



JANUARY 2024

ST. MARY MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

03-Due to Travel for Fr. Gabriel there will be no Wednesday Divine Liturgy on this day.

05- Eve of Theophany
(Strict Fast)
Compline, Litija & Blessing of the Waters | 6:00pm

06-Theophany of our Lord
Divine Liturgy | 10:00am

09- Prayer Service for the Sick & Suffering
| 6:30pm

11- Readers Akathist to the Gurdian Angel
| 6:00pm

18-Pan-Orthodox Vespers hosted at St. George with the Sisterhood of Holy Dormition | 5:00pm

21-Sanctity of Life Prayer Service for the Unborn | following Divine Liturgy

When You, O Lord were baptized in the Jordan / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest / for the voice of the Father bore witness to You / and called You His beloved Son. / And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, / confirmed the truthfulness of His word. / O Christ, our God, You have revealed Yourself / and have enlightened the world, glory to You!

Troparion of Theophany

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

wwwst-marymagdalene.org

DONATE





MONTHLY FORECAST

Parish Happenings!

THEOPHANY

For the great Feast of Theophany, where the power of God is revealed in the midst of our lives, we will be celebrating the Compline, Lijtja, and Blessing of the Waters on Friday, January 5th, at 6:30 PM. Saturday, January 6th is the Feast of Theophany, where we will have a Festal Divine Liturgy beginning at 10:00 AM. On Sunday, January 7th, we will be blessing the waters of the Shiawassee River after the Divine Liturgy. Dress for the Michigan weather! Please make this weekend a priority in your lives dear ones!

HOUSE BLESSINGS

If you would like your house blessed this year with the Holy Water from Theophany, please fill out the House Blessing Form and return it to the office as soon as possible! Fr. Gabriel will be completing House Blessings throughout the first half of the year (hopefully before Great Lent Begins!).

PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE UNBORN

This year, we will have our annual Memorial service for all children who have lost their lives, whether from abortion or miscarriages, on Sunday, January 21st following Divine Liturgy. There is a list that we have compiled throughout the years of lost children, but if you have more names to add, please email the parish office before the service.



CHARITABLE GIVING:

The 12th annual Holy Dormition Charity Dinner will be on Thursday, January 18th. [Details below, click here to jump to more information.](#)

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

The first semester of Metanoia will begin on Saturday, January 31st. Register today! Click the link below or reach out to the parish office.

REGISTER NOW >



"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

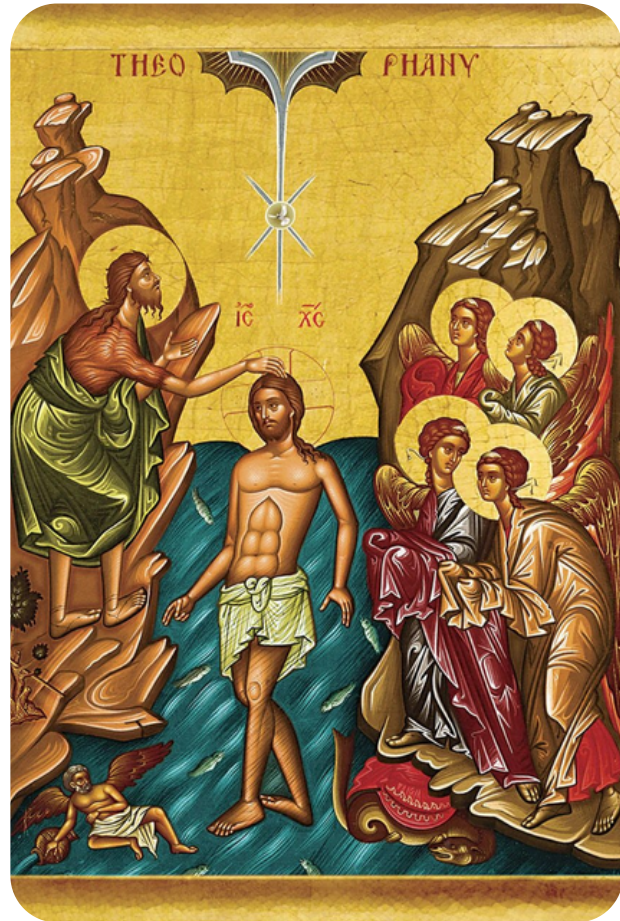
Tuesday, January 31st:	Introduction to Orthodoxy and Holy Tradition
Tuesday, February 7th:	What do we believe about God?
Tuesday, February 14th:	What is man's purpose in life?
Tuesday, February 21st:	What is sin?
Tuesday, February 28th:	What did Jesus Christ come here to do?
Tuesday, March 6th:	How do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

THE JORDAN TURNED BACK



I happen to come across one of those ad laden internet rabbit hole posts that tried to convey through photos of the sheer and scary power of the sea. It showed pictures of large container ships being tossed around by 60 ft waves like they were toy ships, and how in the depths of the sea, objects are smashed as they succumb to the pressure of the deep!

The sea is a scary place even for us living in this age of technology, but it was even more an object of fear 3 and 4 millennia ago! In ancient times and writings, the sea represented “unformed chaos”. Knowing this adds some context to the scripture. For example, we remember the lesson of Christ sending the demons from the demoniac into a herd of swine. The herd immediately rushed off of a cliff and into the Sea of Galilee! In this, we are meant to see that when the devil takes control of creation, the only place that it leads to is the “abyss”. The demons lead our lives to chaos.



The prevailing thought in ancient times was that if you didn't want to succumb to the chaos of the waters, you needed to try and appease whatever demon gods controlled them. The Canaanites for example would offer sacrifices to the demon God “Yam” to carry favor with him so that their voyage would be blessed.

Praying to the demons wasn't just the case with water. In ancient times, you offered praise and sacrifice to whatever demon was in charge of what you desired. If you wanted good weather,

you would sacrifice bulls to Manuzi, the god of weather. If you wanted good crops, you would pray to Nikkal Wa-Ib, the goddess of orchards and fruit. If you wanted a bright sunny day, you tried to appease Malakbel, the god of the sun. All of the various elements of the world were believed to be controlled by these demon spirits, to whom a good and easy life depended on.

Demon spirits controlling the vary faucets of existence was the prevailing thought in the world, until these pagan nations came face to face with the people of Israel, who began to show the world something completely different:

THE JORDAN TURNED BACK

CONTINUED

The existence of THE GOD! The God who created everything "Ex Nihilo", out of nothing! The one who didn't just control the waters like "Yam", but created them! He didn't control the crops like Nikkal Wa-lb, but literally made the dirt that it grows in. God didn't just make the sun shine like Malakbel, He rather created the Sun itself!

The revelation of God (with a capital "G") blew the minds of the pagans! How is the God of Israel doing this?! The Egyptians watched as God, from the breath of his nostrils, split the Red Sea into two, and allowed his people to walk safely to the other side while simultaneously destroying the Egyptian Army. They asked Who is this God that He has power over "Nun", the Egyptian God of water?

In the book of Joshua, God orders that he take his people into the Holy Land after 40 years in the dessert. They didn't pray to the Yam to allow it to happen. The God of Israel rather tells the priests to simply take the ark of the covenant and cross over the river Jordan. As soon as their feet touch the water, the Jordan River turned back and they walked across!

The Prophet Elijah took his robe and struck the Jordan, and the waters turned back as if it was dry land, and him and Elisha crossed over. Not long after that, we are reminded of the time Elisha was cutting down trees near the Jordan, and one of the disciple's ax heads came off and sank in the middle of the river. Elisha cut off a piece of wood, threw it into the water, and the iron ax head defied nature itself and began to float, so the disciples could go and retrieve it.

The demons who once controlled the elements now find themselves subject to the very God who created everything! They come face to face with THE God of the whole world! This brings us to what we continue to celebrate this month, the feast of Holy Theophany which means "the appearance of God"

Christ comes into the midst of the waters and into direct contact with these fallen spirits. The Church, as if mocking the demons themselves, ask in the hymns: **What ails you O sea, that you fled? And you Jordan, that you have turned back? It is as if the Church is saying to the demons "What's the matter? Your power is gone...and accounts to nothing when you come face to face with Christ!"** When God commands something into being, it happens. When he enters battle with the demon gods, there is no battle... simply defeat. God is victorious!

On Holy Theophany, the world learned that Jesus is that same God. He commands the winds of the sea. He has power over sickness and disease. As we will see in a couple months, He has power even over death. Jesus isn't some water or agricultural God that can make sure our life goes well and our crops grow, He is rather the God of all creation. Everything is subject to His command.



THE JORDAN TURNED BACK

CONTINUED

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, other than an awesome history lesson that puts the Church Hymns into perspective, what does this mean for us?

1.) The Spiritual Forces that encompassed the natural world and the existence of demons are and always will be absolutely real. In many countries throughout the world, an understanding of the spiritual world is taken for granted... but or us living in a materialistic society, we tend to hide the existence of such things.

2.) Theophany reveals to us the very purpose of our existence! Through the very water that once represented chaos, Christ brings order to our life through Holy Baptism. He gives us all the chance to put off our old way of life that leads to the chaos of the fallen world, and to be reborn into a new life with God Himself. God calls us every day to be united to Him in a way, that like we see in the lives of the saints...the demons flee from us! The unformed chaos of the world is dispelled.

May the "Giver of Life enlighten us who have gone astray, and deliver us in His compassion from every snare of the dragon...Amen"

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

2024 Service Schedule

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH: COMPLINE, LITIJA & BLESSING OF THE WATERS | 6:30PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH: THEOPHANY DIVINE LITURGY | 10:00AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH: HOURS & DIVINE LITURGY & BLESSING OF THE RIVER | 9:40AM



ST. MARY MAGDALENE HOUSE BLESSING FORM 2024

Family Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Best Number to Reach You: _____

Circle what time of day works best for your family...

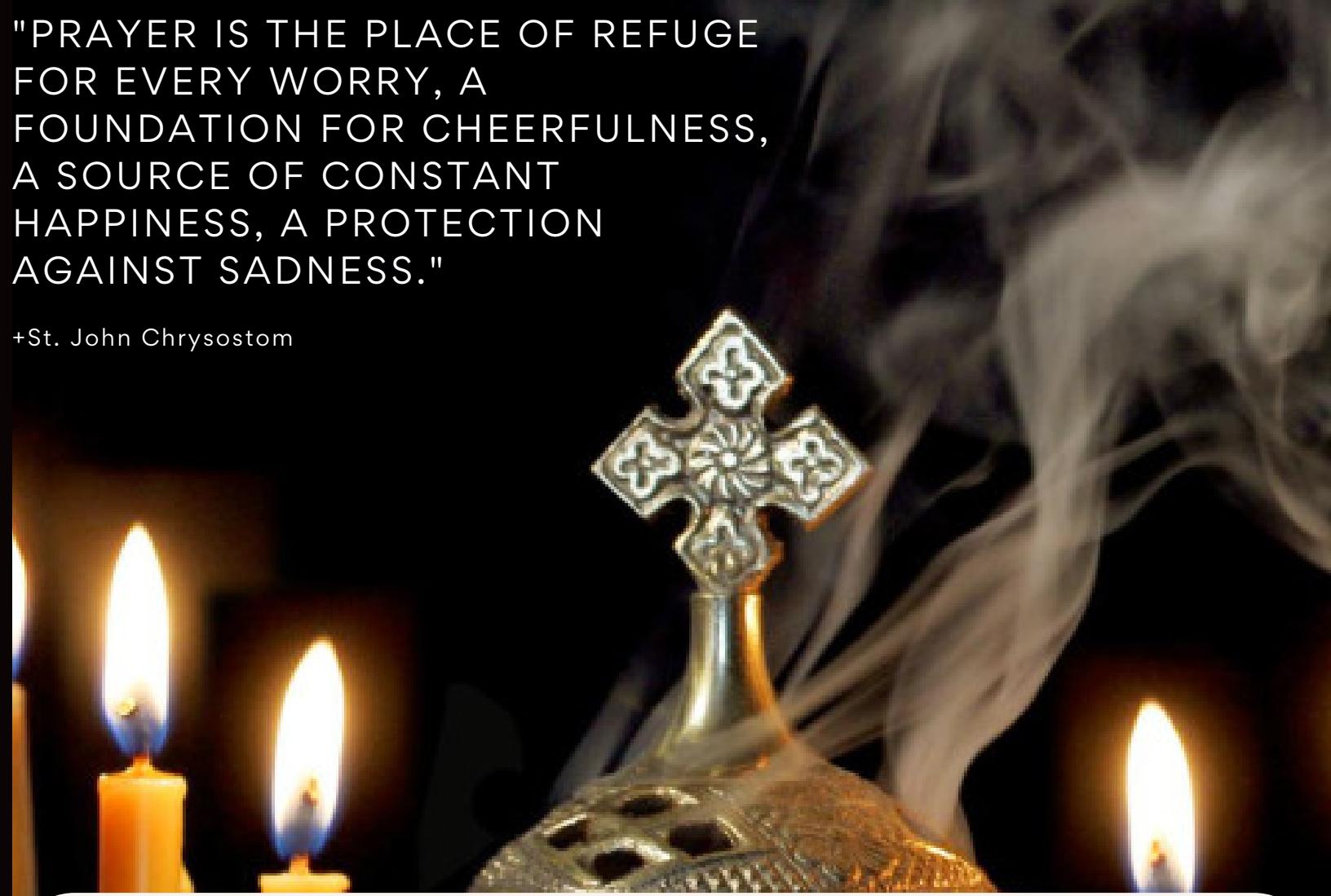
Morning Afternoon Evenings

Please return this form to the parish office as soon as possible so Father can begin his scheduling!

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

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

+St. John Chrysostom



Sick and the Suffering*

Archbishop	Mike
Alexander	Lorain
Matushka	Jeanette
Stephanie	Child Simeon
Subdeacon	Erica
Paul	Henry
Vinne	Carl
Elaine	Miriam
David	
Pat	
Michael	
Lauren	
Mason	
Theresa	
Robert	
Arminda	
Martin	
Shirley	
Nadia	
Child	
Hudson	

Mother's With Child

Inna	Chloe
Anna	Allison
Catherine	Kayla
Sydney	Brooke

Catechumenate

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

Armed Forces

Michael Oginsky - U.S.
Stephany Bishop - U.S. Navy
Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers
Alex Suriano - Air National Guard
Sarah Tyler- U.S. Air Force
Sergeant Mark Stringer -Army Reserves

Anniversary of Repose

8- Dennis Perez
29- Andrew Ziats

Recently Departed

Fr. Michael
Donald
Sharon
Keith

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



Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3-Jeremy Becklehamer | 20-Jeanette Hildreth |
| 3- Benjamin Cooley | 21-Fr. Dn. Logan Shephard |
| 6- Brion Cooley | 24-Katheryn Brcic |
| 10-Jaclyn Daugherty | 25-Michael Khoury |
| 10- Theresa Cooley | 29-Ruthie Becklehamer |
| 12- Maverick Gross | 29-Fr. Dn. Michael Schlaack |
| 13-Hannah Burtka | 30- Shannon Joseph |
| 16-Minka Owens | |
| 16-James Rice | |
| 16-Dmitry Valerivich | |
| 17-Ingrid Ballnik | |
| 18-Cindy Welch | |
| 19-Katherine Arnes | |
| 19- Adalyn Joseph | |

Anniversaries

- 31- James & Helen Locascio

Recent & Upcoming Baptism & Chrismations

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

Engagements

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

Weddings

Jarrod Torrey & Ruthanne Yelland | January 27

New Catechumens

Trent
Lilly

Recent Funerals

None this Month

Confession Schedule

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

Keep an eye on the calendar for exact dates and times.

For the Sick and the Suffering

There is a prayer service for the sick and the suffering, especially those with cancer, held the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm. Please contact the parish office to add any names to the prayer list.

PARISH LIFE

THIS MONTH

Fellowship of St. Photini January Outreach Ministry:

Planning for Lazarus Bag Collection

Adult Education: Metanoia begins January 31st! Register on our website!

6- Sts. Peter & Paul Men's Social group: 1:00pm-4:00 PM at STS Athletic Complex (786 W. Highland Rd, Highland MI 48357) The bar area is reserved with 2 virtual golf studios reserved (the golf is optional) Reach out to Rdr. Chris Ballnik with any questions.

8- Fellowship of St. Photini Zoom Planning Meeting, 6:00pm

9- Parish Council, 7:00pm

27 No Vespers due to the Torrey Wedding



St. Nicholas Day Visit



Charity Toy Drive for the Foster Closet



Chrismation of Monica, Anthony & Nektarios

PARISH GREETERS

January 7: Freida Owens

January 14: Steve and Sue Walton

January 21: Scott and Tina Shephard

January 28: Jacob Bowers

BELL RINGERS

January 7: Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

January 14: Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

January 21: Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

January 28: Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

COFFEE HOUR

January 7: Subdcn. Andrew & Meghan Durand

January 14: Joe and Jenni Otis

January 21: George and Julie Jonascu

January 28: Keith and Emily Bieganski

EPISTLE READERS

January 7: Sbdn Andrew Durand & Sbdn John Auxier

January 14: Rdr Chris Ballnik & Rdr Brian-Philip Walton

January 21: Rdr David Schutt & Rdr Tom Chiatas

January 28: Seraphim Pardee & Rdr Chris Ballnik

2023 PASTORAL REPORT

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GABRIEL

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 3, 2023

“

“Prepare O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all. Adorn yourself O Ephratha, for the tree of life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the Cave. Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit. If we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.”

”

This pre-festal hymn for the Nativity is one that comes to mind as I gauge the tenor of where we are at as a parish family, after several years of the trials and stresses that come with being displaced from our house of worship. We have been preparing to enter back into paradise. The Church is now being adorned with finishes and iconography that will serve to remind us of the heavenly worship we are called to. Christ, through all the difficulties, trials, and tribulations, has remained with us...restoring the Church which He made in the beginning.

While this upcoming year will be one of the most monumental and exciting years of our parish community, my report today will be on all of what our Lord has allowed us to accomplish, despite our now 20 months in the “desert”. As always, I believe there are four pillars of the Church that are absolutely necessary for growing closer to Christ, so I will be focusing my report on these pillars of Worship, Community, Education, and Stewardship.

Worship:

Despite all of the challenges (the lack of seating, the Heating and Cooling systems being overwhelmed by the volume of people, the lack of standing space, etc.) we have been able to maintain a full Liturgical Schedule, which includes not just weekend services, but also regular weekday Divine Liturgies and Feast Days throughout the entire year. Our choir continues to grow through more regular practices and increased communication and organization... which has truly made them one of the best choirs in the state. Our Church has been continually cleaned and adorned with flowers by a select group of volunteers who care for the beauty of our Lord’s House. Our altar servers, despite the different layout of the Church, have been regular and dedicated. And most important, our overall attendance, despite it being like a “sardine can”, has grown since we started worshipping in this temporary chapel.

I want to first ask your forgiveness for this building project taking as long as it has...and also thank you from the bottom of my heart for ignoring the temptations of the devil to skip out of Church because of the lack of space. Our time in the desert is coming to a close, and soon we will be welcomed back to the promised land, where we can further turn our attention to the growth of our worship of God in all things!

Community:

Since our last meeting, and including some that will be added in 2 weeks, we have been blessed to welcome 17 new Orthodox Christian warriors to the faith. We celebrated 3 marriages this past year, with 5 scheduled for this upcoming year. We also have a 24 catechumens who are in the midst of their journey to the Holy Orthodox Faith.

Again, despite our space limitations, we have maintained a semi-regular community event schedule that has helped to keep our people together. I look forward to getting back to our monthly Agape Meals and larger community events in the upcoming year.



2023 PASTORAL REPORT

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GABRIEL

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 3, 2023

Stewardship:

The regular stewardship of the parish, as well as charitable activities, are outlined in the committee reports as well as the financial report. I will just take this moment to remind everyone of the tremendous amount of gifts that God has bestowed upon our parish family. Despite the obstacles that have been thrown in our path, we will somehow...someday...be coming out of this building project with a loan that will be less than 20% of our campus net worth. We still have a shortfall with which to overcome to gain occupancy, but through the continued generosity of our parish family as well as strangers from the outside, I have confidence that our Lord will continue to provide for the needs of this parish family.

Education:

We have had record numbers of people both in attendance and virtually that have been taking our Adult Education classes this past year. On top of our Metanoia Classes, which run in the Fall and the Winter, we also offered two mini-series this past year on "The Acts after the Acts of the Apostles", as well as the one we are currently doing: "The Hidden Prayers of the Divine Liturgy." I am grateful to God for those who are looking to continue to grow in their faith through spiritual education.

One of the beautiful things to see is that, despite the fact we have not had in class Church school due to lack of space, the children of this parish continue to amaze me with their knowledge and attention during the Divine Services. Every time a child comes to Divine Liturgy, they are being immersed in Holiness...and there is nothing better than hearing them shout out in song during the Holy God and the Our Father...it's a beautiful thing.

My thanks goes out to all of those who work diligently to educate our youngest members, and to the parents who continue to nurture their children's faith through regular attendance. I remind us all that these children are the future of the parish...and truly the future of the Holy Orthodox Way of Life...They are the ones who will be singing at our funerals, so keep them in the Church!



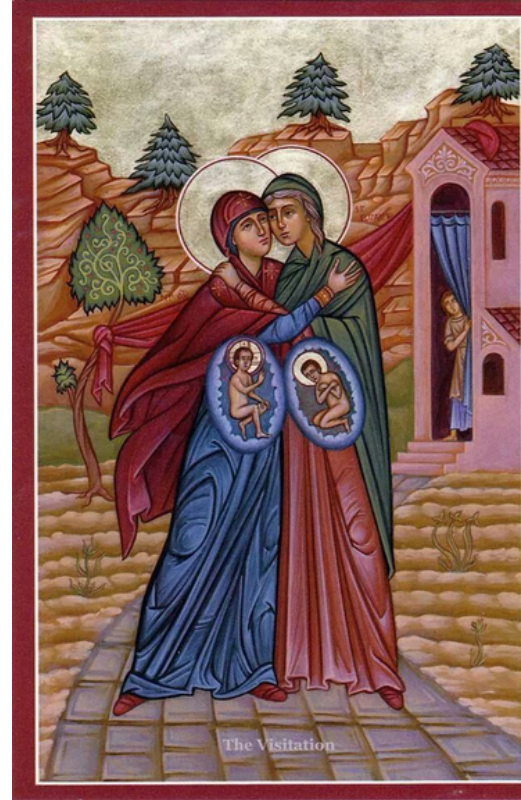
Personal Thanks:

I have a small rule that I learned through my years of parish meetings to never call out people by name, lest I forget and offend someone. That being said, I would be remised if I didn't call out the work of our pastoral assistant Rebekah, who has helped me to, despite the chaos, remain organized and focused on the things that really matter...the spiritual growth of our flock.

I also want to personally thank and show my love to my wife Matushka Laura, to Lucy, Noah, Ileana, and Elijah. The life of a priest's family is one that is extraordinarily difficult... Despite these difficulties, your grace, patience, understand, and love for me has been the only thing that has kept me afloat so that I can continue to serve the flock that we have been given here at St. Mary Magdalene. For that, I thank you, and I love you.

Dearest parish family, please forgive me for all of the ways in which I have failed to lead...for they are many and innumerable. Please continue to pray for me and my family as we, by God's Grace, continue to try to lead this community towards Theosis and Communion with the Divine.

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 21, 2024 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 If you submitted names last year you do not need to resubmit.



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.

December Highlights:

Major finishing touches including:

- East End Drywall Finished
- Dome Iconography Revealed
- Sanctuary Floor Finished
- Walls Painted

We passed the insulation inspection of the East End



TOTAL MONEY SPENT

JANUARY 1, 2022-

DECEMBER 18, 2023

\$1,829,589.35

DONATION FROM PRIVATE DONOR

\$807,781.60

MATCHING DONATION FROM PRIVATE DONOR

FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

PAID \$25,000

REMAINING FUNDS IN FLAGSTAR RESTRICTED

AS OF DECEMBER 18, 2023

\$11,566.34

TOTAL FINANCED BY OCCIF FOR PROJECT

COMPLETION

\$550,000

REMAINING OCCIF BALANCE AS OF

DECEMBER 18, 2023

\$538,729.96

AVERAGE MONTHLY

OCCIF PAYMENT

\$3,554.23

TOTAL BUILDING FUND DONATIONS SINCE

JANUARY 1, 2023

\$104,631.57

FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI

Thank you for your donations to the Seminarian Angel Tree. We collected just under \$2,000 in gift cards for the Seminarians and their families at St. Tikhon's Seminary.

We are also grateful for our Volunteers who helped make our booth about the real St. Nicholas a success at Linden's Holiday Happenings!

Our Church School Students did a wonderful job with their St. Nicholas Day toy drive to benefit the Foster Closet!!

Our charity outreach this month is our 12th Annual Winter Diner to benefit Holy Dormition Monastery! Details in the flyer below. Please register online if you plan on attending!

UPCOMING

Zoom Planning Meeting for the Lazarus Bags
Monday, January 8th at 6:00pm

If you would like the zoom link please reach out to Deacon Mike.

*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

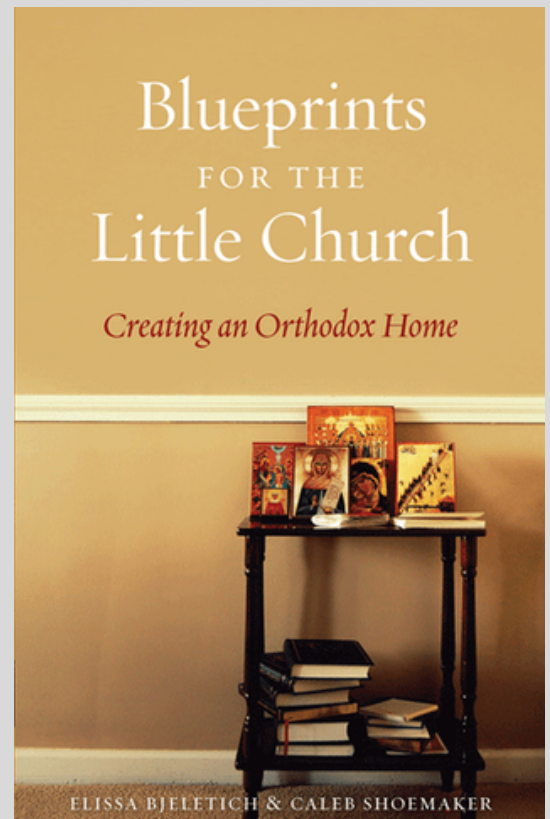


Thank you to everyone for a successful Nativity Sale!

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

BLUE PRINTS FOR THE LITTLE CHURCH; CREATING AN ORTHODOX HOME BY ELISSA BJELETICH & CALEB SHOEMAKER

How do we as Orthodox parents keep our children in the Church throughout their lives? It all begins with involving them in the life of the Church from birth onward—in the parish and also at home. Blueprints for the Little Church provides practical ideas and encouragement—without judgment—for incorporating the primary practices of Orthodox spirituality into your family life at every stage of its growth and throughout the church year.



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!

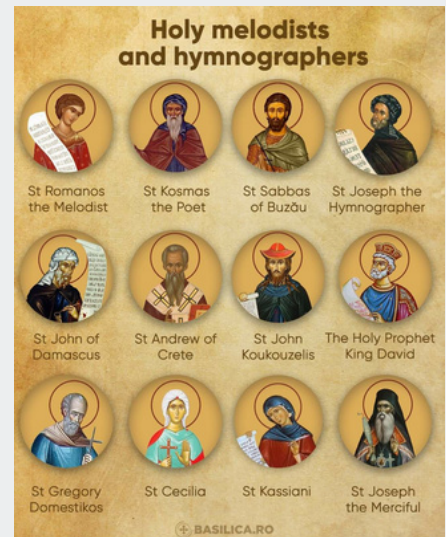


PARISH CHOIR

UPCOMING REHEARSALS:

January 13: Women's Sectional
2:00pm - 3:30pm

January 20: Men's Sectional
2:00pm-3:30pm



“
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!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! And Happy New Year! Thanks to everyone who helped to make Winter Fest a great success for our children. St. Nicholas's visit and the festivities following were enjoyed by everyone. We are looking forward to the continuing celebration of the Nativity and Theophany which will be here before we know it. We are also looking forward to the completion of the construction and the beginning of church school for all of the children. The High School class will begin meeting again the Sunday after Theophany. Once it becomes clear when we will be worshipping in the "big" church, a schedule will be set for everyone else. In the meantime, the take home handouts will once again be available beginning after Theophany.

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

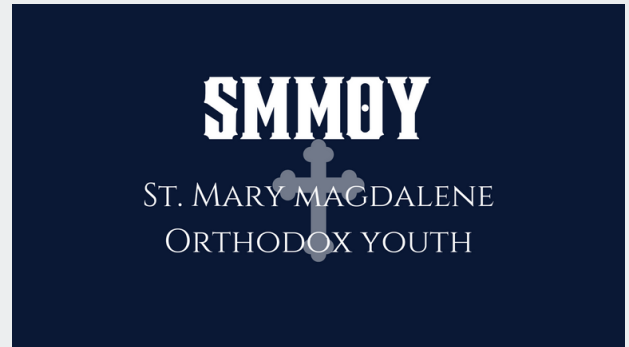
Yours in Christ,

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

PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS



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



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

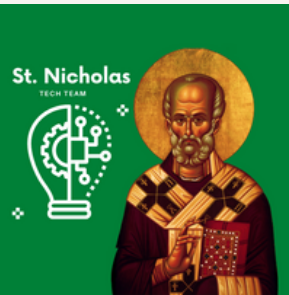
This 8 week class will cover the fundamental beliefs of the Ancient Christian Church, passed down to us from Christ and His Disciples.

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

REGISTER AND/OR DONATE ONLINE FOR THE 12 ANNUAL WINTER DINNER FOR THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD MONASTERY!

ON THURSDAY JANUARY 18 WE WELCOME MOTHER ABBESS GABRIELLA, FATHER JOHN AND THE NUNS FROM HOLY DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD MONASTERY AS THEY COME TO FLINT TO BE WITH THE FAITHFUL FROM OUR FOUR ORTHODOX CHURCHES AND OUR GUESTS.

OUR EVENT WILL BE HELD AT ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH (5191 LENNON RD, FLINT, MI 48507):

- 5:00 PM VESPERS SUNG BY THE NUNS FOLLOWED BY A TIME TO VISIT, APPETIZERS AND THE MONASTERY GIFT SHOP
- 7:00 PM DINNER, DESSERTS AND THREE SPIRITUAL TALKS ON "A RULE OF PRAYER" FROM AN INDIVIDUAL, PARISH AND MONASTIC PERSPECTIVE.
 - THE TALKS (STARTING AROUND 7:30 PM) WILL ALSO BE LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE (CLICK TO SET A NOTIFICATION REMINDER).
- 8:30 PM CLOSING PRAYER AND GOOD NIGHT!

OUR EVENT IS A BLESSING TO OUR COMMUNITY AND A FUNDRAISER FOR THE MONASTERY SO PLEASE BE GENEROUS. YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR ANY OR ALL OF THE EVENING EVEN IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MAKE A DONATION; JUST KEEP IN MIND THAT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED IF YOU ARE COMING FOR DINNER SO THAT WE CAN PLAN PROPERLY.

WE HOPE YOU ARE ABLE TO JOIN US LIVE, OR WATCH THE LIVESTREAM! WE THANK GOD FOR A WARM OASIS OF WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND SPIRITUAL WARMTH ON A COLD JANUARY DAY!

IN CHRIST,

FR. MICHAEL BASSETT AND THE WINTER DINNER TEAM HERE IN GENESSEE COUNTY!

12th Annual Winter Dinner benefiting Holy Dormition Monastery



Thursday, January 18th

Hosted by The Pan-Orthodox Churches of Genesee County

St. George Orthodox Church
5191 Lennon Rd.
Flint, MI 48507

Join us to experience a beautiful and otherworldly
vespers service offered by the Mothers and Sisters of the
Monastery.

Please register by Sunday, January 7th. The suggested
Donation of \$35/ person or \$25/ student can be paid via
check (written to Holy Dormition Monastery). Please do
not let the cost keep you away from this wonderful
event!

Please reach out to Deacon Mike with any questions.

This year our parish is tasked with bringing desserts. A sign-up
will be posted after the Nativity

Evening Agenda

- 5:00pm Vespers led by the Monastic
Community followed by social time
& Monastery Gift Shop
- 7:00pm Dinner & Program
- 8:30pm Closing Prayers & Goodnight

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Register Online



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

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



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH



TEXT
"SMM"
TO
810-750-1401

To receive text updates
about parish happenings!

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH
LET'S GET CONNECTED!



Follow us!



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@ocasmm



youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene

Subscribe

save the date

February:

2- Divine Liturgy for the Presentation of
our Lord

13-Council Meeting

4-25 Lazarus Bag Collection

25- Lenten Triodion Begins

March:

2-Packing of Lazarus Bags

3- Distribution of Lazarus Bags

10-Meatfare

17-Forgiveness Sunday- Beginning of Great
Lent

17-23 Clean Week

25-Annunciation