



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

August 2020

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

*" 'The door, who
now passes through
the doorway', be-
cause it was through
her that God entered
the world."*



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MONTHLY BULLETIN AUGUST 2020

Important Dates to Remember:

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- ✝ 8/1—Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Fleet
- ✝ 8/5 Vespereal Liturgy at St. Nicholas for Holy Transfiguration
- ✝ 8/6 Divine Liturgy for Holy Transfiguration @ SMM
- ✝ 8/11 Parish Council Meeting
- ✝ 8/12 Metanoia Adult Education Begins weekly classes
- ✝ 8/13 Divine Liturgy for St. Tikhon
- ✝ 8/14 Dormition Lamentations
- ✝ 8/15 Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy for Dormition at Holy Assumption

Standing at His Feet

A message from Fr. Gabriel

On August 14th and 15th, in what is the last of the Major Feast Days of the Liturgical Year, we will be gathering in front of the grave of our Blessed Mother, singing beautiful and centuries old lamentations as we honor her blessed Dormition.

There are so many incredibly deep petitions that will be sung by the choir, which highlight just how important the Theotokos is to the life of a Christian. She is called in those hymns:

“The door, who now passes through the doorway”, because it was through her that God entered the world.

“Heaven Who now enters heaven”, because her womb which was more “spacious than the heavens” was home to the Word of God from the time of the Annunciation to the Nativity.

“The Throne of God who now ascends the Throne of God” because it was God made the womb of the Theotokos into His Throne.

On August 14th, we will be swinging the incense and singing her praises as the true ***“Mother of the Light”***, who ascended up into the heavens to offer prayers to God for all mankind.



For any Christian, Mary is the ultimate example of how we are called to worship God. It is interesting that for all of the Feast Days that are about the Theotokos, we hear from the same Gospel reading, which strikingly isn't even about the right Mary! The gospel reading for these feast days speaks of Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus who were once hosting Jesus in their home. Martha was going around the house like so many of us would be doing if we had an honored guest come! She was cooking, cleaning, and serving those who were gathered, while her sister Mary was simply sitting at Jesus's feet and listening to His words. Martha's reaction to her sister's lack of help was one that probably sounds familiar in our own households when there are guests! In the middle of serving, she finally got fed up with the entire situation and said: "*Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me!*"

Our Lord answered her: "*Martha, Martha...you are troubled about many things, but one thing...**one thing**...is needed. Mary has chosen that good part, and it will not be taken away from her.*"

That **one thing** was what the Theotokos did best her entire life. When our Lord was born in the midst of a cave in Bethlehem, she was there, sitting at his feet. When He preached throughout all of Israel, the Theotokos was there listening to His words. When Jesus was crucified and sent to the Cross, she was there watching as her Son and God was weeping in agony for the human race. Even after the Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven, we know from Holy Tradition that the Theotokos did not cease sitting at the feet of Christ. Fulfilling Christ's commandment from the Cross, St. John took the Theotokos into his home which was near the Mount of Olives. It was there that she spent the remaining years of her life visiting the various holy places in Jerusalem where her Son once walked.

Perhaps Mary's favorite place to go and pray was on the very spot that she saw her Son's earthly face for the last time...on top of the mountain where Christ ascended into heaven. She would spend hours praying and waiting for the day when they would be united again.

When one examines the life of the Panagia, one can easily see how she spent her entire life doing that **one thing** that is needed...simply sitting and waiting at the foot of the Savior.

There is something to be said about that stillness that is needed in our day to day routines. Every day, without fail or excuse, we desperately need at least a few minutes to step out of the world, in order to think about our life with Christ, and to contemplate that day when we will once again be with him. We are called to remember that no matter how difficult things are in this life, we have the blessedness of the kingdom awaiting us!

Like obedient children, we must never forget to follow the example that our Mother has laid out before us. As we venerate her most precious body this month let us spend the feast day weeping at the feet of the one who spent her entire life weeping at the feet of God.



Month in Review

This past month, we were so blessed to celebrate the parish's feast day of St. Mary Magdalene. We have been extremely blessed beyond words, through the prayers of our patroness, at our parish during this time of Global Pandemic. This was our opportunity to offer thanksgiving to her who continually prays for us!

Book of the Month Club

Beginning this month, for anyone who would like to join, we will come together on the last Thursday of the month at 6:00pm to discuss the book of the month (below). This month we will meet in the Education Center with the goal to eventually move from home to home for a more intimate setting. As you read try to bring 1-3 things that really struck you or warmed your heart, and want to share with everyone who attends! Wine and snacks will be provided.



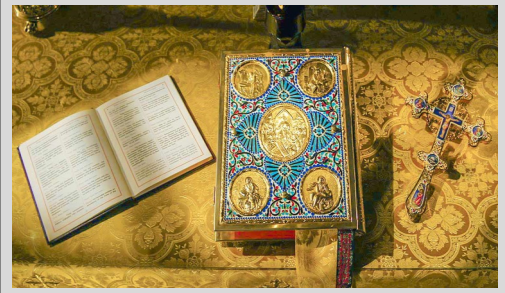
Recommended Book of the Month

Exploring the Inner Universe
Joy— the Mystery of Life

By Archimandrite Roman Braga

Included in this book are two essays composed by Fr. Roman - The Burning Bush and Romanian Monasticism During the Time of Communism. Being part of the "Burning Bush" movement in Romania cost Fr. Roman eleven years of freedom. The essay "Romanian Monasticism During the Time of Communism" is an invaluable historical account about the origins, the development and the meaning of Orthodox Monasticism in Romania, allowing us to understand better not only the meaning of monasticism, but also trials and tribulations of an Orthodox nation.

Archimandrite Roman Braga was in service at our beloved Holy Dormition Monastery. We have 4 copies of this book available in our Parish Lending Library.



This Month's Sunday Scripture Readings

August 2nd:

1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 14:14-22

August 9th:

1 Corinthians 3:9-17
Matthew 14:22-34

August 16th:

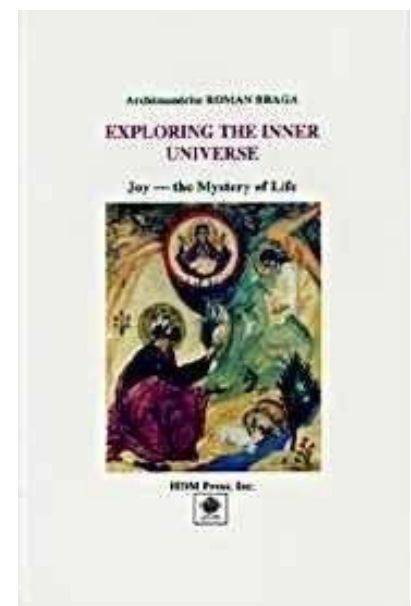
1 Corinthians 4:9-16
Matthew 17:14-23

August 23rd:

1 Corinthians 9:2-12
Matthew 19:16-26

August 30th:

1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Matthew 19:16-26



Book of the Month Club will meet Thursday, August 27th 6:00pm in the Education Center

WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- † 2– Charles Owens
- † 4—Julie Yonan, Sophia Forwerck & Douglas Lyon
- † 10– Eliana Rice
- † 16– Tom Chiatalas
- † 17– Elaine Gejoff
- † 18– William Watson
- † 19-Issac Dollins
- † 21– Tamara Arnes & Daniel Suriano
- † 24– Ted Walls
- † 25– Seraphim Pardee
- † 27– Adam Cody
- † 28– Stephen Walton
- † 29– Lauren Serafimovski
- † 31– Justin Nakagiri & Blaine Forsyth

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- † 2– Douglas & Renee Wilkinson
- † 15– Stephen & Susan Walton
- † 17– Doug & Melissa Auxier
- † 17– Michael & Anne Khoury



Class of

You're invited to celebrate

Nyomi Nicole Forsyth

Saturday, August 22nd
From 1:00pm -5:00pm

Forsyth Residence
229 Second Avenue
Tawas City, Michigan 48763



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!

Announcing New Office Hours

One of the many benefits of having a pastoral assistant will be the creation of a regular office hour schedule for the first time here at St. Mary Magdalene. To start with, 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

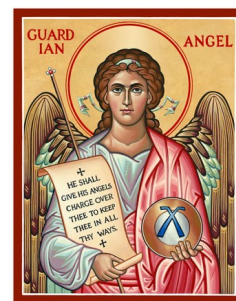
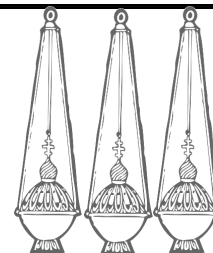
Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and sisters

Metropolitan Theodosius
 Metropolitan Herman
 Archpriest Stephen
 Vinnie
 Anastasia
 Alex
 Elaine
 Perpetua
 Carol
 Katelyn
 Frankie
 Thom
 Damian
 Stacie
 Carolyn
 Megan
 Lon
 Ella
 Elnora

Peter
 Calvin
 David
 Michael
 Jenna
 Carol
 Melissa
 Susan
 Renee
 Josh
 Paul
 William
 Sharon
 Tonya
 Kathy
 James
 Shannon
 John
 Betty

Theresa
 Kristen
 David
 Elaine
 Sandy
 Jeanne
 Jessica
 Sharon
 Claudia
 Leo
 Justin
 Alexandra
 Stephan
 Mat. Laura
 Brion
 Phil
 Stefan
 Andrew
 Adelaide

Linda
 Michael
 Dimitri
 Dustin
 Mason
 Barbara
 Patricia
 Ethan
 Joseph
 Fran
 Corina
 Ryan
 Erin
 Josh



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

Catechumens

Alyssa
 William
 Anthony
 James
 Anastasia

Recently Departed

Rob

Mother's With Child

Renee
 Robyn
 Amanda

Seminarians and their Family

Alexander & the Rice Family

Monthly Forecast

Calling All Kayakers!

On Saturday, August 1st, we will be having the Divine Liturgy for Procession of the Cross, followed by the blessing of Kayaks and Boats at our shrine outside! We will be welcoming Kayakers from the Flint Kayaker's Club, who will be putting in on the property and kayaking to Linden Mill Pond! Make it a point to bring your boats and to come to Liturgy that morning (Beginning at 10:00 AM).

Two Chances to Celebrate Transfiguration

There will be two opportunities for you to participate in the Feast of Holy Transfiguration this year. On Wednesday, August 5th, the Pan Orthodox Community will be celebrating the Vespers Divine Liturgy, which will be livestream only from St. Nicholas on their YouTube page, beginning at 6:00 PM. We will also be having Divine Liturgy here at St. Mary Magdalene on Thursday, August 6th, beginning at 10:00 AM. This service is open to all on a first come first serve basis!

Blessing of Fruit Baskets

For the feast of Transfiguration, it is customary to bring fruit to the Church to remind us of the new transfigured life we are called to in Christ. On Sunday, August 9th, be sure to bring your baskets of fruit to be blessed following the Divine Liturgy!

Metanoia Summer/Fall Semester

We are extremely excited to announce the beginning of our Fall Semester of Metanoia that will begin on Wednesday, August 12th, beginning at 6:30 PM. This class is free and open to all of our parishioners, friends, inquirers, and catechumens who wish to learn more about the Ancient Christian Church! This semester, we will be studying the mysteries of the Church, and answering some of the more difficult questions in life like Theodicy (Why Bad Things Happen to Good People) and life after death. Please email Fr. Gabriel at frgabrielmm@gmail.com to participate either in person or via Zoom this semester.

Thursday Divine Liturgies

With the exception of August 20th, all of the Thursdays of August will have Divine Liturgy beginning at 10:00 AM! We celebrate some wonderful feasts and saints on Thursdays this month, including St. Tikhon of Zadonsk and Holy Transfiguration! If you cannot join in person, put on the live stream and listen in at work!

Dormition Lamentations and Procession

Did you miss the beautiful melodies from this year's Good Friday service? Join us for the funeral service of our blessed mother on Friday, August 14th at 6:00 PM. We will be having the Dormition Matins, Lamentations, and Procession around the Church, just as we would have on Good Friday during Lent. The Divine Liturgy for Dormition will be live-streamed from Holy Assumption Greek Orthodox Church's Facebook Page (NOT ON YOUTUBE) on Saturday, August 15th, at 10:00 AM There is NO pilgrimage to Holy Dormition Monastery this year, but please consider still sending a donation.

SMM Golf Group Dates

The newly created SMM Golf Group will be meeting on Friday, August 7th and Friday, August 21st. If you are interested in joining the group, email Chris Ballnik (cballnik@hotmail.com) to be put on the group list and be informed of tee off times and course information.

Great Vespers on the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

This is a strict fast day, so please refrain from eating Meat or Dairy!



*An old world custom is to avoid using knives and platters for your meals that day.

*The Church is a hospital,
and not a courtroom, for
souls. She does not con-
demn on behalf of sins, but
grants remission of sins.*

- St. John Chrysostom

The Church is now open for private prayer
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
10:00am—3:00pm

or make an appointment
smmocafernton@gmail.com



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

Parish Membership Database

- ✝ As we transition our parish into having a pastoral assistant, we are taking this time as an opportunity to update our membership and friends of the parish database. The last time this database was fully updated was when Fr. Gabriel became rector in February of 2016.
- ✝ Please use the link in the body of the monthly email to access the online database update form or email smmocafernton@gmail.com or call the office to update your information.

ST. MARY MAGDALENE GOLF GROUP

We are pleased to announce the first ever St. Mary Magdalene Golf Group, who meets twice a month at some of our local courses for an afternoon of fellowship.

If anyone is interested in joining the golf group for an outing, please reach out to Chris Ballnik at cballnik@hotmail.com



St. Theodore the Studite's Homily on the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...One God Amen.

"To do justice to the holy celebrations proclaimed for today, my friends, our words call for the sound of the trumpet...for the voice of the horn sounding out more loudly and echoing to the ends of the earth...yet I fear they must be borne by the weak instrument of our own voices.

Still, the queen and mistress of the world cares little for honor, and she may well accept our short, poor discourse, offered here in her service, just as graciously as the long and splendid works of great orators.

But come, gather around me, everyone under heaven—all you hierarchs and priests, monks and people of the world, kings and rulers, men and women, young men and maidens, of all nations and tongues, of every race and every people—change your clothes for the robes of virtue. Wrap yourselves in them as in "bright garments fringed with gold" [Psalm 44.13 LXX], and come with hearts rejoicing to celebrate the festival of the burial and the passing into glory of Mary, the Mother of the Lord. For she has gone away from here and draws near the eternal mountains...she who is the true Mount Zion, where God was pleased to dwell.

Today she who was heaven on earth is wrapped in a cloak of incorruptibility. She has moved to a better, more blessed dwelling-place. Today the spiritual moon, shining with the light of God, has come into heavenly conjunction with the "Sun of righteousness," eclipsing her temporary home in this present life. Rising anew in His home, she is radiant with the dignity of immortality.

Today that ark of holiness, wrought with gold and divinely furnished, has been lifted up from her tabernacle on earth and is borne towards the Jerusalem above, to unending rest. Now the Mother of God shuts her material eyes, and opens her spiritual eyes towards us like great shining stars that will never set...to watch over us and to intercede before the face of God for the world's protection.

Now those lips, moved by God's grace to articulate sounds, grow silent, but she opens her [spiritual] mouth to intercede eternally for all of her race. Now she lowers those bodily hands that once bore God, only to raise them, in incorruptible form, in prayer to the Lord on behalf of all creation. At this moment her natural form, radiant as the sun, is hidden...yet her light shines through her painted image, and she offers it to the people for the life-giving kiss of relative veneration...even if the heretics are unwilling.

The holy dove has flown to her home above, yet she does not cease to protect those below. Departing from her body, she is with us in spirit. Gathered up to heaven, she banishes demons by her intercession with the Lord. Long ago, death took charge of the world through our ancestor Eve; but now it has engaged in combat with her blessed daughter and been beaten away...conquered by the very source from whom it had received its power.

Let the race of women rejoice, then, for it has received glory in place of shame! Let Eve be glad, for she is under a curse no more, having produced in Mary a child of blessing. Let the whole of creation jump for joy, drinking the mystical flood of incorruption from that virgin spring, and putting an end to its mortal thirst. These are the things we celebrate today, this is the subject of our solemn song! Mary provides it for us—the root of Jesse who bore the flower Christ...the rod of Aaron with its sacred bud...the spiritual Paradise containing the tree of life...the meadow alive with the fragrance of virginity...the blooming vine, cultivated by God, which became the ripe grape flowing with life, the high, exalted cherubim-throne of the universal king...the home full of the glory of the Lord...the sacred veil of Christ...the bright land of sunrise.

She has fallen asleep in peace and righteousness—fallen asleep, I say, but she is not dead! Though she has passed on from us, yet she does not cease to protect her people.



Our Parish Youth



We would like to thank everyone who donated to the Church School Pop Can Drive this past month.

Through your donations we were able to collect more than \$250 which is more than 2,500 cans and bottles!

Your generosity is appreciated and our Church School will benefit from your giving!

A special thank you to Greg Auxier for returning the donations!

Vacation Church School Canceled

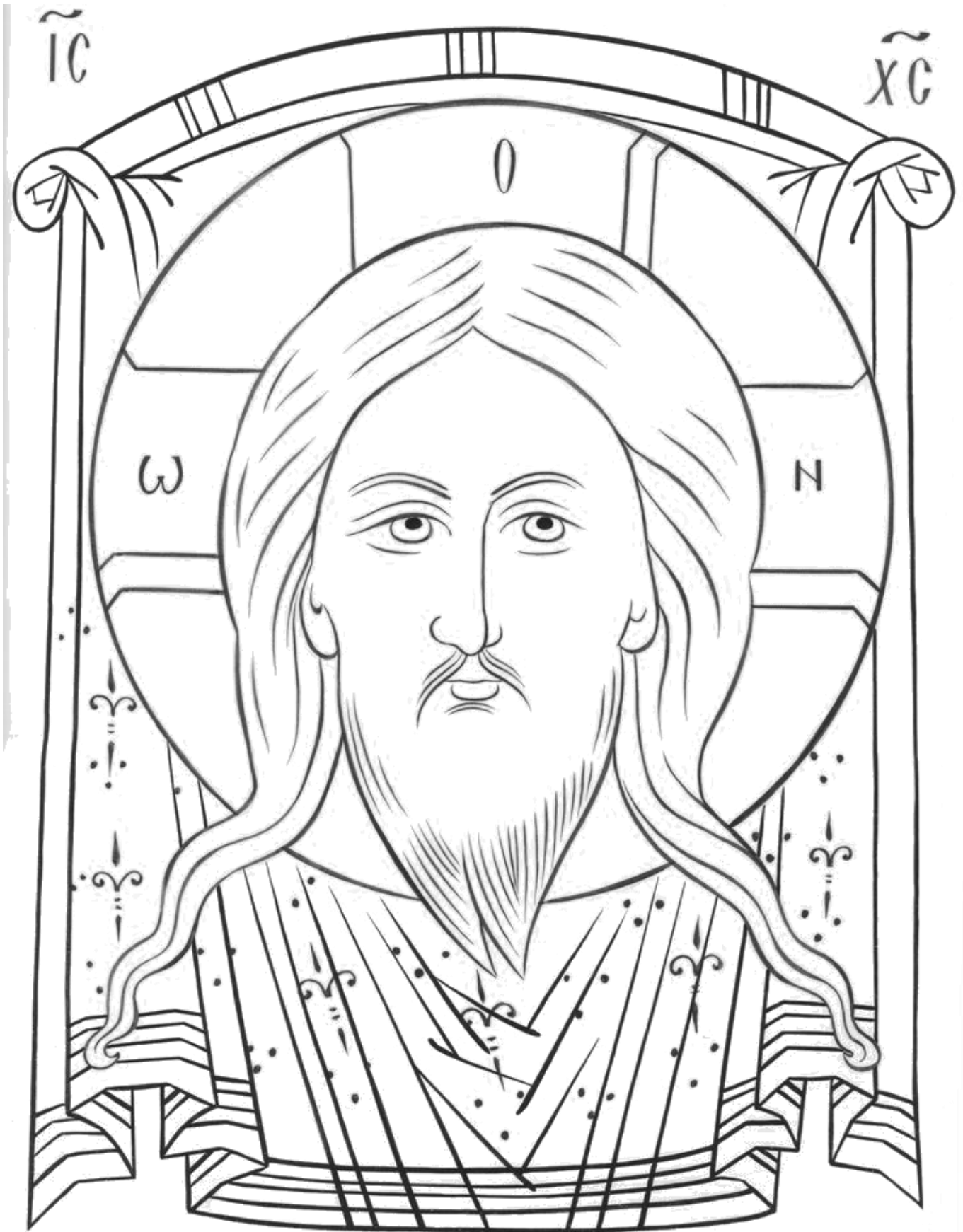


This year our parish was to host Vacation Church School (VCS). With all of the added challenges of this year and after totaling the survey results we sent to parents from all 4 Pan-Orthodox Parishes we prayerfully decided to cancel VCS for this year. We will be hosting next year's program.

The theme for this year was "The Feasts of the Theotokos" The Dormition of the Theotokos is August 15th so we still wanted to do something outside of a structured VCS to honor this feast and the other feasts of the Theotokos. We will be emailing out packets to parents with activities and lessons related to this topic. Packets will also be available for pick up from the Church during office hours or after Liturgy on Sunday from the office. The information is designed for ages 4-13, but all are welcome!

Stay tuned for information
on the 2020-2021 Church School Year

Translation of the Image “Not Made By Hands” or Our Lord -Commemorated August 16th
Coloring Page for Kids—please share your children’s creations by emailing them to
smmocafernton@gmail.com



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

Flint OCF:

As the school year gears back up the OCF is hoping to get back to a bit of normalcy. David who has been the leader of the Flint OCF will be graduating this year. We are looking for any of our college students in the area who would like to step into this leadership role. Please contact David Schutt or your local priest if you are interested.

Prayer of a Student

Christ my Lord, the Giver of light and wisdom, who opened the eyes of the blind man and transformed the fishermen into wise heralds and teachers of the gospel through the coming of the Holy Spirit, shine also in my mind the light of the grace of the Holy Spirit. Grant me discernment, understanding and wisdom in learning. Enable me to complete my assignments and to abound in every good work, for to You I give honor and glory. Amen.

Prayers Before Study

Most blessed Lord, send the grace of Your Holy Spirit on me to strengthen me that I may learn well the subject I am about to study and by it become a better person for Your glory, the comfort of my family and the benefit of Your Church and our Nation. Amen

Christ, the true light, who enlightens and sanctifies every person coming into the world, let the light of Your countenance shine upon me (us) that I (we) may see Your unapproachable light; and guide my (our) steps in the way of Your commandments, through the intercessions of Your all-holy Mother and of all the Saints. Amen.

Prayer After Study

I thank You, Lord our God, that again on this occasion You have opened my eyes to the light of Your wisdom. You have gladdened my heart with the knowledge of truth. I entreat You, Lord, help me always to do Your will. Bless my soul and body, my words and deeds. Enable me to grow in grace, virtue and good habits, that Your name may be glorified, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



Prayers for our college students:

Katherine Arnes

Sydney Wilkinson

David Schutt

Katerina Jonescu

Katherine Schutt

Katheryn Auxier

Oliver Lazar Senter

Alexandra Kekel

Elena Bucciarelli

Lauren Serafimovski

Zachary Wilkinson

Abigail Arnes

Douglas Wilkinson

ADULT EDUCATION



"ΜΕΤΑΝΟΙΑ"
LEARNING TO CHANGE ONE'S HEART FOR GOD



In a Christian World now littered with various denominations, each teaching a different version of the same Gospel, have you ever wondered or thought about what the earliest Christians taught, how they worshiped, and what believed? Now is your opportunity to come, discuss, and learn about the fullness of what the Ancient Christian Faith is all about!

This 6 Week Class will cover the fundamental beliefs of the Ancient Christian Church, passed down to us from Christ and His Disciples

Summer/Fall Semester, 2020

- | | |
|---|--|
| Wednesday, August 12th, 6:30 PM: | Intro. to the Holy Mysteries of Baptism/Chrismation |
| Tuesday, August 18th, 6:30 PM: | The Early Church's Understanding of the Eucharist |
| Wednesday, August 26th, 6:30 PM: | The Church and the Mystery of the Priesthood |
| Wednesday, Sept. 2nd, 6:30 PM: | Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? |
| Wednesday, Sept. 9th, 6:30 PM: | Death and the Funeral Service |
| Wednesday, Sept. 16th, 6:30 PM: | The Eternality of Marriage |



For this month's community outreach we will be teaming up with the Orthodox Christian Mission Center for their Trek 4 Missions fundraiser.

Please Join our St. Mary Magdalene Team, lead by Theophan Forsyth, on this adventure!

From August 9-September 14th each team is asked to find pledges/donations to total \$2,000 from each team. They are also asked to walk, swim, bicycle, jog, hike, etc. a total of 1,200 miles for each team. We know our team at St. Mary Magdalene can achieve more than 1,200 miles.

Whether you already work out regularly or would like to add some activity to your routine, all you have to do to join the team is report your miles and any donations that you receive.

Check your inbox! Early Next week you will receive an email with all the documentation you need to fulfill your commitment to OCMC or there are hard copies available at the church during office hours. If you have any questions please contact Theophan (Bob) Forsyth or call or email the office. We look forward to many people participating in this month's event!



JOIN OCMC'S VIRTUAL TREK FOR MISSIONS!

Start something exciting in your community by gathering a team to run, walk, cycle, and more for Orthodox missions. Join parishes across the country to complete 60,000 miles and raise \$100,000 to support a new generation of missionaries.

TREK STARTS **AUGUST 9** & GOES UNTIL **SEPTEMBER 14**

LET'S GO THE DISTANCE TO SHARE THE FAITH!

This virtual fundraiser is about staying healthy, having fun outdoors, and uniting as the Body of Christ. No matter the distance, missionaries throughout our Church's history and today are trekking across the world to bring the Gospel message to those who have not heard. You can join them and support their ministry. Its easy!



COMPLETE 1,200+ MILES AND RAISE \$2,000!

For questions: events@ocmc.org To register: <https://www.ocmc.org/Trek4Missions>



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHEDULE & GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, August 2nd, Divine Liturgy 9:50am: Group 1 (Last Names A-D)

Sunday, August 9th, Divine Liturgy 9:50am: Group 2 (Last Names E-N)

Sunday, August 16th, Divine Liturgy 9:50am: Group 3 (Last Names O-Z)

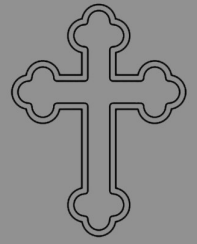
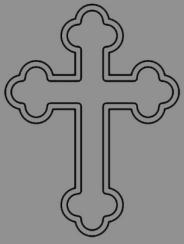
Sunday, August 23rd, Divine Liturgy 9:50am: Group 1 (Last Names A-D)

Sunday, August 30th, Divine Liturgy 9:50am: Group 2 (Last Names E-N)

PLEASE NOTE that ALL weekday Divine Liturgies and Saturday Vespers are open to all on a first come first serve basis!

✝ *This Schedule is subject to change, especially as we are allowed more and more people throughout the upcoming months.*

✝ *All are welcome but those within the designated groups will be given priority in the sanctuary with overflow being in the downstairs chapel. Please stay in your designated groups if possible to switch or trade please get a blessing from Fr. Gabriel.*



1st Annual Shiawassee River Blessing of the Fleet Paddle

Saturday, August 1st

Divine Liturgy 10:00am Launch approx. 11:30am

Put in: St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

2439 S Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

Pull out: Linden Mill Pond

304 Tickner St, Linden, MI 48451

Blessing of the waters and the fleet by: Fr. Gabriel Bilas



HOLY TRANSFIGURATION COMMEMORATED AUGUST 6TH



BLESSING OF THE FRUITS SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH

The pious and ancient Christian custom of blessing the first fruits (and vegetables) of the harvest on the feast of Holy Transfiguration is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transformation of all things in Christ. This signifies the fruitfulness of God's creation in paradise and the eternal Kingdom of Life where all are transformed by the grace of God.

In the ancient world the first week of August was a traditional time for farmers to gather and harvest the early fruits of their summer harvests (grapes and figs are among the traditional fruits). They would then present them to the Church to be blessed on August 6th for the Feast day of Holy Transfiguration then give them for free to the congregation and the poor. These fruits were called the "beginnings."

In a text from the 7th century ("the laws of the kingdom" by emperor Constantine Porfirogenitos) this custom is described vividly: "The Emperor of Constantinople gathers the "beginnings" in Chalcedone, where there are many vines, and then he waits for the Patriarch of Constantinople to come on the the Holiday of Transfiguration, to bless the fruits and to personally hand out the grapes to the laymen".

This custom is honored throughout the Orthodox world across many cultures.

We must not forget that the Church was presented once as a "vine". So, [the] Church blesses the first fruits of vine giving a "theological" meaning to farmer's work.

Dormition of the Mother of God



Did you miss the beautiful melodies from this year's Good Friday service?

- ✝ Join us for the funeral service of our blessed mother on Friday, August 14th at 6:00 PM. We will be having the Dormition Matins, Lamentations, and Procession around the Church, just as we would have on Good Friday during Lent.
- ✝ The Divine Liturgy for Dormition will be live-streamed from Holy Assumption Greek Orthodox Church's Facebook Page (NOT ON YOUTUBE) on Saturday, August 15th, at 10:00 AM
- ✝ There is NO pilgrimage to Holy Dormition Monastery this year, but please consider still sending a donation.



Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

Commemorated on August 29th

Troparion — Tone 2

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, / but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner. / You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the prophets, / for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him whom they foretold. / Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, / you proclaimed to those in hell God who appeared in the flesh, / who takes away the sin of the world, / and grants us great mercy.

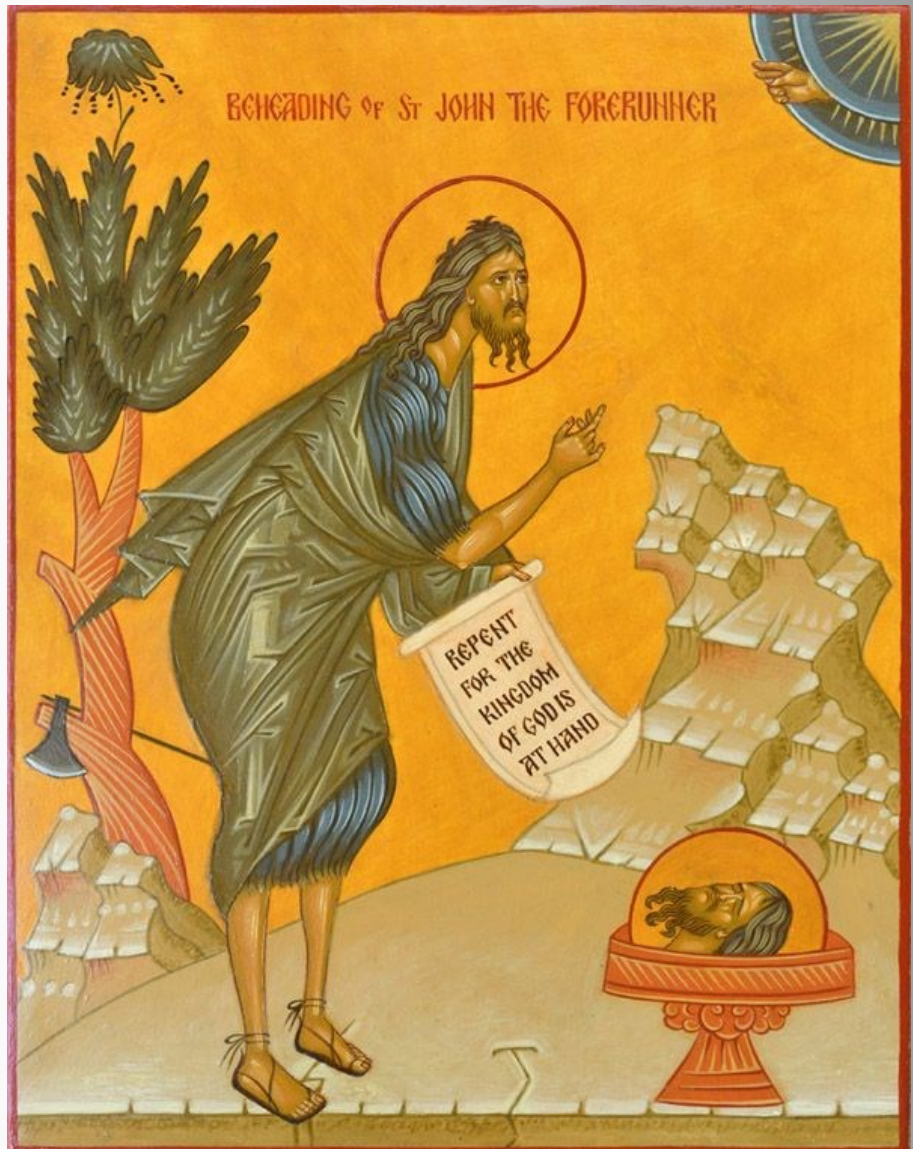
Kontakion — Tone 5

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner, / became an act of divine dispensation, / for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior. / Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, / loving not the law of God, nor eternal life, / but that which is false and temporal.

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

August 29





COMING SOON!
**The Saint Mary
Magdalene
Parish
Cookbook**

Meat, dairy,
Lenten,
desserts, main
dishes, side
dishes,
appetizers,
ethnic, soups,
salads and more

**Submit your
recipes as
soon as
possible to
Katherine
Schutt**

**Text:
(810) 965-0574
Email:
graciedakota1228.k@gmail.com**

2021 Orthodox Pilgrimage to Alaska



EARLY BIRD PRICE \$2,365pp - must book by Aug 31, 2020

single supplement \$695 Triple rate \$275/room savings

Join your fellow Orthodox believers in this special group pilgrimage. Visit the relics of St. Herman and have the opportunity to visit Spruce Island and Monk's Lagoon where "Apa Herman" lived and prayed. Join the congregation in Anchorage for a special July 4th liturgy, then visit Eklutna best known for its iconic native orthodox cemetery. Take in the wonders of Kenai National Forest while visiting a historic village parish. And don't forget the opportunity to see some of Alaska's wonderful wildlife up close at the Wildlife Conservation Center.

Included:

- 7 days/6 nights accommodation
- round trip air to Kodiak from Anchorage
- touring and sight seeing as listed in itinerary
- daily breakfast

Jun 30 - July 6, 2021 GUARANTEED DATE*

Call **713-688-6793** or visit the website to book today!
Visit website for complete details and register.
Space is limited.

Required intra-vacation air segments are Anchorage/Kodiak. Included air prices are based on \$350pp. If air is higher at time of booking traveler to pay difference. Not Included: tips, optional tours, alcoholic beverages, meals not listed, personal expenses, air tickets to/from Alaska

**If group falls below 16 passengers Culturally Creative Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary and final price. Alternative dates may be booked at custom itinerary rates.*



www.culturallycreativetravel.com/2021-orthodox-alaska

Referral Program To Benefit The St. Mary Magdalene Church Expansion



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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!