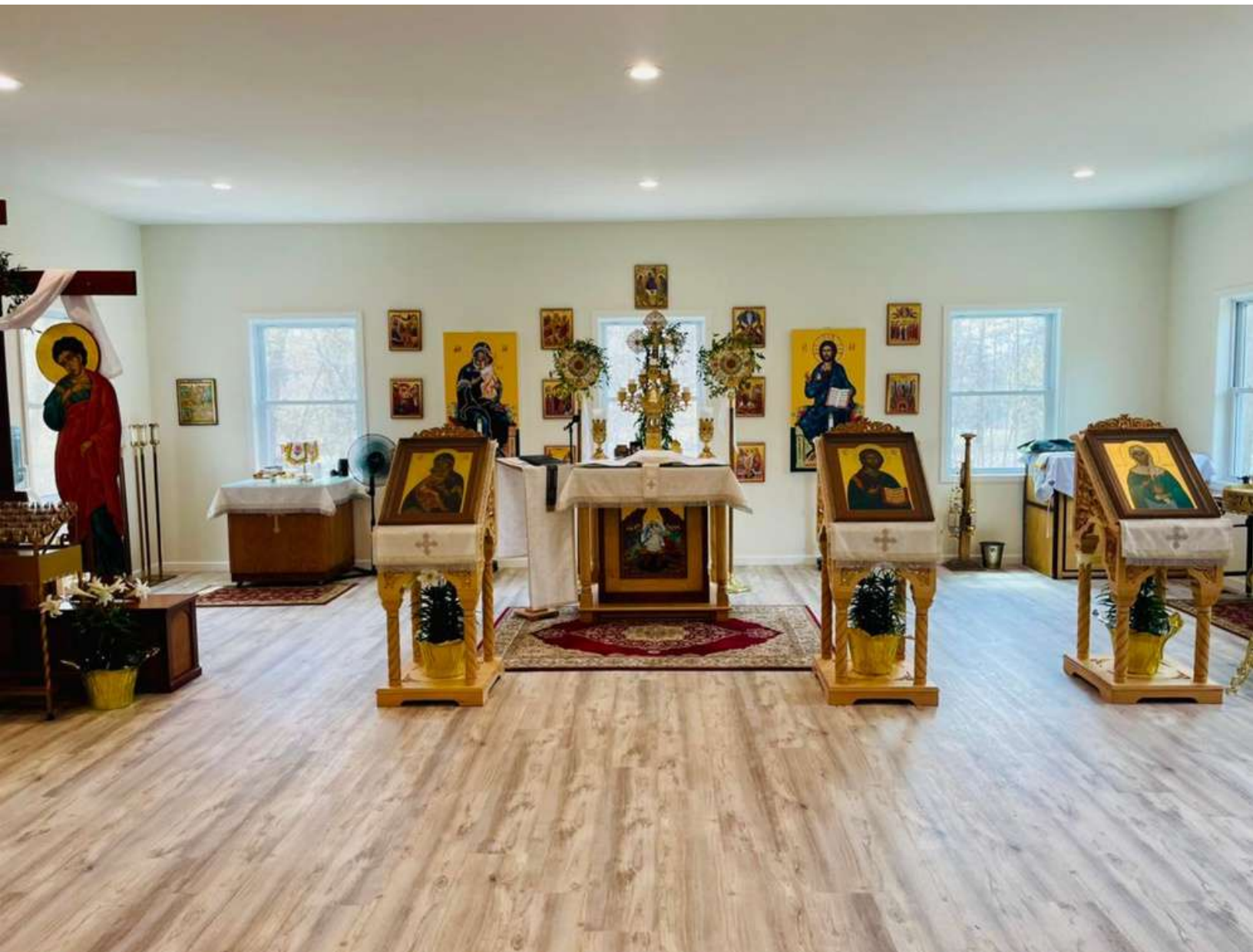


July 2022

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-750-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielstmm@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

What is the Value of Human Life?

From the Desk of 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, 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 pass by on the street, to whom we place no value on at all?

What is the value of Human Life?

I recently was sent a wonderful video in an email 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 5 years ago!)

Because I am often running around from one place to another, I don't often make the time to watch long internet videos, especially ones that are in Greek with English subtitles...but because I have such a love for this Saint, 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 evident St. Paisios's love was for every human life. During his time on Mount Athos, as well as the few times that he travelled off 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

UPCOMING THIS MONTH

1-Office closes at noon and will reopen on Wednesday, July 6th.

10- Pan-Orthodox Softball Game, 3pm

12- Parish Council Meeting

16- Jacob Bower's Open House

22- Parish Feast Day

23- Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Litija at SMM, 5:00pm

24-Parish Feast Celebration, Blessing of the Vehicles & Picnic.

30-OCPM Sunday & Going Away Party for the Hamann Family



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

"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

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Vinne</i> | <i>Ivanka</i> | <i>Samantha</i> |
| <i>Elaine</i> | <i>Dawn</i> | <i>Douglas</i> |
| <i>David</i> | <i>Jeff</i> | <i>Janice</i> |
| <i>Pat</i> | <i>Terry</i> | <i>Bryan</i> |
| <i>Michael</i> | <i>Mike</i> | <i>Wayne</i> |
| <i>Jim</i> | <i>Rich</i> | <i>Pat</i> |
| <i>Taisa</i> | <i>Harry</i> | <i>Alexandra</i> |
| <i>Mason</i> | <i>Judy</i> | <i>Janet</i> |
| <i>Theresa</i> | <i>Anthony</i> | <i>Eva</i> |
| <i>Robert</i> | <i>Dorothy</i> | |
| <i>Linda</i> | <i>Vicky</i> | |
| <i>Hudson</i> | <i>Megan</i> | |
| <i>Arminda</i> | <i>Shirley</i> | |
| <i>Mircea</i> | <i>Tinna</i> | |
| <i>Allison</i> | <i>Susan</i> | |
| <i>Steve</i> | <i>Brian</i> | |
| <i>Dimitri</i> | <i>Gloria</i> | |
| <i>Damian</i> | <i>Sophia</i> | |
| <i>Martin</i> | <i>Sharon</i> | |

Mother's With Child

- Erika*
Mia
Lauren
Matushka Kaila
Michelle
Eleni
Matushka Danielle
Elizabeth
Tricia
Renee

Catechuminate

- Scott* *Christopher*
Collin *Jacqueline*
Jaelyn *Billy*

Seminarian Families

- Deacon Alexander & Matushka Danielle Earl*

Reader Paisios, Anna, John & Theodore Hamann

Anniversary of Parish Members Departed

- 13-** *Kostas Papathanasiou*
16- *Abigail Agness Forwerck*
24- *Gabriel Beilfuss*

Recently Departed

none this month

What is the Value of Human Life? Cont.

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.

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 speaks in the epistles 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 to let our love for one another be without hypocrisy.



**PATRONAL FEAST OF
 ST. MARY MAGDALENE
 COMMEMORATED
 JULY 22**

**O' HOLY ST. MARY
 MAGDALENE PRAY UNTO
 GOD FOR US!**

Prayers for our Armed Forces

Michael Oginsky - U.S.
Stephany Bishop - U.S. Navy

Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers
Alex Suriano - Air National Guard

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

PARISH GREETERS

July 3

George & Julie Jonascu

July 10

Freida Owens

July 17

Seth & Mia Hillaker

July 24

Scott & Tina Shephard

July 31

Steve & Sue Walton

COFFEE HOUR

July 3

Ruth Karabina

July 10

Doug & Melissa Auxier

July 17

Terri Owens

July 24

Kurt & Ann Schutt

July 31

John & Kristin Wolf

BELL RINGERS

July 3

Vivian Capatina

July 10

Cindy Welch

July 17

Renea Becklehamer

July 24

Tonya Rice

July 31

Vivian Capatina

Wednesday Liturgies

Ruth Karabina

WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

BIRTHDAYS

- 1- DR. ANDY JOSEPH
- 3-JEFF BARTLEY
- 7-SCOTT SHEPHARD
- 8-VICTORIA NEWMERZYCKYJ
- 9-ANN SCHUTT & ANABELL DURAND
- 10- DAVID DAUGHERTY, ALEX BRANOFF & PEARL WHITE
- 16- DR. MELISSA ROYER
- 19- JULIE JONASCU & JOHN BARTLEY SR.
- 20- AVA ARNES
- 24-NATHANIEL AUXIER
- 25-KATHY DAMIC & JAMES LOCASCIO
- 27-KARIM WOLF
- 28-DANIEL LESHO, SERAPHIM LAZAR-WATSON
- 29-MEGAN OWENS & MIRIAM WOLF
- 31-CAROL LIZZIO

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2-CHARLES & MINKA OWENS
- 13-JOHN & KRISTIN WOLF
- 14-GEORGE & NIKI NAUM
- 25-JOHN & DR. JANET WIESE
- 28-SUBDEACON ANDREW & MEGHAN DURAND

EPISTLE READERS

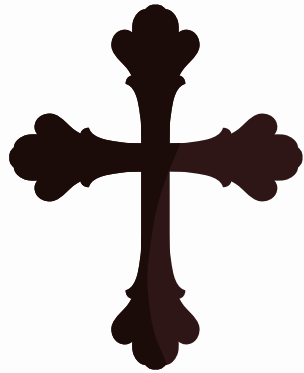
July 3
Jenni Otis
Subdeacon John Auxier

July 10
Sue Walton
Reader. Nathaniel Auxier

July 17
Reader Brian-Philip Walton
Sue Walton

July 24
Theophan Forsyth
John Wolf

July 31
Ruth Karabina
Sue Walton



SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 3
Rom 5:1-10
Matt 6:22-33

July 10
Rom 6:18-23
Matt 8:5-13

July 17
Rom 10: 1-10
Matt 8:28-9:1

July 24
Rom 12:6-14
Matt 9:1-8

July 31
Rom 15:1-7
Matt 9:27-35

YOU'RE INVITED!



Jacob Bowers
Open House

Saturday, July 16th
4-7pm

11325 Ray Rd
Gains, MI 48436

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."

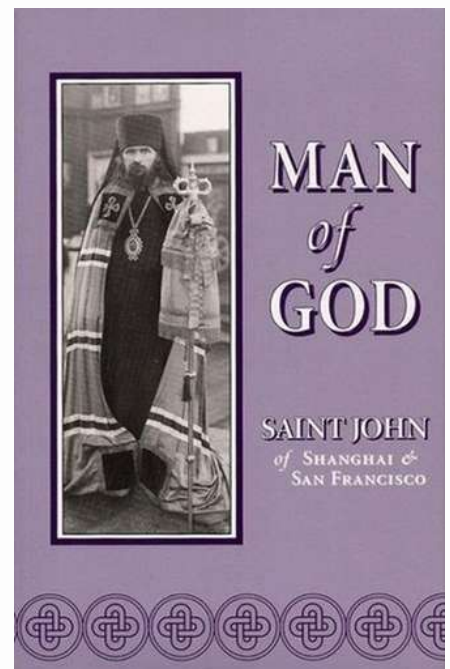
+St. John Chrysostom

RECOMMENDED READING

**MAN OF GOD: SAINT JOHN OF
SHANGHAI AND SAN
FRANCISCO**

BY PETER PREKRESTOV

The reminiscences, sermons, and testimonies of
miracles compiled in this volume reflect a
spiritual vitality so refreshingly different from
the pallid experience of today's Christianity.
Here, truly is a man of God.



MONTHLY FORECAST

Fr. Gabriel Out of Town:

Fr. Gabriel and his family will be out of town during the first week of July. Should an emergency arise, please contact Fr. Matthew at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Burton, or Fr. Joe Abud at St. George Orthodox Church in Flint.

Confession Schedule:

During the month of July, there are no regular time blocks for confessions until Saturday, July 23rd. Please reach out to Fr. Gabriel directly to make time during the week with which to come to confession!

Pan-Orthodox Softball Game:

The annual Pan-Orthodox Softball game will take place on Sunday, July 10th at 3pm. See the flyer for more information. Don't forget to sign-up if you intend on playing or spectating. We need to turn in a number for food purposes.

Jacob Bower's Open House

Jacob is inviting our entire parish family to his High School graduation open house which will take place on Saturday, July 16th from 4-7pm. He will host at his home (11325 Ray Rd Gaines, MI 48436)

All American Council in Baltimore:

Fr. Gabriel and Rdr. Greg Jannakos will be travelling to Baltimore to represent our parish family at the 20th All American Council for the Orthodox Church in America. Please keep them in your prayers! They will be traveling Friday, July 15th through Friday, July 22nd.

St. Mary Magdalene Weekend:

Due to Fr. Gabriel being out of town for our parish feast day (which is on Friday, July 22nd), we will be moving the feast and celebration to that weekend! Saturday, July 23rd we will have the Pan Orthodox Community join us for Great Vespers and Lijtia. Divine Liturgy on Sunday July 24th will be the celebration for the Parish Feast and will include our annual blessing of vehicles (and bikes, scooters or any form of transportation) and an outdoor Picnic. More details on the picnic to come. Please make sure you are available for this weekend!

OCPM Sunday:

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministries Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, July 31st. Deacon Mike will be giving us an update on this ministry in our parish. We will take up a special collection to benefit this ministry through the month of August.

Hamann Going Away Celebration:

Many of you know Reader Paisios has been blessed to attend St. Tikhon's Seminary this fall. Paisios, Anna, John and Theodore will be making the move to Pennsylvania in early August. This will be their last Sunday with our parish until they come to visit. We will have a special collection on this day to help alleviate moving/travel expenses. There will be a going away open house celebration for them on Sunday, July 31st hosted at Subdeacon John & Renee Auxier's home. See the flyer for more information and to RSVP.

Brick Fundraiser:

As you have seen in recent mailings we are holding a brick fundraiser to benefit the building fund. There is still time to order your brick! If you have any questions, please reach out to the parish office.

Parish Family Campout:

We will have a parish family campout at Groveland Oaks Campground in Holly from August 24th- August 30th. There are 20 sites available so sign up early to secure your site! RV and tents are welcome!!! If you cannot camp the entire week but still wish to join us please reach out to the parish office. The more sites we fill the cheaper to cost to all!



THE HAMANN FAMILY

Leaves for Seminary

GOING AWAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, July 31

TIME


Following Coffee Hour
Approx. 12:30pm until 7pm
Meal served around 4pm

LOCATION

Hosted by Subdeacon John &
Renee Auxier at their home
9130 Ann Maria Blvd
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

RSVP



A man in a white t-shirt and dark shorts is sitting on a camp stool on the left, playing an acoustic guitar. To his right is a green and yellow tent pitched on a grassy field. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The image has a green brushstroke overlay on the top left and a yellow brushstroke on the bottom right.

PARISH FAMILY CAMPOUT

August 24-30th
RV or Tent

**GROVELAND OAKS
CAMPGROUND**

BUILDING THE LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WOODS

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS ON THE FOUR PILLARS OF CHURCH GROWTH

What is Happening in the Pillar of Worship?

+May was a quiet month Liturgically for our parish, as we slowly transitioned to our temporary home in the multipurpose space. We have been extremely blessed to, despite it being smaller than what we are accustomed to, having a place onsite with which to continue to celebrate the Divine Liturgy during construction. Glory to God!

+Weekday Liturgies have continued to be a blessing, and have thus far been well attended! With vacations coming up in the summer, it is important for parishioners to keep an eye on the calendar to see when services are being held!

+With the purchase of a copy of the Icon of the Theotokos Pantanassa, we will be beginning a monthly akathist service for all of those afflicted with cancer and other incurable diseases. This will start off in the fall, however a web page has already been added to our site that will allow people from around the world to submit names for this monthly service. For those that are interested, you can go to <http://www.st-marymagdalene.org/prayers-for-the-sick-and-suffering>

What is Happening in the Pillar of Community?

+These past few weeks have seen many more inquirers, and several new catechumens coming into the Church. We also welcomed Tatum Alexander Jannakos to the parish, who was born just a few weeks ago!

+Attendance has continued to be steady for the summer months. Remember that if you are going out of town, please contact me so that I can find a Church for you to attend and receive the sacraments.

+I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous love that is shown by our parishioners to this Church. Each and every member of our congregation has a special role to play, and a special ministry that they need to be a part of. This past week, I was in awe of many examples of men and women coming to the Church during the week to take care of some needs at the Church. Glory to God to all those who do their part to continue to make this a special place of Worship of our Lord.

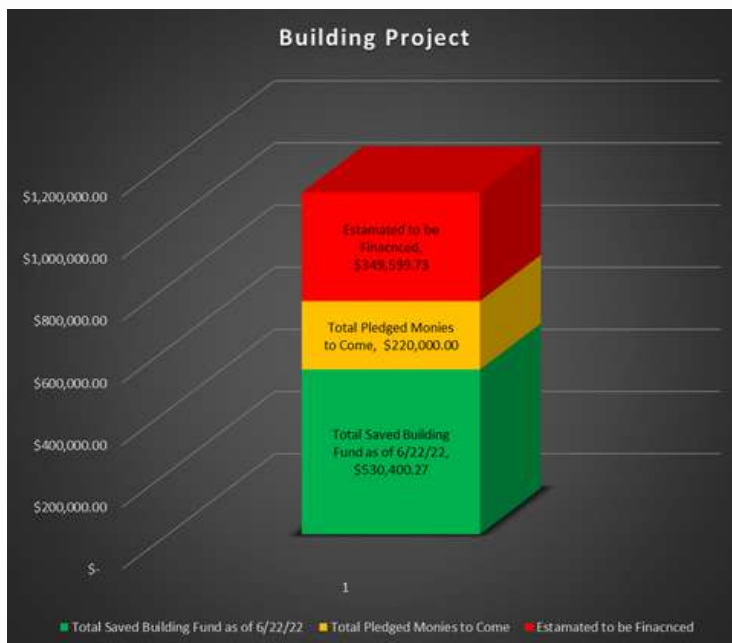
What is Happening in the Pillar of Education?

+We have officially scheduled our Metanoia classes to begin September 7th. I will be using a brand new book by Elder Cleopa of Romania to be the guide for this course, due to his heavy use of scripture in explaining the Mysteries of the Church. Even if you have taken a Metanoia class in the past, it will be worth it to re-visit!

+As there were no volunteers this year among our Pan Orthodox communities for Vacation Church School, I was delighted to hear that a small team from St. Mary Magdalene have volunteered to host a mini VCS at the campground in late August on a Saturday. More details to come on this exciting opportunity!

What is Happening in the Pillar of Stewardship?

+The Brick fundraiser was announced and sent out to everyone in Mid-June. God willing, everyone has had a chance to send their order forms back with their favorite scripture verse or saint quote! This is a wonderful opportunity to raise some money for the building fund, as well as to have a nice feature added to our construction once it is completed. Share the fundraiser with family and friends so that we can make it as successful as possible!



PAN-ORTHODOX SOFTBALL GAME

Sunday, July 10, 2022

3:00pm



Drinks and Food provided
for questions call

St. George -Host

810-732-0720

or contact your parish coordinator

GAME LOCATION

St. Pius X Catholic School
Baseball Field

(3139 Hogarth Ave
Flint, MI 48532



*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)



STUMP THE PRIEST



HAVE A QUESTION?
ASK!

Stump the Priest is an opportunity to ask the hard and challenging questions of Fr. Gabriel.

Fill out the blank sheet and simply place your question in the stump the priest container. Father Gabriel will address these questions following the Divine Services.

If you have questions that you would like to address directly or privately with Father, please email him at frgabrielsmm@gmail.com to set up at time.

PARISH LENDING LIBRARY



The parish lending has recently gone through a reorganization and added several new titles. The list of current titles will be available digitally in the coming month. Use the sign-out sheet on the white board to check out a book. Make the most of your summer!

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.



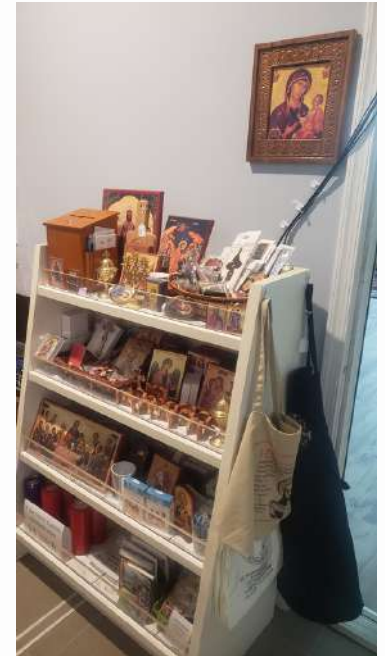
We are still here!!!!

P
A K
R I
I O
S S
H K

The Parish Kiosk was moved to the hallway in the temporary chapel. We still have a wide array of treasures available from books to home altar supplies to icons. Check it out!

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.

We Still have St. Mary Magdalene tumblers available for \$20 each!



PARISH CHOIR



There are NO rehearsals this month as Reader Gregory and Tailer settle in with the new baby.

A Simple Miracle in our Little Church in the Woods

On a daily basis, Our Lord gives us incredible assurances of His presence and Grace within us...but we are often so busy with the cares of the world that we don't recognize or acknowledge them. Occasionally however, there are some miracles that are just impossible to ignore...which brings me to a simple man named Clark.

About the time that we were moving our Church to its temporary location, I was going through some of the multitude of service books that sit on a small little shelf that is kept behind the altar. Several of the books that are not used that often could be accessed off of the internet when needed...and didn't need to take up space on my shelf.

I came across an akathist service to the Mother of God Pantanassa (Queen of All), that was written for a special miracle working icon of the Theotokos from Russia and now resides on Mt. Athos. This miraculous icon is specifically known for healing of terminal diseases such as cancer. I briefly looked at the book and put it aside, thinking that this might be something I use in the future. I didn't have to wait long until a complete stranger walked into the Church that day with his wife and daughter. His name was Clark, and he had come often to the shrine of the Theotokos that we have in the back of the property just to sit, or to fish in the river that flows behind the Church. He told me that he had been diagnosed some time ago with terminal prostate cancer, and was asking for some prayers.

We went into the Church, and began to pray from the service book that I had discovered by accident a few hours earlier. Clark, who was clearly in a lot of pain, went down on his knees in front of the icon of the Theotokos while I sang the Akathist hymns and incensed our icon of the Mother of God. After the service, full of tears of thanksgiving, he was anointed with some of the miraculous oil from the Iveron Weeping Icon that we have at the Church, and left.

Just about once a week, Clark has come in to the Church during the week to pray the Akathist with me and to be anointed. Some days he can only manage to go through part of the hymns before his pain gets to him...while other days he is able to kneel for the entire service.

On Thursday, June 23rd, I just finished the prayers for Clark, where afterwards he informed me that his PSA levels have dramatically dropped, almost to the point of normal levels. He graciously and tearfully gave thanks to the Great Physician, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and for The blessed mother's prayers...and is now in the early stages of walking the path to recovery.

I share this story this as a reminder of God's Grace which continually pours itself upon mankind. There isn't a priest alive that hasn't seen hundreds of these kinds of miracles poured out upon the faithful...and I am grateful that God revealed this assurance of His presence to me, through His servant Clark.

Glory to God for All Things!
Father Gabriel.



[HTTP://WWW.ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG/PRAYERS-FOR-THE-SICK-AND-SUFFERING](http://www.st-marymagdalene.org/prayers-for-the-sick-and-suffering)



Through Your Cross



SAVE THE DATE

Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School Day Camp

Saturday, August 27, 2022

10:30am -4:00pm

Great Vespers 5:00pm

at Groveland Oaks Campground- Holly, MI

Details & Registration TBD

Hosted by
St. Mary Magdalene Parish

*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)





SMMOY

ST. MARY MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX YOUTH

As summertime is busy for all, we will be moving our Saturday gatherings to weeknights for the remainder of the summer.

UPCOMING GATHERING

IN JULY SMMOY WILL TAKE A WORK TRIP TO
HOLY DORMITION MONASTERY

COLLEGE CORNER

PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Oliver Senter

Katerina Jonescu

Katheryn Brcic

Alexandra Kekel

Abigail Arnes

Tea Jonascu

Ethan Durand

Justin Auxier

Ava Arnes

Francis Lazar Senter





"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.

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

Wednesday, September 7th:	Introductory Class for Seekers and Catechumens
Wednesday, September 14th:	Intro. to the Holy Mysteries of Baptism & Chrismation
Wednesday, September 21st:	The Early Church's Understanding of the Eucharist
Wednesday, September 28th:	Repentance and the Mystery of Confession
Wednesday, October 5th:	The Church and the Mystery of Holy Orders & Priesthood
Wednesday, October 12th:	Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? Holy Unction
Wednesday, October 19th:	The Eternality of Marriage
Wednesday, October 26th:	Death and the Funeral Service



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE UNDERWEAR DRIVE FOR
THE FOSTER CLOSET. MANY LIVES HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY YOUR DONATIONS

UPCOMING:

JULY 31ST O.C.P.M. SUNDAY

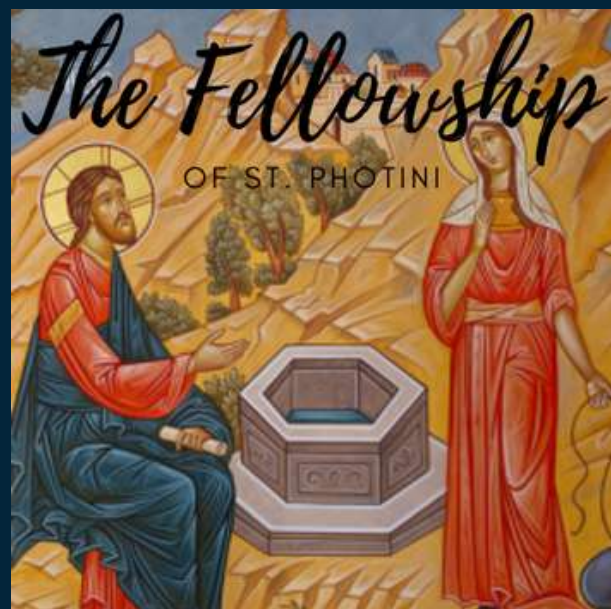
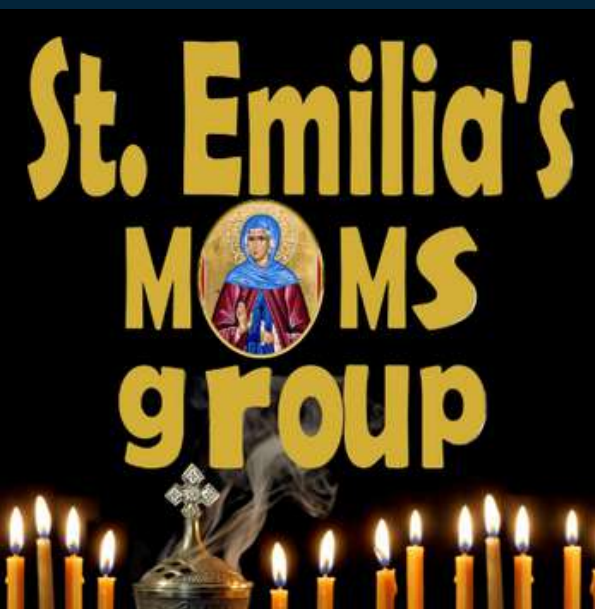
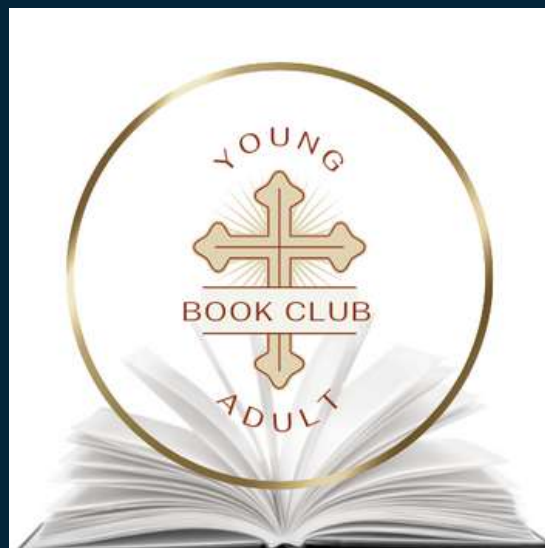
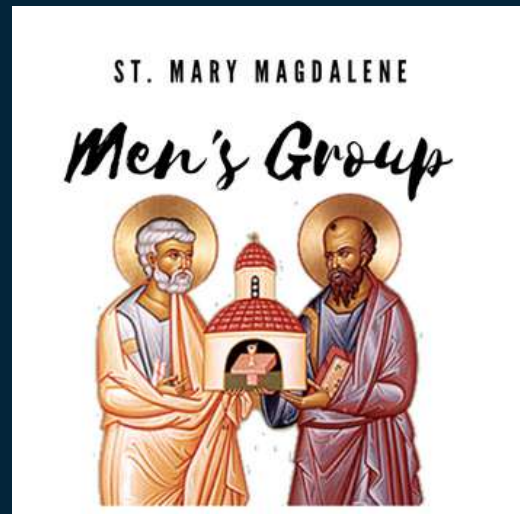
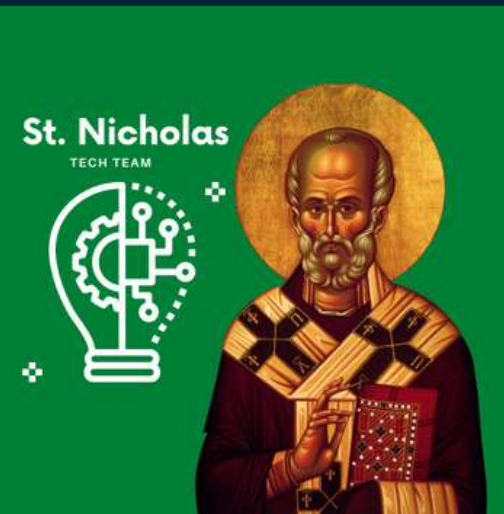
AUGUST- SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

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:

July 12th, 7:00pm

August 9th, 7:00pm

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

July 24th: Bring your won picnic lunch

August: No Agape Meal

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

October 9th: October Fest bring a dish to pass, **TBD**

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

December 11th: Agape Meal (Fasting)

December 24th: Holy Supper, **TBD**



Prayer Service for the Sick and Suffering, Especially those suffering with Cancer.

We welcome anyone who is sick or has a loved one or friend who is sick and suffering with cancer or a chronic illness to join us for this once a month prayer service. We will be offering prayers for the healing of soul and body, for compassion and for comfort to those who are fighting illness.

Please join us in person or submit your names to be read during the healing service

Beginning in October 2022
The first Tuesday of the Month
6:30pm

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church
2439 S. Long Lake Rd. Fenton, MI 48506
st-marymagdalene.org



Scan this code to submit
names for prayer or to
find more information.

save the date

AUGUST

6TH - PAN ORTHODOX LITURGY FOR TRANSFIGURATION AT ST. GEORGE

13TH - PARISH READERS CLASS

14TH & 15TH - PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY DORMITION MONASTERY

17TH - PARISH OUTING TO CEDAR POINT

24-30TH - PARISH FAMILY CAMPOUT

27TH - VCS DAY CAMP

SEPTEMBER

7TH - METANOIA BEGINS

8TH - ANNUAL PET BLESSING

11TH - CHURCH SCHOOL KICKOFF

OCTOBER

2ND - CHURCH SCHOOL ORCHARD TRIP

4TH - AKATHISTS FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING BEGIN

9TH - BEER FEST AGAPE MEAL

29TH - HISTORICAL CEMETERY BLESSING

30TH - TRUNK OR TREAT

NOVEMBER

1ST - AKATHIST FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

13TH - VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION

23RD - THANKSGIVING MOLEBIN

DECEMBER

4TH - ANNUAL MEETING

6TH - AKATHIST FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

11TH - ST. NICHOLAS VISIT

24TH - ROYAL HOURS & VIGIL

25TH - CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT THE NURSING HOME FOLLOWING LITURGY

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

LET'S GET CONNECTED!

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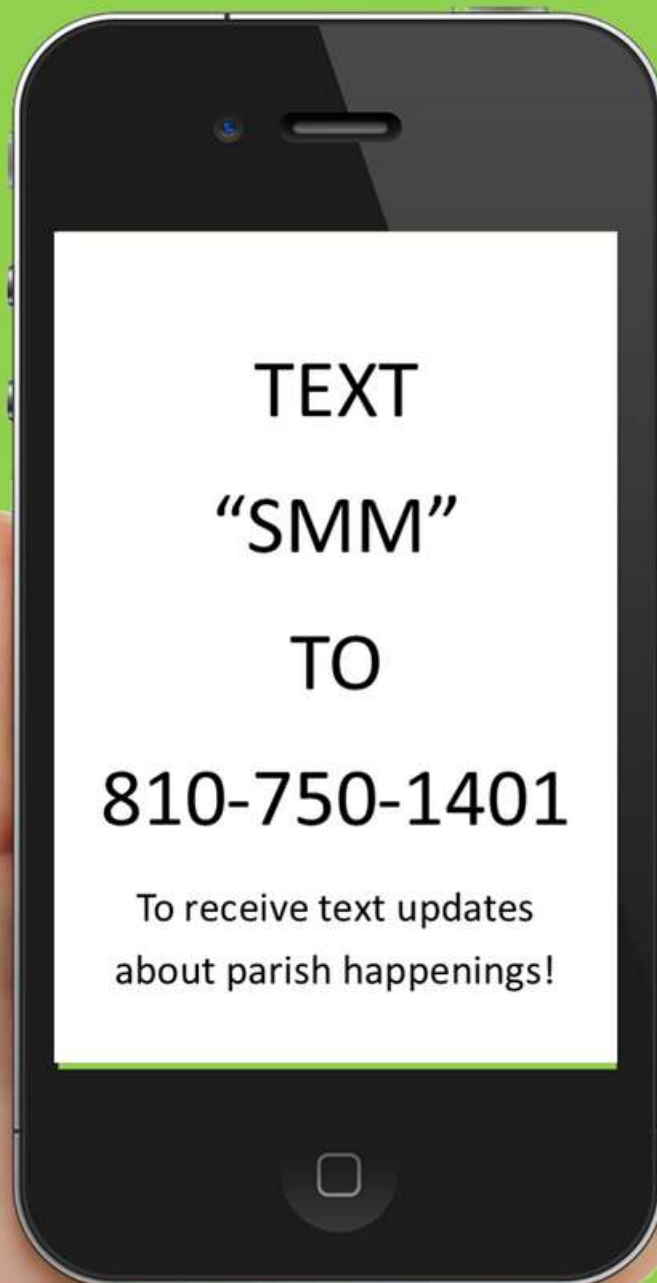
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To receive text updates
about parish happenings!



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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

