



# St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

*July 2021*

**Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector**

Office: 810-750-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielmmm@gmail.com

2439 S. Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

<http://www.st-marymagdalene.org>

Office Hours\*:

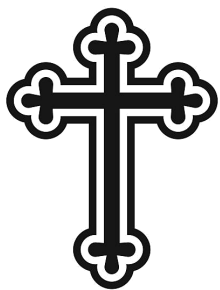
Monday 10:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm

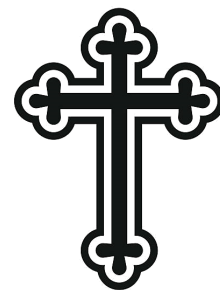
Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

\*or by appointment





# St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH



**Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector**

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## MONTHLY BULLETIN

### JULY 2021

#### Important Dates to Remember:

- ✝ 7/3 Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 5pm at St. George.
- ✝ 7/8 Baptism of Theodore Hamman, 6pm
- ✝ **7/18-7/25 St. Mary Magdalene Parish Family Week**
- ✝ 7/18 River & Kayak Blessing with Cook Out
- ✝ 7/21 Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 6pm at SMM followed by Fellowship Bonfire.
- ✝ 7/22 Pan-Orthodox Liturgy for the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, 10am followed by a BYOB picnic lunch
- ✝ 7/22 Akathist to St. Mary Magdalene, 6pm
- ✝ 7/24 Vespers, 5pm followed by parish board game night
- ✝ 7/25 First Responder & Vehicle blessing followed by Chicken BBQ lunch.

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## What is the Value of Human Life?

A message from Fr. Gabriel

### *What is the value of Human Life?*

As Christians, we know the verbal response to this question. **Every Human being** on this planet is precious to God and is precious to all of us. We hear our Lord command us to *“Love one another as I have loved You”*, and with the people that are closest to us, this is a relatively easy task to accomplish! We learn in life to unconditionally love our spouses, our parents, our family, and our friends. We recognize value in their lives because we are close to them. We share in their joys and laugh when they laugh. We hurt when they are hurt. We weep and beat our breast when they pass on to eternal life.

But is their value any more than the stranger who yells at you in Walmart? Do we show the same love to all those that we come into contact with? Or are there those who we might hear about in a news story, or pass by on a street, to who we place no value on at all?

### *What is the value of Human Life?*

I was sent a wonderful video in an email recently from a friend in New York with the memo line *“long...but worth watching”*. It was a recording of a conference in Greece with one of the pilgrims who visited and spent time with St. Paisios of the

Holy Mountain, who was only recently canonized as a Saint, after passing away in 1994.

This is a Saint of our lifetime, and not one who lived 15 centuries ago! Despite only being a saint for just a few years, his popularity in the world has taken off! The books about his life and his wisdom have been translated all throughout the Orthodox World and have sold countless millions of copies (20 million in Russia alone as of 4 years ago!)

If I can be honest for a minute, I don't often make the time to watch long internet videos that people send me, especially ones that are in Greek with English subtitles. However, because I have such a love for St. Paisios, I decided to make an effort and to watch it for just a few minutes. In the end, I ended up sitting there in tears and with my mouth open for an hour and a half!

Through all of the countless miracles and stories that were told, perhaps the one that touched me the most was how much value St. Paisios put on every human life he came into contact with. During his time on Mount Athos, as well as the few times that he travelled off of the mountain, this man was bombarded by hundreds and thousands of pilgrims a day. There were often days where, whether he was on the Holy Mountain or somewhere in a secular village, there would be a que of cars that stretched for 3 miles, and hundreds and thousands of pilgrims, who would spend 36 hours waiting to get just one minute with true holiness.

All of the people who came to St. Paisios had come for different reasons. Some were there because they had personal ailments or family members who needed prayers. Others came because they thought he was a fraud, and wanted to discredit him. There were even stories of Buddhist Monks who wanted to curse the Saint with Dark Magic! Regardless of what they were coming there for, St. Paisios would welcome every single one of them for days at a time. During his last few years, he was weak from cancer and in a lot of pain, but he would still go outside of his hut and meet with everyone who came to see him, while holding onto an olive tree in order to keep himself upright. How many of us would do this for complete strangers?

### *What is the value of Human life?*

Everyone of us who has come to one Divine Liturgy and opened up one chapter of scripture knows the answer to that question in their heart, but what makes the Saints different than each and every one of us, is that they answer it with **action**.

St. Paul in his epistles speaks about unique spiritual gifts that each of us are given by God to use to serve the Church, and to serve each other in love:

One Christian might have the gift of compassion. When they hear something horrible that happened to a fellow human being, they offer words of consolation and have the gift of encouraging people to live their lives again with new hope.

Some have the spiritual gift of listening. Not everyone is a good listener or has a calm disposition about life. These are the kinds of people that act as the gentle presence of Christ in the midst of chaos and are able to use the ministry of presence to help others by not adding chaos to an already chaotic situation.

St. Paisios used his spiritual gifts of prophecy and healing to listen to and help every person that came into contact with, regardless of their desires or needs. He showed his love to others by **action** and not by words.

*How do we begin to recognize the value of Human Life?*  
By using the gifts we have been given, to not only praise God's Holy Name, but to also learn to see Him everywhere in the world, most especially in each other.

May we all continue to walk in the example of the Saints and fulfill the commandment of St. Paul who tell us: *"Let love be without hypocrisy."* (Romans 12:9)



## Month in Review

June was filled with incredibly joyous (and full!) Divine Liturgies! Oh how beautiful it has been to have everyone back at the Church and moving together towards eternal life! We also saw this month the playground slowly take shape, as well as moving forward with the designs for our multi purpose space off of the office building! May July be filled with even more joy as we celebrate our St. Mary Magdalene Week together!



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

#### **July 4th:**

Romans 2:10-16  
Matthew 4:18-23

#### **July 11th:**

Romans 5:1-10  
Matthew 6:22-33

#### **July 18th:**

Romans 6:18-23  
Matthew 8:5-13

#### **July 25th:**

Romans 10:1-10  
Matthew 8: 28-9:1

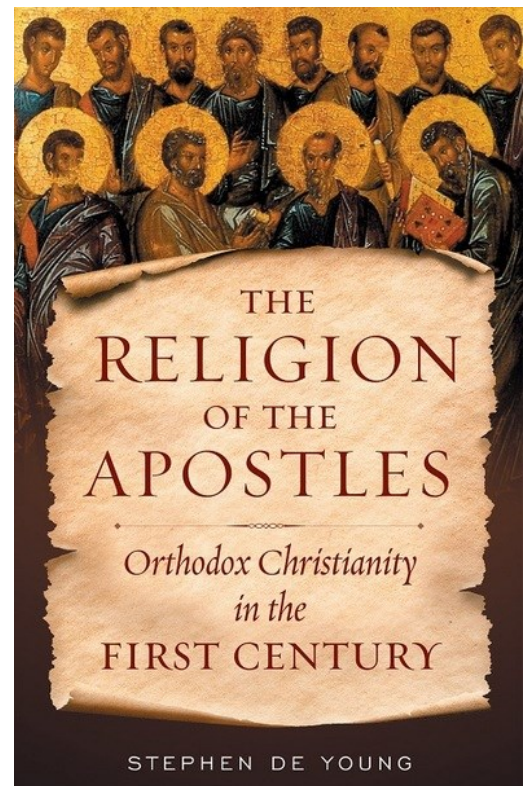
## Recommended Reading (Available in the Kiosk)

*"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.

**About the Author:** Father Stephen De Young is the pastor of Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church (Antiochian) in Lafayette, Louisiana. He holds a PhD in Biblical Studies from Amridge University and is the host of The Whole Counsel of God podcast and co-host of the Lord of Spirits podcast on Ancient Faith Radio. He is also the author of The Whole Counsel Blog on the Ancient Faith Ministries website. For years Fr. Stephen has been teaching the Bible by taking ideas current in biblical scholarship and explaining them to laypeople to make both those ideas and the Scriptures more accessible.



# WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- † 1– Andrew Joseph
- † 7– Scott Shephard
- † 8– Victoria Newmerzyckj
- † 9– Ann Schutt & Anabell Durand
- † 10– David Daugherty, Alex Branoff & Pearl White
- † 16– Dr. Melissa Royer
- † 19– Julie Jonascu
- † 20– Ava Arnes
- † 22– Renee Auxier
- † 24– Rdr. Nathaniel Auxier & Rdr. Richard Lakey
- † 25– Kathy Damic & James LoCascio
- † 27– Karim Wolf
- † 28– Daniel Lesho, Seraphim Lazar– Watson & Roland Drummond
- † 29– Miriam Wolf

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- † 2– Charles & Minka Owens
- † 13– John & Kristen Wolf
- † 14– George & Niki Naum
- † 25– John & Dr. Janet Wiese
- † 28– Sbdn Andrew & Meghan Durand



Wishing Many Blessed Years to Reader Gregory & Tailer Jannakos who were wed last month.



### PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

Don't forget to turn off the T.V. and to utilize our wonderful parish lending library to help feed your spiritual growth. Simply sign-out the book you are borrowing on the sheet next to the bookshelf in the Parish Education Center. The parish lending library can be accessed Sunday after Liturgy or during office hours.

The Library covers the following topics and MORE!

- † Introduction to Orthodoxy, Orthodox Theology, Patristics, Spiritual Study, Children's Books, Service Books, Orthodox Living & Prayer, Orthodox Ethics, Church History, Lives of the Saints, Liturgical Theology

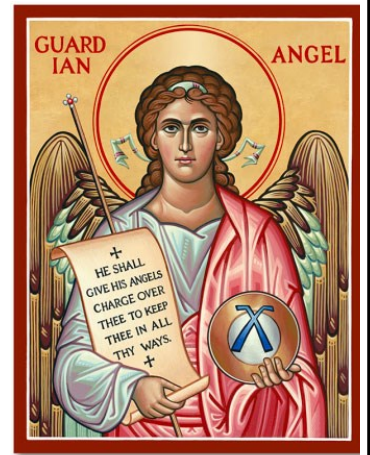
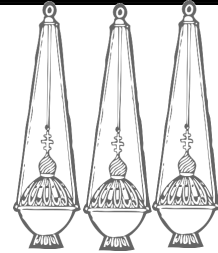
## Office Hours

The Church Office and Sanctuary will now be open from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for private prayer and reflection, phone inquiries, deliveries, or for setting an appointment with Fr. Gabriel.

# Prayer Life

*Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and sisters*

Metropolitan Herman	Eric
Vinnie	Terry
Elaine	Tracy
Peter	Maurice
David	Anthony
Michael	Alisha
Mason	Janet
Pat	Ivanka
Joseph	Theresa
Linda	Gus
Arminda	Jeff
Dimitri	Jennifer
Damian	
Thom	
Linda	
Irene	
Nancy	
Rachael	
Dawn	



Armed Forces	Armed Forces Cont.	Catechumens	Mother's With Child
Matthew Beck; Air Force Michael Oginsky; U.S. Marines Patrick Tejkl; U.S. Marines Lindsey Cazatt; U.S. Navy Stephany Bishop; U.S. Navy Jason Wilburn; Army Rangers Alex Suriano; Air National Guard	Dallas Watson; Air Force Stephen Bondaria– Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander Sarah Tyler—U.S. Air Force	Alyssa William Anastasia David Emily  <b>Anniversary of Parish Member's Repose</b> 13– Kostas Papathanasiou 16– Abigail Forwerck 24– Gabriel Beilfuss	Matushka Laura Inna Natania  <b>Seminarian Family</b> Alexander & Danielle Earl  <b>Recently Departed</b> Harvey

## Parish Greeters

**July 4th:**  
Steve & Sue Walton

**July 11th:**  
Julie & George Jonascu

**July 18th:**  
Seth & Mia Hillaker

**July 25th:**  
Scott & Tina Shephard

## Coffee Hour Volunteers

**July 4th:**  
Jay & Tonya Rice

**July 11th:**  
Kurt & Ann Schutt

**July 18th: (Cook-out)**  
Pat Matts

**July 25th: (Chicken BBQ)**  
Theophan & Nyomi Forsyth

## Epistle Readers

**July 4th:**  
Rdr. Christopher Ballnik &  
Sbdn. Andrew Durand

**July 11th:**  
Rdr. David Schutt & Rdr. Brian  
Walton

**July 18th:**  
Dr. Janet Wiese & Rdr. Christo-  
pher Ballnik

**July 25th:**  
Rdr. John Auxier & Rdr. David  
Schutt

## Bell Ringers

**July 4th:**  
Cindy Welch

**July 11th:**  
Renea Becklehamer

**July 18th:**  
Tonya Rice

**July 25th:**  
Vivian Capatina

# Why do we bless vehicles?

Reflect on how much time do we spend in our vehicles. Typically, we travel every day of our lives. We travel to work, to school, to the grocery store, running errands, and hopefully to Church! Liturgically, we offer prayers for those traveling at every service. In everything we do (even while driving in our car) we are reminded of God's blessing and pray for safety and salvation! Just like we have our homes blessed during the festal season of Theophany, we have another occasion to bless our cars and other vehicles of transportation (including bikes or scooters for our children).

The Orthodox custom is to bless cars at the Feast of Prophet Elijah (Elias) which is July 25th. Do you remember the story of Prophet Elijah from the Old Testament? We read about the Life of Prophet Elijah the 3rd and 4th Book of Kings, Wisdom of Sirach 48:1-15, and 1 Maccabees 2:58. He was taken up into Heaven in a fiery chariot! Therefore, we bless our modes of transportation on his feast-day with the hope of safe travels. We will be offering this special blessing to our parish community and first responders for their vehicles on this day as well. Join us for Divine Liturgy beginning at 9:50am, following we will process to the shrine for a special blessing then to the parking lot to bless the vehicles (and bikes). We will celebrate the Feast of Prophet Elijah and offer prayers and sprinkling of holy water on our modes of transportation. Bring your car, bicycle, truck, motorcycle, even Big Wheels, etc.! This is a great opportunity for our youth to experience the blessings that Christ offers in our daily routine, such as traveling. We hope your entire family will join us!

# Monthly Forecast

## Thursday Liturgies Return

We will have Divine Liturgies start back up on Thursday's in July, beginning at 10:00 AM. The only Thursday that is without a Liturgy will be the 15th, due to Fr. Gabriel being out of town.

## Pan Orthodox Great Vespers for Ordination of Dcn. Michael Bassett

Many of you know Dcn. Michael Bassett from St. George in Flint, as he serves often here at our parish for feast days! By the Grace of God, he will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on the weekend of July 4th. There will be no Great Vespers at St. Mary Magdalene on Saturday, July 3rd, and instead, we will join Bishop Anthony at St. George beginning at 5:00 PM with the rest of the Pan Orthodox Community. Axios to Dcn. Michael!

## Baptism of Theodore Hamman

On Thursday, July 8th at 6:00 PM, we will celebrate the baptism of Theodore Hamman! In what is the first of several upcoming baptisms, be sure to join us as we welcome this new warrior for Christ into our midst!

## Fr. Gabriel Out of Town

Fr. Gabriel will be out of town from July 10th to July 17th. Weekend services will continue as usually while Father is gone. Please see the calendar for any other service changes or call the parish office.

## St. Mary Magdalene Week Rundown

**Sunday, July 18th:** We will be welcoming all of our kayakers from inside and outside of the parish for a special kayak blessing, cookout, and down river run! If you would like to rent a kayak and join us for the trip, it is only \$25 per kayak! Please reach out to Rebekah Humphreys by July 11th if you would like to participate!

**Wednesday, July 21st:** Pan Orthodox Great Vespers and Lijtia for the feast of St. Mary Magdalene will be held at 6:00 PM followed by a parish bonfire and fellowship!

**Thursday, July 22nd:** St. Mary Magdalene's Feast will be celebrated with a Divine Liturgy beginning at 10:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to bring their own picnic lunch following the Liturgy for some fellowship!

If you are unable to make it to Liturgy in the morning, there will be an Akathist sponsored by the young adult group at 6:00pm at the Church.

**Saturday, July 24th:** Great Vespers begins at 5:00 PM, followed by a parish family board game night at the Church!

**Sunday, July 25th:** Divine Liturgy, First Responder Blessing, and BBQ chicken dinner will begin at 9:50 AM! Bring a dish to share!

## Baptism of Sophia Suriano

On Saturday, July 31st at 10:00 AM, we will celebrate the baptism of Sophia Suriano! Join us as we welcome this new warrior for Christ into our parish family!

## Mark your Calendars

On Saturday, August 14th prior to Dormition Lamentations we will be having a Reader's Workshop from 3-3:45 followed by an Altar Servers Workshop from 3:45-4:30pm. Dormition Lamentations will begin at 5pm.





# Myrrhbearer and Equal of the Apostles Mary Magdalene

Commemorated on July 22

Oca.org



The Holy Myrrh-Bearer Equal of the Apostles Mary Magdalene. On the banks of Lake Genesareth (Galilee), between the cities of Cappharnum and Tiberias, was the small city of Magdala, the remains of which have survived to our day. Now only the small village of Mejhdel stands on the site.

A woman whose name has entered forever into the Gospel account was born and grew up in Magdala. The Gospel tells us nothing of Mary's younger years, but Tradition informs us that Mary of Magdala was young and pretty, and led a sinful life. It says in the Gospels that the Lord expelled seven devils from Mary (Luke. 8:2). From the moment of her healing Mary led a new life, and became a true disciple of the Savior.

The Gospel relates that Mary followed after the Lord, when He went with the Apostles through the cities and villages of Judea and Galilee preaching about the Kingdom of God. Together with the pious women Joanna, wife of Choza (steward of Herod), Susanna and others, she served Him from her own possessions (Luke 8:1-3) and undoubtedly shared with the Apostles the evangelic tasks in common with the other women. The Evangelist Luke, evidently, has her in view together with the other women, stating that at the moment of the Procession of Christ onto Golgotha, when after the Scourging He took on Himself the heavy Cross, collapsing under its weight, the women followed after Him weeping and wailing, but He consoled them. The Gospel relates that Mary Magdalene was present on Golgotha at the moment of the Lord's Crucifixion. While all the disciples of the Savior ran away, she remained fearlessly at the Cross together with the Mother

of God and the Apostle John.

The Evangelists also list among those standing at the Cross the mother of the Apostle James, and Salome, and other women followers of the Lord from Galilee, but all mention Mary Magdalene first. Saint John, in addition to the Mother of God, names only her and Mary Cleopas. This indicates how much she stood out from all the women who gathered around the Lord.

She was faithful to Him not only in the days of His Glory, but also at the moment of His extreme humiliation and insult. As the Evangelist Matthew relates, she was present at the Burial of the Lord. Before her eyes Joseph and Nikodemos went out to the tomb with His lifeless Body. She watched as they covered over the entrance to the cave with a large stone, entombing the Source of Life.

Faithful to the Law in which she was raised, Mary together with the other women spent the following day at rest, because it was the great day of the Sabbath, coinciding with the Feast of Passover. But all the rest of the peaceful day the women gathered spices to go to the Grave of the Lord at dawn on Sunday and anoint His Body according to the custom of the Jews.

It is necessary to mention that, having agreed to go on the first day of the week to the Tomb early in the morning, the holy women had no possibility of meeting with one another on Saturday. They went separately on Friday evening to their own homes. They went out only at dawn the following day to go to the Sepulchre, not all together, but each from her own house.

The Evangelist Matthew writes that the women came to the grave at dawn, or as the Evangelist Mark expresses, extremely early before the rising of the sun. The Evangelist John, elaborating upon these, says that Mary came to the grave so early that it was still dark. Obviously, she waited impatiently for the end of night, but it was not yet daybreak. She ran to the place where the Lord's Body lay.

Mary went to the tomb alone. Seeing the stone pushed away from the cave, she ran away in fear to tell the close Apostles of Christ, Peter and John. Hearing the strange message that the Lord was gone from the tomb, both Apostles ran to the tomb and, seeing the shroud and winding cloths, they were amazed. They went and said nothing to anyone, but Mary returned to the tomb and stood about the entrance to the tomb and wept. Here in this dark tomb so recently lay her lifeless Lord.

Wanting proof that the tomb really was empty, she went down to it and saw a strange sight. She saw two angels in white garments, one sitting at the head, the other at the foot, where the Body of Jesus had been placed. They asked her, "Woman, why weepest thou?" She answered them with the words which she had said to the Apostles, "They have taken my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." At that moment, she turned around and saw the Risen Jesus standing near the grave, but she did not recognize Him.

He asked Mary, "Woman, why weepest thou? Whom dost thou seek?" She answered thinking that she was seeing the gardener, "Sir, if thou hast taken him, tell where thou hast put Him, and I will take Him away."

Then she recognized the Lord's voice. This was the voice she heard in those days and years, when she followed the Lord through all the cities and places where He preached. He spoke her name, and she gave a joyful shout, "Rabbi" (Teacher).

Respect and love, fondness and deep veneration, a feeling of thankfulness and recognition at His Splendor as great Teacher, all came together in this single outcry. She was able to say nothing more and she threw herself down at the feet of her Teacher to wash them with tears of joy. But the Lord said to her: "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and tell them: 'I ascend to My Father, and your Father; to My God and to your God.'"

She came to herself and again ran to the Apostles, to

do the will of Him sending her to preach. Again she ran into the house, where the Apostles still remained in dismay, and proclaimed to them the joyous message, "I have seen the Lord!" This was the first preaching in the world about the Resurrection.

The Apostles proclaimed the Glad Tidings to the world, but she proclaimed it to the Apostles themselves.

Holy Scripture does not tell us about the life of Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection of Christ, but it is impossible to doubt, that if in the terrifying minutes of Christ's Crucifixion she was at the foot of His Cross with His All-Pure Mother and Saint John, she must have stayed with them during the happier time after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Thus in the Acts of the Apostles Saint Luke writes that all the Apostles with one mind stayed in prayer and supplication, with certain women and Mary the Mother of Jesus and His brethren.

Holy Tradition testifies that when the Apostles de-

#### **Troparion — Tone 1**

***By keeping His commandments and laws, holy Mary Magdalene, / you followed Christ, Who for our sake was born of the Virgin, / and in celebrating your most holy memory today, / we receive forgiveness of sins by your prayers.***

parted from Jerusalem to preach to all the ends of the earth, then Mary Magdalene also went with them. A daring woman, whose heart was full of reminiscence of the Resurrection, she went

beyond her native borders and went to preach in pagan Rome. Everywhere she proclaimed to people about Christ and His teaching. When many did not believe that Christ is risen, she repeated to them what she had said to the Apostles on the radiant morning of the Resurrection: "I have seen the Lord!" With this message she went all over Italy.

Tradition relates that in Italy Mary Magdalene visited Emperor Tiberias (14-37 A.D.) and proclaimed to him Christ's Resurrection. According to Tradition, she brought him a red egg as a symbol of the Resurrection, a symbol of new life with the words: "Christ is Risen!" Then she told the emperor that in his Province of Judea the unjustly condemned Jesus the Galilean, a holy man, a miracleworker, powerful before God and all mankind, had been executed at the instigation of the Jewish High Priests, and the sentence confirmed by the procurator

appointed by Tiberias, Pontius Pilate.

Mary repeated the words of the Apostles, that we are redeemed from the vanity of life not with perishable silver or gold, but rather by the precious Blood of Christ.

Thanks to Mary Magdalene the custom to give each other paschal eggs on the day of the Radiant Resurrection of Christ spread among Christians over all the world. In one ancient Greek manuscript, written on parchment, kept in the monastery library of Saint Athanasius near Thessalonica, is a prayer read on the day of Holy Pascha for the blessing of eggs and cheese. In it is indicated that the igumen in passing out the blessed eggs says to the brethren: "Thus have we received from the holy Fathers, who preserved this custom from the very time of the holy Apostles, therefore the holy Equal of the Apostles Mary Magdalene first showed believers the example of this joyful offering."

Mary Magdalene continued her preaching in Italy and in the city of Rome itself. Evidently, the Apostle Paul has her in mind in his Epistle to the Romans (16: 6), where together with other ascetics of evangelic preaching he mentions Mary (Mariam), who as he expresses "has bestowed much labor on us." Evidently, she extensively served the Church in its means of subsistence and its difficulties, being exposed to dangers, and sharing with the Apostles the labors of preaching.

According to Church Tradition, she remained in Rome until the arrival of the Apostle Paul, and for two more years following his departure from Rome after the first court judgment upon him. From Rome, Saint Mary Magdalene, already bent with age, moved to Ephesus where the holy Apostle John unceasingly labored. There the saint finished her earthly life and was buried.

Her holy relics were transferred in the ninth century to Constantinople, and placed in the monastery Church of Saint Lazarus. In the era of the Crusader campaigns they were transferred to Italy and placed at Rome under the altar of the Lateran Cathedral. Part of the relics of Mary Magdalene are said to be in Provage, France near Marseilles, where over them at the foot of a steep mountain a splendid church is built in her honor.

The Orthodox Church honors the holy memory of Saint Mary Magdalene, the woman called by the Lord

Himself from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God.

Formerly immersed in sin and having received healing, she sincerely and irrevocably began a new life and never wavered from that path. Mary loved the Lord Who called her to a new life. She was faithful to Him not only when He was surrounded by enthusiastic crowds and winning recognition as a miracle-worker, but also when all the disciples deserted Him in fear and He, humiliated and crucified, hung in torment upon the Cross. This is why the Lord, knowing her faithfulness, appeared to her first, and esteemed her worthy to be first to proclaim His Resurrection.

***"Holy St. Mary Magdalene  
pray unto God for us!"***



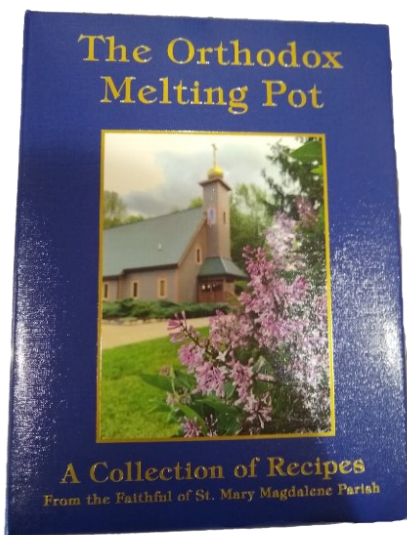
**St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH**

# Parish Kiosk



## “The Orthodox Melting Pot”

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



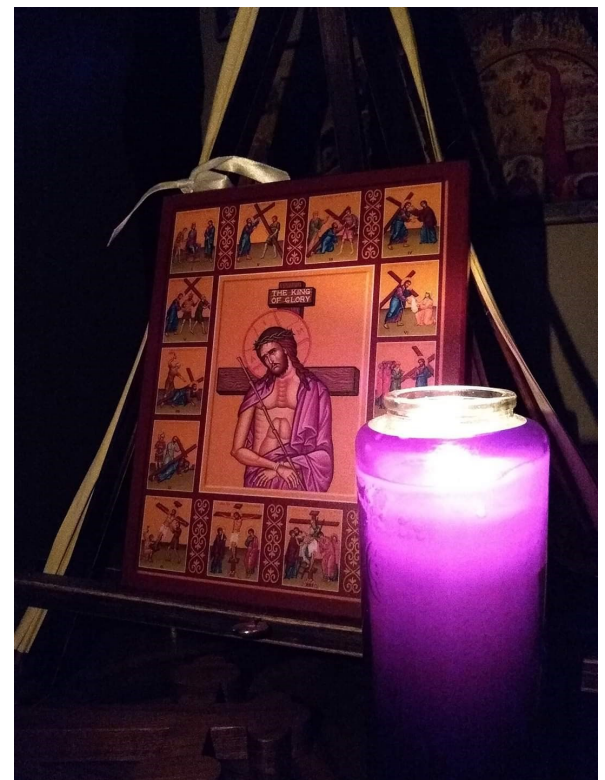
The Parish Cookbook is available for a suggested donation of \$25 each. Please use the specific envelope designated for the cookbook to make your donation. If you would like a copy shipped to you please contact the parish office.



July's newest item  
Brass charcoal tongs  
\$10 each

Preorders are now being taken for this month's recommended reading book, the order sheet is in the Narthex.

6 day glass votives are now available in assorted colors through the Kiosk for \$4 each. These are perfect for home devotion and for cemetery lampadas. If you would like to order the votives by the case please contact the parish office.



# Welcoming our new warriors in Christ!



Theodore Maccabeus Hamann  
and parents  
Paisios & Anna Hammann

Sophia Joyce Suriano  
and parents  
Joseph & Christine Suriano





# Our Parish Youth

## July Church School Announcements

Mark your calendars!!!! Our parish is hosting Vacation Church School this year. The dates are August 17-19th. See the flyer below for information. Please register ASAP as space is limited. Early registration ends July 12th! If you have volunteered to work VCS there will be a staff meeting on Saturday, August 7th, 2pm, prior to Vespers. Please plan on attending.

## Fall Church School Relaunch



We will be relaunching our Church School on Sunday mornings beginning September 12th. With that being said we need help with staffing church school. If you are a current staff member and plan on continuing or if you are new to the program and would like to become a teacher, please let us know. You can reach out to Terri Oginsky (Church School Coordinator) or Father Gabriel.

If you are new, please note that we do have a background check procedures in place that is in line with the OCA. This check will need to take place for you to fill a position. If you have any questions about the background check procedure please reach out to Father Gabriel or the parish office.

The Pan –Orthodox Churches of Genesee County  
presents  
**VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL 2021**

hosted by St. Mary Magdalene Parish

# August 17th, 18th & 19th

**Who:** All children ages 4 through 11

**What:** “My Orthodox Tool-kit” -building a little church at home.

**Where:** St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church (2439 S. Long Lake Rd—Fenton, MI)

**When:** August 17-19th, Drop off 4:45pm Pick-up 7:15pm

**Why:** Being Orthodox isn't a name you call yourself it is a lifestyle that you live. Giving our youth the tools they need to create a little church in the home allows them to guard their lives from the trials of this fallen world. Our goal is to draw a correlation between the prayer life at home and the Liturgical prayer life and the importance of both in their life.

**How:** Fill out a registration form for each child that is attending and mail to St. Mary Magdalene, or drop off in person.

Early registration is open from June 21st - July 12th. Space is limited. Registration closes August 1st.

Children’s Itinerary	Adult’s Itinerary
4:45 –5pm Drop-off/ Check-in 5-5:30pm Lesson One 5:30-6pm Dinner 6-6:30pm Lesson with the Priest 6:30-7pm Creating a prayer corner 7-7:15 Small Compline in the Church all together 7:15-7:30 pick-up  Tuesday: Iconography and the Cross Wednesday: Candles & Incense Thursday: Praying  Groups: Group A: Ages 4, 5, & 6 Group B: Ages 7, 8, & 9 Group C: Ages 10 & 11	4:45 –5pm Drop-off/ Check-in 5-5:30pm Parent Fellowship 5:30-6pm Light Refreshment for Parents out by the Shrine 6-6:30pm Parent-led discussion about raising children in the Church 6:30-7pm Parent session with the priest (topics include; Holy Habits in the Home, Forgiveness in the Home & Raising Good Stewards) 7-7:15 Small Compline in the Church all together 7:15-7:30 pick-up  <i>You are welcome to drop off your children at VCS, but we prefer you stay and join with other parents for fellowship and adult discussion topics.</i>

✠ For additional information please contact the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Office— Office hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10am – 3pm Or email [smmocaefenton@gmail.com](mailto:smmocaefenton@gmail.com)

✠ There is no fee for a child to participate in VCS, however please consider a free-will offering to the church to help cover the cost of the event.





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



### Prayers for our college students:

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Katherine Arnes     | Katheryn Auxier     |
| Oliver Lazar Senter | Alexandra Kekel     |
| Elena Bucciarelli   | Lauren Serafimovski |
| Zachary Wilkinson   | Abigail Arnes       |
| Douglas Wilkinson   | Tea Jonascu         |
| Sydney Wilkinson    | Ethan Durand        |
| Katerina Jonescu    | Justin Auxier       |



### Calling all Mothers!

The last few months have been a difficult time for many. With all of the changes in life and scheduling, balancing motherhood has been challenging to say the least. Check in on each other and be a listening ear until we can meet together again!

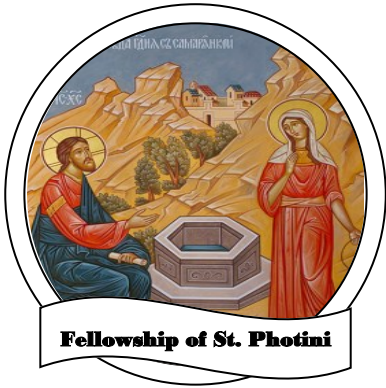
For more information about our St. Mary Magdalene Men's Group, please contact Tom Chiatlas.



St. Mary Magdalene  
Young Adults

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

# FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI



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

We have a very busy community outreach month in July. If you are interested in helping with any of our outreach please reach out to any member of our leadership team.

For the Kayak Launch we are working with Sunshine Kayak Rental in Linden. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to rent a Kayak. The cost is \$25/ kayak and includes the paddle, life jackets, delivery of the kayak to the Church and shuttle back to the Church. We need a minimum of 10 rentals to hold this cost. Please sign up and pay by Sunday, July 11th.

**For both the Kayak luncheon (7/18) and the First Responder’s and Vehicle Blessing (7/25) we are asking that our parishioners make desserts to share with our guest. The main meal will be provided we only need a variety of sweet treats!**

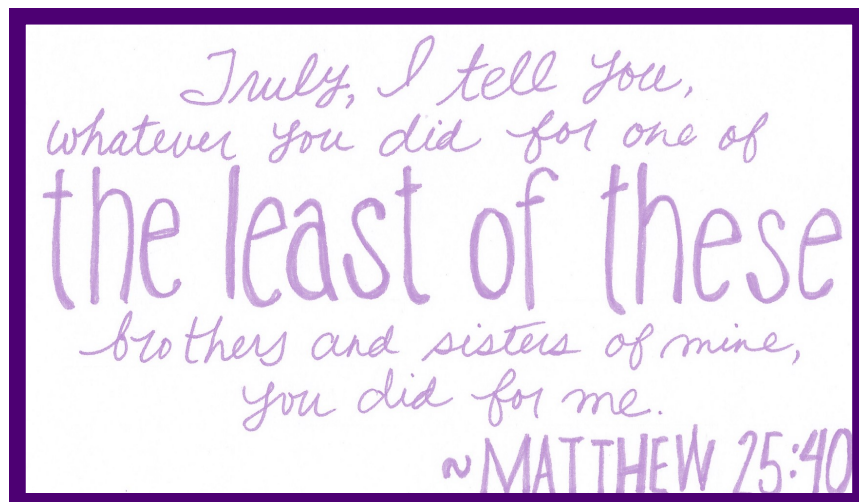
## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

July 18th: Kayak Blessing and Boat Launch

July 25th: First Responder’s & Vehicle Blessing

September 9th: Pet Blessing at Fenton Adopt-a-Pet

September 11th: City of Fenton blessing at the 9/11 memorial.



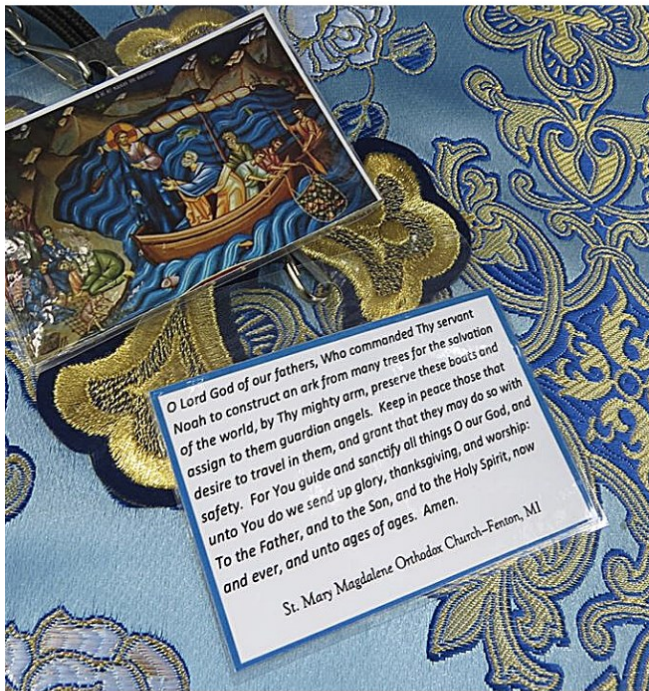
*Please contact Theophan Forsyth, Terri Oginski or Rebekah Humphreys if you would like any information about upcoming projects or would like to donate to the works of the Fellowship of St. Photini.*



ST. MARY MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

# PARISH FAMILY WEEK

Patronal Feast Celebrated July 22nd



Join us as we come together for St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church Parish Family Week! This will be a week filled of worship, fun, outreach and fellowship time together.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 18TH:

2nd annual kayak and river blessing with the Keepers of the Shiawassee River. Following Divine Liturgy we will process to the shrine where Father Gabriel will bless all of the kayakers, their boats, and the river that runs through our property. Following the blessing we will have a quick hamburger and hotdog picnic before we launch the boats for a leisurely 2 hour float, ending at the Linden Mill Pond. Kayak rentals are available.

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 21ST:

Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Lijtia will be held at 6:00pm to begin the celebration of our Patronal Feast. We will hold a bonfire with our sister parishes following Great Vespers.

#### THURSDAY, JULY 22ND:

To in honor of our parish feast we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. Following the Divine Liturgy we will gather for a bring your own picnic as we enjoy the fellowship with our brothers and sisters.

#### SATURDAY, JULY 24TH:

We will have Great Vespers at our regular time of 5:00pm. For those who wish to stay we will have a family board game night following. Everyone of any age are welcome to participate.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 25TH:

The 5th annual First Responders Blessing and Blessing of the Vehicles will follow Divine Liturgy. We cannot wait to welcome our first responders and their families! Following Divine Liturgy we will process to the shrine, where we will not only pray for those lost in the line of duty, but also for those who are currently serving our community.

After the blessing of the first responders, we will then make our way to the parking lot to bless all of the vehicles (children bring your bikes). Once we are finished we will host our all of our visitors for a Chicken BBQ luncheon in their honor.

If you have any questions please reach out to the parish office!  
810-750-1401  
smmofenton@gmail.com



2ND ANNUAL SHIAWASSEE RIVER  
BLESSING OF THE FLEET & PADDLE

SUNDAY



JULY 18



B L E S S I N G  
A P P R O X . 1 1 : 3 0 A M

BLESSING  
HOTDOG & HAMBURGER LUNCH  
LAUNCH

Put in: St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church  
(2439 S. Long Lake Rd, Fenton)  
Pull Out: Linden Mill Pond  
(304 Tickner St. Linden)  
Blessing of the Water & Fleet by Fr. Gabriel Bilas

# BOAT BLESSING KAYAK RENTAL

*St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church*

# JULY 18

2439 S. Long Lake Rd - Fenton, MI  
810-750-1401



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\$25 per kayak

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included:  
paddle  
life jacket

delivery to the Church  
shuttle back to the Church

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Sign up by July 11th



# 5TH ANNUAL FIRST RESPONDERS & VEHICLES BLESSING

Sunday, July 25, 2021

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

Divine Liturgy 10:00am  
Blessings approx. 11:20  
Chicken BBQ to follow

Mark your calendars for the 5th annual first responders & vehicle blessing cookout as we welcome our local heroes to the Church for a special prayer service following the Divine Liturgy, were we pray not only for those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, but also for strength and protection of all of our first responders who put themselves in harms way to protect each and every one of us.

If you know of anyone who either is currently serving as a first responder, or someone who is retired from service, please consider inviting them to this important event so that we can show our love and thanks to them for all they have done for us!

Please contact Fr. Gabriel at  
(810)750-1401 or  
frgabrielmmm@gmail.com  
for any further questions!



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



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

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