



# St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

*February*

*2021*

**Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector**

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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

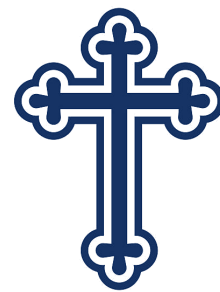
Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm

Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

\*or by appointment



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## MONTHLY BULLETIN FEBRUARY 2021

### Important Dates to Remember:

#### Inside this issue:

Birthdays/Anniversary

Prayer List

Monthly Forecast

Parish Youth

Adult Education

Community Outreach

Sanctity of Life Sunday



- ✝ 2/1 Pan-Orthodox Vesperal Liturgy
- ✝ 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24 Metanoia Classes
- ✝ 2/6 Packaging Lazarus Bags following Vespers
- ✝ 2/7 Blessing of Candles and distribution of Lazarus Bags
- ✝ 2/9 Parish Council Meeting
- ✝ 2/13 & 2/14 Archbishop Alexander Visit & Education Center Blessing
- ✝ 2/27 Preparation Prayers for Ingrid's Baptism
- ✝ 2/28 Baptismal Liturgy

## Preparing for the "March" that is to come!

A message from Fr. Gabriel

In this month of February, we celebrate the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple (February 2<sup>nd</sup>). For the last 40 days, we have been celebrating the events of the Winter Pascha, remembering and watching in awe as the Creator of the Universe humbled Himself to become a small and helpless child, born in a cave, becoming man so that we could become gods! Now this month, we celebrate his Churaching...the day when the Most-Pure Virgin brought the Christ Child to the temple for the first time which was the custom of the law.

The offering of a child to the temple was a very serious matter in the Old Testament, and in the life of Israel. If we remember back from the book of Exodus, after our Lord had brought the 10 plagues upon Egypt, He said that from that day forward, there would be a firstborn rite for His people. Every first-born child of every family, from the day of their birth, now belonged to God.

As was the Jewish Custom, in order to "get the child back", the family had to bring them into the temple and offer a sacrifice of either a lamb (for those that could afford it), or two turtle doves. This is why in the icon, you see Joseph bringing two turtle doves the temple!

40 days after Christ's birth, the Theotokos brought Him to the temple. He was welcomed by the High Priest Zachariah, who we know from history was the Father of St. John the Baptist. Zacharia took the Child and then did something that was unthinkable at the time! The high priest invited Mary to go to the place in the temple that was set apart for the virgins!

This of course infuriated the Pharisees, who were the "temple lawyers" of the day. *How can Zacharias allow this woman, who clearly just had a son, and is here with her betrothed...sit in the*



place of the Virgins! They were no doubt furious as to what they were seeing!

As Mary took her place in the temple, a righteous elder named Simeon, who we are told was a very “devout and just man...one who obeyed all of the commandments”, wanted to hold the Christ child in his arms. He had been told by the Holy Spirit decades before, that he would not pass from this life until he had seen with his own eyes the Savior of the world. Taking the child in his arms, Simeon offered us that beautiful prayer that we still sing at least once a week here at the Church at Great Vespers:

*“Lord, now let Your Servant depart in peace...according to Your Word. For my eyes have seen Your Salvation, which you have prepared before all peoples. A light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of your People Israel.”*

Holy Tradition tells us that the Pharisees were furious about what they were seeing! *How long are we going to let this charade continue...and allow this man to speak blasphemies about this young child!* They quickly stormed off to tell Herod the horrible things that they had seen, but by the time Herod had summoned his men to investigate, the family had already left the temple.

Before giving Jesus back to Mary, perhaps after seeing the Pharisees become enraged and storm out of the Temple, Simeon said

something else that is striking to hear, **especially** in our day and age: *“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel...”* To put it a different way, those who approach this child with humble hearts, obedience, and clarity of vision will be raised up in the Glory of Christ. However, those who are like the Pharisees... those who are full of pride and resist the truth...will eventually fall.

Later on in the month of February, we begin our Pre-Lenten Sunday March towards the Great Fast. These next few weeks are vital for us as Christians who desire to be on the right side of that prophecy of Simeon! Early on next month, we will be embarking on a new 40-day journey of self-emptying, purification, and sacrifice.

Anyone who has experienced Lent to its fullness knows that it is an absolutely wonderful marathon for the spiritual life, but like any marathon, it requires training and preparation from us as Christians. If we do not prepare, if we don't stretch ourselves for the beginning of the marathon, what happens when the gate finally opens? We cramp up and fall flat on our faces!

Use this time as a period of examination! Slowly changing those habits that have been built up throughout the year! Do we spend more time on our phones or on the internet, than we do in prayer? Do we get angry with the politics of the day? Are we able to control our stomachs...saying “no” to more food than what is needed? Have we caught ourselves from swearing...or have stayed away from situations that would cause us to? Have we kept the openings of our soul (our eyes, our ears, our mouth) away from situations or negative entertainment that could affect us? When we pick up our bibles, do we have to blow on them to get the dust off? Have we picked up and read at least one chapter of the New Testament, outside of Church this year? Have we invoked our Lord's name in prayer at least once a day? Have we had at least one prostration before our Lord in a prayer at home? (You will do them all the time coming up shortly...get those abs ready!). Have we judged anyone more harshly than we do ourselves? Have we shown love to everyone who comes into our path? **If there are priorities that are completely out of alignment, use this time of preparation to begin correcting them.**

When the dust finally settles after blowing off our bibles and our prayer rules, if we have all done our spiritual cleanse faithfully, we will find ourselves on the right end of Simeon's prophecy, and be able to rise up with our Lord, on that glorious day of His Resurrection!



## Month in Review

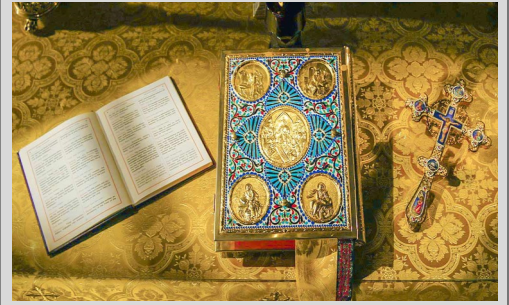
We had quite a busy month of January, with our river blessing, lamb roast to go parish dinner, and our annual service for the unborn all happening on consecutive Sundays. January also saw the completion of the renovation of our parish office and education center, which will be blessed when the Archbishop joins us in Mid-February. Glory to God for all things!

## Recommended Reading

The Living Witness of the Holy Mountain: Contemporary Voices from Mount Athos

By: Archbishop Alexander Golitzin

From as early as the ninth century, Mount Athos — a monastic republic situated on a peninsula in northern Greece extending some 35 miles into the Aegean Sea — has been a monastic center and a spiritual beacon of the Orthodox world. As the present collection of essays, sermons, narratives, and apophthegmata shows, the significance of the work of the monks who come to Athos to devote themselves to God continues undiminished, as does the vitality of their contribution to the spiritual life of Orthodoxy worldwide. In these pages we see the simplicity and truth of the Gospel reflected in anecdotes of contemporary Fathers of the Holy Mountain; we read of the connection between the light of Christ's Transfiguration on Mount Tabor and Orthodox monastic spirituality; we learn how St. Herman of Alaska, America's first Orthodox saint, was a kind of gift to America from Athos. Several writings by Archimandrite Aemilianos (Vapheides), Abbot of Simonos Petras Monastery on Mount Athos, set forth the critical importance of the spiritual father and the Jesus prayer in an Orthodox monastery, and the link between monasticism and martyrdom. A leading French Catholic scholar recounts in detail his path to Orthodoxy over a span of many years. Also included is the Tomos of Mount Athos in Defense of the Holy Hesychasts — an important Orthodox doctrinal document, written in the fourteenth century by St. Gregory Palamas and signed by the elders of the Holy Mountain. These writings, together with the others in this volume, have all been written by Athonite monks. All but one of them appears in English for the first time, translated by His Eminence, Archbishop Alexander (Golitzin), who contributes, in his illuminating Introduction, an examination of Athonite history, organization, and daily life.



### *This Month's Sunday Scripture Readings*

#### **February 7th:**

1 Timothy 1:15-17  
Matthew 15:21-28

#### **February 14th:**

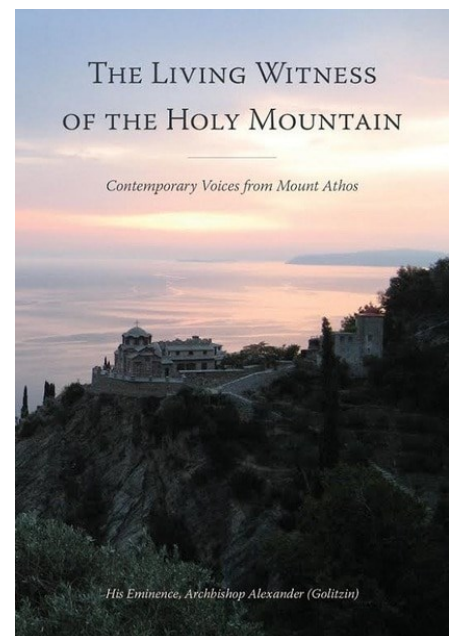
1 Timothy 4:9-15  
Luke 19:1-10

#### **February 21st:**

2 Timothy 2:10-25  
Luke 18: 10-14

#### **February 28th:**

1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
Luke 15:11-32



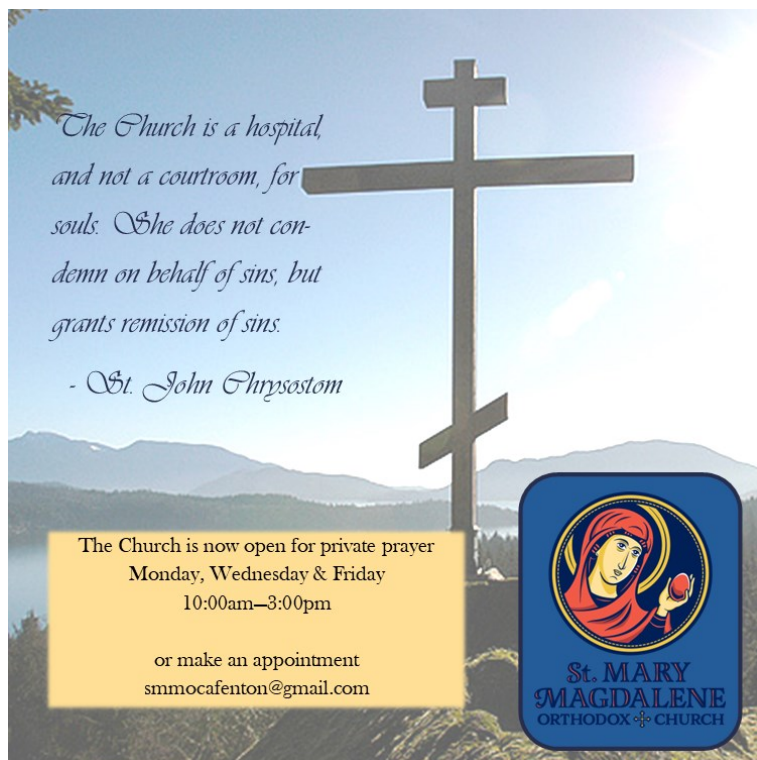
# WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- † 1– Matthias Suriano
- † 5– Fr. Gabriel Bilas & William Wolf
- † 6– Niki Naum
- † 10–Chris Dollins
- † 12– Noah Bilas
- † 13– Ethan Suriano
- † 14– Diaconitza Susa Schlaack, Vivian Capatina & Emmanuel Lazar Watson
- † 19– Andrew Auxier
- † 20– Emmett Ballnik
- † 21– Nyomi Forsyth
- † 23– Phillip Moorman & Benjamin Wilkinson
- † 25– Lydia Hall
- † 26– Ileana Bilas
- † 27– Taisa Czubenko, Helen Locascio & Luke Shephard
- † 28– Diana Auxier

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- † 13– Andy & Rebekah Humphreys
- † 15– Andy & Lynne Marko
- † 23– Seth & Mia Hillaker



### 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

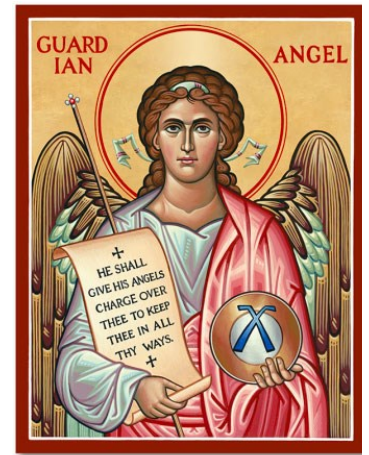
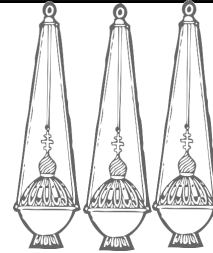
## Office Hours

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 Herman	Damian
Archpriest Joseph	Thom
Matushka Laura	Theodore
Vinnie	Bill
Anastasia	Joann
Alex	Ahron
Elaine	Linda
Stacie	Joane
Peter	Irene
David	Bruce
Michael	Carol
Mason	Debra
Pat	Christy
Joseph	Nancy
Linda	Tonya
Tonya	Kim
Arminda	
Ryan	
Dimitri	



**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  
 Sarah Tyler—U.S. Air Force

**Catechumens**

Alyssa  
 William  
 Anthony  
 James  
 Anastasia

**Recently Departed**

Ilene  
 Kyle  
 David  
 Joann

**Mother's With Child**

Christina  
 Ann  
 Anna  
 Christine  
 Shannon

**Seminarian Family**

Alexander & Danielle Earl

**Anniversary of Parish Member's Repose**

1— Rose Caldarea  
 17— Pamela Caszatt

## Parish Greeters

## Coffee Hour Volunteers

(Please note that coffee hour is suspended for  
the time being)

## Epistle Readers

Primary

Back-up

**February 7th:**  
Scott & Tina Shephard

**February 14th:**  
George & Julie Jonascu

**February 21st:**  
Seth & Mia Hillaker

**February 28th:**  
Scott & Tina Shephard

**February 7th:**

**February 14th:**

**February 21st:**

**February 28th:**

**February 7th:**  
Jenni Otis

**February 14th:**  
Sue Walton

**February 21st:**  
Sbdn. Andrew Durand

**February 28th:**  
Rdr. Chris Ballnik

**February 7th:**  
Rdr. John Auxier

**February 14th:**  
Rdr. Nathan Auxier

**February 21st:**  
Jenni Otis

**February 28th:**  
Sue Walton

**WE NEED YOU!** As our parish opens up more and more we are in need new parish greeters and coffee hour volunteers. If this is a ministry that you are interested in taking part in please reach out to Sue Walton or the parish office.

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

# Archbishop Alexander Visit

# February 13 & 14

# Monthly Forecast

## **Pan Orthodox Service for Presentation of our Lord:**

On Monday, February 1st at 6:00 PM, the Pan Orthodox Community will be meeting at Holy Assumption Greek Orthodox Church for the Vespers Divine Liturgy. The service is open to anyone who wishes to come in person! This service will not be offered via livestream.

## **Blessing of Candles for Presentation**

On the Sunday after the Feast of the Presentation (February 7th) we will be having the customary blessing of candles! If you have candles at home that you would like blessed, this is the day to bring them in! Why do we bless them? To remember the role of Light in the world and in our lives...a light that comes from God, and is a way in which we can focus our prayer in order to more fully experience and encounter Christ!

## **Lazarus Bag Prep and Blessing**

This month, we will be putting together the Lazarus Bags on Saturday, February 6th after Great Vespers. We will then be blessing and distributing them to our families on Sunday, February 7th! If you are able to help, please come those days so that we can put them together!

## **Metanoia Continues**

Through the month of February, we will be meeting for our weekly Metanoia Class on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. If you are late getting registered, reach out to the parish office as soon as you are able!

## **Vespers with Archbishop Alexander**

With the visitation of His Eminence Archbishop Alexander on Saturday, February 13th, there will be no confessions offered after Great Vespers that day. If you would like to schedule a confes-

sion that week, please reach out to Fr. Gabriel or the parish office.

## **Bishop Alexander Visitation and Blessing of Education Center**

On Sunday, February 14th, we will be joined for Divine Liturgy by His Eminence Archbishop Alexander! After Divine Liturgy, we will be blessing the newly renovated parish office and education center!

## **Pre-Lenten Retreat (Mark your Calendars!)**

The Pan Orthodox Pre-Lenten Retreat will take place on Saturday, March 6th before Great Vespers. More details will be given as the time gets closer, but this is the time to mark your calendars!

## **Baptismal Liturgy**

The weekend of February 27 & 28th we will celebrate the baptism of our newest parish family member Ingrid Ballnik. Saturday evening, after vespers, the catechism prayers will be read for her in the back of the church. Sunday we will have a Baptismal Liturgy beginning at 9:50am.







## *The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple*

On February 2nd the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

### *Vesperal Liturgy*

*Monday, February 1st  
6pm*

*Holy Assumption Greek Orthodox  
Church*

*2245 E Baldwin Rd,  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439*

*Pan-Orthodox Churches of  
Genesee County*

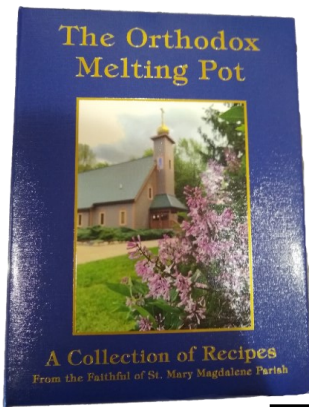
- *Holy Assumption Greek Orthodox Church*
- *St. George Orthodox Church*
- *St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church*
- *St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*

# Parish Kiosk



## “The Orthodox Melting Pot”

A Collection of Recipes from the faithful of St. Mary Magdalene Parish



The Parish Cookbook is available for a suggested donation of \$25 each. Please use the specific envelope designated for the cookbook to make your donation. If you would like a copy shipped to you please contact the parish office

New Arrivals in the kiosk this month!

- ✝ Adult & Young Adults Books
  - ✝ Children’s Books
  - ✝ Home Altar Items
    - ✝ Psalters
  - ✝ Lenten Materials
    - ✝ Icons
- ....and more!!!

New shirts, sweat shirts, embordered fleece, hats & even golf shirts are on sale. The order form is at the end of the newsletter. Orders are due back mid February 21st!



### Kiosk New Arrivals

- ✝ Don’t forget apparel order forms are due back February 21st!
- ✝ We have received new books to our parish kiosk.
- ✝ We also have several new children’s books available.
- ✝ We have new icons in stock! Perfect additions to your home prayer corner
- ✝ Home Altar items have arrived including vigil lights, censers and incense!

If you would like to see anything specific in the kiosk please let us know!

# Pre-Lent

from oca.org

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is itself preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man and how his life was greatly changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Lk 19.3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through lent towards Easter. It is the first movement of salvation.

The following Sunday is that of the Publican and the Pharisee. The focus here is on the two men who went to the Temple to pray—one a pharisee who was a very decent and righteous man of religion, the other a publican who was a truly sinful tax-collector who was cheating the people. The first, although genuinely righteous, boasted before God and was condemned, according to Christ. The second, although genuinely sinful, begged for mercy, received it, and was justified by God (Lk 18.9). The meditation here is that we have neither the religious piety of the pharisee nor the repentance of the publican by which alone we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ’s teaching, and to beg for mercy.

The next Sunday in the preparation for Great Lent is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Hearing the parable of Christ about God’s loving forgiveness, we are called to “come to ourselves” as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being “in a far country” far from the Father’s house, and to make the movement of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that the Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only “arise and go,” confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that “home” where we truly belong (Lk 15.11–24).

The next Sunday is called Meatfare Sunday since it is officially the last day before Easter for eating meat. It commemorates Christ’s parable of the Last Judgment (Mt 25.31–46). We are reminded this day that it is not enough for us to see Jesus, to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as his prodigal sons. We must also be his sons by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in every man and by serving Christ through them. Our salvation and final judgment will depend upon our deeds, not merely on our intentions or even on the mercies of God devoid of our own personal cooperation and obedience.

. . . for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and in prison and you visited Me. For truly I say to you, if you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me (Mt 25).

We are saved not merely by prayer and fasting, not by “religious exercises” alone. We are saved by serving Christ through his people, the goal toward which all piety and prayer is ultimately directed.

Finally, on the eve of Great Lent, the day called Cheesefare Sunday and Forgiveness Sunday, we sing of Adam’s exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord’s teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us.

If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Mt 6.14–18).



# Our Parish Youth

## February Church School Announcements

Archbishop Alexander will be visiting us on February 13th and 14th. Here is what you should know ...

A Bishop is a member of clergy who has received the highest of the sacred orders and represents Christ in the church. A bishop is consecrated by at least three other bishops and is successor of the Apostles. Our church belongs to the bishop and Father Gabriel serves in the bishop's place when he cannot be here. The bishop will serve Vespers and Divine Liturgy with us.

How to greet a bishop:

- ✚ We don't shake a bishop's hand, give him a hug or a high five. Instead we kiss his right hand and ask for a blessing. We do this because we seek to honor Christ. After all, the bishop represents Christ in the church.
- ✚ Cup your hands in front of you, with your right hand over your left and your palms facing up.
- ✚ Bow your head and say "Master, Bless" The bishop will then give you a blessing in the sign of the cross and put his hand in your hands.
- ✚ Gently lean forward and kiss the bishop's hand.



Lucy Bilas asking for a blessing from Metropolitan Tikhon circa 2017

***Parents be on the look out for Pre-Lent through Pentecost work books for the younger children that will be distributed February 14th.***

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



**Prayers for our college students:**

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Katherine Arnes     | Katerina Jonescu    |
| Katherine Schutt    | Katheryn Auxier     |
| Oliver Lazar Senter | Alexandra Kekel     |
| Elena Bucciarelli   | Lauren Serafimovski |
| Zachary Wilkinson   | Abigail Arnes       |
| Douglas Wilkinson   |                     |
| Sydney Wilkinson    |                     |



**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!

For more information about our St. Mary Magdalene Men's Group, please contact Tom Chitalas.



St. Mary Magdalene  
Young Adults

Please see Peter Hamman  
to be added to the online young adult group.

# Adult Education



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



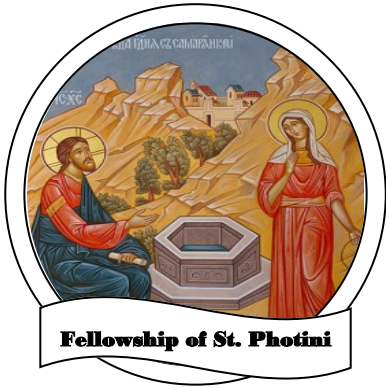
**In a Christian World now littered with various denominations, each teaching a different version of the same Gospel, have you ever wondered or thought about what the earliest Christians taught, how they worshiped, and what they believed? Now is your opportunity to come, discuss, and learn about the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

## **Spring Semester 2021**

<b>Wednesday, Jan. 27th</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>Introduction to Holy Tradition</b>
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 3rd</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>What do we know about God?</b>
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 10th</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>What it Means to be a Human Being</b>
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 17th</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>Who is Jesus Christ?</b>
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 24th</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>The Eastern Christian View of Sin and Salvation</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 3rd</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>The Church, Mary, and the Saints</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 10th</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>The Holy Spirit and the Jesus Prayer</b>

# FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI



“An inclusive opportunity for community outreach led by the faithful of St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church”

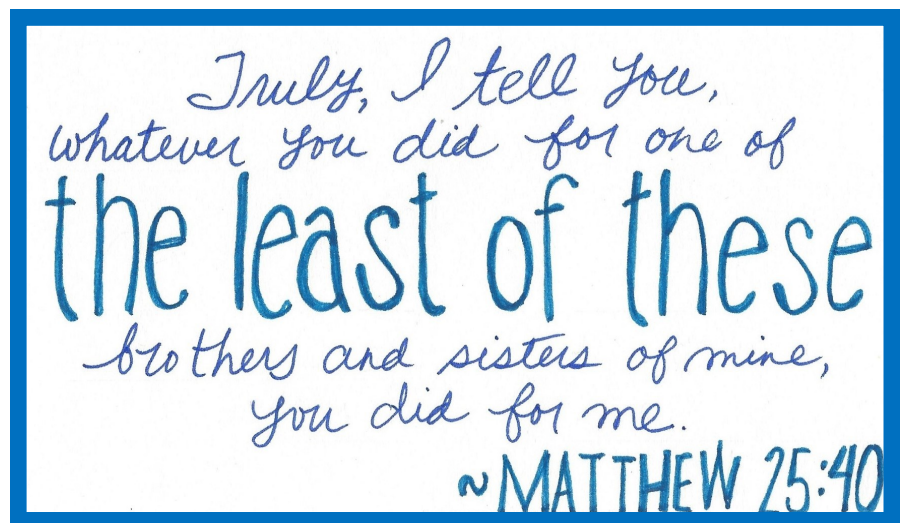
Glory to God! We were able to collect items to create 50 Lazarus Bags to give out to those in need in our community. These bags contain basic hygiene items as well as food and food cards for those who live on the streets. Thank you to all who participated in this year’s collection and to those who will participate in the packing and distribution.

There will not be a St. Photini project (other than distribution of the bags) for the month of February. Stay tuned for volunteer and almsgiving opportunities throughout Great Lent.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

We will be staying after Vespers on Saturday, February 6th to pack the Lazarus Bags. Father will be blessing the bags on Sunday, February 7th for everyone to distribute following Divine Liturgy. If you have any questions and would like to participate please reach out to any member of the leadership team.

Please contact Theophan Forsyth, Terri Oginski or Rebekah Humphreys if you would like any information about upcoming projects or would like to donate to the works of the Fellowship of St. Photini.





# Archbishop Alexander Pre-Lenten Visit

**Join us!**

**Saturday, February 13th**

**Vespers 4:00pm**

**Sunday, February 14th**

**Hours & Divine Liturgy 9:50am**

*Archbishop Alexander will bless the  
Education Center & Office  
renovations following the  
Divine Liturgy!*

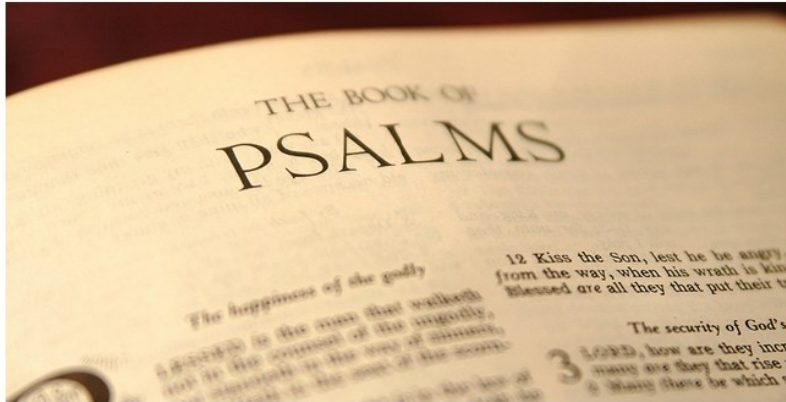


**St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**



# St. Mary Magdalene Lenten Psalm Group

Preparing for Pascha by Praying the Psalms



## The Goal:

To draw nearer to Christ and one another during the Lenten Fast, by praying the Psalms together as a community, as we journey together towards Holy Pascha.

## How it Works:

The Orthodox Church divided the book of Psalms into 20 sections (called a Kathisma). In our St. Mary Magdalene prayer group, we will each be assigned a different section each day, throughout the 40 days of the fast. By the end of Lent, our parish will have read through the entire book of Psalms twice. If everyone is keeping up with their individual sections every day, it also means that our parish community together is praying the entire book of psalms daily!

## Added Bonus:

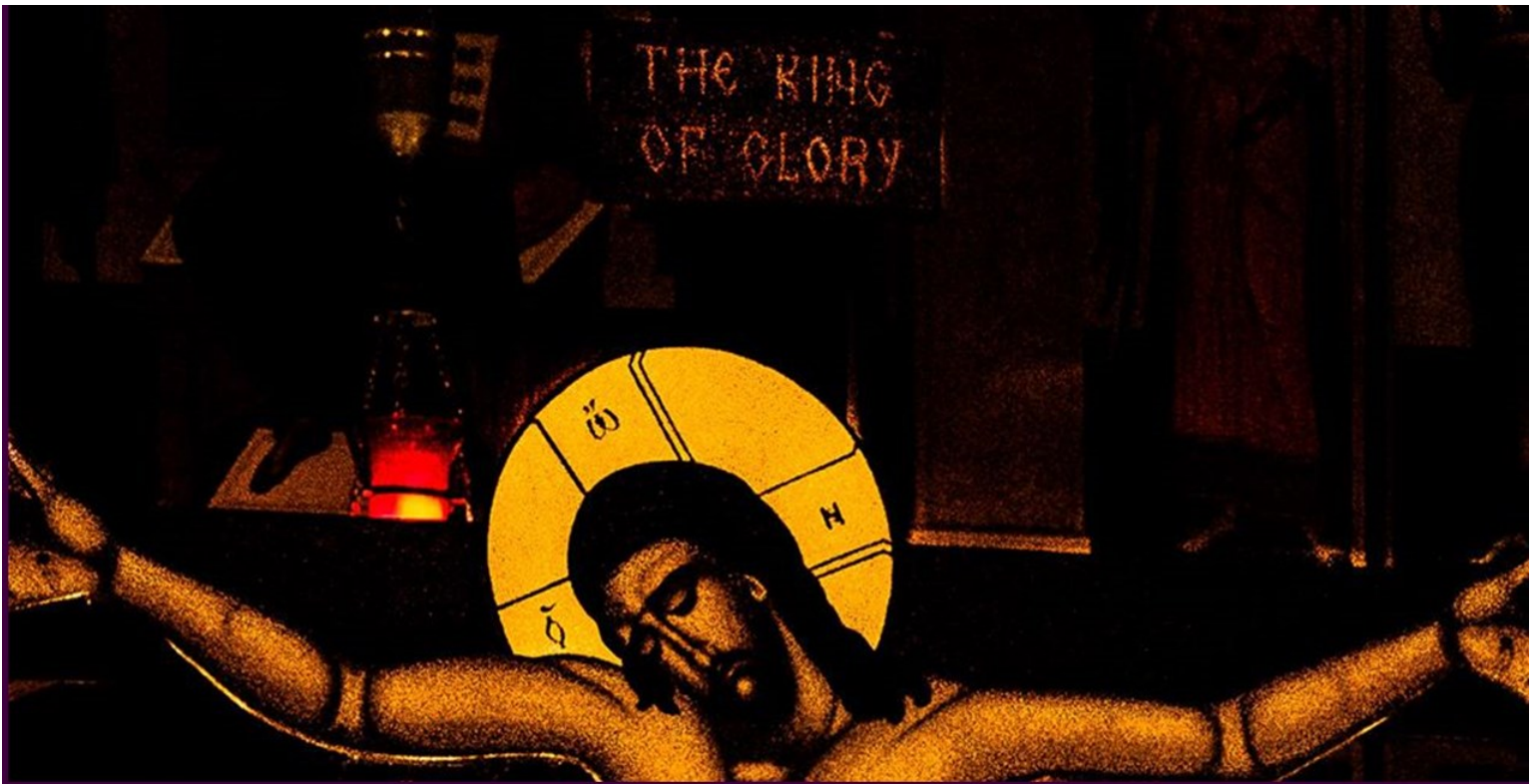
As we go through the journey together, there may be a specific prayer request that you might ask the group to assist you in, whether it is for someone who is sick, suffering, or maybe someone who recently departed. Feel free to email the group email, asking for specific prayer requests to be sent out.

## What do I Need?

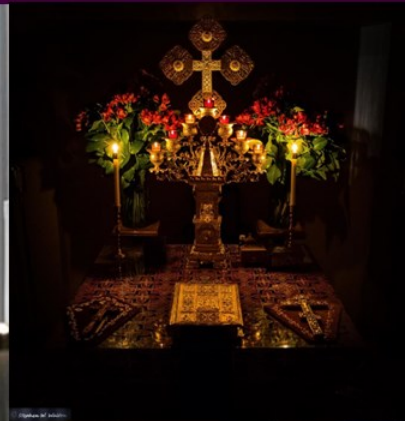
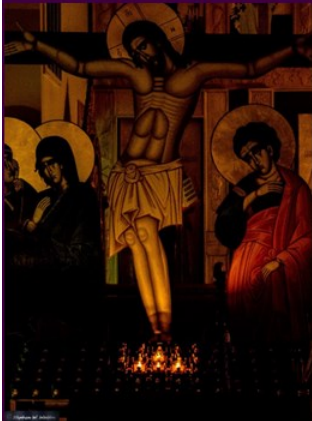
All you need is a bible, an email address, and some time each day to pray!

## How Do I Join?

There will be a sign up sheet available at the Church, or you can email [smmpsalmgroup@gmail.com](mailto:smmpsalmgroup@gmail.com)



# Clean Week 2021



Sunday	March 14th	† Divine Liturgy and Forgiveness Vespers, 9:50am
Monday	March 15th	† Clean Week Monday Matins Service, 9:00am † Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm
Tuesday	March 16th	† Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm
Wednesday	March 17th	† Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm
Thursday	March 18th	† Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm
Friday	March 19th	† Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm
Saturday	March 20th	† Vigil for Orthodoxy Sunday, 4:00pm

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church  
2439 S Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430



## **Memorial Saturday**

**Saturday, March 27th, 3:30pm**

**On this day we will gather together as a parish to remember all of the departed members of our families, with a special memorial service before Vigil. Please submit your list of your departed family members to the parish office, indicating if they were Orthodox or Non-Orthodox.**

*St. Mary Magdalene Service Schedule*  
**Great and Holy Lent**  
**2021**

*St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church*  
 2439 S. Long Lake Rd  
 Fenton, MI 48430  
 (810) 750-1401  
 st-marymagdalene.org

**Clean Week**

**Sunday, March 14th:** Liturgy and Forgiveness Vespers, 9:50am  
**Monday, March 15th:** Matins, 9:00am & Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30pm  
**Tuesday, March 16th:** Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm  
**Wednesday, March 17th:** Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm  
**Thursday, March 18th:** Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm  
**Friday, March 19th:** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, March 20th:** Vigil for Orthodoxy Sunday, 4pm

**1st Week of Great Lent**

**Sunday, March 21st:** Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy, 9:50am  
**Wednesday, March 24th:** Pan-Orthodox Pre-Sanctified @ SMM, 6pm  
**Thursday, March 25th:** ANNUCIATION Liturgy @ Assumption, 10am  
**Friday, March 26th:** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, March 27th:** Memorial Saturday 3:30pm, Vigil 4:00pm

**2nd Week of Great Lent**

**Sunday, March 28th:** Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am  
**Wednesday, March 31st:** Compline & Confessions, 6:00pm  
**Friday, April 2nd:** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, April 3rd:** Vigil & Confessions 4:00pm

**3rd Week of Great Lent**

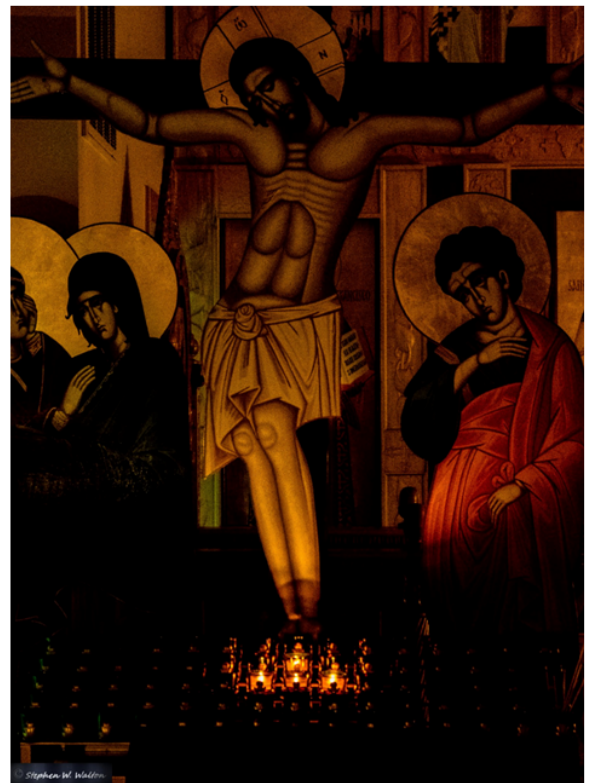
**Sunday, April 4th:** Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am  
**Wednesday, April 7th:** Pan-Orthodox Pre-Sanctified @ St. Nicholas, 6pm  
**Friday, April 9th:** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, April 10th:** Vigil & Confessions 4:00pm

**4th Week of Great Lent**

**Sunday, April 11th:** Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am  
**Wednesday, April 14th:** Compline & Confessions, 6:00pm  
**Thursday, April 15th:** Live Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt, 6:30pm  
**Friday, April 16th:** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, April 17th:** Vigil & Confessions 4:00pm

**5th Week of Great Lent**

**Sunday, April 18th:** Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am  
**Wednesday, April 21st:** Pan-Orthodox Pre-Sanctified @ St. George, 6pm  
**Friday, April 23rd:** Lazarus Saturday Vespers & Confessions, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, April 24th:** Lazarus Saturday Liturgy @ St. Nicholas 9:30am, Palm Sunday Vespers & Confessions 4pm



**Holy Week**

<b>Sunday, April 25th:</b>	+Palm Sunday Liturgy, 9:50am	+Bridegroom Matins, 7:00pm
<b>Monday, April 26th:</b>	+Bridegroom Matins, 7:00pm	
<b>Tuesday, April 27th:</b>	+Bridegroom Matins, 7:00pm	
<b>Wednesday, April 28th:</b>	+Holy Unction 7:00pm	
<b>Thursday, April 29th:</b>	+Liturgy 10:00am	+Passions Gospels, 7pm
<b>Friday, April 30th:</b>	+Unnailing Vespers, 3:00pm	+Lamentations, 7:00pm
<b>Saturday, May 1st:</b>	+Liturgy of St. Basil & Old Testament Reading 10am	+Nocturns & Pascal Liturgy, 11:30pm

# Orthodox Churches of Genesee County, Michigan

Assumption (Greek) 2245 Baldwin Road ❖ Grand Blanc, MI 48439 ❖ 810-771-4611  
St. George (Antiochian) 5191 Lennon Road ❖ Flint, MI 48507 ❖ 810-732-0720  
St. Mary Magdalene (OCA) 2439 S. Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1401  
St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

## 2021 Great Fast and Bright Week



## Pan-Orthodox Divine Services

**Great Compline** (*Mondays, 6:30pm*) We will celebrate the Great Compline service together every Monday night at St. George. This beautiful service allows us to experience the Great Fast more deeply. Confessions will be available from 6pm–6:30pm and after the service.

**Lenten Hours** (*Wednesdays, 10:30am*) at St. Nicholas.

**Presanctified Divine Liturgy** (*Wednesdays, 6pm*) We will celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy and the Great Feast of the Annunciation together according to the schedule below. Holy Communion is given at both. To partake of Holy Communion, please be prepared with prayer and fasting (*no eating or drinking after 12 Noon*). Confessions will only be available prior to the Liturgy from 5:30pm–6pm. Unfortunately, we will not be having Potluck Lenten Meals this year.

- March 6<sup>th</sup>     **Pre-Lenten Retreat** led by Fr. Maximos Constas (*more information to follow*)  
March 24<sup>th</sup>    **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 6pm  
March 25<sup>th</sup>    **Great Feast of the Annunciation Divine Liturgy** at Assumption 10am  
April 7<sup>th</sup>     **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 6pm  
April 21<sup>st</sup>    **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. George 6pm  
April 24<sup>th</sup>    **Preparation of Gifts, Raising of Lazarus Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 9:30am

### **Bright Week** (May 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

- May 3<sup>rd</sup>     **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 10am  
May 4<sup>th</sup>     **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 10am  
May 5<sup>th</sup>     **Paschal Evening Liturgy & Feast of St. George** at St. George 6pm  
May 7<sup>th</sup>     **Paschal Divine Liturgy & Life-giving Font** at Assumption 10am

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

# ST MARY MAGDALENE SPIRITWEAR

**LEFT CHEST OR  
HAT/BEANIE FRONT**

**St. MARY  
MAGDALENE**  
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

**FULL BACK**



**PLEASE MAKE SURE TO WRITE NEATLY  
ON FORM TO ENSURE ORDER TO BE CORRECT.**

**ORDER FORMS  
DUE BACK  
SUNDAY, FEB 21ST**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Garment	Color	Size	Qty	Cost	Total
				\$	\$

Accepting Payments as Cash or Check, made out to St. Mary Magdalene  
 You may email or turn your forms into the parish office.  
 Any Questions, contact the parish office [smmocafenton@gmail.com](mailto:smmocafenton@gmail.com) 810-715-1401

**Charge for Up Sizes  
\$2 for 2X, \$3 for 3X, ect.**

**Total**


If in doubt about size, go up—There are no refunds available on these items.

**Payment Method**

# ST MARY MAGDALENE SPIRITWEAR

ANVIL TRIBLEND TEES @ \$16 EACH - UNISEX SIZING ONLY



HEATHER MAROON

GRAPHITE HEATHER

HEATHER BLUE

ANVIL TRIBLEND LONGSLV @ \$20 EACH - UNISEX SIZING ONLY



HEATHER BLACK

GRAPHITE HEATHER

HEATHER NAVY

JERZEE HOODIES @ \$30 EACH - UNISEX SIZING ONLY



CARDINAL RED

CYBER PINK



CHARCOAL GREY

MILITARY GREEN

# ST MARY MAGDALENE SPIRITWEAR

JERZEE FULL ZIP HOODIES @ \$35 EACH - UNISEX SIZING ONLY



NAVY

MAROON

HEATHER BLACK

## EMBROIDERED GARMENTS



FLEXFIT HATS @ \$20 EACH  
SIZES - S/M OR L/XL  
COLORS - BLACK, GREY, RED, PURPLE



FLEXFIT BEANIE @ \$20 EACH  
ONE SIZE - COLORS - BLACK OR GREY



PORT GRID POLY POLOS @ \$25 EACH  
MENS - GREY, GREEN, LT BLUE, BLACK  
LADIES - GREEN, PINK, RED, LT BLUE

PORT UPF POLY POLOS @ \$25 EACH  
MENS - GREY, ROYAL  
CARDINAL, KELLY

## PORT MICROFLEECE @ \$40 EACH - MENS OR LADIES SIZING



MENS  
GREY OR BLK

GREY



BLACK



PURPLE

LADIES  
GREY, BLK  
PURPLE  
OR CORAL



CORAL



# Referral Program To Benefit The St. Mary Magdalene Church Expansion



Conne Terova  
Real Estate One  
Cell: (248) 318-7342  
Email:  
[cterova@gmail.com](mailto:cterova@gmail.com)  
[teamterova.com](http://teamterova.com)

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!