

January 2022

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-750-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielmm@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**

Monthly e-Newsletter

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Voice from the Wilderness

From the Desk of Fr. Gabriel

*"In Truth, **all the elements bore witness** that their Creator has come...
The Heavens knew that He was God, because they immediately sent forth a Star.
The Sea knew Him, because it allowed Him to walk upon it.
The Earth knew Him, because it trembled when He died.
The stones and walls of houses knew Him, because they were broken at the time of His death.
The lower world recognized Him, because it gave up the dead it was holding...
And yet, the hearts of His people remained full of unbelief, and did not know that He was God...
even though all of the dumb elements perceived Him as Lord."*

St. Gregory Dialogos in his Nativity Homily points out to us a reality that each of us has faced more often than not. When even the very earth we walk on (which has no brain, no organs, no image of God inside of it) is able to recognize God incarnate, how is it that we, who are the pinnacle of creation, so often dismiss His presence in our own lives?

God is with us. This is a phrase repeated over and over during this period of Epiphany. God is with us...yet we only spend a fraction of our days, if that, acknowledging His presence in the world. God is with us...yet we would rather spend our free time on Facebook, or watching Netflix, or prioritizing sports and hobbies, instead of deepening our relationship with the Eternal One. God is with us...yet we spend so much time wrapping our arms around the material world, our possessions, our wealth, and our comfort, instead of opening our arms to embrace Him. The dumb elements see things more clearly than we do, and that is a humbling reality when we begin to examine our lives.

We now find ourselves entering into the secular new year. These past few years have been ones that sadly have been full of darkness, and in many ways, very similar to what life was like before Christ came into the world to begin his public ministry. Death and disease were rampant and feared. Governments, Empires, and policies shifted often causing panic. Depression and lack of hope reigned over so many. Then, in the midst of the darkness, we are treated with a voice that had been foretold throughout the centuries.

"Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before you. The voice of the one crying from the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight"
(Gospel Reading on the Sunday before Theophany)

From the wilderness itself, from the very elements of the earth that knew that God is with us when mankind refused to, comes the voice of the greatest of the prophets, St. John the Baptist. He came with one message, and one message only: *"There is one coming after me, who I am not even worthy to loosen His sandal strap."* How do we embrace this light and life? Change your life...Change your priorities...Change Your Heart...Change Your Focus In Life...*"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."*

UPCOMING THIS MONTH

- 2- Parastasis for Dennis Perez
- 5- Blessing of the Waters, 7pm
- 6-Divine Liturgy of the Feast of Theophany, 10am
- 8- Lamb Tying, 10am Vespers 4pm
Pan-Orthodox Movie Night, 6pm
- 9- Blessing of the River & Lamb Roast
- 11- Parish Council, 7pm
- 12- Begin Adult Education
- 15-SMMOY Gathering
- 16-Chrismation of Emily Bieganski
- 20- Holy Dormition Fundraiser
- 23- Sanctity of Life Sunday
- 29- Parastasis for Andrew Ziats
- 30- Parish Night out with the Detroit Pistons



*"Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness."
+St. John Chrysostom*

Prayers for our Sick and our Suffering
His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman
Archbishop Damaskinos

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| Vinne | Dawn |
| Elaine | Jeff |
| David | Terry |
| Michael | Michelle |
| Mason | Srah |
| Pat | Rich |
| Joseph | Harry |
| Theresa | Judy |
| Robert | Anthony |
| Linda | Dorothy |
| Hudson | Tyler |
| Dimitri | Mary |
| Damian | Silvia |
| Thom | |
| Martin | |
| Terry | |
| Ivanka | |

Mother's With Child

Catechumenate

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| Alexandra | Emily |
| Tailer | Vince |
| Erika | Carol |
| Mia | Jacob |
| | Mary Ellen |
| | Timothy |
| | Daniel |
| | Andrew |
| | Jake |

Seminarian Family

- Alexander &
Danielle Earl

Anniversary of Parish Members Departed

- 8-Dennis Perez
29-Andrew Ziats

Recently Departed

- Andy

The Voice from the Wilderness

One of the reasons that New Year's Day is considered an International Holiday, is the hope for a new beginning and a fresh start. This was the hope that St. John pointed the way to in his earthly ministry, and it is a hope that all of us can partake in, but only if decide to make the necessary changes in our lives to fully embrace it. In circling back to the words of St. Gregory, I offer to us this one change that we call can make together as a parish family going into this new beginning: Let us all take a hint from what Creation itself tells us and begin to perceive God **constantly** in our lives.

Making this resolution a reality starts out every time we are in the Divine Liturgy. Block out the distractions of life when you find yourself in prayer within the Church. Keep your eyes and your hearts focused on what is about to happen to you when you will partake of the Body and Blood of God. After you receive the Eucharist and leave the confines of the Church, let God still be on your mind. The Choir sings *"we have seen the true light, we have received the heavenly spirit..."*. Don't dirty it by dismissing Grace as soon as you get back into your cars to go home.

God being with us is not a reality that ends on Sunday morning. We take that holiness with us and allow it to permeate and carry us throughout the rest of the week, lighting up our lives and the lives of those around us. This is the reality that we have to reflect...the reality that is given to us during this festive season, that God is with us. Imagine what that can do for a world that is so desperately searching for a new beginning.

JOIN US

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16TH

FOR THE CHRISMATION OF

EMILY BIEGANSKI

Michael Oginsky - U.S.
Stephany Bishop - U.S. Navy
Patrick Tejkl - U.S. Marines
Lindsey Cazatt - U.S. Navy

Prayers for our Armed Forces
Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers
Alex Suriano - Air National Guard
Dallas Watson - Air Force

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

PARISH GREETERS

January 2

George & Julie Jonascu

January 9

Freida Owens

January 16

Seth & Mia Hillaker

January 23

Scott & Tina Shephard

January 30

Steve & Sue Walton

COFFEE HOUR

January 2

Doug & Joyce Ballnik

January 9

Theophany Dinner Please
help Clean-up

January 16

Peter & Anna Hamann

January 23

Terri Oginsky

January 30

Kurt & Ann Schutt

BELL RINGERS

January 2

Renea Becklehamer

January 9

Tonya Rice

January 16

Vivian Capatina

January 23rd

Cindy Welch

January 30

Renea Becklehamer

WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS! BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES

1- ROBYN DOLLINS

3- JEREMY BECKLEHAMER & BENJAMIN COOLEY

6- BRION COOLEY & MASON SHIPLEY

7- ANASTASIA BRANOFF

10-JACLYN DAUGHERTY & THERESA COOLEY

13- HANNAH BURTKA

16-MINKA OWENS & JAMES RICE

17-INGRID BALLNIK

18-KATHERINE SENTER & CINDY WELCH

19-ATHERINE ARNES & ADALYN JOSEPH

20-JEANETTE HILDRETH & TERRY OWENS

21-FR. DN. DAVID (LOGAN) SHEPHARD

23-BOB FORSYTH

24-KATHERYN AUXIER

25- MICHAEL KHOURY

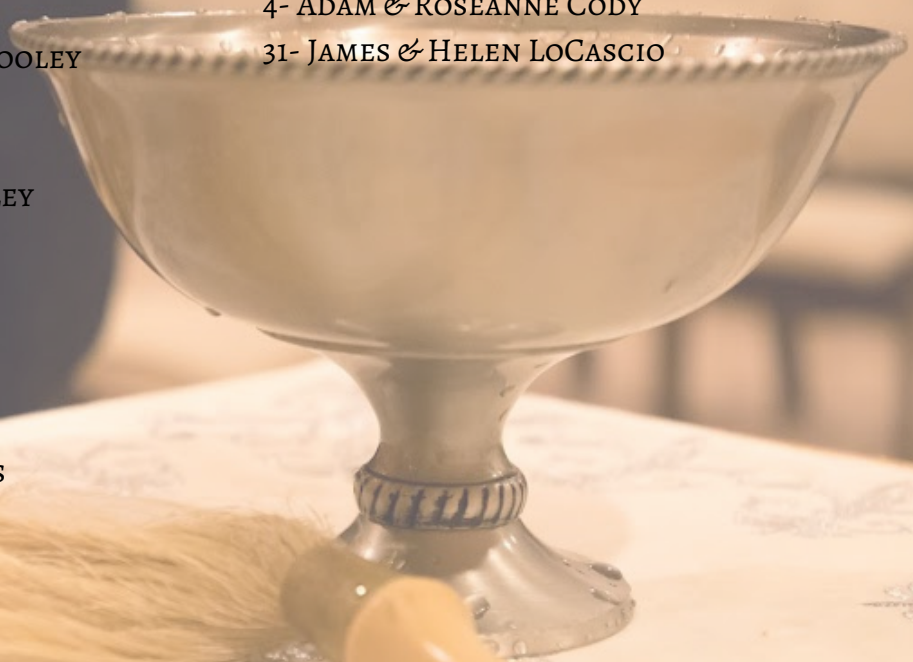
29-FR. DN. MICHAEL SCHLAACK & RUTHIE BECKLEHAMER

30-RENEE WILKINSON & SHANNON JOSEPH

31-STEPHEN SCHLAACK

4- ADAM & ROSEANNE CODY

31- JAMES & HELEN LOCASCIO



EPISTLE READERS

January 2
Subdeacon Andrew Durand
Jenni Otis

January 9
Reader Chris Ballnik
Reader Brian Philip Walton

January 16
Reader David Schutt
Subdeacon Andrew Durand

January 23
Subdeacon John Auxier
Reader Chris Ballnik

January 30
Reader Nathaniel Auxier
Reader David Schutt



SCRIPTURE READINGS

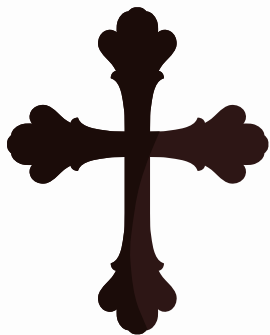
January 2
2Tim. 4:5-8
Mark 1:1-8

January 9
Eph. 4:7-13
Matt 4:12-17

January 16
Col. 3:12-16
Luke 18:18-27

January 23
1 Tim 1:15-17
Luke 18:35-43

January 30
1Tim 1:15-17
Matt 15:21-28



MONTH IN REVIEW

In December, we were visited by St. Nicholas who had gifts for all of the children of our parish! We also completed another successful bake and craft sale! Many thanks to all who helped to support the parish through their time, talents, and treasures! We also had the re-introduction of the Nativity Holy Supper which led to an incredibly beautiful Nativity Weekend! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

The Church is opened for private prayer Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 10am -3pm or by appointment

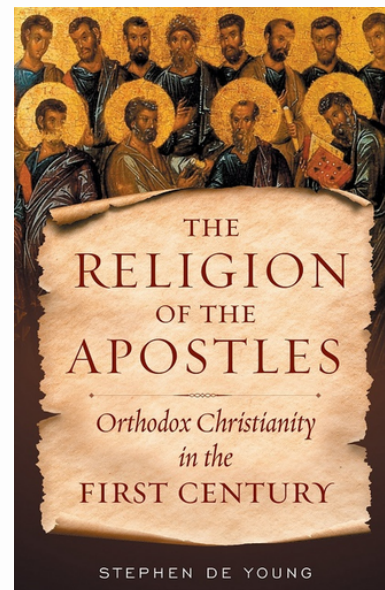


"The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins but grants remission of sins."
+St. John Chrysostom

RECOMMENDED READING

THE RELIGION OF THE APOSTLES: ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY IN THE FIRST CENTURY
BY: FR. STEPHEN DEYOUNG

Father Dr. Stephen De Young traces the lineage of Orthodox Christianity back to the faith and witness of the apostles, which was rooted in a first-century Jewish worldview. The Religion of the Apostles presents the Orthodox Christian Church of today as a continuation of the religious life of the apostles, which in turn was a continuation of the life of the people of God since the beginning of creation.



MONTHLY FORECAST

The Holy Feast of Theophany:

This year, we will be having the Great Blessing of Waters on Wednesday, January 5th, at 7:00 PM. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Theophany itself will be on Thursday at 10:00 AM. Don't forget to bring your Holy Water vessels to the blessing and to Divine Liturgy!

2022 Theophany River Blessing and Lamb Roast:

Our annual blessing of the Shiawassee River and lamb roast will take place on Sunday, January 9th at 9:50 AM! We are in need of help with the lamb cooking itself! The Lamb Tying and prep work will be done on Saturday, January 8th at 10:00 AM. The lamb roasters are asked to report to the Church at 5:00 AM that Sunday! Everyone else please bring a dish to share and pass around! We also need help at the conclusion of the meal with clean-up!

House Blessings 2022:

Please pick up a house blessing form from the narthex or the parish office and fill them out as soon as possible, so that Fr. Gabriel can begin to set the house blessing schedule for this coming year!

Metanoia First Semester Begins:

Our first semester of the Metanoia classes (Orthodoxy 101) will begin on Wednesday, January 12th and run to beginning of Great Lent. Classes will begin at 6:30 PM each Wednesday and will be offered both in person and via zoom! If you want to deepen your knowledge of the faith, or know anyone who wants to learn more about the Orthodox Church, make sure you invite them and get their information to the parish office so we can send out the appropriate material and zoom links!

Weekday Divine Liturgies and Confessions:

We have three Wednesday Divine Liturgies scheduled for January, on the 12th, 19th, and 26th, all beginning at 9:00 AM. Confessions will also be offered after the weekday Liturgies, along with every Saturday after Great Vespers.

Chrismation of Emily Bieganski:

We are excited to announce the upcoming Chrismation of Emily Bieganski to the Holy Orthodox Church, which is scheduled for Sunday, January 16th during the Divine Liturgy! Please keep her in your prayers as she begins her new life as an Orthodox Christian!

SMMOY Meeting:

This month's SMMOY meeting will be taking place on Saturday, January 15th, at the Hillaker's home. The current planned topic of discussion will be on the "gender revolution" happening in our country, and an Orthodox response to it.

Dormition Fundraiser:

This year's Dormition Dinner will take place on Thursday, January 20th **VIA ZOOM ONLY**, beginning with Great Vespers at 5:00 PM. As we have more details we will pass them along of how to sign up for the remote event!

Sanctity of Life Sunday:

We will have our annual memorial prayer service for unborn infants on Sunday, January 23rd following the Divine Liturgy. If you or anyone you know has ever suffered the loss of a child in the womb please join us for prayers. To submit names to be prayed for please email or call the parish office.

Detroit Pistons Outing and Fundraiser:

As part of our ongoing efforts to raise funds for our building expansion, we have partnered with the Detroit Pistons for a special St. Mary Magdalene night out! Tickets are \$23 and include your game ticket, as well as your choice of a t-shirt or hat, and a special shoot around on the court after the game. Tickets can be purchased by going to <https://fevo.me/smmoc> . If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Fr. Gabriel at the parish office!

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Service Schedule

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5TH: BLESSING OF THE WATERS
• 7:00PM

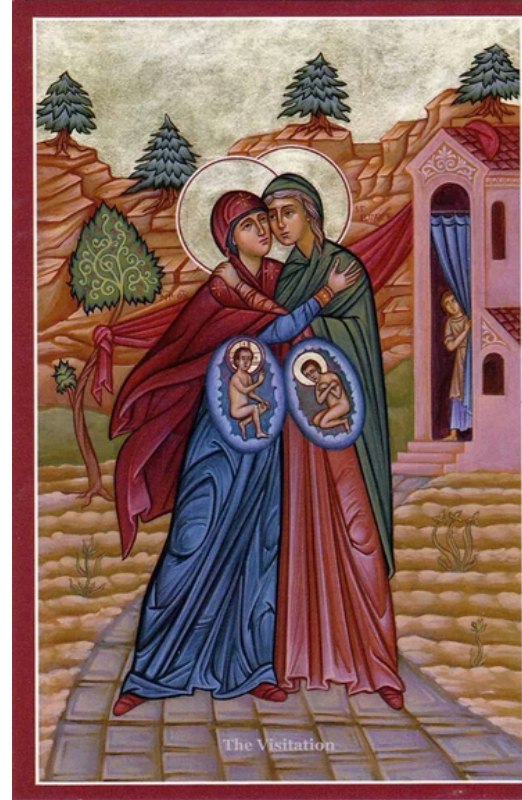
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6TH: THEOPHANY DIVINE LITURGY •
10:00AM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8TH: GREAT VESPERS
• 4:00PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9TH: DIVINE LITURGY, BLESSING OF
THE RIVER & LAMB ROAST
• 9:50AM



SANCTITY OF LIFE



SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY MEMORIAL PRAYER SERVICE FOR ALL OF OUR DEPARTED INFANTS OF GOD

On Sanctity of Life Sunday, the St. Mary Magdalene Parish family wishes to invite the entire community to our Church for a special prayer service in memory of all unborn infants. If you know anyone who has ever suffered the loss of a child in the womb, please ask them to join us following the Divine Liturgy to offer prayers and consolation for their dear departed children, and for each other.

Sunday, January 23rd, After the Divine Liturgy (approx. 11:40am)

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

Contact: To submit names to be prayed for, or for more information of the service, please email smmocafernton@gmail.com or call the parish office 810-750-1401



JANUARY'S CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

JANUARY 16TH: CLASSES RESUME WITH A LESSON ON THEOPHANY

JANUARY 23 LESSON ON PHILIPPIANS: PRAYER

JANUARY 30 LESSON ON THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

Greetings St. Mary Magdalene Family. Happy New Year! Many thanks to all of our teachers and those who have helped with Church School so far this year as well as to parents and all of the children who have actively participated in and supported this ministry. I hope everyone had a blessed Nativity Celebration and are ready for our return to Sunday Church School. All of us will be joining in the Theophany Blessing of the Shiawassee River on January 9. Regular Church School resumes on January 16 following Holy Communion.

This month the children will be learning about Theophany after experiencing it first hand on January 9. A lesson about prayer based on Phillipians and another on the feast of the Meeting of the Lord will round out the month of January.

We look forward to seeing all the children and thank you all for supporting their participation in Church School. A child's first and best teachers about the faith are their parents and there is no better place for all of us to learn than in church

Yours in Christ,
Terri Oginsky
Church School Coordinator
989-906-0135
toginsky@gmail.com



SMMOY

ST. MARY MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX YOUTH

UPCOMING
GATHERING

JANUARY 15TH
FOLLOWING GREAT
VESPERS

Our next meeting will be another discussion/open dialogue with Father Gabriel, this time on the topic of gender.

Since there are many directions this discussion could go, we suggest the teens reach out to Seth & Mia or Father with potential questions so that the talk can be more focused on what the teens want to learn about.

This meeting will be at 573 Carriage Hill Dr, Fenton, MI 48430, and a meal will be provided.



COLLEGE CORNER

PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Katherine Arnes
Oliver Senter
Sydney Wilkenson
Renee Wilkenson
Katerina Jonescu
Katheryn Brcic
Alexandra Kekel
Abigail Arnes
Tea Jonascu
Ethan Durand
Justin Auxier

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is the official campus ministry organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America





"METANOIA"

LEARNING TO CHANGE ONE'S HEART FOR GOD



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

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

First Semester 2022- All classes begin at 6:30pm

- Wednesday, January 12th: Introduction to Orthodoxy and Holy Tradition
- Wednesday, January 19th: What do we believe about God?
- Wednesday, January 26th: What is mankind's purpose in life?
- Wednesday, February 2nd: What is sin?
- Wednesday, February 9th: What did Jesus Christ come here to do?
- Wednesday, February 16th: How do we pray?
- Wednesday, February 23rd: What is the big deal with the Theotokos and the Saints?



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR NATIVITY CAROLING AT
LOCKWOOD OF FENTON. THE RESIDENTS WERE TRULY TOUCHED BY OUR
PRESENCE ON THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AS MOST OF THEM SPENT IT
ALONE IN ISOLATION.



UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

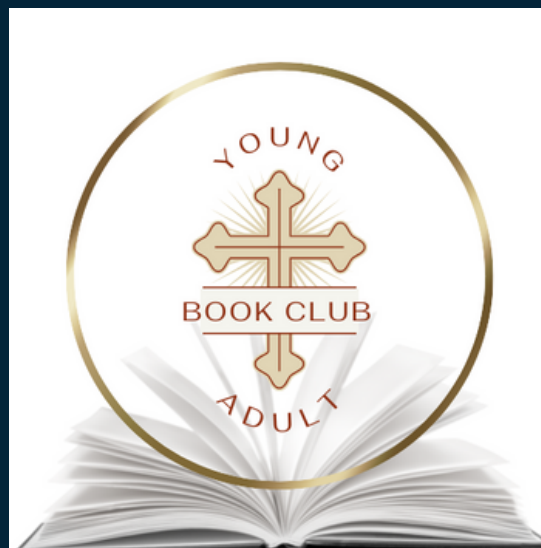
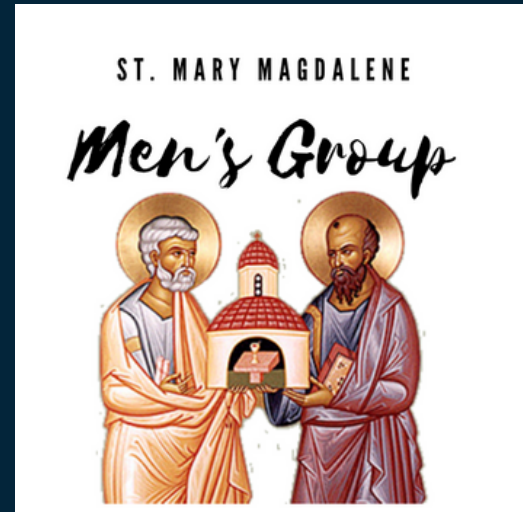
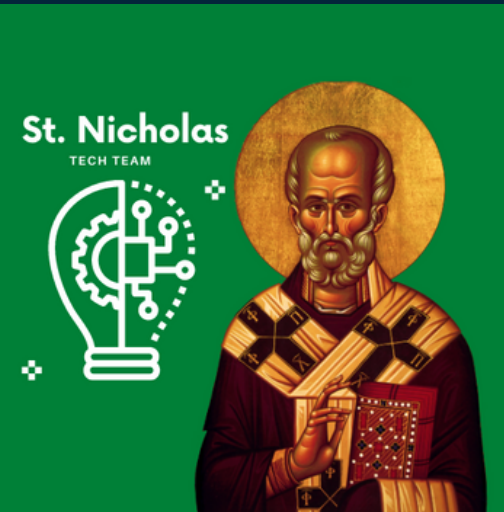
WE WILL COLLECT ITEMS AND PACK THEM FOR OUR LAZARUS BAGS. KEEP
AN EYE OUT FOR THE SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX IN THE NEXT
COUPLE OF WEEKS.

WE WILL NEED HELP PACKING THE LAZARUS BAGS ON SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 26TH FOLLOWING GREAT VESPERS.

Please contact Deacon Mike or the Parish
office if you would like to join the efforts of
the Fellowship of St. Photini

*Truly, I tell you,
whatever you did for one of
the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.*
~MATTHEW 25:40

PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS





St. Mary Magdalene

Parish Council

Upcoming Meetings:

January 11th, 7:00 pm
February 8th, 7:00 pm

Parish Council Members

Joe Otis, Chair
Reader Chris Ballnik, Secretary
Ann Schutt, Treasurer
David Welch
Tina Shepherd
Subdeacon Andrew Durand
Rachel Burtka
Terri Oginsky

Alternate: Jay Rice



FELLOWSHIP AGAPE MEALS

Agape (Greek agapē): in the New Testament, the fatherly love of God for humans, as well as the human reciprocal love for God. In Scripture, the transcendent agape love is the highest form of love and is contrasted with eros, or erotic love, and philia, or brotherly love.

Sobornost: Divine-Human Oneness

Sobornost means spiritual harmony based on freedom and unity in love. It is a necessary component in our membership with the Body of Christ, for if we are not bound together in love, our freedom becomes our enemy, separating us from others and ultimately from Christ Himself. This concept was so important to early Christians that it was the basis for the agape meal, when Christians shared their food with one another after the celebration of the eucharistic banquet.

That the pre-communion fast would be broken after the Divine Liturgy with a communal meal (the love feast) clearly demonstrates the importance of community within the life of the Church. Sobornost is the divine human oneness we experience as members of the on Body, the Church, and is the moment when we who are many become one. It is the image of the unity of the Holy Trinity, finding its expression among the believers.

Sobornost is not the same as fraternity, a submission to a brotherhood for benefit of the individual. Rather, it is akin to *kenosis* (the relinquishment of divine attributes by Jesus Christ in becoming human) Sobornost is when the individual gives up self-benefit for the community or ecclesia.

We cannot truly be one in Christ if we do not seek out oneness with our fellow Christians. Nor can we be one with Christ if we routinely reject sobornost for heights of spirituality that make us so conscious of self that they separate us from our neighbor.

-*"The Morning Offering"* Abbot Tryphon November 16th

2022 AGAPE

MEAL SCHEDULE

January 9th: Theophany Lamb Roast please bring a dish to pass.

February 27th: Meatfare please bring a meaty dish to pass

March: No Agape Meal since we will have potlucks following all Pre-Sanctified Liturgies.

April 24th: Pascha Celebration, bring your basket!

May 1st: Agape Meal bring a dish to pass - Egg Hunt for the kids.

June 12th: Holy Pentecost, bring a dish to pass

July 24th: First Responders Blessing, Main Meal provided please bring a dessert to share

August: No Agape Meal

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

October 9th: October Fest bring a dish to pass

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

December 11th: Agape Meal (Fasting)\

December 24th: Holy Supper



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

Glory be to Jesus Christ!
Glory Forever!

The past two years for the entire world can be best described as chaotic. I have been constantly reminded of that image that is used in the Matins service, describing our existence as a rough sea that is surging with storms. However, despite the choppy waters and regardless of size of the waves that knock against us, we are reminded of one of the images the Church is: **The Ship, guided by the Holy Spirit, that provides a refuge for all who are constantly being tossed about in the storms.**

We have been so extremely blessed over the past two decades to have offered a place for all to come who are searching for something deeper than the limited existence that the outside world offers us. Our little Church in the woods, located on the shores of the Shiawassee River, has truly provided a place of beauty, serenity, and peace for thousands of men, women, and children who have graced us with their presence and prayers. Now, more than ever, there is a need for our Temple to be expanded to accommodate those who are coming to our doorstep.

The upcoming expansion of our temple is currently set to include a larger worship space, an open dome, an expanded hall with a kitchen, a moms and babies room, enhanced handicap accessibility, and much more. The estimated cost of the expansion is coming in at \$900,000.

While that figure might seem daunting, allow me to share an incredible gift that could only be made possible by the workings of the Holy Spirit. We have received a matching financial pledge of up to \$500,000 towards the building fund. This means that for every dollar that is raised or pledged from now until the end of 2022 will be doubled by an anonymous donor!

In your generosity, if you are able to donate, checks can be made out to "St. Mary Magdalene" with the memo "building fund". Contributions can be made in person or can be sent to our address below.

We give glory to God for all of the financial sacrifices that so many people have made to our parish. This Church has truly grown into a beacon which shows the Gentle Presence of Christ in the midst of the world. That Presence is not only experienced by our parishioners, but by so many others in our local community who have embraced us. May our Lord continue to give us the strength to grow the vineyard which He has planted with His Own Right Hand, as we all move towards His Heavenly Embrace!

Your Servant in Christ,
Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector, St. Mary Magdalene, Fenton, MI

"Look down from Heaven of God and Behold, and Visit this Vineyard which You have planted with Your right hand, and establish it!"



Outdoors from the front of the building.



The inside of the Sanctuary.



Outdoors from the back of the building.



**St. MARY
MAGDALENE**
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

CONNECT WITH US

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church
2439 S. Long Lake Rd
Fenton, MI 48430
810-750-1401
smmocafernton@gmail.com
st-marymagdalene.org



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



EXPANDING THE MISSION

By the Grace of God, since the founding of the mission in 2002, our Lord has indeed allowed tremendous growth to our little parish in the woods. The time has now come, as was the hope of our founding members, to complete the expansion of our Church Temple in order to accommodate an ever growing parish family!

WORSHIPING IN THE CENTER OF THE CROSS

Beginning in 2019, the parish began to make plans for a future expansion with the goal of doubling the size of our current worship space, while still maintaining the "Little" Church feel by keeping the faithful in close proximity to the altar. The expansion calls for each side of the existing temple to extend out into the shape of a cross, leaving us to worship in the very center of the cross which is where Christians belong!



WINDOWS INTO THE PAST

Along with the new additions, we have been given the blessing to acquire the stain-glass icon windows from St. Tikhon's Monastery, the oldest Orthodox Monastery in the country, thus tying a small piece of History from the Orthodox Church in America to our little parish in the woods.

A TREMENDOUS BLESSING

We have received a commitment from a private donor who has offered to match any donation dollar for dollar, up to \$500,000! If God so wills that we are able to make the most of this incredible gift, we should be able to cover the cost of the expansion without the need of a mortgage!

If you would like to help take advantage of this blessing, checks can be made out to St. Mary Magdalene with the memo "Building Fund".

HOW CAN YOU HELP FULFILL THE MISSION?

The first and most important thing that all of us can do is to pray, by adding this prayer to your daily intentions:

"O Lord our God, we ask that you bless the good intentions and works of the faithful of St. Mary Magdalene parish, and by the Grace Guidance, and indwelling of the Most Holy Good and Life Creating Spirit, allow it to build up it's Holy Community to Your Glory. For unto You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen!"

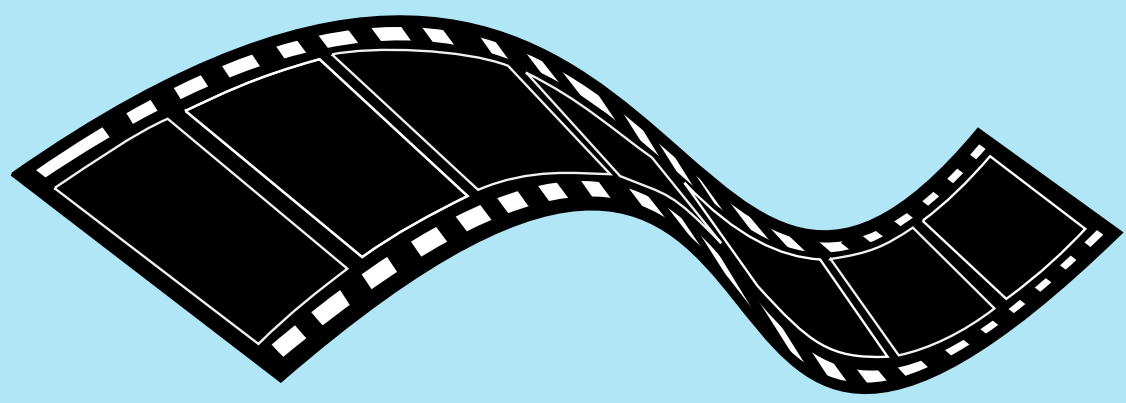
How can you help?

1. Like and share our social posts to spread awareness
2. Keep us in your prayers as we embark on this new mission.
3. Give as you are able, remember we have a matching donor that will meet dollar for dollar up to \$500,000 so no amount of giving is too small!

How to give.

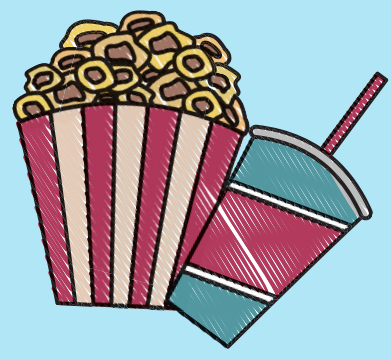
1. Checks can be made payable to St. Mary Magdalene with "building fund" in the memo line and mailed to St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church 2439 S. Long Lake Rd - Fenton, MI 48430
2. Visit our website at <http://www.st-marymagdalene.org> and click the donate button on the bottom right hand side of the page
3. Cash can be dropped at the Parish Office Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 10am & 3pm or by appointment.
4. The parish also has options available for investment transfers of appreciated stocks, bonds and mutual funds. For more information on this option call the parish office at 810-750-1401.

PAN-ORTHODOX MOVIE NIGHTS

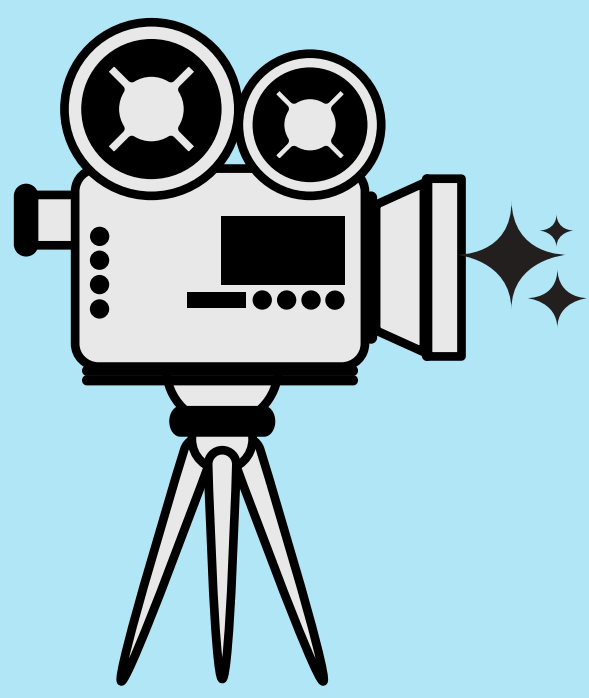


Hosted at St. Nicholas

First Saturday of Each Month



Vespers at 5pm with refreshments and movie to follow



Upcoming Features:

January 8th- New Men & From the Little Mountain
February 5th: The Shepherd

2143 S. Center Rd Burton, MI 48519

*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)



10th Annual Winter Fundraiser benefiting Holy Dormition Monastery



Guest Speaker
+ Archbishop
Nathaniel

Thursday, January 20th

Hosted by St. George Orthodox Church

ONLY AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM

810-732-0720

Join us to experience a beautiful and otherworldly vespers service offered by the Mothers and Sisters of the Monastery. Then stay and enjoy an uplifting evening of warm fellowship, delicious food and listen to talks that will spark spiritual enlightenment. Bring your family and your friends to this edifying evening while generously supporting the works of the monastery.

Please register by Sunday, January 16th. To register for the event or to make a donation please call St. George Orthodox Church. The suggested Donation of \$35/ person or \$25/ student can be paid via check (written to St. George Orthodox Church) or by Credit Card. Please do not let the cost keep you away from this wonderful event!

5:00pm Vespers with the Nuns of Holy Dormition

6:00pm Special Guest Speaker The Most Reverend Nathaniel, Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate



*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)



For more information on the monastery, please visit their website. www.dormitionmonastery.org



ST. MARY MAGDALENE HOUSE BLESSING FORM 2022

Family Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Best Number to Reach You: _____

Circle What Days and Times Work Best for Your Family

Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday

Morning Afternoon Evenings

Please return this form to the parish office as soon as possible!

In preparation for your House Blessings, please have a candle, an icon, a small bowl to hold Holy Water and a list of names of your family's living & departed



St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church Night at the Pistons

Help support St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church by having fun at a Pistons game!
For every ticket sold \$5 will be donated towards St. Mary Magdalene Building Fund
A post-game shot is guaranteed for every person who attends
Your choice of a free pistons hat or celebrate faith t-shirt

If 100 or more people attend the Pistons game:
The pistons will match our funds with a \$500 donation &
Our post-game shot will become a post-game photo!



SUNDAY. JANUARY 30th | 6:00PM

Pricing

200 LEVEL ENDZONE	\$23
--------------------------	-------------

TO GET YOUR TICKETS, Click:

<https://fevo.me/smmoc>

For more information, please contact:

ANDY MYERS | 313.771.7588 | AMYERS@PISTONS.COM



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH



ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

LET'S GET CONNECTED!

Follow us!



@StMaryMagdaleneOrthodoxChurch



@ocasm



@ocasm



youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene

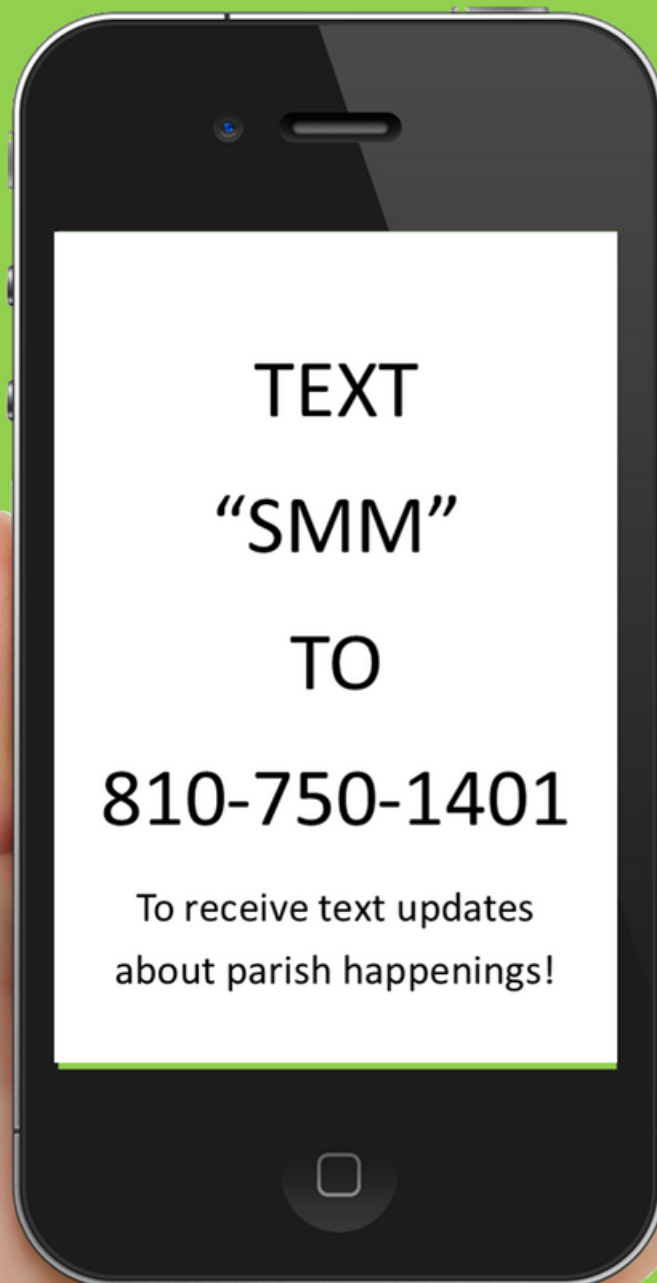
Subscribe



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



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH



TEXT

"SMM"

TO

810-750-1401

To receive text updates
about parish happenings!



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Call: 248-318-7342

Donation of

\$500.00

REFERRAL PROGRAM

To benefit the Building Expansion Project

Know anyone who is looking to buy or sell a home in the state of Michigan? Conne Terova of Real Estate One is offering an incentive program to benefit the St. Mary Magdalene Church Expansion Fund by offering a \$500.00 donation for every referral that results in a sold home!

Conne Terova
Real Estate One

Cell: 248-318-7342
cterova@gmail.com
teamterova.com

