

# August 2022

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



**Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector**

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**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**

# Monthly e-Newsletter

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

## 5 Steps to Gain Invincibility from the World From the Desk of Fr. Gabriel

The coming of the New Year in the Liturgical Calendar (September 1st) typically brings about articles written by priests about various "New Year's Resolutions" that we can implement in our spiritual lives in order to draw near to Christ. As we have been reading through Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians these past few weeks in Church, I thought it would be appropriate to focus on his parting words of wisdom to the Corinthians, which were made not only for the Christians at that time, but for all of us centuries later!

We have been dealing with a lot these past few years, ranging from a worldwide pandemic, to political infighting, to other bad pieces of news that have been cropping upon a weekly basis. I would argue, that if we kept St. Paul's 5 directives in our hearts, in our minds, and at the for-front of **EVERYTHING** that we do this year, we would become (and I love this word because it carries a powerful connotation with it) **INVINCIBLE** to the World. No Life Stress would bring us down. No disease would cause us panic. No bad news would affect us. No persecution would destroy our faith. No natural or manmade disaster could shake us. No Government could topple us. Literally **NOTHING** could destroy us, if we keep the following resolutions for the upcoming new year.

### 1.) "Be Watchful."

Do we want to become invincible? The first step is to be watchful of what kinds of poison we let seep into our souls, our hearts, and our minds. There is a beautiful quote from St. Hesychius of Jerusalem who says: *"Just as it is impossible to live this life without eating or drinking, so it is impossible for the soul to achieve anything spiritual and in accordance with God's will, without guarding the intellect and purity of heart..."*

St. Paul, St. Hesychius, and so many others who have succeeded in conquering the world by becoming invincible to it, have all said the same thing. We have to be on guard and watchful of the poisons that we allow to seep into our heart. Bad news, political infighting, inappropriate television shows and movies, situations that lead to arguments, whatever it is that leads the passions to become enflamed within us...now is the time to walk away.

### 2.) "Stand Firm in the Faith."

We put our faith and trust in a lot of things these days. This past week, I made a deposit at my bank, putting my trust in them that the money would still be there when I need it. None of us probably woke up today worried that our cell phones wouldn't work, because we put our faith in the fact that the towers will all be working. We put our faith in the electric companies this morning, knowing that they will provide electricity so we can take a hot shower and get ready to start the day.

What happens when these things that we put our unyielding faith in fail? When we lose power, we panic. When we lose or drop calls, we feel uneasy. When there is a run on the bank, the world is thrown into chaos. Why is it that we put our unyielding trust and faith in man made things that fail, and can't put that same kind of faith in Christ?

## UPCOMING THIS MONTH

- 5- Vespers & Litija, 5pm
- 6- Pan-Orthodox Transfiguration Liturgy, 10am @ St George
- 6- Vespers & Confessions, 5pm @ SMM
- 7- Blessing of the Harvest
- 9- Divine Liturgy for St Herman of Alaska 10am, Parish Council 7pm
- 13- Reader's Workshop, 3pm
- 14 & 15 Pilgrimage to Holy Dormition Monastery (see flyer for times)
- 17- Parish Outing to Cedar Point
- 24-30 -Parish Family Campout
- 27 - "Through Your Cross - Vacation Church School
- 27- Vespers will be held at the campground



St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

*"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*

- |                 |                |                  |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Vinne</i>    | <i>Ivanka</i>  | <i>Samantha</i>  |
| <i>Elaine</i>   | <i>Dawn</i>    | <i>Douglas</i>   |
| <i>David</i>    | <i>Jeff</i>    | <i>Janice</i>    |
| <i>Pat</i>      | <i>Terry</i>   | <i>Bryan</i>     |
| <i>Michael</i>  | <i>Mike</i>    | <i>Wayne</i>     |
| <i>Jim</i>      | <i>Rich</i>    | <i>Pat</i>       |
| <i>Taisa</i>    | <i>Harry</i>   | <i>Alexandra</i> |
| <i>Mason</i>    | <i>Judy</i>    | <i>Janet</i>     |
| <i>Theresa</i>  | <i>Anthony</i> | <i>Eva</i>       |
| <i>Robert</i>   | <i>Dorothy</i> | <i>Chrissy</i>   |
| <i>Linda</i>    | <i>Vicky</i>   | <i>Greg</i>      |
| <i>Hudson</i>   | <i>Megan</i>   | <i>Ava</i>       |
| <i>Armindia</i> | <i>Shirley</i> | <i>Kristen</i>   |
| <i>Mircea</i>   | <i>Tinna</i>   | <i>Cameron</i>   |
| <i>Allison</i>  | <i>Susan</i>   | <i>Draxie</i>    |
| <i>Steve</i>    | <i>Brian</i>   | <i>Kathy</i>     |
| <i>Dimitri</i>  | <i>Gloria</i>  |                  |
| <i>Damian</i>   | <i>Sophia</i>  |                  |
| <i>Martin</i>   | <i>Sharon</i>  |                  |

**Mother's With Child**

- Erika*  
*Mia*  
*Lauren*  
*Matushka Kaila*  
*Michelle*  
*Eleni*  
*Matushka Danielle*  
*Elizabeth*  
*Tricia*  
*Renee*  
*Rachel*  
*Ruthanne*

**Catechuminate**

- Scott*    *Christopher*  
*Collin*   *Jacqueline*  
*Jaelyn*   *William*

**Seminarian Families**

- Deacon Alexander & Matushka Danielle Earl*  
*Reader Paisios, Anna, John & Theodore Hamann*

**Anniversary of Parish Members Departed**

- 8-Marian Dimoff*  
*18-Peter Oginsky*  
*30-Nathaniel Hildreth*

**Recently Departed**

- Archimandrite Duane Charles*  
*Viki*  
*Roger*

**5 Steps to Gain Invincibility from the World Cont.**

True Faith in God is something that can **never** fail us. There are those who don't put their faith in things they cannot see, and to those people, the Church says: *"Open Your Eyes dear ones!"*. Look at the results of His works in our lives! Even this very moment, you are reading an article written by a simple village priest about the spiritual life. Do you realize how many millions or tiny miracles that are happening for you to be able to do that?

God has a better track record than the electric companies. He is more reliable than our cell phone service. He is far and away beyond the scientific community, who has been and always will be unable to comprehend His magnificence and His hands in the world. No matter what happens in life, we have to stand firm in our Faith, and make it as natural as trusting that the lights will go on in our homes.

**3 & 4.) Be Courageous and Be Strong.**

I put these two together, because there are times when it takes courage to have faith, especially living in a society where faith in God has been replaced by so many other, less reliable things. We have to have the **courage** to put our faith and our lives completely into the hands of God, and it takes **God Given strength** to navigate a difficult situation and say *"Thy Will be Done"* (especially living in a country that often pushes *"My Will Be Done."*)

**5.) "Let All You Do Be Done in Love".**

EVERYTHING that we do needs to be done in Love for God FIRST and then love for one another second. We show love for God, by making commitments to ourselves to not put him second in our lives as we are so often tempted to do. A wonderful example of this is the 12 major feast days of the Church, coupled with the Major Feast Day, the Mini Pascha that occurs every Sunday morning. Given that some of those feasts fall on a Sunday, that is around 60 opportunities this coming year to put Him **FIRST**...to put the Mystical Supper with God **FIRST**... to schedule our vacations and our fun activities around our unyielding Love for **HIM** (That also, by the way, takes courage and strength)!

Second, we show **love for one another** in everything we do. If we get angry when we see things on Facebook or upset when we hear about politics in the news, that is probably not a good sign that we can (in that moment) come up with a response planted in love. If we can't have conversations that are rooted in love for the person we are talking to, and I mean truly rooted not just with words, but from our hearts, then it is best not to poison our souls, or theirs, with our words.

Watchfulness, firmness in faith, courage, strength, and love. These are the five directives from St. Paul, that if we dedicate our entire lives to implementing them, we would truly be INVINCIBLE to the cunning attacks of the deceiver. As we begin this New Liturgical Year, may our Lord Grant them to us, and to all those whom we Love!



## *Prayers for our Armed Forces*

*Michael Oginsky - U.S.  
Stephany Bishop - U.S. Navy*

*Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers  
Alex Suriano - Air National Guard*

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

### **PARISH GREETERS**

**August 7**

George & Julie Jonascu

**August 14**

Freida Owens

**August 21**

Seth & Mia Hillaker

**August 28**

Scott & Tina Shephard

### **COFFEE HOUR**

**August 7**

Scott & Tina Shephard

**August 14**

Vince & Carol Lizzio

**August 21**

Dave & Jackie Daugherty

**August 28**

Subdeacon John & Renee Auxier

### **BELL RINGERS**

**August 7**

Cindy Welch

**August 14**

Cindy Welch

**August 21**

Tonya Rice

**August 28**

Vivian Capatina

# WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

## BIRTHDAYS

2- CHARLES OWENS

4 JULIE YONAN & SOPHIA FORWERCK

10- ELIANA RICE

12- IRIS TORREY

16- RDR TOM CHIATALAS & COLLIN OLSON

17- ELAINE GEJOFF

18- WILLIAM WATSON

19- ISSAC DOLLINS

21- TAMMY ARNES & DANIEL SURIANO

24- TED WALLS

25- SERAPHIM PARDEE

27- ADAM CODY

28- STEPHEN WALTON

31- BLAINE FORSYTH

## ANNIVERSARIES

2- DOUG & RENEE WILKINSON

15- STEPHEN & SUSAN WALTON

16- RDR NATHANIEL & AMANDA AUXIER

17- DOUG & MELISSA AUXIER

17- MICHAEL & ANNE KHOURY

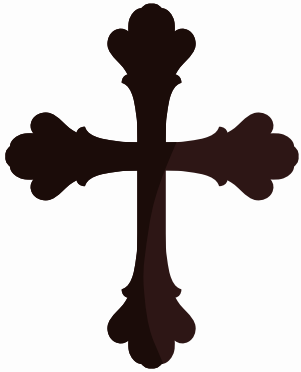
## EPISTLE READERS

August 7  
Rdr Tom Chiatlas  
Jenni Otis

August 14  
Rdr Chris Ballnik  
Rdr Brian Phillip Walton

August 21  
Rdr David Schutt  
Rdr Tom Chiatlas

August 28  
Sbdn John Auxier  
Rdr Chris Ballnik



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 7  
1 Cor 1:10-18  
Matt 14:14-22

August 14  
1 Cor 3:9-17  
Matt 14:22-34

August 21  
1 Cor 4:9-16  
Matt 17: 14-23

August 28  
1 Cor 9:2-12  
Matt 18: 23-35

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

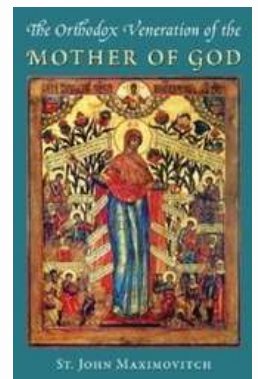
# RECOMMENDED READING

## THE ORTHODOX VENERATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BY ST JOHN MAXOMOVICH

A right understanding of Mary, the Mother of God is essential for a right understanding of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God. When her image is distorted, the image of her Son also becomes distorted.

This concise little book is a classic exposition of how the Orthodox Christian Church has venerated the Mother of God throughout the ages, and on the chief errors that have sought to change or undermine this veneration: both ancient heresies and the later deviations of Western Christendom. It clearly tells why the Virgin Mary should truly be called the Mother of God and should be honored by all generations, and why at the same time She cannot be said to have been unable to sin, or considered a Co-Redemptress along with Jesus Christ, the only Savior of the world.



# MONTHLY FORECAST

## **New Liturgy Start Time:**

Starting for the Divine Liturgy on July 1 st , we will be beginning adding the 6 th hours to our prayers before Liturgy. Sunday Services will therefore begin at 9:40 AM

## **Public Pre-Communion Prayers:**

After Great Vespers, while Father is offering confessions, we will begin reading the Pre- Communion prayers so that everyone in attendance can begin their focus on what is to come for the Divine Liturgy. Please consider staying after Great Vespers to hear these incredible prayers, which describe the moments in which we physically receive Christ!

## **Dormition Fast:**

At the beginning of August from the 1st through the 14th, the Church reminds us to fast from meat and dairy to the best of our ability, to remember the purity and holiness of the Theotokos. If you have more questions on how to fast during these periods, please see Fr. Gabriel!

## **Feast of Holy Transfiguration:**

The first of the two Great Feasts in August is that of Holy Transfiguration! The feast will be celebrated with Great Vespers and Lijtia on Friday, August 5 th at 6:00 PM. Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy will be held at St. George on Saturday, August 6th beginning at 10:00 AM

## **Blessing of the Harvest:**

It is customary to bless grapes and the harvest for the feast of Transfiguration in the Orthodox Church. All families are encouraged to bring a basket of grapes, fruits, or something from their garden to be blessed on Sunday, August 7 th , following the Divine Liturgy!

## **Divine Liturgy for St. Herman:**

We will hold a Divine Liturgy in honor of St. Herman of Alaska, who's holy relics we have in the Church, on Tuesday, August 9 th , at 10:00 AM. This will take the place of our regular Wednesday Divine Liturgy!

## **Reader's Workshop:**

As we are adding the 6 th hour, as well as pre-communion prayers to our regular schedule, this is a great time to have all of our readers gather together for a special Reader's Workshop on August 13 th at 3:00 PM. All current or prospective readers are expected to attend!!

## **Dormition Pilgrimage to the Holy Monastery:**

Due to our current Church construction, we are encouraging all of our visitors to go to the Holy Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction, MI for their Monastery Feast Day! Vigil with Lamentation will take place on Sunday, August 14 th at 6:00 PM. Outdoor Divine Liturgy will be held on Monday, August 15 th , at 10:00 AM in the pavilion.

## **Cedar Point Trip:**

Our annual parish trip to Cedar Point is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17 th ! Tickets can be purchased in advance at [www.cedarpoint.com/daily-tickets](http://www.cedarpoint.com/daily-tickets), and they start at \$49 for Michigan Residents! We will hopefully be able to gather for a picnic lunch at the pavilion just outside the park, so plan on bringing a lunch dish to pass! Please notify the office if you are planning on going, so we can set up a group message to all those who will be attending!

## **Parish Family Campout:**

The parish family campout will take place from August 24-30 at Groveland Oaks Campground in Holly. If you wish to camp with us and have not already signed up please reach out to the parish office.

## **Vacation Church School (Volunteers Needed)**

This year we will host VCS as a day camp at the Groveland Oaks Campground on August 27th. See the Flyers in the parish youth section for all the details. Deadline to sign-up your children is AUGUST 17th. We need adult volunteers to teach. If you would like to staff the event please reach out to the parish office.

## **School Supply Drive:**

We are holding our annual back to school supply drive from now until August 21st. Please bring any of the items listed on the flyer to the drop off box in the parish office.

**ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH**

# **HOLY DORMITION**



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**DO YOU MISS THE BEAUTIFUL MELODIES  
FROM THE GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY  
LAMENTATIONS? JOIN US FOR OUR  
ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO  
HOLY DORMITION MONASTERY!**

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 14TH**

**WIGIL OF THE FEST WITH  
LAMENTATIONS, 6:00PM**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 15TH**

**AKATHIST, 3RD HOUR, 6TH HOU, PROCESSION  
TO THE PAUVILION, 9:00AM  
HIERARCHAL HOLY LITURGY WITH HIS  
EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL, 10:00AM  
(PLEASE PACK A LUNCH TO FOLLOW)  
MYSTERY OF HOLY UNCTION, 2:30PM  
UESPERS, 5:30PM  
SUPPER 6:30PM**

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**HOLY DORMITION MONASTERY  
3389 RIVERSEATON ROAD- RIVES JUNCTION, MI 49277  
PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO THE MONASTERY!**



# BUILDING THE LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WOODS

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS ON THE FOUR PILLARS OF CHURCH GROWTH

### What is Happening in the Pillar of Worship?

As is the case sometimes in the summer, attendance has dipped down a little bit for the Church services. My prayer is that as the summer wraps up and we get to August (which has within it several major feast days) that attendance will get back up to its usual levels! Despite the vacations, we still had wonderful attendance for our St. Mary Magdalene Parish Feast Day Celebrations! Thanks to all who sang the akathist, who attended the services, and to all who helped organize our picnic afterwards!

As some of you know, our parish was blessed with the addition of a few relics that I received from the Orthodox Church in America's Museum Curator, including a piece of the vestment of St. Seraphim of Sarov, relics of St. Silouan of Mt. Athos, and a small relic of St. Innocent of Irkutsk! Reliquaries will be ordered soon and special Akathist Services will be scheduled to celebrate the presence of these Saints in our community!

### What is Happening in the Pillar of Community?

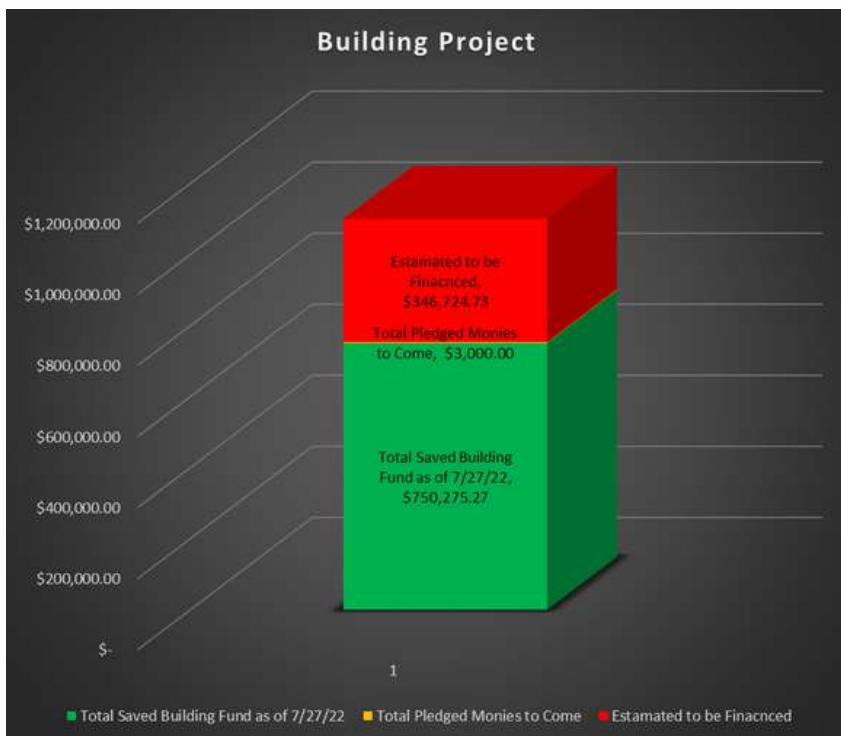
While we will be saying goodbye to Rdr, Paisios, Anna, John, and Theodore Hamann, we have also had the blessing of saying hello to many new inquirers and catechumens! In terms of upcoming community events, we have the Cedar Point Trip and Parish Camping Trip that are scheduled for this coming month!

### What is Happening in the Pillar of Education?

We will be hosting a one day "Vacation Church School" day camp to coincide with the Parish Camping Trip. Great Vespers will be served at the campground, and there will be activities for our children to grow and learn more about their faith. The event is scheduled for Saturday, August 27th, and all of our Church School Aged Children from 4-11 are asked to attend, unless they have a conflict worthy of a blessing!

### What is Happening in the Pillar of Stewardship?

The painting of the exterior of the education center is continuing thanks to the help of one of our catechumens. We also have had several people volunteering to do some landscaping projects around the Church, such as the removal of the bamboo towards the foundation of the back of our building. In regards to financial stewardship, the Parish Council is offering an update on the expansion funding in a separate letter that will be included in this bulletin.



Total Collected 7/1 -7/27  
\$2,875





# St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

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7/23/2022

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

The church building project is underway with the foundation for the addition coming along nicely. Soon, we will be able to see the expanded footprint for our beautiful church in the woods!

The Parish Council is requesting your continued support and is providing a status update on construction costs and funds. Here is our current situation:

+Currently we have \$503k in cash that should last us through the end of September at the current progress of construction. We have spent \$158k so far towards the main building.

+We have been approved for a \$350k loan through the Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund. This puts our total buying power at \$1,011,000.

+The estimated cost for the entire project is about \$1,100,000. Estimated costs almost always change in projects like this. Once framing has begun this fall, many planning contingencies will be resolved, and it will be easier to estimate remaining costs with more precision. We will update the estimated cost in October.

Based on the newest figures, the Parish Council is asking you to consider making additional contributions to the Church Building Fund so that we can meet the following goals. If we can raise an additional \$90,000, we will be in a better position to proceed without making changes to plans or schedule. If we raise more than this, we could potentially reduce the size of the loan, which would reduce the loan payment, expected to be about \$2,260 per month.

We will re-evaluate this plan in October when we have more precise information. At that point we can adjust as needed (e.g., delay some items, cut some finishes, or seek other funding sources). Any contributions to the Building Fund made before October will greatly assist our long term financial health and will help our construction planning as we expand our beautiful church in the woods!

In Christ,

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church Parish Council

# PARISH LENDING LIBRARY



The parish lending has recently gone through a reorganization and added several new titles. The list of current titles will be available digitally in the coming month. Use the sign-out sheet on the white board to check out a book. Make the most of your summer!

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.



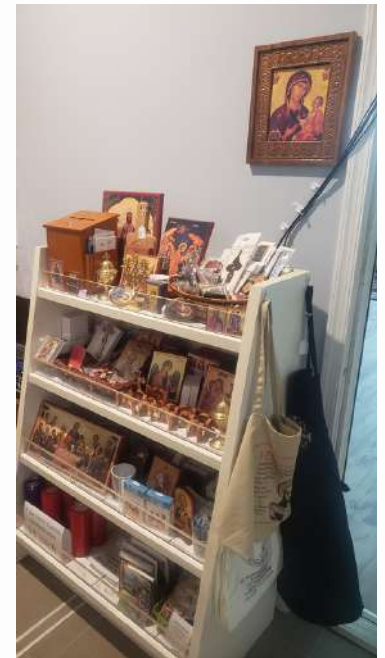
## We are still here!!!!

P  
A K  
R I  
I O  
S S  
H K

The Parish Kiosk was moved to the hallway in the temporary chapel. We still have a wide array of treasures available from books to home altar supplies to icons. Check it out!

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.

**We Still have St. Mary Magdalene tumblers available for \$20 each!**



# PARISH CHOIR



There are NO rehearsals this month. Reach out to Rdr Gregory with any questions.



Through Your Cross



## SAVE THE DATE

**Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School Day Camp**

**Saturday, August 27, 2022**

**10:30am -4:00pm**

**Great Vespers 5:00pm**

**at Groveland Oaks Campground- Holly, MI**

**Details & Registration TBD**

Hosted by  
St. Mary Magdalene Parish

*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)





The Pan –Orthodox Churches of Genesee County  
presents

## VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL 2022

hosted by St. Mary Magdalene Parish

# August 27th

**Who:** All children ages 4 through 11

**What:** “Through Your Cross” -An Orthodox Christian’s Triumph Through the Life-Giving Cross.

**Where:** Groveland Oaks Campground Group Site #12 (14555 Dixie Hwy, Holly, MI 48442)

**When:** August 27th Registration 10:00am VCS 11am –4pm Vespers 5pm (An adult must be on site for the day with the child)

**Why:** As Orthodox Christians we cross ourselves multiple times daily. It is important to educate our youth on the history of the cross, why we use the cross in worship and the depth of using the sign of the cross in our every day lives!

**How:** Fill out a registration form for each child that is attending and mail to St. Mary Magdalene (2439 S. Long Lake Rd Fenton, MI 48430), or drop off in person to the parish office.

**Registration closes August 17th.**

### Tentative Itinerary

10:00am—11:00am arrive & register  
11:00am –11:30am Morning Prayers  
11:30– 1:00pm Morning Sessions  
1:00pm—2:30pm Lunch  
2:30pm—4:00pm Afternoon Session  
4:00pm—4:30pm Snack & Parent Pick-up  
5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers

Following Vespers all are welcome to stay as late as they would like to enjoy fellowship and the amenities of the campground. There will be smores available for all who would like to stay and make them.

Groups:

Group A: Ages 4, 5, & 6

Group B: Ages 7, 8, & 9

Group C: Ages 10 & 11

☞ For additional information please contact the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Office– Office hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10am – 3pm 810-750-1401 or email [smmofafenton@gmail.com](mailto:smmofafenton@gmail.com)

☞ There is no fee for a child to participate in VCS, however please consider a free-will offering to the church to help cover the cost of the event. There is an entrance fee into the campground. VCS will cover this fee for one car per family. Please let them know at the gate you are there for the St. Mary Magdalene Group on site #12.

# 2022 Vacation Church School Registration Form

(Please fill out one form for each child attending)

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Patron Saint/ Baptismal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Age \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Home Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Any Allergies or important information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please Check this Box if you DO NOT want us to use sunscreen or bug spray on your child

Parent(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

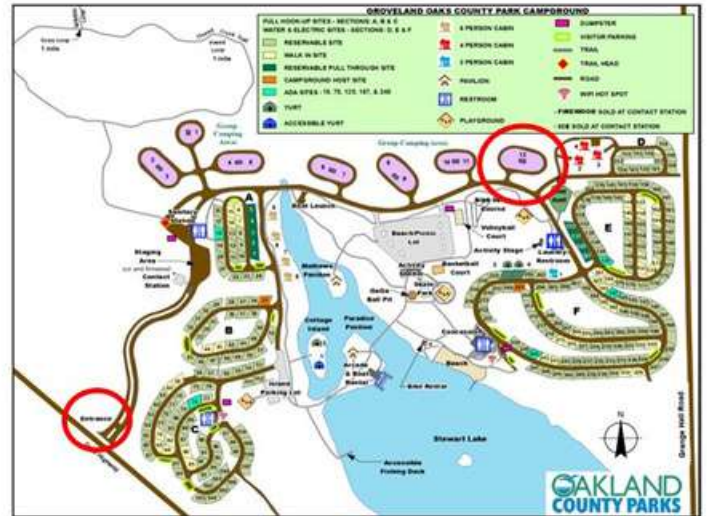
Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parents are asked to stay onsite with their child. If you are unable to stay on site please list the adult that will be present and will be responsible for your child \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch: Campfire Roasted Hot Dogs, Chips, Fruit & Vegetables, Popsicles

After Vespers: Smores will be available for all after Great Vespers (5pm)

Please consider bringing a camping chair or picnic blanket for the adults that will be in attendance. Seating in the pavilion is limited and will be use for VCS instruction.



Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- ✚ For additional information please contact the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Office— Office hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10am – 3pm or email [smmocafernton@gmail.com](mailto:smmocafernton@gmail.com)
- ✚ There is no fee for a child to participate in VCS, however please consider a free-will offering to the church to help cover the cost of the event. **There is an entrance fee into the campground. VCS will cover this fee for one car per family.** Please let them know at the gate you are there for the St. Mary Magdalene group on group site #12.
- ✚ Please mail this completed form to St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church Attn: VCS 2439 S. Long Lake Rd- Fenton, MI 48430



SMMOY

ST. MARY MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX YOUTH

As summertime is busy for all, we will be moving our Saturday gatherings to weeknights for the remainder of the summer.

## UPCOMING GATHERING

IN AUGUST SMMOY WILL TAKE A WORK TRIP TO  
HOLY DORMITION MONASTERY

## COLLEGE CORNER

### PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Oliver Senter

Katerina Jonescu

Katheryn Brcic

Alexandra Kekel

Abigail Arnes

Tea Jonascu

Ethan Durand

Justin Auxier

Ava Arnes

Francis Lazar Senter







# "METANOIA"

LEARNING TO CHANGE ONE'S HEART FOR GOD



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

This 7 week class will cover the fundamental beliefs of the Ancient Christian Church, passed down to us from Christ and His Disciples.

## Fall Semester 2022- All classes begin at 6:30pm

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, September 7th:  | Introductory Class for Seekers and Catechumens         |
| Wednesday, September 14th: | Intro. to the Holy Mysteries of Baptism & Chrismation  |
| Wednesday, September 21st: | The Early Church's Understanding of the Eucharist      |
| Wednesday, September 28th: | Repentance and the Mystery of Confession               |
| Wednesday, October 5th:    | The Church and the Mystery of Holy Orders & Priesthood |
| Wednesday, October 12th:   | Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? Holy Unction  |
| Wednesday, October 19th:   | The Eternality of Marriage                             |
| Wednesday, October 26th:   | Death and the Funeral Service                          |



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST WE WILL BE COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR TORREY-HILL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL UP THE ROAD FROM THE CHURCH. THE LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED IS ON THE FLYER BELOW. PLEASE BRING ALL SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND DROP THEM OFF IN THE BIN IN THE PARISH OFFICE BEFORE SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST.

## UPCOMING:

**AUGUST- SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE**  
**SEPTEMBER - ANNUAL PET BLESSING**

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





## **St. Mary Magdalene Church Annual School Supplies Drive**

**Donations will benefit children in the Fenton Community**

### **Supplies Needed**

**Scissors  
Colored pencils  
Markers  
Crayons  
Sharpies  
Highlighters  
Dry erase markers  
Pencils  
Mechanical Pencils  
Lead refills  
Pencil bags  
Red and blue pens  
Sharpener w/lid  
Erasers  
Pencil cap erasers**

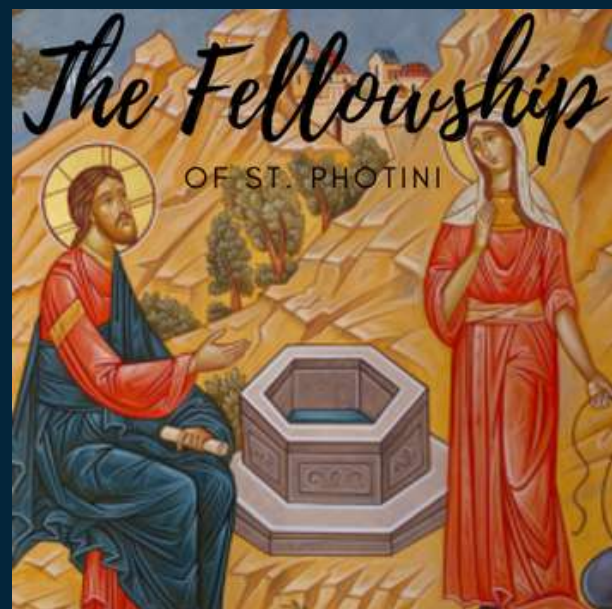
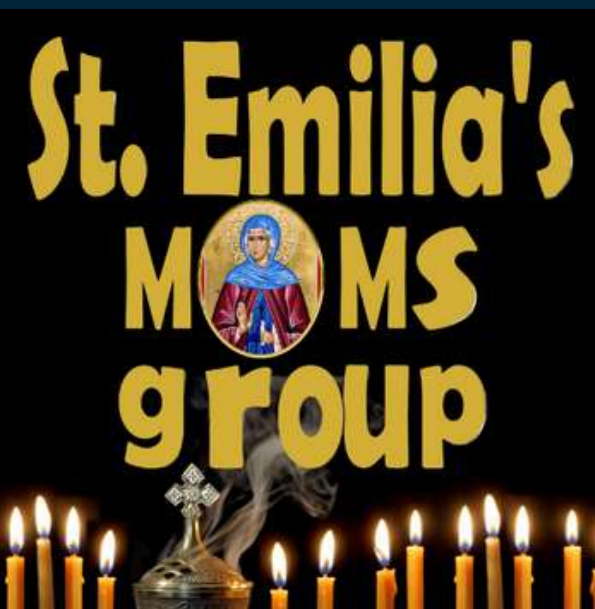
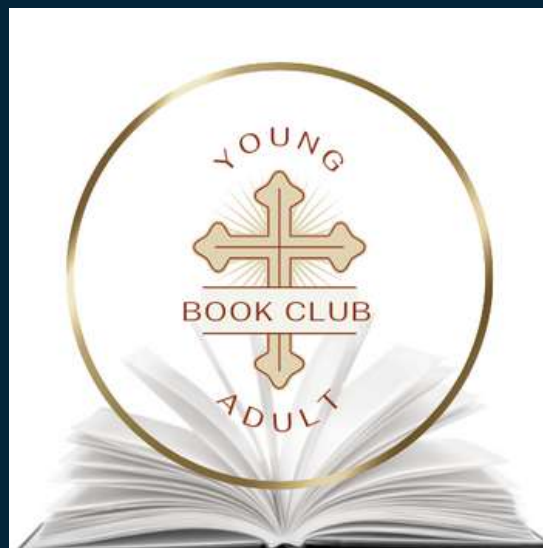
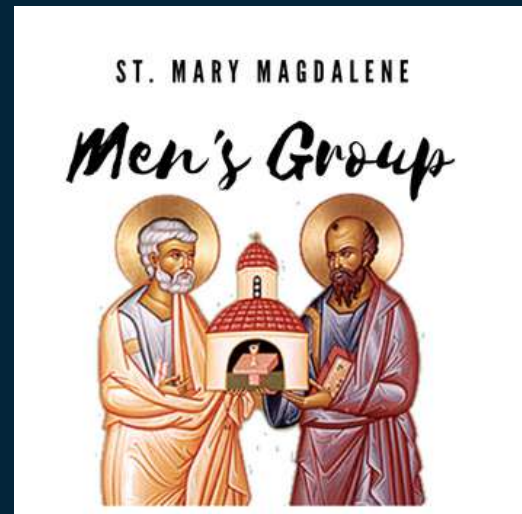
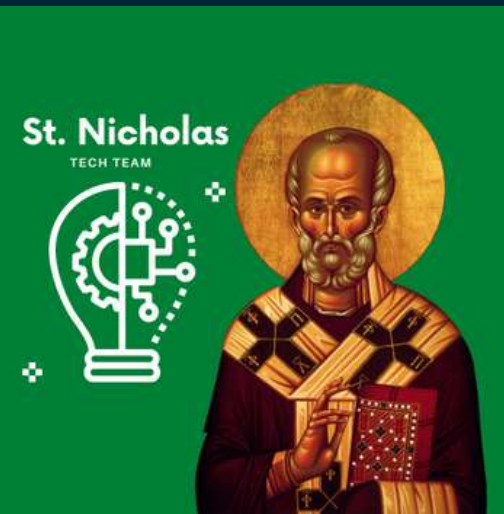
**Gluesticks  
Post it Notes (3 x 5)  
Marble Composition Books  
One-subject spiral notebooks  
2-pocket, 3-hole punched folders  
Plastic 2 pocket folders  
One-subject spiral notebooks  
2 inch binders  
  
Personal kleenex  
Hand sanitizer  
Ziplock bags (quart or gallon)  
Paper towel  
Earbuds or headphones**

**Please drop off donations from now until Sunday, August 21, 2022 at St. Mary Magdalene Church 2439 S. Long Lake Rd. Fenton, Mi**





# PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS





**St. Mary Magdalene**

Parish Council

## Upcoming Meetings:

**August 9th, 7:00pm**

**September 13th, 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

**August:** No Agape Meal

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

**October 9th:** October Fest bring a dish to pass, **TBD**

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

**December 11th:** Agape Meal (Fasting)

**December 24th:** Holy Supper, **TBD**



A man in a white t-shirt and dark shorts is sitting on a camp stool on the left, playing an acoustic guitar. To his right is a green and yellow tent pitched on a grassy field. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The image has a green brushstroke overlay on the top left and a yellow brushstroke on the bottom right.

# PARISH FAMILY CAMPOUT

August 24-30th  
RV or Tent

**GROVELAND OAKS  
CAMPGROUND**



# Prayer Service for the Sick and Suffering, Especially those suffering with Cancer.

We welcome anyone who is sick or has a loved one or friend who is sick and suffering with cancer or a chronic illness to join us for this once a month prayer service. We will be offering prayers for the healing of soul and body, for compassion and for comfort to those who are fighting illness.

Please join us in person or submit your names to be read during the healing service

Beginning in October 2022  
The first Tuesday of the Month  
6:30pm

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church  
2439 S. Long Lake Rd. Fenton, MI 48506  
[st-marymagdalene.org](http://st-marymagdalene.org)



Scan this code to submit  
names for prayer or to  
find more information.



# save the date

## AUGUST

6TH - PAN ORTHODOX LITURGY FOR TRANSFIGURATION AT ST. GEORGE

13TH - PARISH READERS CLASS

14TH & 15TH - PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY DORMITION MONASTERY

17TH - PARISH OUTING TO CEDAR POINT

24-30TH - PARISH FAMILY CAMPOUT

27TH - VCS DAY CAMP

## SEPTEMBER

7TH - METANOIA BEGINS

10TH - ALTAR SERVERS WORKSHOP

8TH - ANNUAL PET BLESSING

11TH - CHURCH SCHOOL KICKOFF

## OCTOBER

2ND - CHURCH SCHOOL ORCHARD TRIP

4TH - AKATHISTS FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING BEGIN

9TH - BEER FEST AGAPE MEAL

29TH - HISTORICAL CEMETERY BLESSING

30TH - TRUNK OR TREAT

## NOVEMBER

1ST - AKATHIST FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

13TH - VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION

23RD - THANKSGIVING MOLEBIN

## DECEMBER

4TH - ANNUAL MEETING

6TH - AKATHIST FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

11TH - ST. NICHOLAS VISIT

24TH - ROYAL HOURS & VIGIL

25TH - CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT THE NURSING HOME FOLLOWING LITURGY



**EVERYTHING IS  
DEFEATED BEFORE LOVE.  
-ELDER THADDAEUS**

4"x8" Brick Engraved  
with your favorite scripture  
\$100 Donation



**"UNLESS THE LORD  
BUILDS THE HOUSE,  
THOSE WHO BUILD IT  
LABOR IN VAIN."  
-PSALM 126**

8"x8" Brick Engraved  
with your favorite scripture  
\$200 Donation

**St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Engrave your favorite scripture verse or quote from a Saint.**

Bricks are anonymous so please do not add your name. If space allows add name of the Saint (see sample above).

You may engrave up to 4 lines on a 4"x8" bricks and 8 lines on an 8"x8" brick, 25 characters maximum per line.

ANY SYMBOL IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE (PERIOD, COMMA, DASH). ALL TEXT IS CENTERED, HORIZONTALLY & VERTICALLY.

Line 1 (25 spaces)																												
Line 2 (25 spaces)																												
Line 3 (25 spaces)																												
Line 4 (25 spaces)																												
Line 5 (25 spaces)																												
Line 6 (25 spaces)																												
Line 7 (25 spaces)																												
Line 8 (25 spaces)																												

- \$100 for a 4"x 8" brick (4 Lines of Text)
- \$200 for a 8"x 8" brick (8 Lines of Text)
- Remember your donation with a Mini Replica Brick (\$30)

\*Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed along with your tax deductible check to:

St Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church, 2439 S Long Lake Rd. Fenton, MI 48430  
Please make checks payable to "St. Mary Magdalene".  
Questions, please call Fr. Gabriel: (810) 750-1401

**ORDER ONLINE WITH A CREDIT CARD**



# ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

## LET'S GET CONNECTED!

Follow us!



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[youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene](https://youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene)

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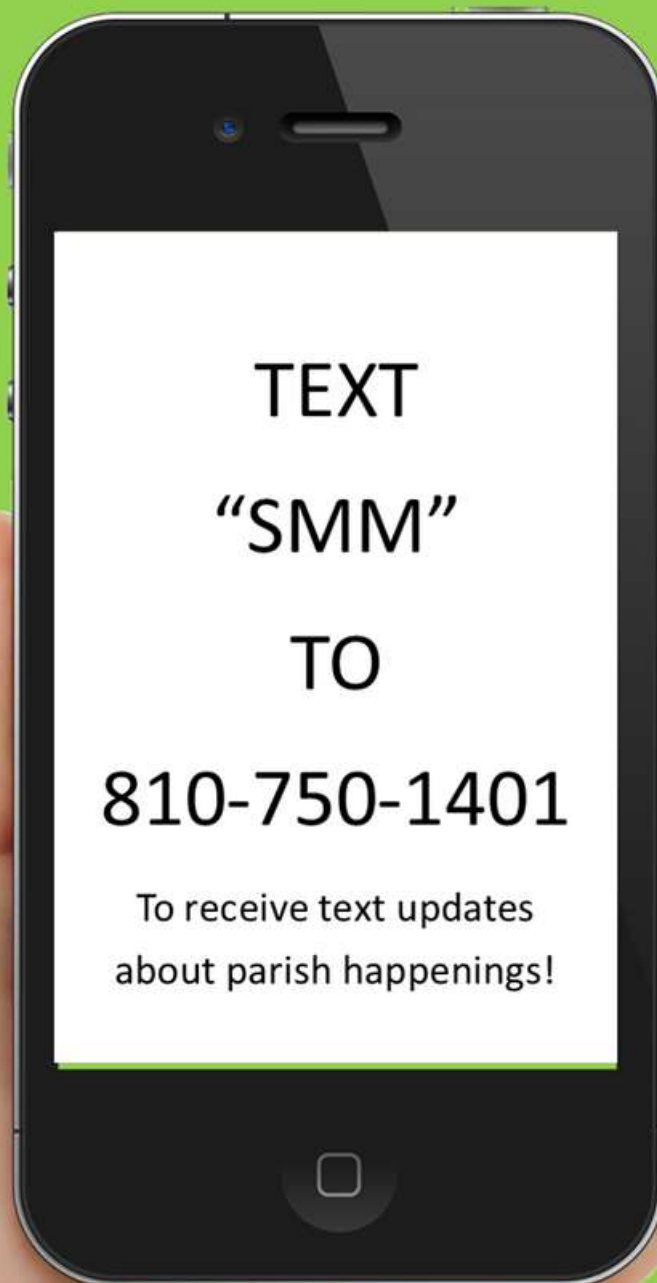




# Stay up-to-date with St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH



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

