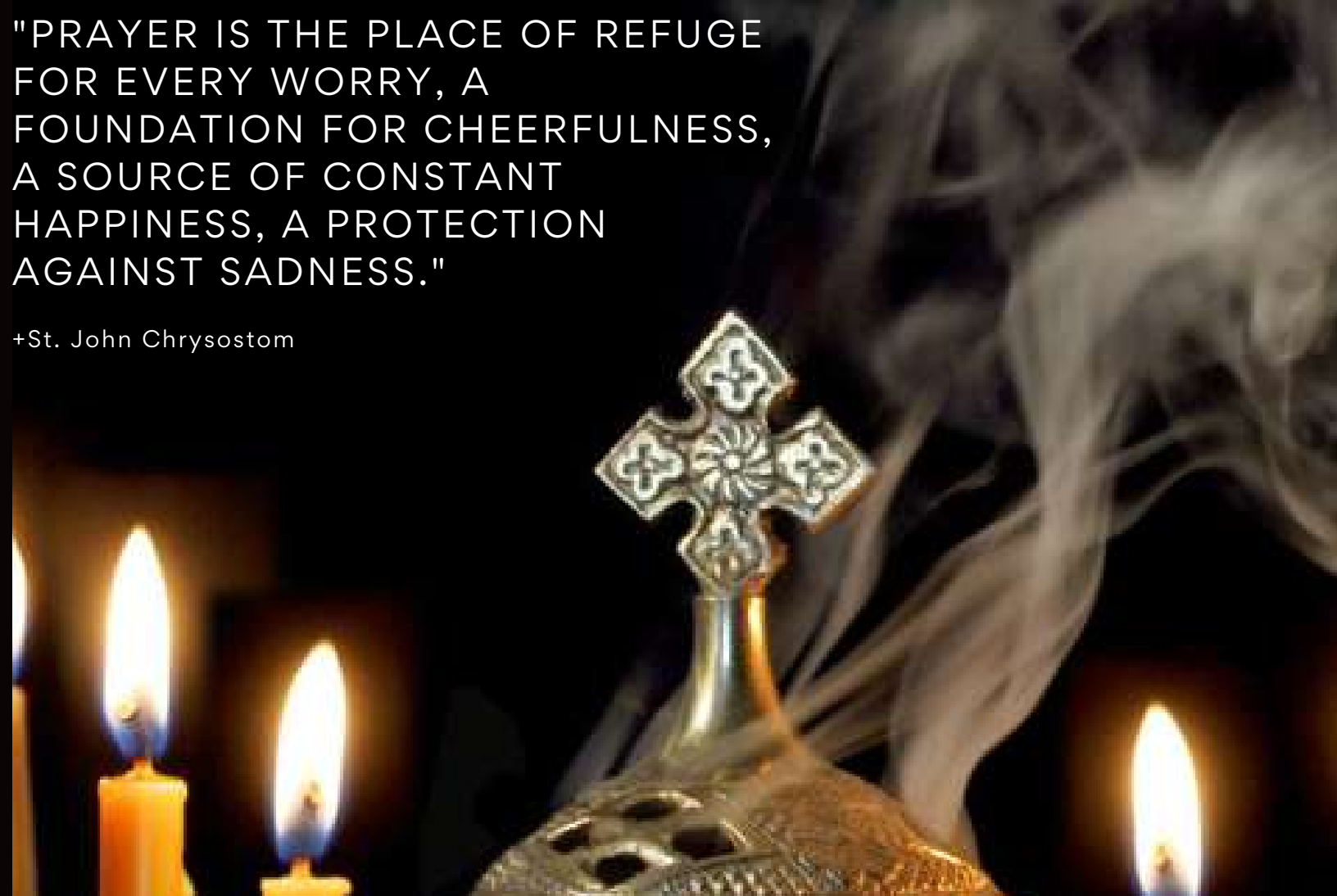
Run, I beseech you, with Him who said: "Let us hasten until we attain to the unity of faith and of the knowledge of God, unto a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, who when He was baptized in the thirtieth year of His visible age, fulfilled the thirtieth step in the spiritual ladder; since God is indeed love, to whom be praise, dominion, power, in whom is and was and will be the cause of all goodness throughout endless ages. Amen."

Through the prayers of St. John of Sinai, may we continue our Ascent towards Holy Week and Pascha with the same energy and enthusiasm as the day we given new life at baptism!



"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



Sick and the Suffering*

+Alexander	Jeanette
+Nathaniel	Paul
Sbdn. Paul	Mike
Vinne	John
Elaine	Harry
David	Patricia
Pat	Dottie
Michael	Mary
Lauren	Lupe
Mason	Dimko
Theresa	David
Robert	Hannah
Arminda	Stephanie
Martin	Kayla
Shirley	Terry
Nadia	
Child	
Hudson	

Mother's With Child

Catherine	Emily
Chloe	Mat. Danielle
Allison	Jaclyn
Lauren	Natania
Renee	

Catechumenate

Landen
Ethan
Scott

Armed Forces

Michael Oginsky - U.S.
Stephany Bishop - U.S. Navy
Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers
Alex Suriano - Air National Guard
Sarah Tyler- U.S. Air Force
Sergeant Mark Stringer -Army Reserves
Sergeant John McCay - Army Chaplin

Anniversary of Repose

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

Recently Departed

Demitrios
Richard
David

Seminarian Family

Reader Paisios, Anna, John,
Theodore & Alexander Hamann

**To help keep our list organized,
names will be taken off of our
prayer list every 3 months. Please
contact the parish office to add
names back to the list.*



MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!

SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH



Recent & Upcoming Baptism & Chrismations

3/31:

Sarah Miller & Jeannie Azor

4/13:

Ethan, Allison, Stella & Vera McCallion
Derek, Alexis, Kamden & Maverick Gross
Ryan, Morgan & Milo Maten
Gavin Mackie
Aaron, Skyler & Theoden Barnes
Sophia Miller

4/21:

Kane & Stephanie Hughes
Thomas & Catherine Folkmier
Nathan Folkmier

4/24:

Mary Pardee

Confession Schedule

Father Gabriel will hear confessions on the following days or by appointment. Saturday Evenings following Great Vespers/Vigils or after the Canon of Repentance on Wednesdays. Keep an eye on the calendar for exact dates and times.

For the Sick and the Suffering

There is a prayer service for the sick and the suffering, especially those with cancer, held the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm. Please contact the parish office to add any names to the prayer list. **NOTE: There is no prayer service in April**

Birthdays

4- Billy Keegan

5-John White

11-Theodore Cooley

12-Michelle Rosynsky

13-Samuel Bondira

16-John Wolf

16-Mia Hillaker

16-Vera McCallion

17-Tina Shephard

17-Stella McCallion

18-Anna Joseph

21-Nicholas Schwartz

22-Brian Arnes

26-Sbdn. Robert Lanterman

26-George Jonascu

30-Adelaide Lanterman

Anniversaries

None this Month

Weddings

None this month

New Catechumens

Scott Wren

Recent Funerals

None this Month

Engagements

William Keegan & Lauren Peters

Mark Foster & Katerina Jonascu

Gregory Auxier & Alexis Ferguson

Nick Schwartz & Sarah Miller

Tyler Hinsley & Emily Lizzio

Jeff Schalk & Julia Zayan

Nicholas Berens & Katherine Arnes

PARISH LIFE

THIS MONTH

Fellowship of St. Photini April Outreach Ministry:

There will be no special collections in April. However, as you do your spring cleaning keep the Foster Closet in mind!

Adult Education: Lenten Retreat (Registration Closed) Saturday, April 6th

Tot Time: Wednesdays at 10:30am as we enter into the Lenten Schedule

Parish Council: Tuesday, April 9, 7pm

Homeschool Co-Op: We are in the early stages of planning a Homeschool Co-op at the parish. If you would like to be involved please reach out to Renee Auxier.

Baptisms & Chrismations:

This month we are bringing 24 souls into Holy Orthodoxy. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the sacrament with our Brothers & Sisters.

Pascal Gospel in Many Languages John 1:1-5

Aramaic: Mark Yonan
Arabic: Rita Dagher
Chinese: John Bartley
Cornish: Anna Pardee
French: Jeanette Hildreth (sub: Rita Dagher)
Gaelic: Anna Pardee
German: Katherine Schutt
Greek: Rdr Thomas Chiatas
Italian: Cindy Welch
Latin: Richard Ziats
Polish: Cindy Chiatas
Romanian: Jeanette Hildreth (sub: Elena Schutt)
Russian: Inna Bondira (sub: Stephen Bondira)
Slavonic: Richard Ziats
Spanish: Kristin Swor Wolf (sub: Asher Wolf)
Swedish: Rdr Chris Ballnik
Ukrnian: Mykola Newmerzyckyj (sub: Michelle Rodynsky)

Anyone know any other languages???
Contact Jeanette Hildreth if you would like to read the first part of the Gospel in a different language.

PARISH GREETERS

April 7: Frieda Owens

April 14: Steve & Sue Walton

April 21: Jacob Bowers

April 28: Scott & Tina Shephard

BELL RINGERS

April 7: Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

April 14: Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

April 21: Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

April 28: Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

COFFEE HOUR

April 7: Ruth Karabina
(Fasting)

April 14: Chris & Rachel Burtka
(Fasting)

April 21: Rdr David & Elena Schutt
(fasting)

April 28: Andrew & Shannon Joseph
(fasting)

EPISTLE READERS

April 7: Seraphim Pardee & Rdr Chris Ballnik

April 14: Rdr Nathaniel Auxier & Rdr David Schutt

April 21: John Wolf & Ruth Karabina

April 28: Jennifer Otis & Seraphim Pardee

PASTORAL REPORT

UPDATE FROM FR. GABRIEL

Worship:

Our return back to our home after almost 2 years of exile took a lot of planning and volunteers, but certainly filled a lot of people with tremendous joy and anticipation for what is to come. It was wonderful to see a packed Liturgy on the first day back, as well as good attendance for Clean Week. God willing this will be a sign of things to come, as we embark on our Lenten Journey.

Community:

One of the pieces of moving back into the Church that I am most excited about is the opportunity to sit and share community meals and events with each other once again. We have seen the return of our Lenten Pot Lucks after Friday Pre-Sanctified Liturgies, as well as holding the Pan Orthodox Lenten Retreat on April 6th. In terms of outside of the community, there have been a lot of random pop-ins of locals who have wanted to see and tour the Church. This is despite the fact that we have not made any formal announcements of our re-opening to the outside community. I would like to see some sort of open house weekend be planned for after Great Lent, but before our "Grand Reopening Weekend" in July.

Education:

Our Church School has finally started up again in the Education Center on Sundays following Divine Liturgy. Tot Time is also continuing throughout Great Lent. We are in the beginning planning stages of starting a homeschool co-op at the parish, if you are interested in joining in please reach out to Renee Auxier. The next all parish study will take place after Pascha.

Stewardship:

We collected and distributed 100 lbs of cereal for our Cereal Drive in March. This was a tremendous success for being a oneday drive, coupled with it being our first Liturgy back in the Church!



St. Mary Magdalene

Parish Council

Upcoming Meetings:

All Meetings begin at 7:00pm

January 9
February 13
March 12
April 9
May 14
June 11

July 9
August 13
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10

**Annual Meeting
December 1, 2024**

Parish Council Members

John Wolf, Chair

George Jonascu, Vice Chair

Ann Schutt, Treasurer

Rachel Burtka, Secretary

Subdeacon Andrew Durand

Terri Oginsky

Jay Rice

Subdeacon John Auxier

Alternate: Pat Matts

Building Project Update:



If you have any questions regarding the building project please reach out to our contractor Jonathan Peters or to a member of parish council.

By the Grace of God, we received our temporary occupancy for the temple space this past month and were able to start off the beginning of Great Lent back in our home! We have completed all of the items that the city has required for access to the downstairs hall, and are just waiting on official word from the powers that be.

The final bill came due, and with all of the additions that the city required for occupancy, as well as the elevator that will be out of production this month, there is still approximately \$102,000 outstanding that will need to be paid. The parish council is currently looking at our options, but please continue to be generous in your giving towards the building fund!

Glory to God for All Things! It has been an inspiration to see what our little parish has accomplished so far!

Pictures from our First Divine Liturgy back!



FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI

We are grateful for all of the contributions we received for the one day cereal drive. We gathered just under 100lbs of cereal and the local food bank was estatic! Thank you!

In the month of April we will focus on the charitble giving to our parish as we journey together to the Pascha of our Lord.

In May we will be working on a project with Foster Parents Awareness Month.

UPCOMING

May:
Fostering Awareness Month
June:
Sock & Underwear Drive for the Foster Closet
July:
OCPM Sunday
August:
Back to School Supply Drive

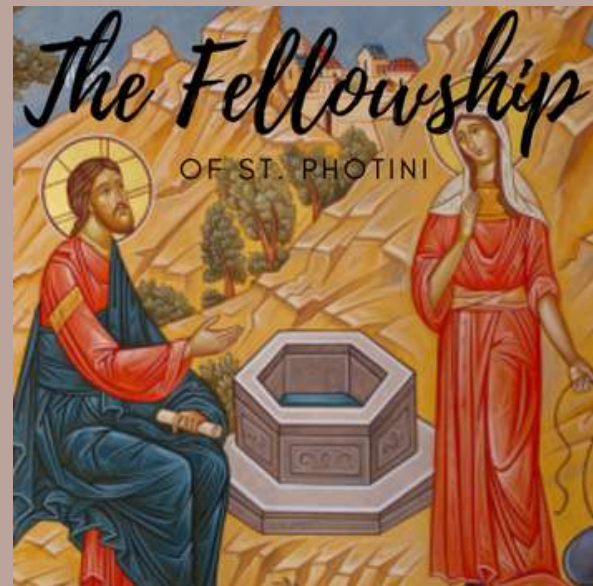


ONGOING

- Collection of Old Eye Glasses
- Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- Foster Closet supplies
- Ethnic Hair Care Supplies

*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

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



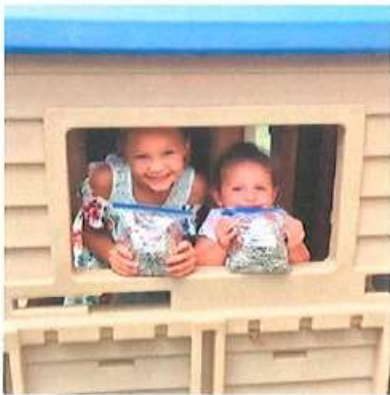


Ronald McDonald
House Charities
Ann Arbor

#KeepingFamiliesClose

POP TAB PROGRAM

Collecting pop tabs is an easy way for anyone to support Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor! It is also a great way to teach kids about philanthropy and the importance of recycling while raising funds to help children and their families at the same time.



Why save pop tabs? RMHCAA collects pop tabs instead of the entire aluminum can because it is more hygienic to store tabs than cans, and collection and storage is easier. The program allows people of all ages to support RMHCAA and know they are making a difference for families and children.

What does RMHCAA do with the pop tabs? The pop tabs collected are turned in and weighed to determine their value. The proceeds collected from recycling helps fund the programs provided by RMHCAA to support our families and provide a “home away from home”.

What does it take to collect pop tabs? It’s easy! Pull tabs mostly come from soda cans but may also come from other aluminum items like vegetable and soup cans. Encourage your class, church, business or community organization to collect them too. Every little bit helps! Collect tabs any way you would like – in zip lock bags, coffee cans, boxes, or any other wide-mouthed container.

What do I do with the pop tabs collected? When your collection is complete, you can drop your tabs off at the RMHCAA office located in the Main House, at 1600 Washington Hts., Ann Arbor. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and weekends.

Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor | 1600 Washington Hts. Ann Arbor 48104
(734) 944-4442 | www.rmhcannarbor.org

PARISH EXTRAS

PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

The parish lending has recently gone through a reorganization and added several new titles. The list of current titles are available digitally on our website. Use the sign-out sheet to check out a book.

You can find reading on the following topics;

St. Mary Magdalene Pictorial History, Young Adult, Journals, Children's Books, Orthodox Theology, Spirituality, Multi Media, Family Life, Orthodox Living, About Prayer & Prayer Books, Sacraments, Advent, Great Lent & Pascha, Intro to Orthodoxy, Scriptural Study, Church History, Liturgical Theology, Service Books, Lives of the Saints. Patristics. Memoirs & Commemorations, and Ethics

Access the full list of library titles by clicking the stack of books below!



PARISH KIOSK



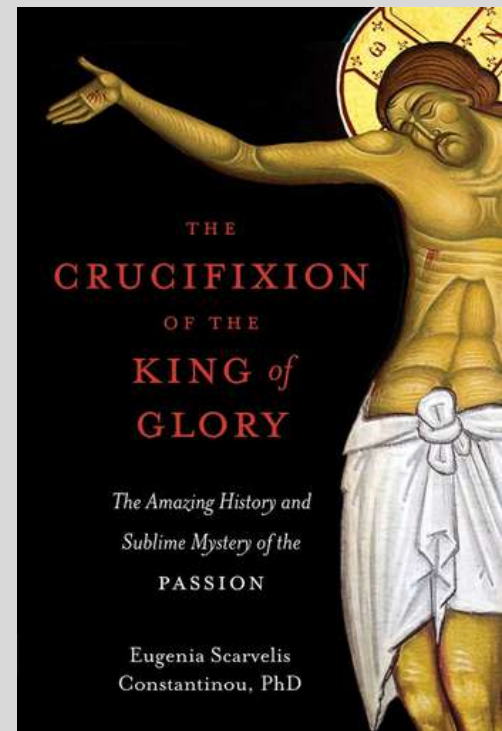
If you would like to order any items for your home altar please reach out to the parish office!

We have our Lenen Pop-up Kiosk set up in the vestibule. Check it out!

“THE CRUCIFIXION OF THE KING OF GLORY: THE AMAZING HISTORY AND SUBLIME MYSTERY OF THE PASSION”

BY DR. EUGENIA SCARVELIS CONSTANTINO

The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ are central events in our salvation. Yet few Christians have a good grasp of the first-century historical and religious context in which the Crucifixion took place, nor of its true significance for the people of that time—and hence for our time as well. Biblical scholar Dr. Jeannie Constantinou puts modern readers in the center of the events of Christ's Passion, bringing the best of modern scholarship to bear while keeping her interpretation faithful in every particular to the Orthodox Tradition.



If you are looking for something specific please reach out to the parish office and we can order it from our suppliers. Your order helps support the parish.



MUSIC MINISTRIES

PARISH BELL RINGERS AND CHOIR



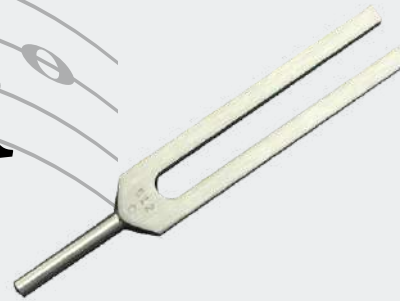
Regular Bell Ringing Rehearsals

1st Tuesday of the Month, 10:30am

1st Sunday of the Month following Divine Liturgy

This ministry needs new volunteers! If you are interested contact Cindy Welch to join this ministry!

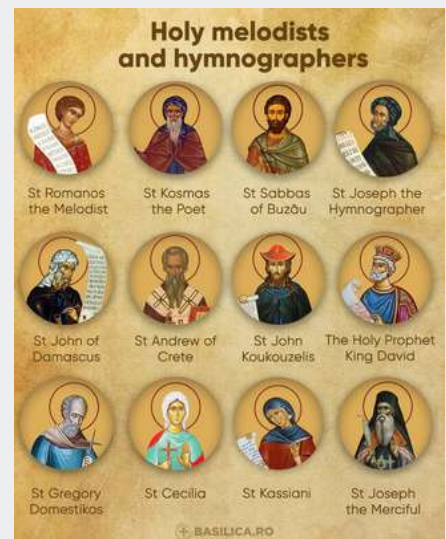
PARISH CHOIR



UPCOMING REHEARSALS:

April 13: 2:00pm - 3:30pm

April 27: 2:00pm- 3:30pm



“
Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For he has done marvelous things...

-Psalm 98:1



EDUCATION

LIVE AND LEARN THE FAITH!



Our Parish Youth!

I know we are all very happy to be worshipping in the “Big Church.” And, we are also happy to be participating in Church School once again. This session will be short. We began on March 31 and our last class will be April 21, the week before Palm Sunday. We are focusing on the Sundays of Great Lent and connecting lessons to the themes of those Sundays. We have grouped children by the age they were in September. All classes are meeting in the education center. We have a dedicated group of volunteers to teach the children and we thank God for each one. These volunteers include Julie Jonescu and Katherine Schutt teaching the 4-5 year olds; David Welch and Stephanie Hughes with the 6-7 age group; Chris Ballnik and Cindy Chiatialis working with the 8-10 year olds; Amanda Auxier and Rachel Burtka teaching the 11-12 year olds. We are excited to be back in class and while focused on these weeks, we are looking forward to a full church school year in 2024-2025. Please feel free to reach out to any of us with your questions, concerns or ideas.

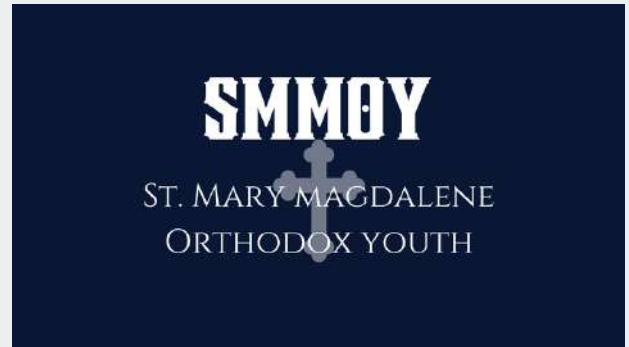
Yours in Christ,

Terri Oginsky
Church School Coordinator
989-906-0135
toginsky@gmail.com

PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Katheryn Brcic
David Brcic
Abigail Arnes
Tea Jonascu
Ethan Durand
Justin Auxier
Ava Arnes



KEEP AN EYE ON BAND!!

YOUNG ADULTS

BOOK CLUB AND FELLOWSHIP

Our Young adult group is for anyone ages 21-45 who wish to join in fellowship and faith.

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

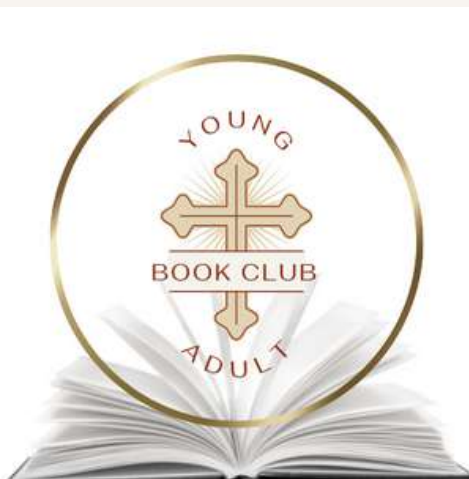
YOUNG
ADULT
GROUP



The Young Adult Social group meets Monthly for an Akathist, meal and fellowship.

This group also spends time together following Vespers/Vigils on Saturday

To join either of these groups on the Band App, reach out to Subdeacon John Auxier and he will get you added!



The Young Adult self-guided book club is open to everyone in our Pan-Orthodox community. They meet Thursday evenings at 6:00pm (*with the exception of Akathist evenings*) and move from home to home to read spiritual books and enjoy a meal together.

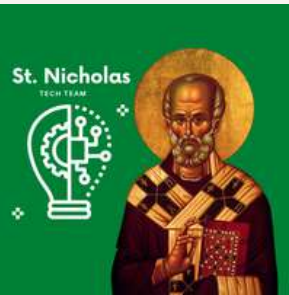
Monthly Akathist 2024 SCHEDULE

HOSTED BY THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP

JANUARY	6:00PM
11	Guardian Angel
FEBRUARY	6:00PM
8	Romanov Passion Bearers
MARCH	6:00PM
14	Martyr Varus
APRIL	6:00PM
11	Canon of St. Mary of Egypt
MAY	6:00PM
9	St. Paisios
JUNE	6:00PM
13	St. John Maximovich
JULY	6:00PM
11	St. Matushka Olga
AUGUST	6:00PM
8	Joy of all Who Sorrow
SEPTEMBER	6:00PM
12	Holy Cross
OCTOBER	6:00PM
10	Inexhaustible Cup
NOVEMBER	6:00PM
14	Joachim & Anna
DECEMBER	6:00PM
12	Holy Myrrhbearers

AKATHIST WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CHURCH FOLLOWED BY YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP - PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS

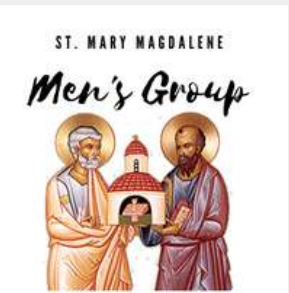
PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS



THE ST. NICHOLAS TECH TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING, UPDATING, AND ENHANCING THE ONLINE PRESENCE OF OUR PARISH. ENCOMPASSING THE WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS, AND LIVE-STREAMING SO THAT WE CAN SPREAD ORTHODOXY THROUGH MODERN COMMUNICATION CHANNELS.



THE ORTHODOX MOM'S GROUP IS MADE UP OF MOTHERS WHO GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS HOW BEST TO HELP RAISE THEIR CHILDREN WITHIN THE TRADITIONS OF THE ORTHODOXY FAITH. WE ARE IN NEED OF A MOTHER TO HEAD THIS MINISTRY.



THE MEN OF THE PARISH GET TOGETHER A FEW TIMES A YEAR AT VARIOUS PLACES TO ENJOY IN FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER. FOR MORE INFORMATION, DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO THE PARISH OFFICE.



THE ST. SOPHIA'S TOT TIME IS FOR PARENTS OF BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN TO COME TOGETHER FOR FELLOWSHIP, AND COFFEE, DURING THE WEEK. THE GROUP GATHERS ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY APPROX. 11:00AM -12:00PM (*THE GROUP STILL MEETS ON WEDNESDAY EVEN IF DIVINE LITURGY IS NOT HELD*) THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN AND EXPLORE THE CHURCH WHILE PARENTS COME TOGETHER TO SHARE PARENTING LIFE, JOYS AND DISCUSS THE RAISING OF THEIR LITTLE SAINTS. REACH OUT TO MATUSHKA LAURA WITH ANY QUESTIONS



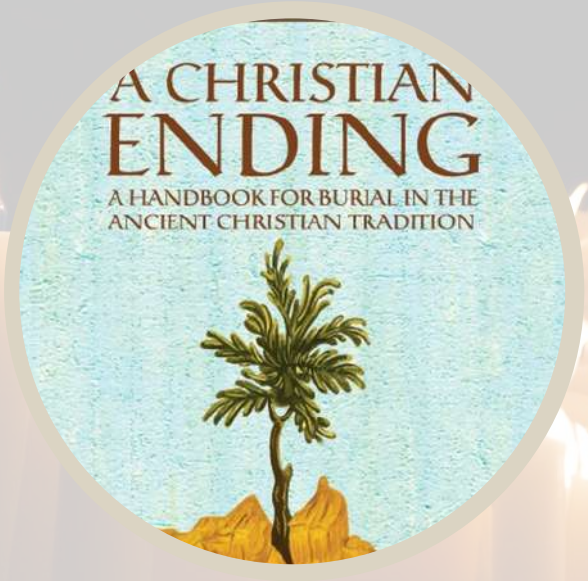
THE HOLY MYRRHBEARERS IS A DEVELOPING MINISTRY IS TO HELP OUR PARISHIONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES NAVIGATE END OF LIFE, DEATH AND THE BURIAL OF LOVED ONES. AS WELL AS EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL AFTERCARE FOLLOWING THE FUNERAL.



MAY 24-26

“A CHRISTIAN ENDING”

A WORKSHOP TO DEVELOP A
MYRRHBEARER MINISTRY IN YOUR PARISH



HOSTED BY ST. MARY MAGDALENE & ST. NICHOLAS PARISHES

RETREAT LEAD BY PROTODEACON MARK BARNA
AUTHOR OF *“A CHRISTIAN ENDING; A HANDBOOK FOR BURIAL IN THE
ANCIENT CHRISTIAN TRADITION”*

FRIDAY | MEET & GREET 7:00PM

SATURDAY | CHECK-IN , SOCIAL TIME & HOSPITALITY 9:00AM
FULL DAY WORKSHOP BEGINS 10:00AM
LUNCH PROVIDED AS A FREE-WILL OFFERING
GREAT VESPERS & CONFESSIONS 5:00PM

SUNDAY | Q & A FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

2439 S. LONG LAKE RD
FENTON, MI 48430
ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG

*The Pan-Orthodox Churches
of Genesee County*

Holy Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church
(2245 E. Baldwin Rd Grand Blanc, MI)

St. George Orthodox Church
(5191 Lennon Rd Flint, MI)

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox
Church
(2439 S. Long Lake Rd Fenton, MI)

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
(2143 S Center Rd Burton, MI)



***Upcoming Events with
our Pan-Orthodox
Brothers and Sisters***

UPCOMING PAN-ORTHODOX EVENTS

PAN ORTHODOX LENTEN RETREAT (REGISTRATION CLOSED)

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

10:00AM - 4:00PM

VESPERS 4:00PM

ST. MARY MAGDALENE

PAN ORTHODOX PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH

6:00PM

ST. GEORGE (5191 LENNON RD | FLINT, MI)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

6:00PM

ST. MARY MAGDALENE

PAN ORTHODOX DIVIEN LITURGY WITH PUBLIC PROSKOMEDIA

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

9:15AM

ASSUMPTION GREEK (2245 E. BALDWIN RD | GRAND BLANC, MI)

THE LENTEN SCHEDULE OF PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES ARE BELOW! SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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

2024 Great Fast and Bright Week



Pan-Orthodox Divine Services and Lenten Refreshments

Great Compline at St. George (*Mondays, 6pm*) All are welcome every Monday night. This beautiful service, along with the Lenten Hours on Wednesdays at St. Nicholas, allows us to experience the Great Fast more deeply. Confessions will be available after the service.

Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas (*Wednesdays, 10am*) All are welcome every Wednesday morning.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy and **Lenten Potluck Dinner** (*Wednesdays, 6pm*) We will celebrate together the Presanctified Liturgy and the Great Feast of the Annunciation according to the schedule below. Holy Communion is given at both. To partake of Holy Communion at evening liturgies, please be prepared with prayer and fasting (*no eating or drinking after 12 Noon*). Confessions will be available prior to the evening liturgies from 5:30pm–6pm. The Lenten Potluck Dinners will be coordinated by the host parish.

Sunday, March 24th Great Feast of the **Annunciation Great Vespers** at Assumption 6pm

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

March 27th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 6pm

Saturday, April 6th **Lenten Retreat** (*more information to follow*)

April 10th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. George 6pm

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

April 27th **Preparation of Gifts, Raising of Lazarus Liturgy** at Assumption 9:30am

Bright Week (May 5th - 11th)

May 6th **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 10am

May 7th **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 10am

May 8th **Paschal Evening Liturgy** at St. George 6pm

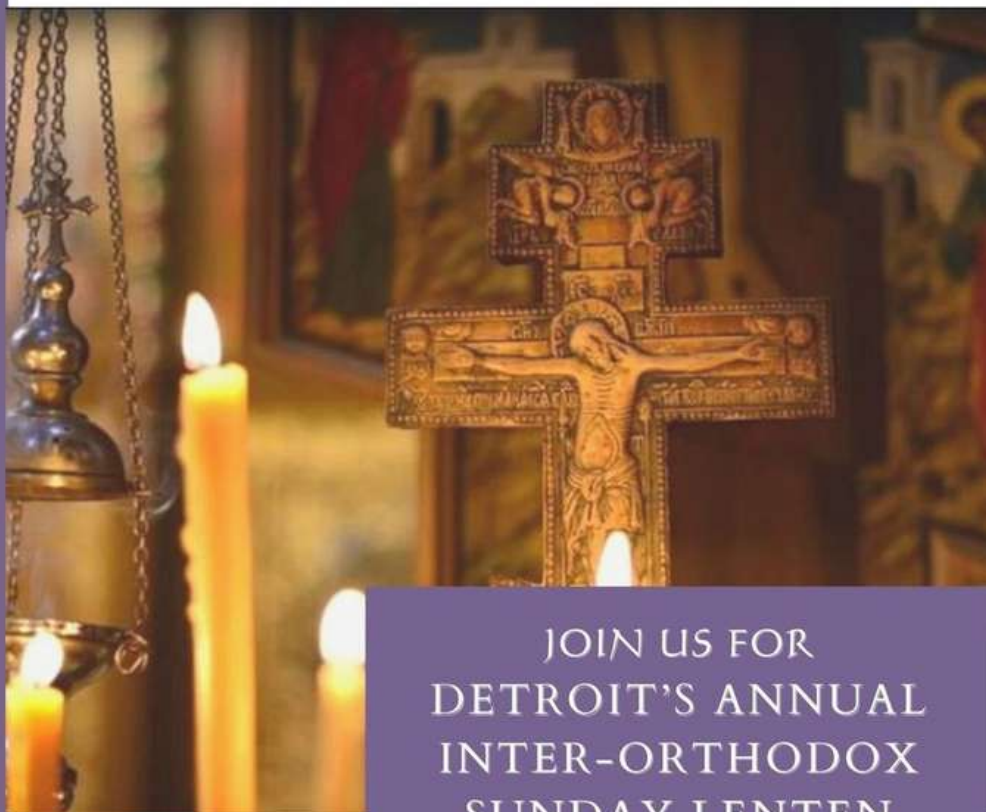
May 10th **Paschal Divine Liturgy for the Life-giving Font** at Assumption 10am

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

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages.

LENTEN PRAYER OF ST. EPHREM



JOIN US FOR
DETROIT'S ANNUAL
INTER-ORTHODOX
SUNDAY LENTEN
VESPERS

www.coccdetroit.org

Join us each Sunday evening for Vespers and Fellowship

24 MARCH | TRIUMPH of ORTHODOXY with Procession of Icons
St. Lazarus "Ravanica" Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
4575 E. Outer Drive, Detroit 48234

31 MARCH | ST GREGORY PALAMAS
Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church
36075 W. Seven Mile Rd, Livonia 48152

7 APRIL | VENERATION of the HOLY CROSS
St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral
18405 W. Nine Mile Rd, Southfield 48075

14 APRIL | ST JOHN CLIMACUS
St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church
3212 W. 12 Mile Rd, Berkley 48072

21 APRIL | ST MARY of EGYPT
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
760 W. Wattles Rd, Troy 48098

Services each Sunday at 6:00 pm
FREE-WILL OFFERING
REFRESHMENTS

Officiated by the St. John
Chrysostom Clergy Brotherhood
Responses by the Orthodox
Choir of Detroit

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

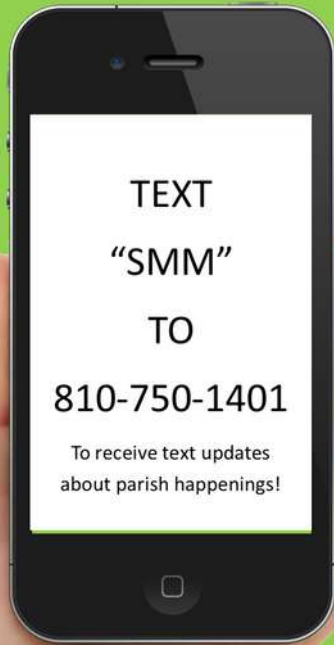
Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 25th	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week MARCH 3rd	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare MARCH 10th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 17th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 24th	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 31st	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 7th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 14th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 21st	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 28th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY MAY 3rd	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 5th NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Stay up-to-date with
St. Mary Magdalene
Orthodox Church



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH



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youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene

Subscribe

save the date

April:

6- Lenten Retreat with Fr. Stephen Damick

20- Parish Movie Night

27-May 4 - HOLY WEEK