



# FEBRUARY 2024

ST. MARY MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

[www.st-marymagdalene.org](http://www.st-marymagdalene.org)

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

**Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector**

**Office: 810-750-1401**

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

Office Hours\*:

Monday 10:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm

Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

\*or by appointment

# WORSHIP WITH US!



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

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

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES THIS MONTH

01- Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Litija for the feast of the Presentation of our Lord, 6:00pm

02-Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Presentation of our Lord, 10:00am

08-Reader's Akathist to St. Elizabeth the New Martyr, 6:00pm

13- Prayer Service for the Sick & Suffering, 6:00pm



### Troparion — Tone 1

**Hail, Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! / From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / enlightening those who were in darkness! / Rejoice, O righteous Elder; / you received in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, / Who grants us the Resurrection.**

Troparion of The Presentation

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

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# MONTHLY FORECAST

## Parish Happenings!

### *GREAT FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE*

We will be hosting the Pan Orthodox Community of Flint for the feast of the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple. Great Vespers and Lijtia will be on Thursday, February 1st, at 6:00 PM. Friday, Hours and Divine Liturgy will be at 10:00 AM for the feast. This is one of the Great Feasts of the Year, and all members should be in attendance at one of these two services!

### *WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?*

As we come closer to the end of our construction project we will have several last minute needs that will arise. We would like to handle a lot of these things in house. If you have a special talent or would like to donate your time please reach out to the parish office to be added to the volunteer list!

### *WHAT IS PAN-ORTHODOX?*

You will see a lot of services, especially during the Lenten Season, called "Pan Orthodox" on our Church Calendars. This means that it is a gathering of "all of the Orthodox" in a particular area, regardless of what parish we might individually belong to. In our Genesee County Community, there are 4 Orthodox Parish Communities. While some might speak different languages, or have different types of services offered, or have different ("small t") traditions, we all make up the fullness of the Body of Christ together. This is what makes those Pan Orthodox celebrations so beautiful, is that we get to experience those minor differences with each other, while still partaking of the same Body and Blood of Christ together as one. You are encouraged to attend ALL Pan-Orthodox Services even if we are not hosting.

## CHARITABLE GIVING:

### **Final Push for "Opening the Doors of the Kingdom"**

By the Grace of God, the wait is just about over, and we will be soon moving back into our Church after almost 2 years of waiting. That being said, there are still a lot of items that have yet to be completed and paid for! By the Grace of God, we have been offered another matching donation from our donor to get us over the finish line! We are so close to achieving our goal dear ones, so please help us to take advantage of this match!

### **Lazarus Bag Collection**

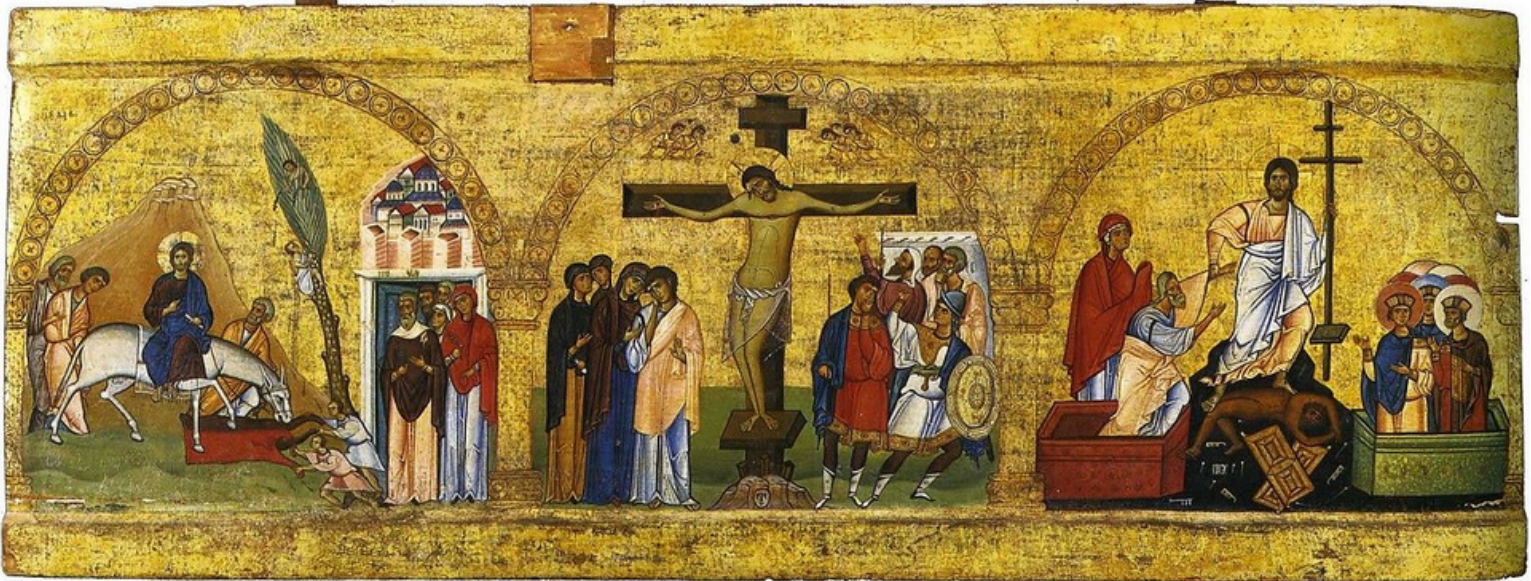
The St. Photini Group will be disseminating information on this month's charity project; making the annual Lazarus Bags for the homeless and displaced. The Collection will take place February 4th- 18th. Bags will be packed following Vespers on the 24th and blessed and distributed the next day. [See the St. Photini Page for additional information.](#)

## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

### **Metanoia Begins**

Our first semester of Metanoia Classes have begun, and will continue up until just before Great Lent. These classes are not only for catechumens and inquirers, but for all of the parish to get a refresher course on what a life of Repentance looks like. Classes are every Wednesday evening at 6:30, and are offered virtually and in person. Email Fr. Gabriel or the parish office to get registered if you haven't already!

# PREPARING FOR GREAT LENT



It's that time again! Later on this month, the Lenten Triodion will begin, and we will start the precatory Sunday's towards the holiest part of the year! Here is one of the hymns we will hear as we crack open the Lenten Triodion on February 25th:

*"Almighty Lord, I know how great are the power of tears! For they led up Hezekiah from the gates of death. They delivered the sinful woman from the transgressions of her many years. They justified the Publican above the Pharisee. Now with my own tears I also pray: "Have mercy upon me."*

It is with those same words, coupled with a lot of tears, that we begin to prepare ourselves for that time that true Christians crave more than anything else in this life. Just as we tithe our time and material possessions out of love for

God and for each other, so we also tithe our souls to God during Great and Holy Lent.

I pray that you are craving the Lenten Season as much as I am, because how could you not? Every year, we have 40 days **plus** the Holiest Week of the year before Pascha, that are filled with enough Grace to last us the rest of the year! In order to receive that fullness, the Church reminds us that we have work to do to prepare, which leads us to the example our Lord gives us in the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee **(If you don't know the parable, read Luke 18:9-14 before continuing!)**. I offer you three short points to take to heart and remember as our countdown to the holiest part of the year begins.

## 1. Avoid "Words of Madness"

We hear in those incredible hymns of the Canon of St. Andrew on the first week: *"The publican was saved...but the pharisee through boasting was condemned. For the first said: "Be merciful" and "Have mercy on me"... but the last boasted and cried, "O God I thank Thee..." and then uttered words of madness"*

It is interesting that externally, the Pharisee seemed like such a holy man! He knew who God was. He knew about fasting and almsgiving. He was apparently doing these things in abundance! The Pharisee even knew how important it was to go to Church, as he offered up this "prayer" in the temple! Yet despite having the knowledge that God sits upon the Cherubim and looks upon us all from the heights of heaven, he decided to pray **with himself** rather than with God.

# PREPARING FOR GREAT LENT

## CONTINUED

The “words of madness” St. Andrew refers to in the canon are none other than the words of pride and of judgment. The Pharisee had pride with the haughtiness he had for his own accomplishments, and for the judgement he showed towards the Publican.

In the last 48 hours, even if it is just in our minds, have uttered judgment against someone? Have we participated in gossip? Have we showed outward piety without first cultivating our hearts? When we enter into the recesses of our own heart and reflect upon the times we have uttered words of madness, it is unnerving. May our Lord have mercy on us!

### **2. Learning to turn Our Hearts Back to God**

How can we begin to turn our hearts back to God? The Church gives us the answer in the form of the Publican. Here was a man who was considered impious! He was a traitor to his own people and a collaborator with the Romans!

When we think about it, the publican is not unlike us living amid the fallen world. In looking at our own lives, do we collaborate with the world, putting our trust and faith in money, wealth, and power more than we do with God? Do we put our faith first above all things? Is our Love for God unfading and everlasting, or does it sway back and forth with our emotions and our mood?

Despite living a life like all of us, it is the publican who is found beating his breast in anguish... trying to leave the material world and enter into the deep recess of his heart which is the place where man meets God. He considered himself unworthy of even being in the temple, let alone in the Kingdom. **This is what humility looks like**, and it is the virtue that is the most necessary if we are to tackle the pride and judgment that has nested within our hearts.

We will repeat many times every single night on that first week of services of Great Lent: “Have mercy on me o God, have mercy on me.” We will say it 5, 10, 20, 100 times over and over and over so that it can be carved into the recesses of our hearts. May those words be on our lips constantly during these days of preparation!

### **3. What is the Proper Response to Judgment?**

We learn from this parable how our reaction to being judged says a lot about the makeup of our own heart. Despite being judged in the midst of the Church by the Pharisee, the publican offered no defense for himself, but rather sat quietly and beat his breast.

St. John of the Ladder tells the story in the Ladder of Divine Ascent, of three monks who were the brunt of judgement and gossip by someone. The first monk, after hearing someone speak ill against him, kept silent. In this, St. John says that we learn **fear**. We fear what judgment God might bring upon us if we return judgment for judgment.

The second monk, after being slandered, rejoiced! At the same time, he also held tremendous sorrow for the wrong doer. In this, St. John says that we learn that there is a **reward** that awaits those who endure, like Christ did, the wrongful slander of others.

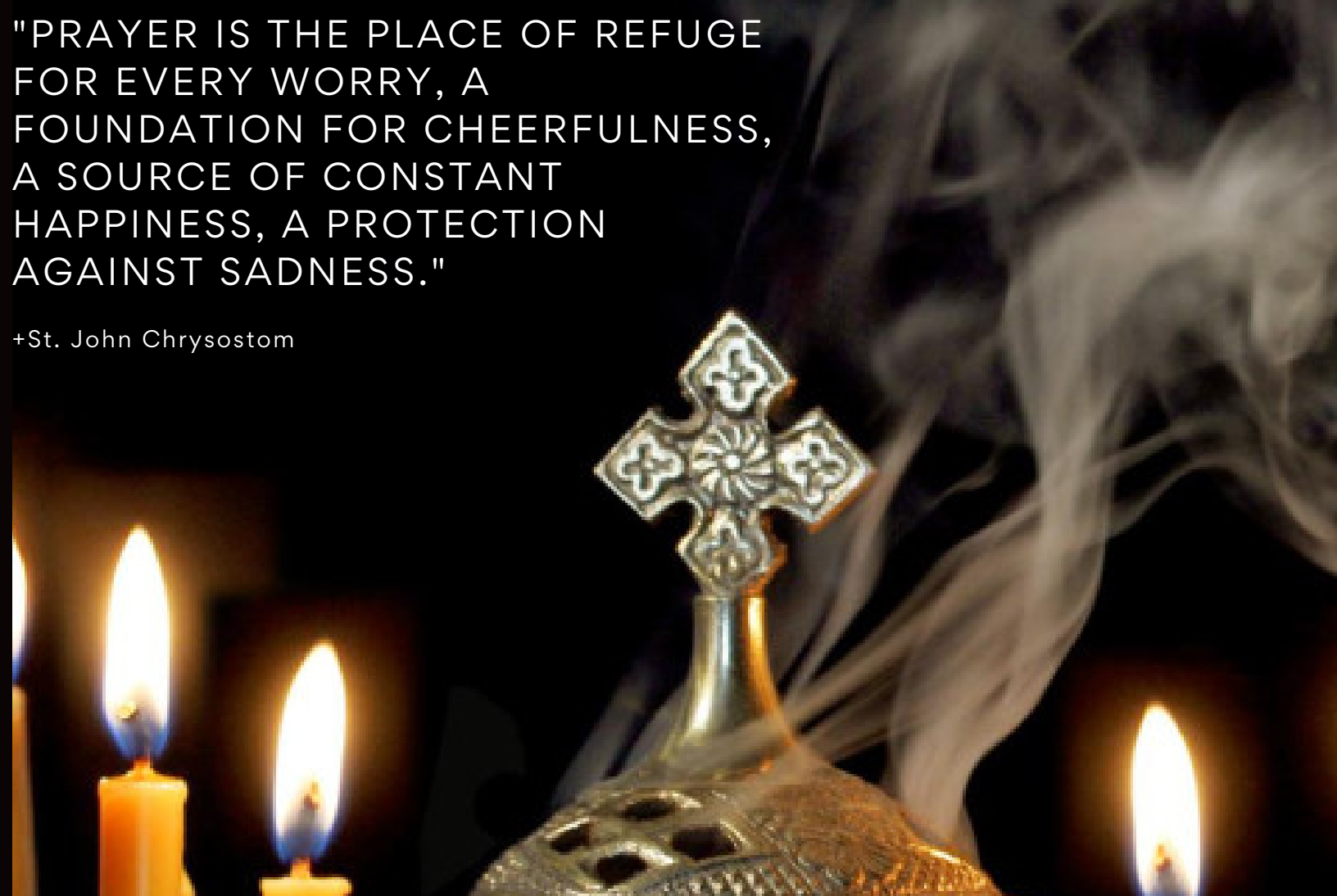
The Third monk had perhaps the most beautiful response of all. Rather than worrying about the judgment that was thrown his way, he wept for his neighbor, who was bringing condemnation upon himself. In this, St. John says that when enduring judgment, we are given the **opportunity to Love**.

When we are being judged by others, we follow the example of the publican dear ones. Within his response, just like in the response of those three monks, we are given the opportunity to grow in **fear** of God, in the hope for **reward**, and in **love** for one another.

Dear ones, let us approach the Holy Season of fasting, not just with these thoughts in our mind, but rather these lessons implanted firmly in our hearts. Glory be to the Loving Lord Who Takes Away the Sins of the World! Amen!

"PRAYER IS THE PLACE OF REFUGE  
FOR EVERY WORRY, A  
FOUNDATION FOR CHEERFULNESS,  
A SOURCE OF CONSTANT  
HAPPINESS, A PROTECTION  
AGAINST SADNESS."

+St. John Chrysostom



### **Sick and the Suffering\***

+Alexander Sbdn. Paul Vinne Elaine David Pat Michael Lauren Mason Theresa Robert Arminda Martin Shirley Nadia Child Hudson	Jeanette Terry Richard Nathan
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### **Mother's With Child**

Inna Anna Catherine Chloe	Allison Kayla Brooke Lauren Renee
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### **Catechumenate**

Sarah Jeannie Landen Ethan Allison Stella Vera Kane Stephanie Matthew Derek Alexis Maverick Camden	Ryan Morgan Milo Gavin Nathan Catherine Thomas Aaron Skyler Theoden Trent Lilly
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### **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**

2- Rose Caldarea  
17-Pam Caszatt

### **Recently Departed**

Fr. Moses

### **Seminarian Family**

Reader Paisios, Anna, John,  
Theodore & Alexander Hamann

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



# MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH



*Recent & Upcoming  
Baptism & Chrismations*  
None this Month

### *Engagements*

Mark Foster & Katerina Jonascu  
Nick Schwartz & Sarah Miller  
William Keegan & Lauren Peters  
Jeff Schalk & Julia Zayan  
Gregory Auxier & Alexis Ferguson  
Tyler Hinsley & Emily Lizzio

### Confession Schedule

Father Gabriel will hear confessions on the following days or by appointment.  
Saturday Evenings following Great Vespers/Vigils or 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*

1- Matthias Suriano	20-Emmett Ballnik
3- Andrew Barnhart	22-Aiden Maloney
5-Fr. Gabriel Bilas	26-Ileana Bilas
5- William Wolf	27-Helen LoCascio
6-Niki Naum	27-Luke Shephard
12-Noah Bilas	28-Diana Auxier
12-Amelia Oginsky	
13-Ethan Suriano	
14-Diconitza Susan Schlaack	
14- Vivian Capatina	
14-Felicity Suriano	
19-Andrew Auxier	

### *Anniversaries*

13-Andy & Rebekah Humphreys  
15-Andy & Lynne Marko  
19-Vince & Carol Lizzio  
23-Seth & Mia Hillaker

### *Weddings*

None this month

### New Catechumens

None this Month

### Recent Funerals

None this Month

# PARISH LIFE

THIS MONTH

## Fellowship of St. Photini February Outreach Ministry:

Lazarus Bag Collection 4th -18th  
Packing of Bags 24th  
Blessing & Distribution 25th

**Adult Education:** Metanoia began January 31st, if you would still like to join reach out to the parish office

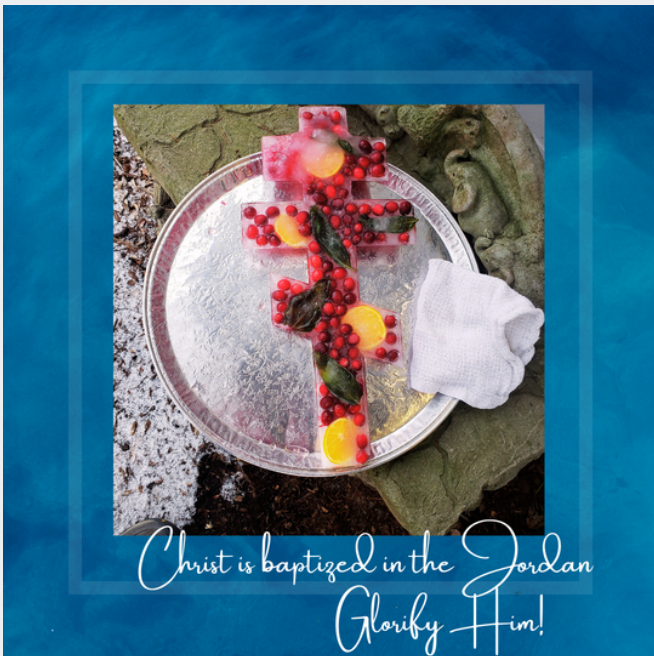
**Tot Time:** Wednesdays following Divine Liturgy

**Parish Council:** Tuesday, February 13th, 7pm

## Theophany Celebrations (February 5th-7th)

You can check out our YouTube Video of Theophany by clicking this link.

[Theophany Celebrations 2024](#)



## PARISH GREETERS

**February 4:** George & Julie Jonascu

**February 11:** Seth & Mia Hillaker

**February 18:** Freida Owens

**February 25:** Steve & Sue Walton

## BELL RINGERS

**February 4:** Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

**February 11:** Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

**February 18:** Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

**February 25:** Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

## COFFEE HOUR

**February 4:** Seth&MiaHillaker

**February 11:** Jay & Tonya Rice

**February 18:** John & Brianna Walton

**February 25:** David & Cindy Welch

## EPISTLE READERS

**February 4:** Rdr Nathaniel Auxier & Rdr David Schutt

**February 11:** John Wolf & Ruth Karabina

**February 18:** Jennifer Otis & Sraphim Pardee

**February 25:** Sue Walton & Rdr Nathaniel Auxier



# PASTORAL REPORT

UPDATE FROM FR. GABRIEL

## **Worship**

What an incredible Nativity and Theophany Season for our parish! Despite the disappointment of not being able to hold services quite yet in our Church, I could not have been more thankful for how the services went. The Choir was simply incredible. We had new choir and pew books for the Nativity and Theophany Services that matched each other. The decoration of the church was simply out of this world. The ice Cross was spectacular. Everyone in some way seemed to pitch in to make this season extra special. I think going into the Church and venerating the cross on the Sunday before Nativity also added some extra excitement for what is soon to come.

## **Community**

We have added Trent and Lily to the catechumenate since our last update, and welcomed Eric, Monica, and Jerry into the Holy Orthodox Faith. Once we return to the church, there are a few others who will be baptized/chrismated, God willing before Great Lent.

## **Education**

The Teen Class is set to start up again this month, with the Church School officially still on "hold" until we retake occupancy of the Church. Metanoia classes for catechumens and adults begins on the last Wednesday of the January and will take us all of the way to Great Lent in Mid March

## **Stewardship**

St. Photini held their meeting this past month and set the schedule for the rest of the Liturgical Year for our outreach ministries. Our parish also participated in the Annal Dormition Monastery Charity Dinner Fundraiser with the Pan Orthodox Community, where we were able to come together and celebrate the incredible gem of a monastery we have, just an hour and a half away. By the Grace of God we were able to raise just over \$9,000 for the sisterhood.



# St. Mary Magdalene

Parish Council

## Upcoming Meetings:

All Meetings begin at 7:00pm

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

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

**Annual Meeting  
December 1, 2024**

## Parish Council Members

John Wolf, Chair

George Jonascu, Vice Chair

Ann Schutt, Treasurer

Rachel Burtka, Secretary

Subdeacon Andrew Durand

Terri Oginsky

Jay Rice

Subdeacon John Auxier

Alternate: Pat Matts

# Building Project Update:



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

January Highlights:

Major finishing touches including:

- Church Painted
- Trim and hanging doors have begun
- Basement space cleaned and finishes started
- Our Iconographer has returned to being completion of the dome



TOTAL MONEY SPENT

JANUARY 1, 2022-

DECEMBER 18, 2023

\$1,857,565.35

DONATION FROM PRIVATE DONOR

\$807,781.60

MATCHING DONATION FROM PRIVATE DONOR

AS OF JANUARY 26, 2024

\$24,549

TOTAL FINANCED BY OCCIF FOR PROJECT  
COMPLETION

\$550,000

REMAINING OCCIF BALANCE AS OF

DECEMBER 18, 2023

\$537,308.20

AVERAGE MONTHLY  
OCCIF PAYMENT

\$3,554.23

TOTAL BUILDING FUND DONATIONS SINCE

JANUARY 1, 2023

\$112,650.82

# FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI

This month we will be working on our Annul Lazarus Bags. These bags are designed to benefit the homeless & dispartaged population in our communities.

We will be collecting items from Sunday, February 4th though Sunday, February 18th. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway.

Following Great Vespers on Saturday, February 24th we will pack the bags to be blessed and distributed the following day.

Our goal this year is 50 bags!

If you would like to donate monetarily to this project please reach out to Protodeacon Michael or the parish office.

If you have any additional questions please reach out to Terri Oginsky.



## Lazarus Bags Items Needed

- +Handwarmers
- +Gloves
- +Hats
- +White Socks
- +Water Bottles
- +Assorted Bandaids
- +Kleenex
- +Combs
- +Washcloths
- +Bars of Soap
- +Sandwich Size Ziplocks
- +Snack Size Ziplocks

*Sign up sheet is in the lobby area!  
Items due back on February 18th*



## UPCOMING

Great Lent: Bethany School Project



*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”



# PARISH EXTRAS

## PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

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

You can find reading on the following topics;

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

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



## PARISH KIOSK

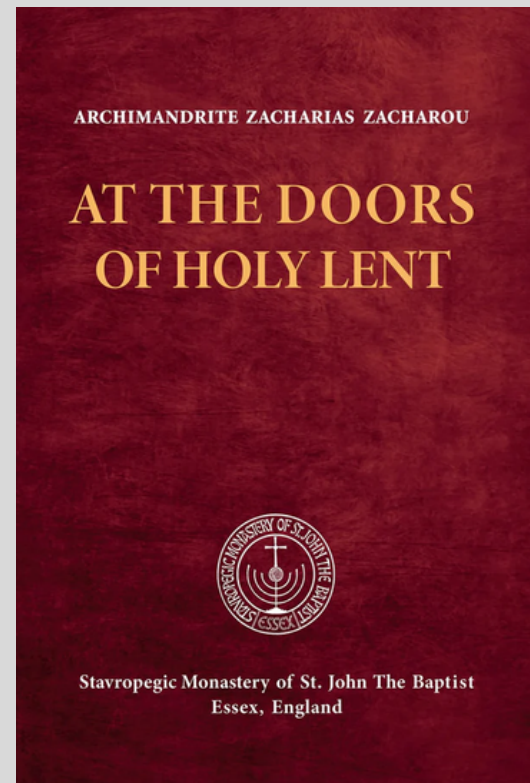


If you would like to order any items for your home altar please reach out to the parish office!

## “AT THE DOORS OF HOLY LENT” BY ARCHIMANDRITE ZACHARIAS ZACHAROU

We stand with awe at the doors of the fearsome Great Lent. It is fearsome, not because it imposes on us superhuman exercises, but because of the awesome things the grace of this period performs in the heart of the faithful. In the bosom of the Church, the atmosphere is stirred up spiritually, and the grace that permeates it is so tangible and abundant that it would be terrifying to lose it.

—Excerpt from Arch. Zacharias, At the Doors of Holy Lent



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



# MUSIC MINISTRIES

PARISH BELL RINGERS AND CHOIR



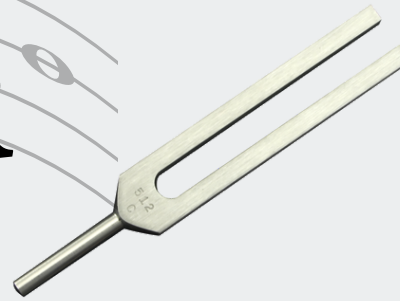
## Regular Bell Ringing Rehearsals

1st Tuesday of the Month, 10:30am

1st Sunday of the Month following Divine Liturgy

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

# PARISH CHOIR



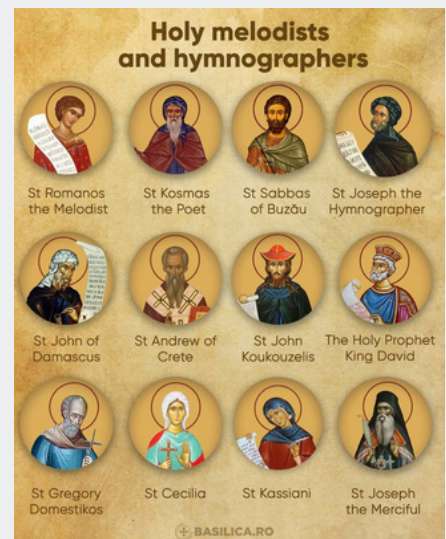
## UPCOMING REHEARSALS:

**Saturday, February 3rd**  
**Women's Sectional**  
**2:00pm - 3:30pm**

**Saturday, February 17th**  
**Men's Sectional**  
**2:00-3:30pm**

**Saturday, February 14th**  
**Full Choir**  
**2:00pm-3:30pm**

**... Keep an eye out as Lenten rehearsals will begin shortly!**



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

*-Psalm 98:1*



# EDUCATION

## LIVE AND LEARN THE FAITH!



### Our Parish Youth!

I hope February finds everyone well and looking forward to Great Lent!!

We are hoping church school will resume sometime this month, God-willing. In the meantime, take home lessons are available each week. Children and their families are invited to participate in Lenten almsgiving by donating a box of cereal (one or more per family) for the Food Pantry sponsored by FARR (Fenton Area Resources and Referral network). Children might help around the house to "earn" enough to purchase some cereal. Please bring your donation to church on Sunday, March 10 (Meatfare Sunday). The church school schedule for the remainder of the year will be shared with everyone as soon as possible.

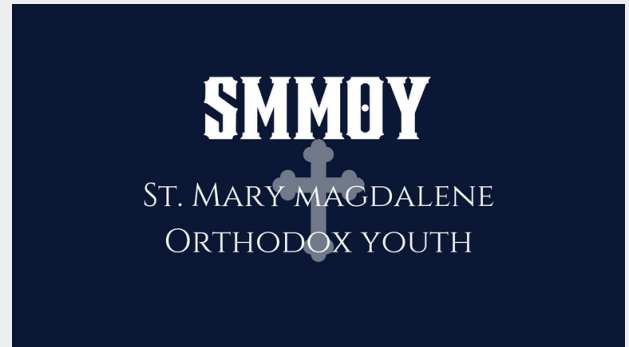
Yours in Christ,

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

### PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS



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



## KEEP AN EYE ON BAND!!



# YOUNG ADULTS

## BOOK CLUB AND FELLOWSHIP

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

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

YOUNG  
ADULT  
GROUP



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

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

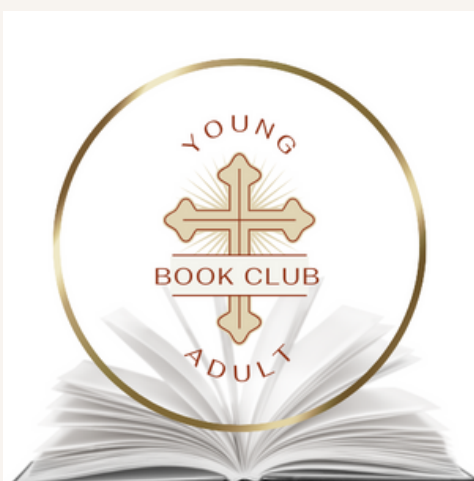
### Monthly Akathist 2024 SCHEDULE

HOSTED BY THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP

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

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

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.





# "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!

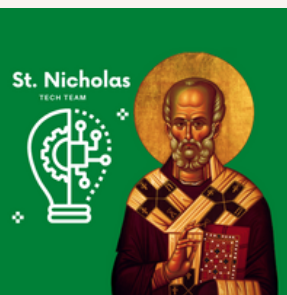
This 8 week class will cover the fundamental beliefs of the Ancient Christian Church, passed down to us from Christ and His Disciples.

## 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 EVENTS

PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS & LITIJA

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

6:00PM

HOSTED BY ST. MARY MAGDALENE

THE LENTEN SCHEDULE OF PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES WILL BE RELEASED SOON! SO MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

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

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



St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH



TEXT  
"SMM"  
TO  
810-750-1401

To receive text updates  
about parish happenings!

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save the date

March:  
10-Meatfare  
17-Forgiveness Sunday- Beginning of Great  
Lent  
17-23 Clean Week  
25-Annunciation

April:  
6- Lenten Retreat with Fr. Stephen Damick