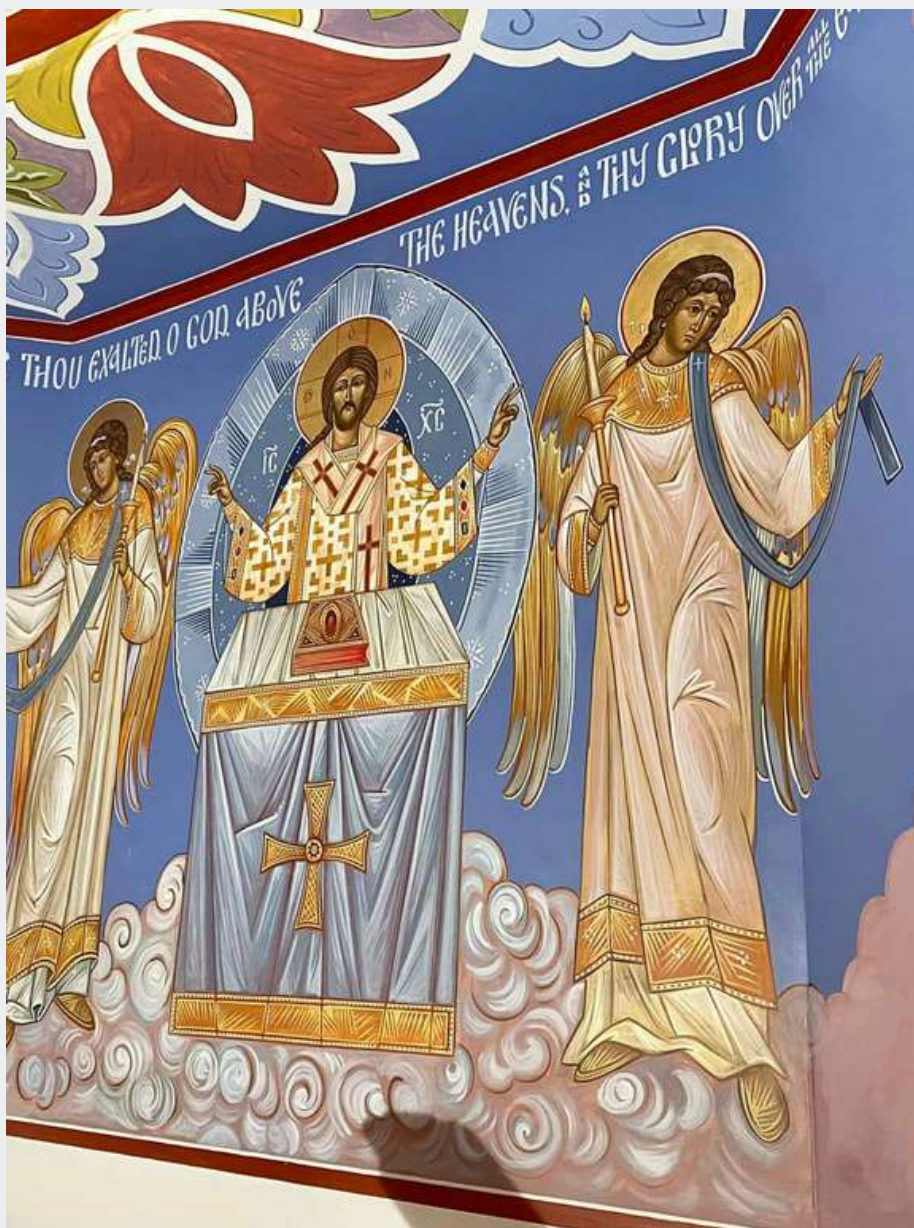


# December 2023



2439 S. Long Lake Rd  
Fenton, MI 48430

Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-750-1401

Church Email:  
SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com  
Father's Email  
frgabrielismm@gmail.com

[www.st-marymagdalene.org](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



# WORSHIP WITH US!



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

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

---

2439 S. Long Lake Rd  
Fenton, MI 48430  
(810) 150-1401  
Email: [smmocafernton@gmail.com](mailto:smmocafernton@gmail.com)

[wwwst-marymagdalene.org](http://wwwst-marymagdalene.org)

**DONATE**



# MONTHLY FORECAST

## **Seminarian Gift Cards Due Back:**

Our Angel Tree Gift cards for seminarians are due back on Sunday, December 3rd. We need to get these to the seminarian families before they go on break! If you forget to purchase them prior to December 3rd, please consider a cash donation so that we can purchase them as soon as possible.

## **St. Nicholas Day Divine Liturgy:**

The Pan Orthodox celebration in honor of St. Nicholas will be at our sister parish of St. Nicholas in Burton on Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 PM. Please note that since we are having Liturgy Tuesday evening, there will be no regularly scheduled Wednesday morning Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene! We wish our brothers and sisters at St. Nicholas Many Years on their Patronal Feast Day!

## **St. Nicholas Visitation to SMM:**

St. Nicholas himself will make his return to our little parish in the woods on Sunday, December 10th. Children should bring a new unwrapped toy for him to take with him to the foster closet. Along with this visitation will be a special children's homily and activities for our Winter Fest. The Children will have an opportunity for fun and fellowship.

## **Feast of St. Herman of Alaska and St. Lucy of Syracuse:**

On Wednesday, December 13th, we celebrate the Glorification of St. Herman of Alaska, as well as the feast day of St. Lucy of Syracuse! We are blessed to have both of the relics of these two great Saints at the parish on that day! Divine Liturgy will begin at the normal 9:40 AM!

## **The Hidden Prayers of the Liturgy Mini Lecture Series:**

Our Advent Mini Series on the Hidden Prayers of the Liturgy continues through Mid December. If you haven't already signed up, please do so by visiting the adult education page of our website or contacting the parish office.

## **Akathist to King David:**

The Young Adult Group's Monthly Akathist will be on Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 PM, followed by fellowship. All are welcome to attend!

## **Chrismation Sunday:**

On Sunday, December 17th, we will have a Chrismational Divine Liturgy where Monica, Eric and Jerry, will be brought into the Holy Orthodox Faith! This will be a joyous day for our parish community as we welcome these new warriors for Christ to the ranks of the Orthodox!

## **Cookie Walk:**

We are downsizing our cookie walk this year due to the lack of space. We will only be selling internally following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 17th. If you are able to bake something for the sale, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway and plan to drop off your baked goods following Vigil the night before.

## **Nativity Schedule:**

Make sure you and your family take a look at the Nativity Schedule of Services. Remember that our worship to God takes precedence over everything else in life dear ones! Make these a priority!

## **Nativity Caroling:**

Following Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day we will be traveling to Lockwood of Fenton to carol for the residents at the facility announcing the Birth of our Savior. These are people who often do not have any visitors on holidays. If you are able please set aside 40 minutes of your day to be the light of Christ to those who are homebound.

## **Father Traveling to OCF National Conference:**

From Wednesday, December 27th to Saturday, December 30th, Fr. Gabriel will be travelling and speaking at the National Orthodox Christian Fellowship College Conference in Pennsylvania. There will be no Great Vespers on Saturday December 30th, but Hours and Divine Liturgy on the 31st will still be at the normal time.



PARISH ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023  
FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY



Topics of Discussion:

Pastoral Report  
Building Expansion Update  
Annual Budget  
Committee Reports  
.... and more!

Watch your inbox!

The Meeting Primer will be emailed to you on Sunday, November 12th

# St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

2439 S. LONG LAKE RD  
FENTON, MI 48430

ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG



## NATIVITY SCHEDULE

12/22 Royal Hours | 6:00pm  
12/23 Vigil | 4:00pm  
12/24 Hours & Divine Liturgy | 9:40am  
12/24 Nativity Vigil | 7:00pm  
12/25 Nativity Hours & Divine Liturgy | 9:40am  
12/26 Divine Liturgy for the Theotokos | 10:00am

## THEOPHANY SCHEDULE

1/5 Compline, Litija and Blessing of the Waters |  
6:00pm  
1/6 Theophany Hours & Divine Liturgy | 9:40am  
1/7 Hours, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the River |  
9:40am





# “BOLD FAITH”

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GABRIEL



As much as there are people that are trying to deny it, we live in a country that is somewhat steeped in Christian morality. We have laws that make it illegal to steal. We send murderers to prison. We convict those who harm others.

If you will indulge me for a moment, let me take you back to a period of history where things were very different from what we are used to in the world today. Throughout all the Pagan nations like Greece and Assyria, drunkenness and fornication were glorified, even to the level of religious rituals! Slavery was normal, so much so that if we were at war with another nation, I would have the right to take the enemy back with me and enslave them to a life of forced labor.

The Canaanite people, who had no regard for the sanctity of life, gave no thought or remorse to offering their nursing children to the demon God Moloch. The Scythians in the 7th century BC., after conquering an army, wouldn't honorably bury the bodies of the warriors they fought against, but would rather drink the blood of their enemies and use their skulls as trophies of their victory! Human life was cheap and the world was a particularly dark place.

Two weeks before the coming of our Savior into the world, the Church remembers and honors all the Holy Forefathers and Foremothers of Christ, who despite the darkness of the world in which they lived, refused to lose the Guiding Star of the true faith. They kept the faith burning like a flaming candle that remains burning even in our own day and time! It is because of them that the world is still standing!



The Church in particular draws our attention to three of the forefathers who provided a tremendous example of how we are to live in the midst of the darkness. In the Kontakion hymn that the choir sings on that day, we hear:

“You did not worship the graven image O Thrice Blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of the unbearable flames you called on God, crying: “Hasten O Compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, for You are merciful and able to do as you will!”

We remember from the book of Daniel, how the King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, had created a large idol for his people to worship. He sent out a decree saying that whenever anyone heard any kind of music, they were to stop what they were doing and bow down in the direction of the large idol that he had set up.

There were, living in Babylon, three friends of the Prophet Daniel named Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael who were true God fearers. Despite the knowledge of what would happen to them, or what others might think of them, they refused to bow down to the pressures of the world. The Holy Youths refused to worship the idol that the King had set up.

# “BOLD FAITH”

## CONTINUED

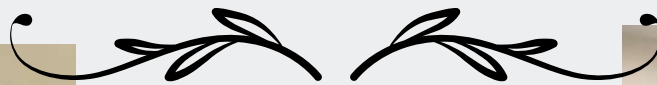
In a fit of rage, Nebuchadnezzar ordered that a furnace be heated, and that the three youths be bound and thrown into the fire! Rather than being harmed from the flames, scripture tells us that the inside of the furnace was like a dew-laden breeze, causing the three Holy Youths no pain or trouble at all, despite the many people outside of the furnace who were being scorched by the flames shooting out of the furnace! The three began to sing a beautiful hymn of thanksgiving and praise to God which we read and sing on Holy Saturday in the Morning Liturgy!

The wicked king Nebuchadnezzar sat outside, hearing the voices of song coming from inside the flames. He looked in the furnace and saw not only the three men who he had condemned to death, but also a fourth figure, the Son of God Himself, 6 centuries before His Incarnation, walking and conversing with them amid the fiery furnace. The King called for the men to come out of the flames, and glorified God who had shown His true power on that day.

All of the Forefathers and Mothers whom we commemorate today, especially these three brave Holy Youths, reveal to us the importance of having a **BOLD FAITH**. There is a temptation in our own culture, to keep our faith and our beliefs to ourselves, feeling as if that showing it in public might lead to ridicule, or persecution, or worse yet, might offend someone else. This no way to show our True Love and **BOLD** faith to the Son of God.

I was reminded and inspired by the people living in the middle east in Jerusalem: The priests who aren't afraid to get spit on for wearing their crosses, the monks who stay in the monasteries despite the physical violence that is done to them, and the Christian school and orphanage in Bethany that we visited who endure rock throwing and bomb threats on a weekly basis, for even daring to exist and proclaiming publicly the Light of Christ to the world. This is the kind of **BOLD FAITH** we need in the midst of our own society, if we are to keep the Light of Christ (and with it true Christian Morality) alive in the country that we live in.

In a few weeks on Christmas Eve, we will be reminded of the prophecy of Isaiah who foretold the coming of Christ when he said: *“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And those who sat in the region and shadow of death, Light has dawned!”* May we inspired by all of our Holy Forefathers and Mothers, and be BOLD in spreading this light to all we come into contact with!



## LAST MONTH

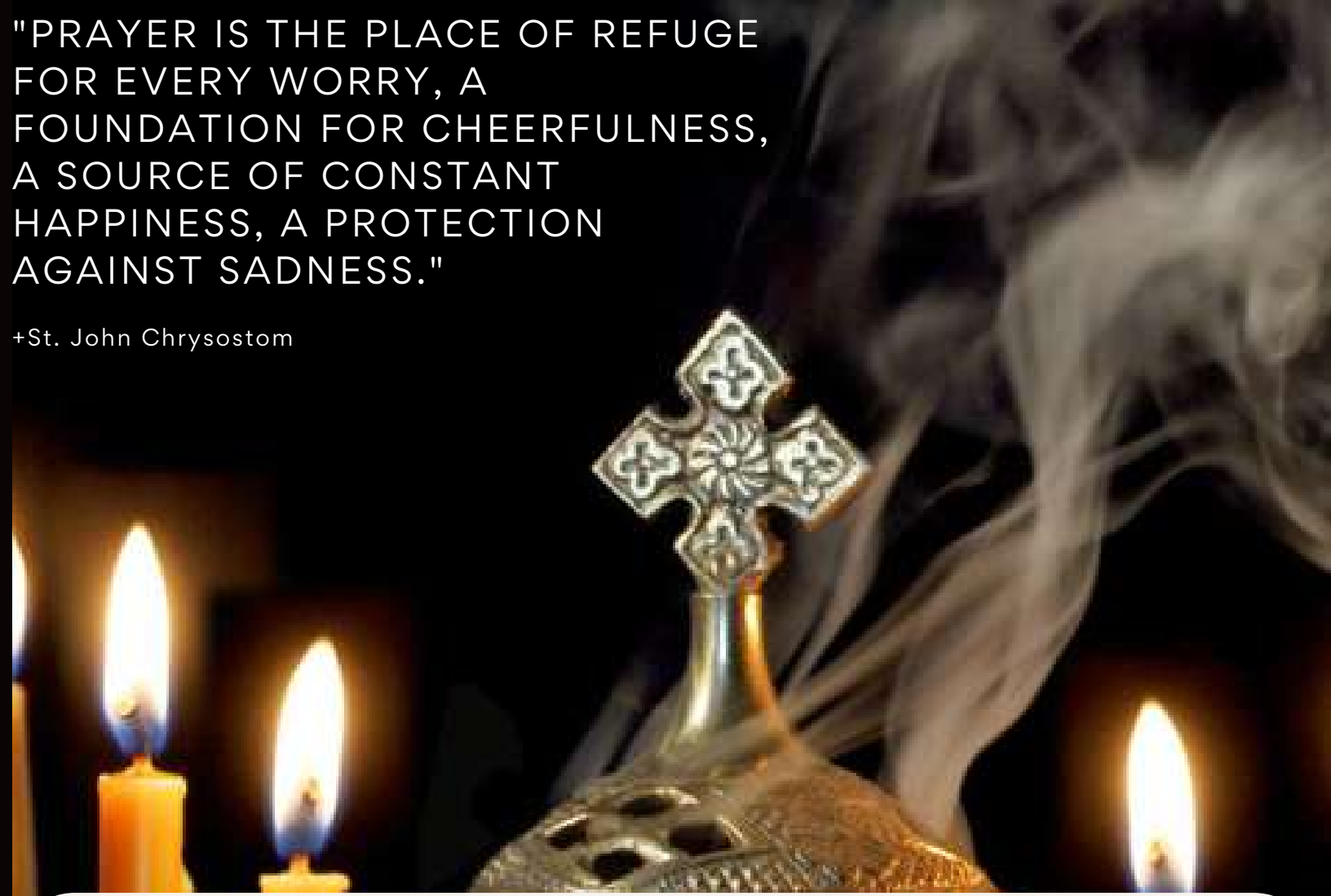
Left: Church School Movie Night

Right: Reception of new members into the catechumenate



"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\***

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Archbishop | David        |
| Alexander  | Jamie        |
| Matushka   | George       |
| Stephanie  | Tom          |
| Subdeacon  | Ryan         |
| Paul       | Sonya        |
| Vinne      | Malanie      |
| Elaine     | Elizabeth    |
| David      | Richard      |
| Pat        | Josiah       |
| Michael    | Geanette     |
| Lauren     | Paul         |
| Mason      | Mike         |
| Theresa    | Joanne       |
| Robert     | Lorain       |
| Arminda    | Jeanette     |
| Martin     | Child Simeon |
| Shirley    | Erica        |
| Nadia      | Leonard      |
| Child      | Pearl        |

**Seminarian Family**

- Reader Paisios,  
Anna, John,  
Theodore &  
Alexander Hamann

**Mother's With Child**

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Inna      | Chloe   |
| Anna      | Allison |
| Catherine |         |
| Sydney    |         |

**Catechumenate**

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Sarah     | Derek     |
| Jeannie   | Alexis    |
| Monica    | Maverick  |
| Eric      | Camden    |
| Jerry     | Ryan      |
| Landen    | Morgan    |
| Ethan     | Milo      |
| Allison   | Gavin     |
| Stella    | Nathan    |
| Vera      | Catherine |
| Kane      | Thomas    |
| Stephanie | Aaron     |
| Matthew   | Skyler    |
|           | Theoden   |

**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

**Anniversary of Repose**

- 8-Manuela Kemp  
12-Mary Valerie Blanchett  
19-Lon Slocum  
24-Marcella Moorman  
24- Dorthody Jean Flesher

**Recently Departed**

- Protodeacon  
Nicholas  
Bryan  
John

*\*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*

Jerry (Anthony)  
Eric (Nektarios)  
Monica (Monica)

### *Engagements*

Mark Foster & Katerina Jonascu  
Nick Swartz & Sarah Miller  
William Keegan & Lauren Peters  
Jeff Schalk & Julia Zayan  
Jared Torrey & Ruthanne Yelland

### *Confession Schedule*

Father Gabriel will hear confessions on the following days or by appointment  
Saturday Evenings following Great Vespers or Vigils  
Following weekday Liturgies

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.

### *Birthdays*

2-Jake Barnhart	17-Rdr David Schutt
3-Sbdn Andrew Durand	17-Katherine Schutt
4-Emma Lanterman	19-Maura Burtka
5-Richard Ziats	19-Mykola Newmerzyckyj
5-Winifred Daugherty	19-Jacob Dennis
8-Christopher Cooley	21-David Welch
9-Jacob Bowers	21-Morgan Maten
11-Lucille Bilas	22-Milo Maten
13-Anne Khoury	23-Robert Oginsky
14-Mat. Laura Bilas	30-Kristin Wolf
14-Owen Dollins	31-Christine Suriano
	31-Isaiah Durand

### *Anniversaries*

19-James & Tonya Rice  
27-Stephen & Inna Bondira  
29-Rdr Paisios & Anna Hamann  
30-Sbdn Robert & Adelaide Lanterman

### *Weddings*

None this month

### *New Catechumens*

Aaron  
Skyler  
Theoden  
Catherine  
Thomas

### *Recent Funerals*

None this Month

# PARISH LIFE

THIS MONTH

## Fellowship of St. Photini December

### Outreach Ministry:

Seminarian Angel Tree  
Nativity Caroling

**Adult Education:** Mini Lecture Series on  
“The Hidden Prayers of the Liturgy”

### Friday, December 1:

Holiday Happenings in Linden with the  
Street Evangelism Team

### Sunday, December 3:

Annual Meeting

### Tuesday, December 5:

Pan-Orthodox Liturgy at St. Nicholas for  
their feast, 6:00pm

### Sunday, December 10:

St. Nicholas Visit  
Toy Drop-off  
Winter Fest

### Tuesday, December 12:

Prayer Service for Sick & Suffering  
Parish Council

### Thursday, December 14:

Akathist to King David

### Saturday, December 16:

Full Choir Nativity Rehearsal

### Sunday, December 17:

Chrismations  
Parastasis for Mary Valerie  
Cookie Walk

### Monday, December 25:

Nativity Caroling

## PARISH GREETERS

**December 3:** Freida Owens

**December 10:** Steve & Sue Walton

**December 17:** Scott & Tina Shephard

**December 24:** George & Julie Jonascu

**December 31:** Seth & Mia Hillaker

## BELL RINGERS

**December 3:** Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

**December 10:** Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

**December 17:** Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

**December 24:** Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

**December 31:** Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

## COFFEE HOUR

**December 3:** John & Kristin Wolf

**December 10:** Terry & Frieda Owens

**December 17:** Chuch & Minka Owens

**December 24:** Coffee Only

**December 31:** Chris & Robyn Ballnik

## EPISTLE READERS

**December 3:** Rdr Brian-Philip Walton & Sue  
Walton

**December 10:** Ruth Karabina & John Wolf

**December 17:** Rdr Tom Chiatas & Jenni Otis

**December 24:** Rdr Chris Ballnik & Rdr Brian-  
Phillip Walton

**December 31:** Rdr. Tom Chiatas & Jennifer  
Otis





# A RECTOR'S PASTORAL REPORT

## ST. MARY MAGDALENE PARISH

*"UNLESS THE LORD BUILD'S THE HOUSE, THOSE WHO BUILD IT LABOR IN VAIN"*

### **+Worship:**

Whether it's due to the influx of catechumens, or the increasing number of visitors, we have certainly had our fair share of "packed houses" for Divine Liturgies as of late. This will only increase now that Advent has begun! While this is a wonderful "problem" to have, we need to make sure we are doing everything in our power to fill in any empty spaces within the temporary sanctuary.

### **+Community:**

We welcomed 5 new catechumens this past month, bringing our total to 27 catechumens. In December, we are looking forward to bringing several of our catechumens into the Holy Orthodox Faith before the Feast of the Nativity! Some of the other recent community highlights included a catechumen trip to Holy Dormition Monastery, a successful Men's Group outing at Fr. Gabriel's home, and the creation of the Holy Myrrhbearers group for support of loved ones who have fallen asleep.

### **+Education:**

This month we will have our Advent Mini Lecture Series on the Hidden Prayers of the Liturgy. This class is available both in person and online as well, and is a great opportunity to turn our focus to learning about the Worship Services during this holy time of preparation.

### **+Stewardship:**

I am grateful to St. Photini who distributed the blankets that our parish made at the memory care facility, which were well received! We continue to have our seminarian angel tree out in the lobby to support seminarian families. This will go through the first week in December!





# St. Mary Magdalene

## Parish Council

### Upcoming Meetings:

All Meetings begin at 7:00pm

December	12th
January	9th

**Annual Meeting  
December 3, 2023**

### 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.

November Highlights:

Major finishing touches including:

- Paint
- Drywall
- Dome Iconography.

The east end mechanicals were also completed and insulation and drywall will begin shortly!



TOTAL MONEY SPENT

JANUARY 1, 2022-

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

\$1,730,974.35

DONATION FROM PRIVATE DONOR

\$807,781.60

MATCHING DONATION FROM PRIVATE DONOR

FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

PAID \$25,000

REMAINING FUNDS IN FLAGSTAR RESTRICTED

AS OF NOVEMBER 26, 2023

\$7,294.00

TOTAL FINANCED BY OCCIF FOR PROJECT

COMPLETION

\$550,000

REMAINING OCCIF BALANCE AS OF

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

\$540,146.11

AVERAGE MONTHLY

OCCIF PAYMENT

\$3,554.23

TOTAL BUILDING FUND DONATIONS SINCE

JANUARY 1, 2023

\$93,037.77

# FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI

Thank you to everyone who made our Blanket Making Ministry a success this year we were able to donate over 25 handmade blankets to patients at the memory care facility.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Seminarian Angel Tree Project. We were able to collect several thousands of dollars toward this ministry.

On December 1st our street Evangelism Team will have a booth set up at the Linden Holiday Happenings Event.

On Christmas Day we will tavel together to Lockwood of Fenton for Christmas Caroling.



## UPCOMING

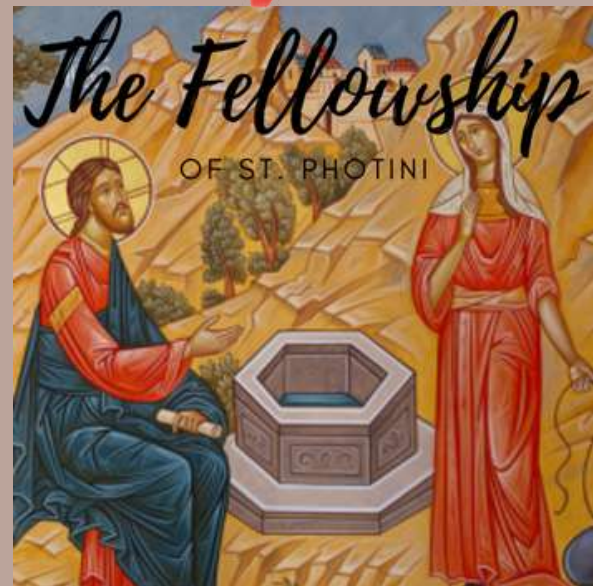
The committee will meet On December 4, 2023 at 7:00pm Via to finalize the 2024 Schedule. If you would like to join this meeting reach out to Deacon Michael.

*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”**

*Lee*

**BY THE GRACE OF GOD  
WE COLLECTED OVER  
\$2000.00 IN GIFT  
CARDS FOR  
SEMINARIANS THIS  
YEAR!**





**ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH**



**Nativity  
Caroling**



**2023**



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH  
FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY**

**LOCKWOOD OF FENTON  
16309 SILVER PKWY**

**JOIN US AS WE PUT OUR FAITH INTO ACTION AND VISIT WITH THOSE WHO  
ARE ALONE ON THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY.**

# 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



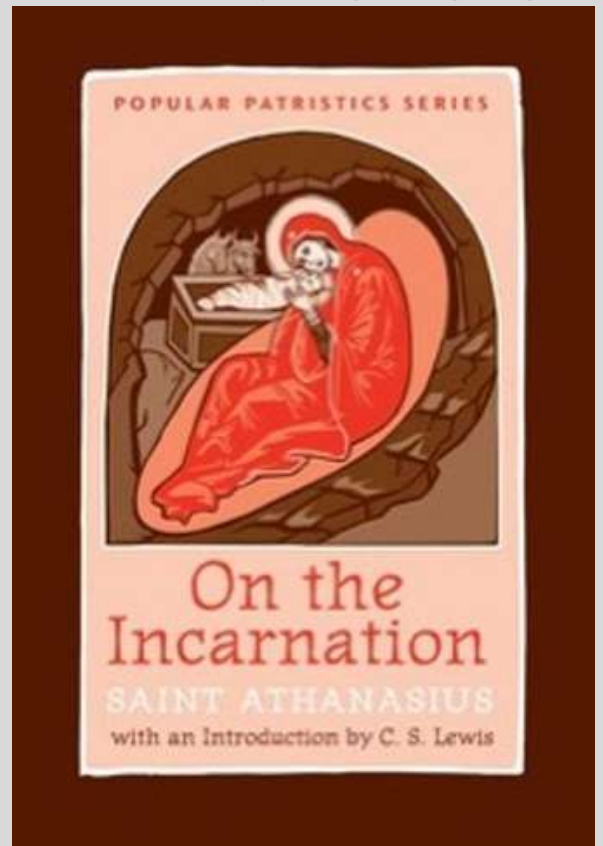
The Nativity Store will remain open throughout the Nativity Season. Take a look at the wares, this is an excellent way to spread our faith this Nativity Season!

Parish Cookbooks are available for \$25 each! This is a great gift!

## THE WINTER PASCHA: READINGS FOR THE CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY SEASON BY FR. THOMAS HOPKO

"When the winter begins to make way into the Northern World, the Church of Christ begins to celebrate a 'splendid three-day Pascha.'"

Thus Father Thomas Hopko begins the first of forty meditations for the season of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, ending with the feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple on the fortieth day after Christ's birth. In the style of his popular book for the paschal fasting season, *The Lenten Spring*, the author again draws on the biblical readings and liturgical hymns and verses of the season to illumine the way for believers to follow the Church's days of preparation and celebration for the Coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in human flesh. Many references are made to the writings of the saints and Church Fathers, as well as to contemporary Christian teachers and spiritual guides. All those who love the Lord's Coming will find comfort and strength, as well as enlightenment and instruction, for having passed through the Winter Pascha with this book as their companion.



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



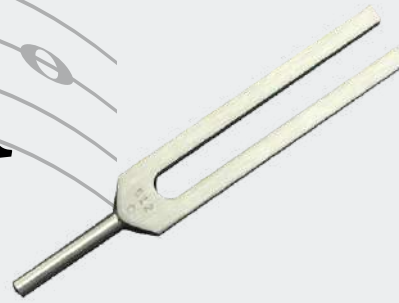
## Regular Bell Ringing Rehearsals

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!

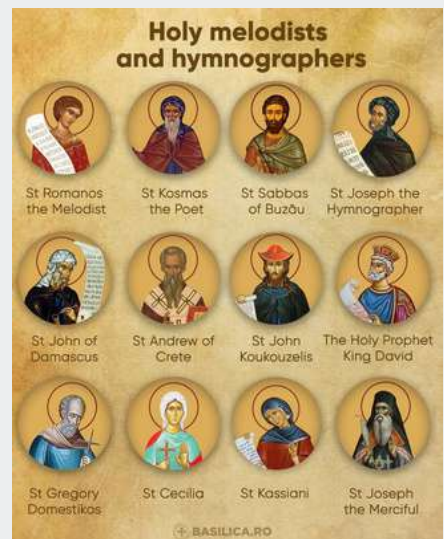
# PARISH CHOIR



## NATIVITY SERVICES REHEARSALS:

Saturday, December 16-Full Choir 2:30-3:30pm

Reader Greg is looking to add one more rehearsal before the Nativity, so be on the lookout for more information to come!



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

*-Psalm 98:1*





ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

BAKE  
SALE

2023

Indulge your sweet tooth and shop for  
Christmas all in one place!

---

DROP OFF  
SATURDAY | DECEMBER 16TH  
FOLLOWING VIGIL

PURCHASE  
SUNDAY | DECEMBER 17TH  
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY



All proceeds from this year's bake sale and craft show will benefit the capital campaign building project for the Church expansion.

# EDUCATION

## LIVE AND LEARN THE FAITH!



### Our Parish Youth!

**FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 29TH**

Thank you all for your patience as we continue to have our take home church school assignments.

In December we have quite a few things happening for our church school on December 10th.

- St. Nicholas will be visiting with a small bag of goodies for our kids.
- Please bring a new unwrapped toy for St. Nicholas to take with him to the Foster Closet for kids in need this Nativity.
- Winter Fest will take place during coffee hour with crafts and games for the kids to participate in.
- One of the crafts will be making cards for our shut-ins, please encourage your kiddos to do so.

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions, concerns and ideas.

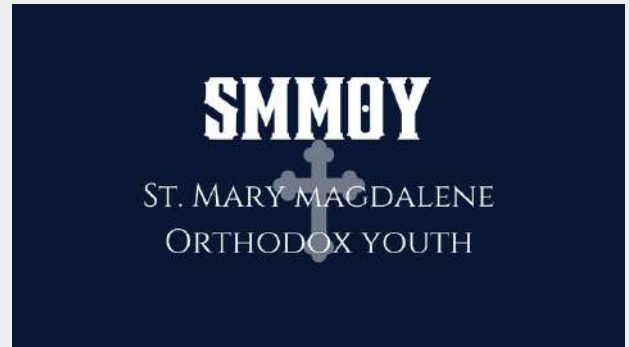
Yours in Christ,  
Terri Oginsky

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

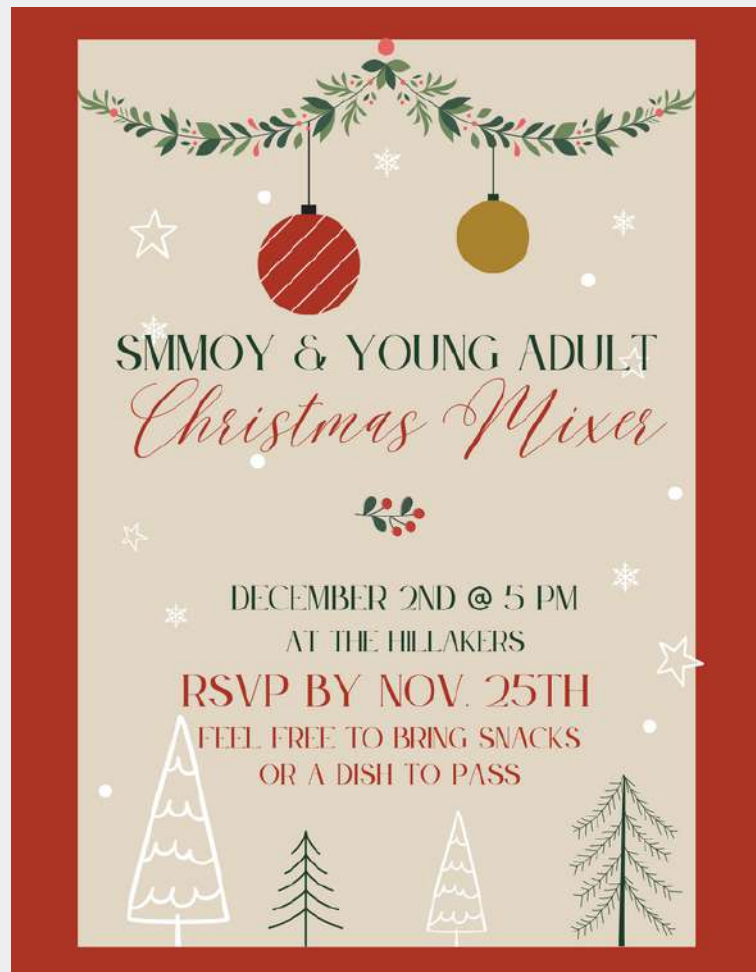
### PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS



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



## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND



PLEASE R.S.V.P.  
IN THE BAND APP  
IN THE COMING DAYS!





# *Nativity* **TOY DRIVE**

*Toys will be distributed to the  
Foster Closet of Mid-Michigan*

**DROP OFF SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 10, 2023**

*Toys will be collected by St. Nicholas  
during his visit for him to pass along  
to the children in need.*

*Please bring a new and unwrapped  
toy. One toy per family!*



St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

# St. Nicholas Visit

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023**

O who loves Nicholas the saintly,  
O who serves Nicholas the saintly,  
Him will Nicholas receive,  
And give help in time of need:  
Holy Father Nicholas!\*

He who dwells in God's holy  
mansions,  
Is our help on the land and oceans,  
He will guard us from all ills,  
Keep us pure and free from sins  
Holy Father Nicholas!\*

Holy Saint, hearken to our prayer,  
Let not life drive us to despair,  
All our efforts shall not wane,  
Singing praises to your name:  
Holy Father Nicholas!\*

O kto kto Nikolaja l'ubit,  
O kto kto Nikolaja sluzit,  
Tomu svjatyj Nikolaj,  
Na vsjakj cas pomahaj:  
Nicolaj, Nicolaj!\*

\*Repeat the three lines of the refrain.

St. Nicholas will be joining us following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 10th. Traditionally this is the day gifts are exchanged in honor of the life of St. Nicholas and his benevolence. Please bring a new and unwrapped gift to share with children in need.

Be sure your children, Godchildren and grandchildren are present to hear about the life of St. Nicholas and his giving soul.



St. Mary Magdalene  
Church School



**WINTER**  
*Festival*

The word 'WINTER' is written in a large, bold, dark blue font. The letter 'I' is stylized with a thick, curved top bar. The word 'Festival' is written in a dark blue, cursive script below 'WINTER'. The entire graphic is decorated with several snowflake icons of varying sizes and a single evergreen tree on the right side. Small white circles and squares are scattered around the text.

Games | Trivia  
Crafts | Snacks

**December 10, 2023**

**Following Divine Liturgy**

2439 S. Long Lake Rd.  
Fenton, MI 48430  
[st-marymagdalene.org](http://st-marymagdalene.org)  
810-750-1401  
[smmocafenton@gmail.com](mailto:smmocafenton@gmail.com)

# YOUNG ADULTS

## BOOK CLUB AND FELLOWSHIP

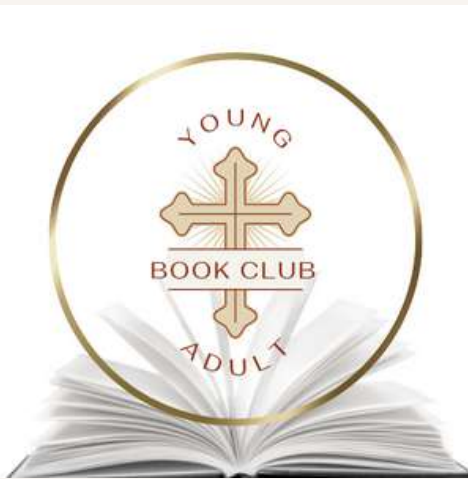
Our Young adult group is for anyone ages 21-45 who wish to join in fellowship and faith.

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

YOUNG  
ADULT  
GROUP



**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.

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

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

## Monthly Akathist 2023 SCHEDULE

HOSTED BY THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP

JANUARY	6:00PM
<b>12</b>	St. Seraphim of Sarov
FEBRUARY	6:00PM
<b>9</b>	St. Innocent of Irkutsk
MARCH	6:00PM
<b>9</b>	Canon of St. Mary of Egypt
APRIL	6:00PM
<b>6</b>	Canon of St. Mary of Egypt
MAY	6:00PM
<b>11</b>	Martyr Varus
JUNE	6:00PM
<b>8</b>	Inexhaustable Cup
JULY	6:00PM
<b>13</b>	St. Mary Magdalene
AUGUST	6:00PM
<b>10</b>	St. Joseph the Hesychast
SEPTEMBER	6:00PM
<b>21</b>	St. Iakovos of Evia
OCTOBER	6:00PM
<b>12</b>	12 Holy Apostles
NOVEMBER	6:00PM
<b>9</b>	Archangel Michael
DECEMBER	6:00PM
<b>14</b>	King David

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



# "The Hidden Prayers of the Liturgy"

with Fr. Gabriel Bilas

While much of the Divine Liturgy is chanted out loud for all to hear, there are many ancient prayers and actions that are done silently by the Bishop or the Priest. In this Advent Mini-Series, we will be uncovering the "Hidden Liturgy" found in these powerful prayers and actions, which coincide with the invisible Heavenly Liturgy that simultaneously takes place.



scan the QR or  
register at

[st-marymagdalene.org/adult-education](https://st-marymagdalene.org/adult-education)

**Adult Education Mini Lecture Series**  
Wednesday, November 29 | 6:00PM  
Wednesday, December 6 | 6:00PM  
Wednesday, December 13 | 6:00PM

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church  
2439 S. Long Lake Rd | Fenton, MI  
810-750-1401



# "METANOIA"

LEARNING TO CHANGE ONE'S HEART FOR GOD



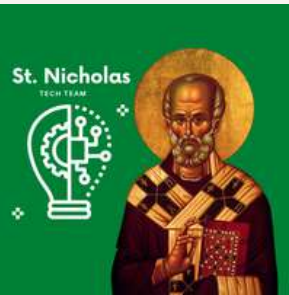
In a Christian World now littered with various denominations, each teaching a different version of the same Gospel, have you ever wondered or thought what about what the earliest Christians taught? How did they worship? What did they believe? Now is your opportunity to come, discuss and learn about the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

This 8 week class will cover the fundamental beliefs of the Ancient Christian Church, passed down to us from Christ and His Disciples.

## First Semester 2024- All classes begin at 6:30pm

Wednesday, January 31st:	Introduction to Orthodoxy and Holy Tradition
Wednesday, February 7th:	What do we believe about God?
Wednesday, February 14th:	What is mankind's purpose in life?
Wednesday, February 21st:	What is sin?
Wednesday, February 28th:	What did Jesus Christ come here to do?
Wednesday, March 6th:	How do we pray?
Wednesday, March 13th:	What is the big deal with the Theotokos and the Saints?

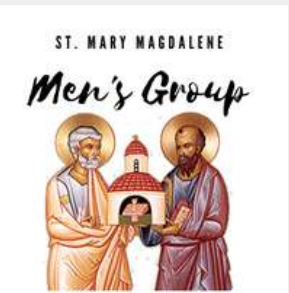
# PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS



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.





*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 SERVICES

**PATRONAL FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS**

PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERAL LITURGY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 6:00PM

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

2143 S. CENTER RD

BURTON, MI 48519



**Christ is Born,  
Glorify Him!**



**Orthodox Nativity Concert**

**Featuring the**

**Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit &  
Local Orthodox Parish Choirs**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 6 PM**

**ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
707 E. LAFAYETTE ST / DETROIT (Greektown)**

***All are Welcome!***



A freewill offering will be collected to support the work of FOCUS Detroit and the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Detroit (COCC)



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  
LET'S GET CONNECTED!



Follow us!

 @StMaryMagdaleneOrthodoxChurch

 @ocasmm

 @ocasmm

 youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene 

# save the date

January  
5- Theophany Compline & Blessing of the Waters  
6-Theophany Liturgy  
7-Theophany Blessing of the River