

# July 2023



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

<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

# WORSHIP WITH US!



Weekly Service Schedule\*  
Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:40am  
Saturday Vespers & Confessions, 5:00pm

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

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(810) 150-1401  
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**DONATE**



# MONTHLY FORECAST

## OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE 4TH OF JULY

The office will be closed on Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday, July 4th for the holiday.

## PARISH GROUNDS CLEAN-UP

Our monthly parish grounds clean-up will be on Sunday, July 2nd following Divine Liturgy. Bring a change of clothes and work gloves. We have wood that needs cut and split.

## PAN-ORTHODOX SOFTBALL GAME

The annual Pan-Orthodox softball game will be held on Sunday, July 9th at 3:00pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway if you would like to participate. If you don't have gear, no problem, we have extra! Reach out to Reader Chris Ballnik with questions as he is the one coordinating this year's team.

## PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE SICK & SUFFERING

Since the first Tuesday of the Month falls on the 4th of July we will shift this month's prayer service to July 11th at 6:00pm prior to the parish council meeting.

## YOUNG ADULT AKTHIST

This month's young adult Akathist and fellowship meal will be on Thursday, July 13th at 6:00pm. They will be praying the Akathist to St. Mary Magdalene in honor of our parish feast this month. The whole parish is welcome to join!

## SMMOY

This month's St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Youth teen gathering will be on Saturday, July 15th following Vespers at the Bilas home for a pool party (weather permitting) Reach out to Seth or Mia Hillaker and be sure to RSVP.

## CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

Our pastoral assistant Rebekah will be traveling the week of July 9th -15th. Due to her travel there will not be regular office hours. Please plan to make an appointment with Father Gabriel if you plan on coming to the church that week.

## PAN-ORTHODOX CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Saturday, July 22nd our community will come together for Great Vespers and Litija at 5:00pm followed by a bonfire (weather permitting)

## ST. SOPHIA'S TOT TIME

Tot time will take place each Wednesday in June beginning at 11:00am. Now that children are out of school it is open to all ages!

## PARISH PICNIC & BLESSING OF THE VEHICLES

As is our tradition at St. Mary Magdalene we will have our annual blessing of the vehicles and picnic on Sunday, July 23rd following Divine Liturgy. The parish will supply pulled pork sandwiches. We ask that you bring the rest of a picnic lunch for your family. You should also bring a picnic blanket or lawn chairs as outside seating is limited.

Also this Sunday the Church School will be hosting a free-will offering bake sale and lemonade stand. Please plan accordingly to help support our youth!

## FR. GABRIEL TRAVELING

Fr. Gabriel will be traveling to England to celebrate the Cleis Wedding from July 24th-August 3rd. May God Grant Christopher and Chloe many blessed years! Should a pastoral emergency arise during this time please contact Fr. Matthew 810-744-0070 or Fr. Joe 810-732-0720. Fr. Robert will be serving Liturgy in Fr. Gabriel's absence.

## OCPM SUNDAY

One of the ministries we are blessed to take part in is Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. This ministry's awareness Sunday is planned for July 30th. Protodeacon Mike will discuss the ministry with our parish and how you can be involved.



ANNUAL VEHICLE BLESSING  
&

**PARISH FAMILY PICNIC**  
SUNDAY, JULY 23RD

We will have our annual vehicle blessing following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 23rd. It is traditional to have your vehicles blessed on the Feast of St. Elijah who rode his fiery charriot into the heavens. St. Elijah is commemorated on July 20th. Children will bring their bikes and scooters to be blessed too. Any and all modes of transportation are welcomed!

Instead of a typical coffee hour that day we are asking each family to pack a picnic basket (Pascha Style) and bring chairs or picnic blankets to enjoy. Pulled Pork sandwiches will be provided by the parish but the rest is up to you! Please plan on staying and enjoying the fellowship.

# “TRYING TO CONTROL THE THINGS WE CANNOT CONTROL”

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GABRIEL



Last week in my travels to North Carolina, I found myself in the Liturgy at St. Basils in Wilmington, listening to what was perhaps my favorite Gospel Text of the year when our Lord is describing how the incredible the Love of God so overpowers our life, that there is nothing in this world that we should be anxious about. It is an incredible text that happens right in the middle of our Lord's famous Sermon on the mount, where Jesus reveals the heart of his teaching to the world.

The sermon on the mount begins with the beatitudes, where Jesus describes the character of His followers. He goes on to speak about how Christians are meant to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. We are responsible for irradiating the darkness in ourselves, in our families, and in the world! Like the salt that we place on our food, we are the salt that is meant to give flavor to the world!

The rest of the sermon speaks about what it means to be righteous and truly pleasing to God. Jesus teaches us how to pray, how to give alms, and how to fast. These things aren't just exterior signs that we do to show we are Christian, but rather they are actions that are meant to renovate the interior of our souls. These are the things we do that transform us into being perfect, "as our Father in heaven is perfect."

After speaking with Divine Authority on the mountain, Jesus enters Capernaum and is approached by a pagan centurion. This is a man of power and prominence! He lived in a nice house, had servants waiting on him hand and foot, and had 100 men under his command! He was given this authority by the Roman Empire, who viewed the Jews as parasites living in their midst!

Despite all of this, the Centurion was indeed a man of love. He didn't just love his wife and children, but even his slaves. When one of the servant boys became sick, the Roman humbled himself to go and plead with the lowly savior of the Jews. When Jesus said "I will come to your house", the centurion showed his humble faith by saying: "*Lord, I am not worthy...speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed*"

What a beautiful expression of faith in our Lord's Authority over our life! It can be said that even Martha and the apostles did not have the faith that this Roman had! We can recall the story of the Raising of Lazarus from the dead, when Martha said to our Lord: "*If you would have been here, my brother would not have died...but I know what you ask of the Father, He will give it to thee...*". The Roman, on the other hand, knew that Jesus did not need to ask the Father for anything. Christ marveled at his Faith because the centurion realized that Jesus is **not** the asker, He is the **doer!** He accomplishes the miracles! He accomplishes the answer to prayer! The Centurion knew Jesus would merely speak it, and it would be done. He knew that sickness, death, and sorrow were under the command of our Lord, just as the servants and soldiers were under his command. It was this humble faith in our Lord's authority over our lives...which caused Jesus to MARVEL saying: "*I have not found faith like this in all of Israel.*" .

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus spoke to us and told us to cast off our anxieties about life, because of our Lord's care and Love for His creation. Now, when reading the account of the centurion's servant, we are offered the test: **How much trust do we place in our Lord's authority in our lives?**

# “TRYING TO CONTROL THE THINGS WE CANNOT CONTROL” CONTINUED

St. Paisios of Mt Athos once said:

*“Completely have trust in God, leave everything in His hands, and believe that His love will act for your own benefit. Then God will take care of everything, because there is nothing He cannot do; everything is easy for Him. The difficult thing is for man to decide to humble himself and leave everything to God’s providence and love.”*

One of our biggest weaknesses in life is that we try to control things in which we have no power to control. This is a very serious symptom of pride. Rather than humbling ourselves and placing our lives in God’s hands, we try to control pandemics, diseases, wars, family strife, politics, and personal weaknesses. Yet here is St. Paisios echoing the words of all of the saintly men and women who had gone before him saying, *“Humble yourself like the centurion and put your trust in the Authority of God.”*

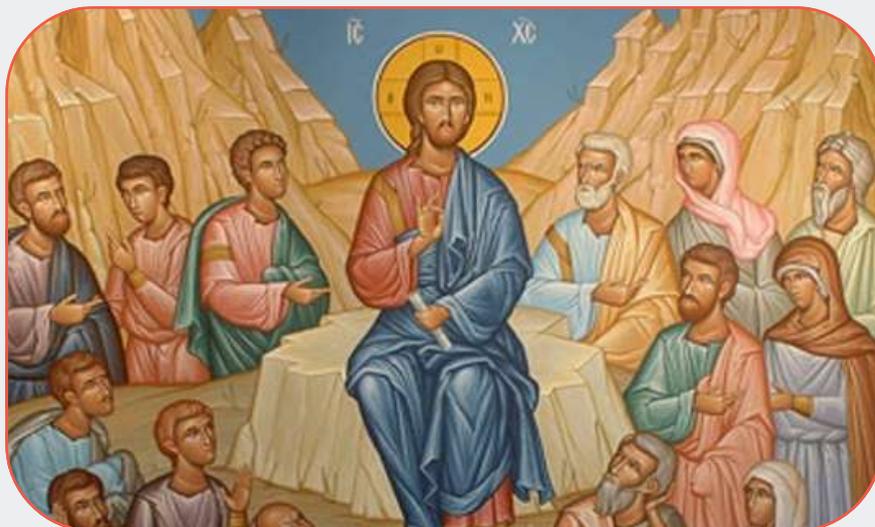
When we get sick, our first call shouldn’t be to the doctor or to the medicine cabinet. It should be a rush to our icon corners to seek guidance and healing from our Lord.

When there is internal strife in the middle of our family, parents not speaking to each other, or children acting in rebellion, we look to the examples of the Saints and ask for their intercessions to Almighty God to bring peace.

When the waves of depression and anxiety overcome us, we find refuge in the calm haven of the Church, allowing it to protect us from the waves of life that seek to topple us over.

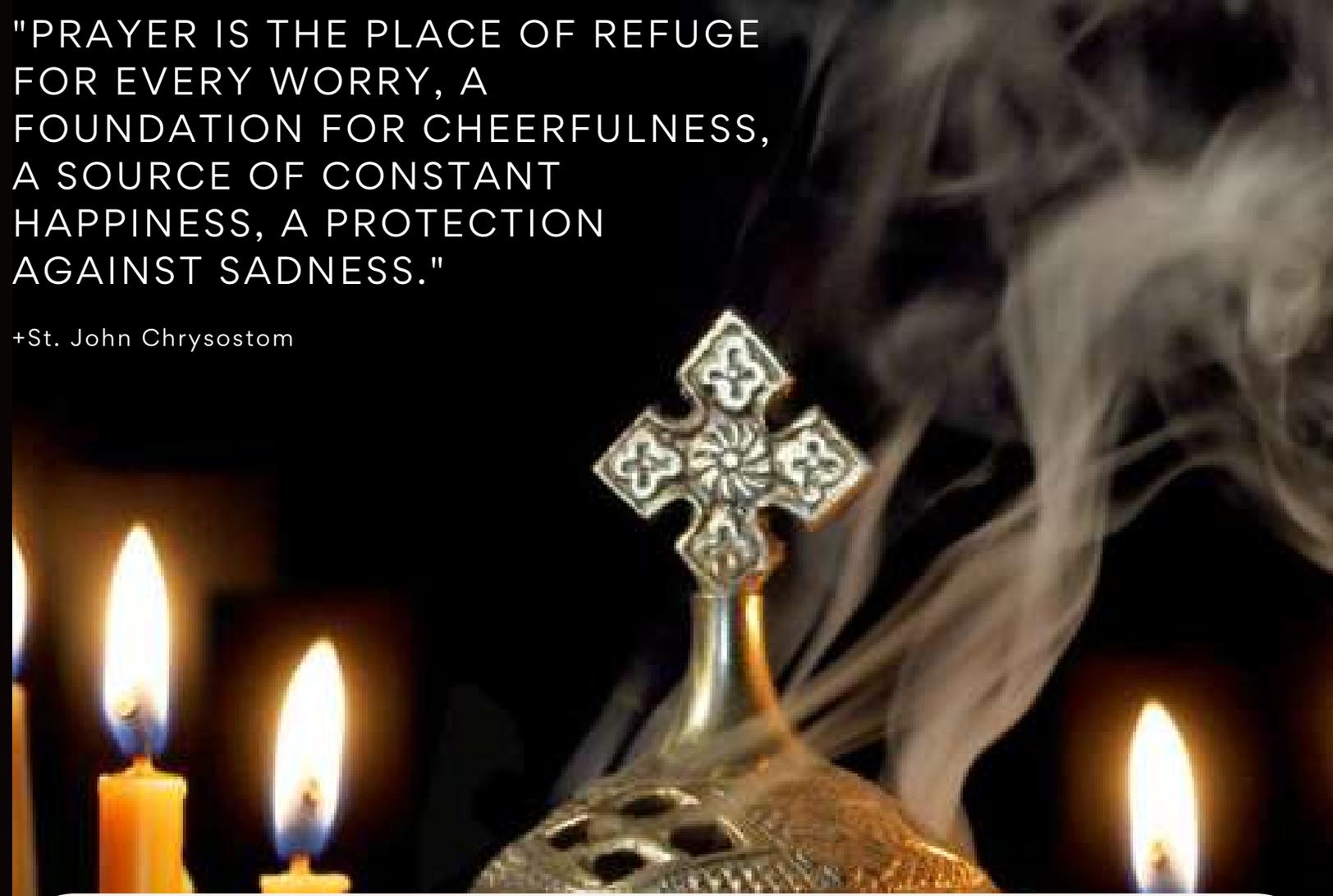
This is something that priests are blessed to see on a continual basis. A recent example is of a young man who has made a weekly visit to our little parish. After hearing that he had terminal cancer and undergoing various forms of treatment that were unsuccessful, he turned his gaze towards the Church. Every week, he comes in and we would sing the Akathist service for healing of Cancer, while he would kneel in front of the icon, sometimes in clear pain, and puts his complete trust in our Lord. It is in these moments where he found true freedom and peace. It is in these moments when he is the only one among us who is wrapped up in the world, that is seeing clearly.

Put your trust and confidence in the Lord dear ones...and God will take care of the rest!



"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\***

Archpriest	Doug
Polycarp	Rosealie
Vinne	Jim
Elaine	Nancy
David	Roxanne
Pat	Joyce
Michael	Connie
Lauren	Kendall
Mason	David
Theresa	Edward
Robert	Terri
Linda	Jim
Arminda	
Martin	
Shirley	
Nadia	
James	
Bryan	
Barbara	
Edward	
Patrick	

### **Mother's With Child**

Anastasia  
Anna  
Natania  
Dania  
Inna

### **Catechumenate**

Sarah  
Jeannie  
Monica  
Eric  
Jerry  
Landen

### **Seminarian Families**

Reader Paisios,  
Anna, John &  
Theodore Hamann

### **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**

13-Kostas Paphthnasiou  
16-Abigail Agness Forwerck  
24-Gabriel Beilfuss

### **Recently Departed**

David  
Shirley  
Shari

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



# MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH



*Recent & Upcoming  
Baptism & Chrismations*  
None this month.

### *Engagements*

Mark Foster & Katerina Jonascu  
Nick Swartz & Sarah Miller  
John Peters & Jaclyn Selewski  
William Keegan & Lauren Peters  
Christopher Cleis & Chloe Lee  
Jeff Schalk & Julia Zayan

### *Confession Schedule*

Father Gabriel will hear confessions on the following days or by appointment  
Saturday Evenings following Great Vespers  
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 first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm. Please contact the parish office to add any names to the prayer list.

### *Birthdays*

1-Dr. Andrew Joseph  
3-Jeff Bartley  
7-Scott Shephard  
8-Victoria Newmerzycky  
9-Ann Schutt  
9-Annabell Durand  
10-David Daugherty  
10-Pearl White  
19-Julie Jonascu  
19-Delia Bartley  
20-Ava Arnes  
22-Renee Auxier  
24-Nathaniel Auxier  
25-Kathy Damic  
27-Karim Wolf  
29-Miriam Wolf  
31-Carol Lizzio

### *Anniversaries*

2-Charles & Minka Owens  
13-John & Kristen Wolf  
14-George & Niki Naum  
19-Max & Dana Oginsky  
28-Sbdn Andrew & Meghan Durand

### *Weddings*

July: Christopher Cleis & Chloe Lee  
September: John Peters & Jaclyn Selewski

### *Recent Funerals*

None this month

# PARISH LIFE

THIS MONTH

## Office Closed for the 4th of July

The office will close at noon of Friday, June 30th and will reopen on Wednesday, July 5th.

**July 9:** Parish Building Project update meeting after Divine Liturgy

**July 9:** Pan-Orthodox Softball Game, 3:00pm

**July 9-15:** Office hours by appointment early as our Pastoral Assistant is out of town.

**July 11:** Prayer Service for Sick & Suffering, 6:00pm  
Parish Council to follow at 7:00pm

**July 13:** Young Adult Akathist to St. Mary Magdlene with her relics, 6:00pm followed by fellowship. All are welcome.

**July 15:** SMMOY Pool Party at Bilas Home, 6:00pm

**July 22:** Pan-Orthodox Vespers for the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene at SMM, 5:00pm followed by a bonfire.

**July 23:** Blessing of the vehicles and pack your own picnic lunch, main dish provided.

**July 24-August 3:** Father traveling overseas for the Cleis wedding.



## PARISH GREETERS

**July 2:** George & Julie Jonascu

**July 9:** Seth & Mia Hillaker

**July 16:** Freida Owens

**July 23:** Steve & Sue Walton

**July 30:** Scott & Tina Shepherd

## BELL RINGERS

**July 2:** Vivian Capatine & Tonya Rice

**July 9:** Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

**July 16:** Vivian Capatine & Tonya Rice

**July 23:** Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

**July 30:** Vivian Capatine & Tonya Rice

## COFFEE HOUR

**July 2:** George & Julie Jonascu

**July 9:** Ruth Karabina

**July 16:** Seth & Mia Hillaker

**July 23:** Picnic & Bake Sale! David & Katheryn Brcic

**July 30:** Jay & Tonya Rice

## EPISTLE READERS

**July 2:** Jennifer Otis & Seraphim Pardee

**July 9:** Sue Walton & Rdr. Nathaniel Auxier

**July 16:** Rdr Brian Philip Walton & Sue Walton

**July 23:** Ruth Karabina & John Wolf

**July 30:** Rdr Tom Chitalas & Jennifer Otis

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

# PARISH FEAST

*Pan-Orthodox Churches of Genesee County*

**THURSDAY, JULY 13TH**

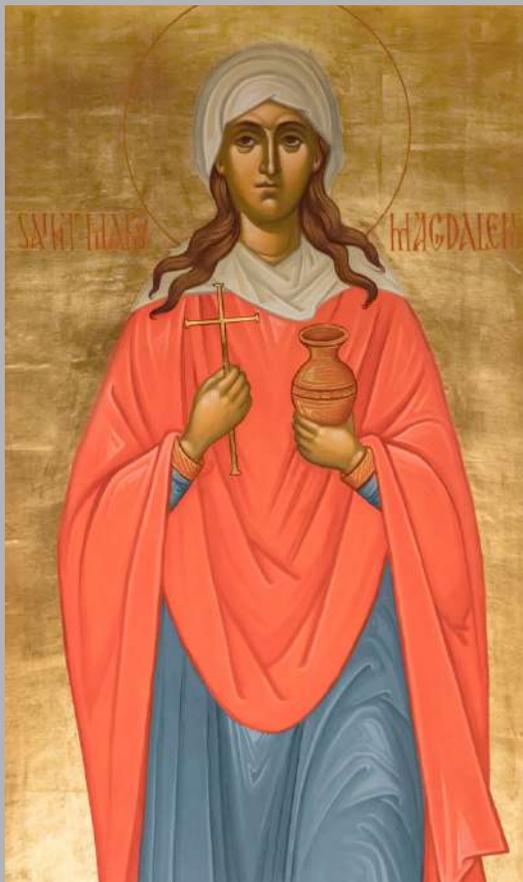
**YOUNG ADULT AKATHIST TO ST. MARY MAGDALENE,  
6:00PM FOLLOWED BY YA FELLOWSHIP**

**SATURDAY, JULY 22ND**

**VESPERS & LITIA, 5:00PM FOLLOWED BY A  
FELLOWSHIP BONFIRE**

**ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S RELICS WILL BE IN THE  
CHURCH FOR VENERATION ON BOTH DAYS**

2439 S. Long Lake Rd- Fenton, MI  
[www.st-marymagdalene.org/upcoming-events](http://www.st-marymagdalene.org/upcoming-events)



# JUNE'S PASTORAL REPORT

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## EXPANDING THE MISSION OF THE LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WOODS!

### **Worship**

- Despite the summer months, we have not seen a huge dip in attendance as of yet. Many visitors still are coming to the Church, with several becoming regulars.
- Wednesday Liturgies will continue to be offered when I am in town. There will be a lot of traveling for weddings this summer, so the weekday Liturgies will be sporadic. However, Fr. Robert Royer will cover for me for any Sundays that I will be out of town, so we will have Divine Liturgy on Sundays regardless of my busy travel schedule.
- I am grateful to the Young Adult Group for continuing the monthly Akathists that have been celebrated at our parish. This past month, we held an Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup. Next month's will be to St. Mary Magdalene (as our parish feast day is in July)

### **Community**

- St. Sophia tot time has seen regular attendance from several mothers and children. Our hope is that as the summer progresses, more of our parish children will be able to come together during the week for fellowship!
- The next Pan Orthodox Community Gathering is the Softball Game, hosted by St. Nicholas, which will take place on Sunday, July 9th.
- Plans are in the works for a Parish Feast Day Picnic on July 23rd as well as the blessing of the vehicles.

### **Education**

- Pdcn. Michael just finished a 3 week mini-series on the lives of the Holy Apostles, This class had 49 registrants between virtual and in person participation! Our prayer is that this smaller series format will increase participation in the adult education offerings here at St. Mary Magdalene. These classes are available on our YouTube Channel.
- Terri Oginsky and I have been discussing a daily Church School offering in combination with St. John Parish School here in Fenton. This summer, we will be putting together a program, as well as applying for a possible diocesan grant, to get this project underway.
- The VCS planning committee met at St. Mary Magdalene beginning of June and is working hard to develop a program. Don't forget to register your students

### **Stewardship**

- My thanks goes out to John Wolf and Brion Cooley who have been able to keep up with the mowing this summer and saving the Church a lawn cut fee. I am also grateful to the dozens of people who came for our parish grounds clean up. We got a lot accomplished and despite the construction, the grounds look beautiful as always!



# St. Mary Magdalene

## Parish Council

### Upcoming Meetings:

All Meetings begin at 7:00pm

July	11th
August	8th
September	12th
October	10th
November	14th
December	12th

Annual Meeting  
December 3, 2023

### 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:



The dome has taken its place on top of our temple.  
Glory to God!

The parish council as decided to reopen the brick fundraiser for the summer months. Be on the lookout for order forms after Pentecost. Reach out to the parish office with any questions.

Things are progressing nicely with the building project but we are in need of many hands to make some labor as minimal as possible!

- Job to be completed: Demo of the existing flooring/carpeting in the main floor of the church - the vinyl/epoxy tiling needs to be pried/scraped to expose the plywood sub-floor (I did a test portion and it comes up fairly easily with a scraper or spade shovel)
- Time frame: Monday & Tuesday (6/26 & 27) during the day and possibly Saturday 7/1 if needed. Other projects as they come up.
- Tools needed: scrapers, spade shovels, oscillating saw, wheelbarrows, and plumbing wrenches (we need to pull both upstairs toilets)

Please contact John Wolf if you are willing to help out or have any questions. I recognize that during normal business hours will be difficult for many and I'm flexible to change the time frame to evening hours if needed. Thank you in advance for your help, this will be a huge help in getting us back into the church!

## TOTAL MONEY SPENT

JANUARY 1, 2022-

JUNE 23, 2023

\$1,164,680.36

## DONATION FROM PRIVATE DONOR

\$509,925

## REMAINING FUNDS IN FLAGSTAR RESTRICTED

AS OF JUNE 23, 2023

\$89,936.45

## TOTAL FINANCED BY OCCIF FOR PROJECT COMPLETION

\$550,000

## REMAINING OCCIF BALANCE AS OF MAY 16, 2023

\$546,983.42

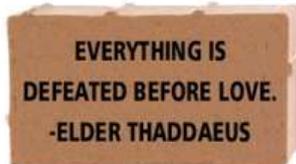
## AVERAGE MONTHLY OCCIF PAYMENT

\$3,554.23

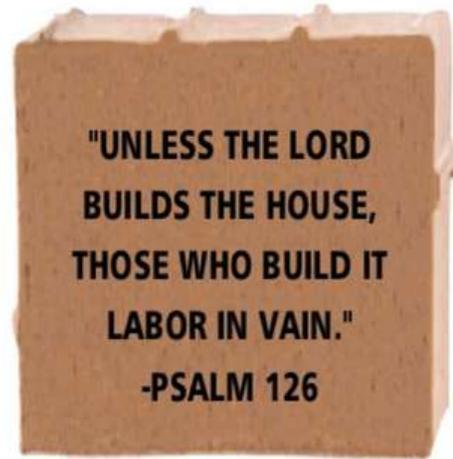
## TOTAL BUILDING FUND DONATIONS SINCE JANUARY 1, 2023

\$7,262

# BRICK FUNDRAISER



4"x8" Brick Engraved  
with your favorite scripture  
\$100 Donation



8"x8" Brick Engraved  
with your favorite scripture  
\$200 Donation

- Fill out the order form with your favorite Scripture Verse or Saint Quote. Please place your order form and payment in the basket. Attach your payment to your order form with a paper clip.
- There is an option to order a mini-replica brick keepsake for you to keep at home for an additional \$30
- If you would like to purchase a brick for someone who may not be able to afford one please write a check for the size brick you wish to donate and speak to Rebekah.
- Please distribute order forms to any business, friends or family who would also like to contribute. We can pick the quotes if they are unsure of what to write.

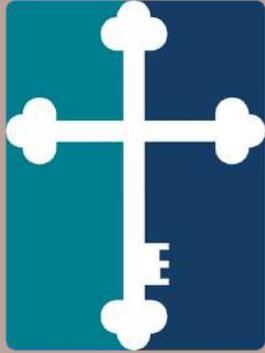
**PLEASE** if you are able fill out the handwritten form and give **cash or check** as payment rather than ordering online. We are charged PayPal fees for all online orders and that takes away from the total potential profits toward the building fund.



# FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI

Thank you for everyone who supported this year's socks and underwear drive. We will have a total count collected soon!

In July keep an eye out for Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Awareness information. If you would like to be part of this ministry please reach out to Deacon Mike!



## Orthodox Christian PRISON MINISTRY

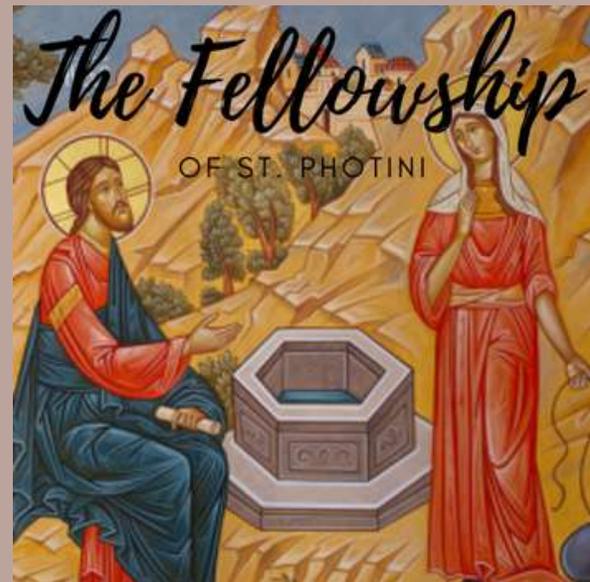
### UPCOMING

August: School Supply Drive



*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!**



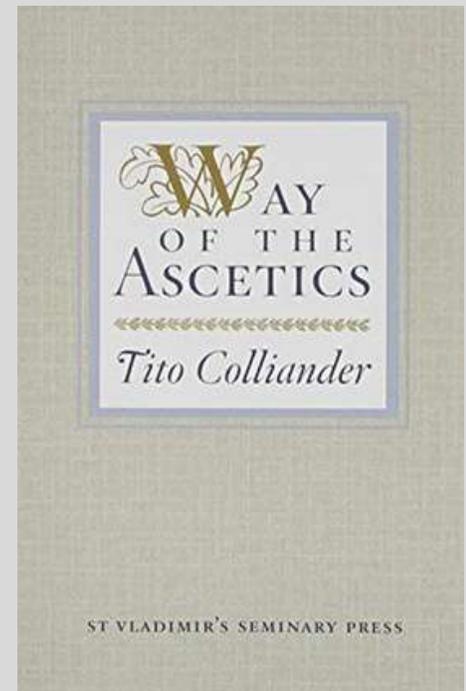
## REMEMBERING MISS. LIZ



The family of Liz Ziats has donated many of her hand crafted items to the church. We will be having a Miss Liz memorial craft sale from Sunday, July 30th through Sunday, August 13th. Proceeds will go to the building fund. Keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for more information as we get closer!

## WAY OF THE ASCETICS TITO COLLIANDER

WAY OF THE ASCETICS IS A RICH, COMPACT INTRODUCTION FOR MODERN READERS TO THE EASTERN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL TRADITION THAT HAS BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO MILLIONS FOR CENTURIES. THESE COMPASSIONATE AND INSIGHTFUL REFLECTIONS ON SELF-CONTROL AND INNER PEACE ARE MEANT TO LEAD THE READERS TO FULLER UNION WITH GOD. THE AUTHOR MAKES A GENEROUS SELECTION OF SUCCINCT YET PROFOUND EXTRACTS FROM THE SPIRITUAL FATHERS AND PROVIDES AN ILLUMINATING COMMENTARY AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR DAILY DEVOTION. HE TEMPERS AUSTERITY WITH COMMON SENSE, WARMTH, AND EVEN HUMOR, AS HE URGES US ON OUR JOURNEY TOWARD GOD. WRITTEN FOR LAYPERSONS LIVING FULLY IN THE WORLD AS MUCH AS FOR CLERGY, WAY OF THE ASCETICS IS AN EXCELLENT RESOURCE FOR DAILY MEDITATION, AUTHENTIC SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, AND A REVITALIZED RELIGIOUS LIFE.



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

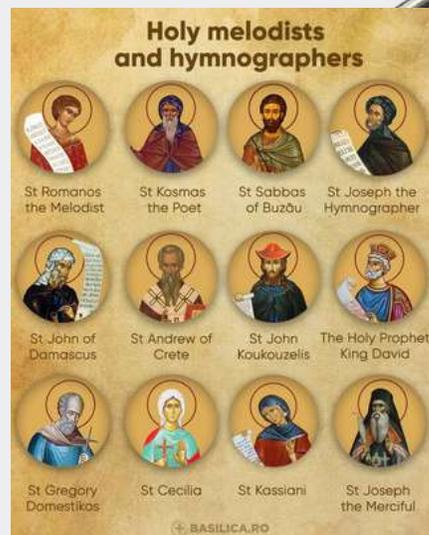
1st Sunday of the Month following Divine Liturgy

Contact Cindy Welch if you are interested in joining this ministry!

# PARISH CHOIR

There will be no regular choir rehearsals in the month of July.

If you are interested in joining the choir reach out to Reader Gregory Jannakos or Elena Schutt.



“ 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!

Hello Parents and Children! We are well into summer and hopefully enjoying this more relaxed time of the year. Before the end of the church school year, one of our students suggested a “lemonade sale” to raise money for the church. After a discussion with the students, a bake sale/lemonade sale was suggested and we need your help, dear parents.

We will hold this event on Sunday, July 23 after liturgy. The children and I are hoping each family will donate a dozen of their favorite cookies for the sale (no nuts please). The children will be helping that day. Please let me know if you will be able to donate cookies by texting (989-906-0135) or by email (toginsky@gmail.com).

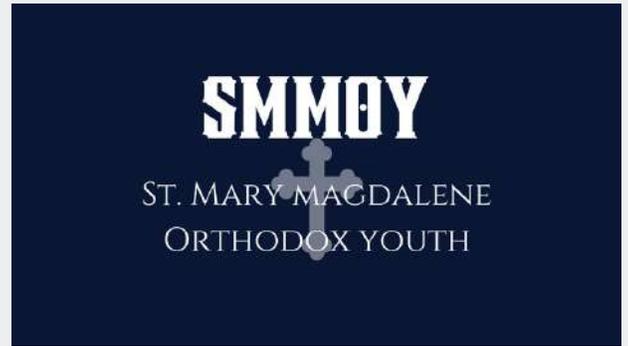
Also remember to mark your calendars for August 12. A one day Vacation Church School will take place at St. George Antiochian Church this year. Registration forms have been handed out at church and hardcopies are available.

You can also register your child online by clicking this [link](#).

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

Yours in Christ,

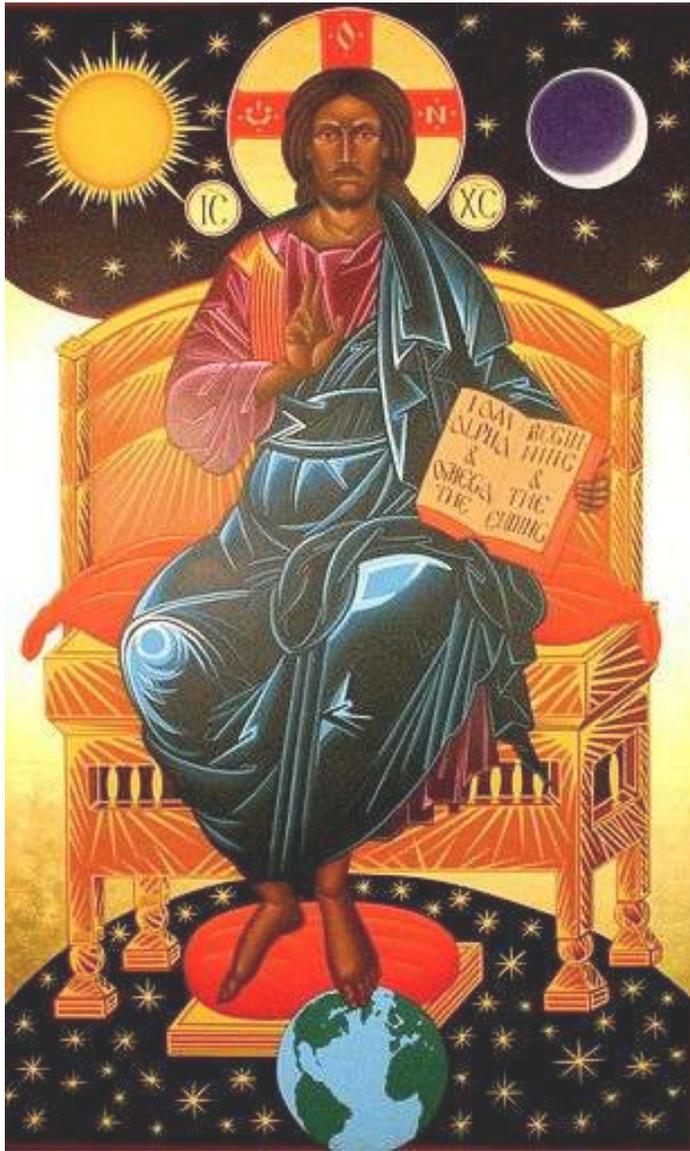
Terri Oginsky  
Church School Coordinator  
989-906-0135  
toginsky@gmail.com



### PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Katerina Jonescu  
Katheryn Brcic  
Alexandra Kekel  
Abigail Arnes  
Tea Jonascu  
Ethan Durand  
Justin Auxier  
Ava Arnes  
Francis Senter  
Eliot Senter





THE PAN-ORTHODOX  
CHURCHES OF GENESEE COUNTY  
VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

**Saturday, August 12**  
**10:00am -5:00pm**

FOLLOWED BY PAN-ORTHODOX  
VESPERS 5:00PM

HOSTED AT  
ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH  
5191 LENNON RD | FLINT 48507

# "REFLECTING THE LIGHT OF THE SON"

-Exploring the Transfiguration and the Dormition-

[SIGN UP](#)





# CHURCH SCHOOL LEMONADE STAND & BAKE SALE

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Sunday, July 23rd  
after Divine Liturgy

Before the end of the church school year, one of our students suggested a “lemonade stand” to raise money for the church. After a discussion with the students, a bake sale/lemonade sale was suggested. The students will help develop the stand and will be busy selling their wares. This will take place the same day as our parish pack your own picnic, so consider supporting our church school students for your beverages and dessert!

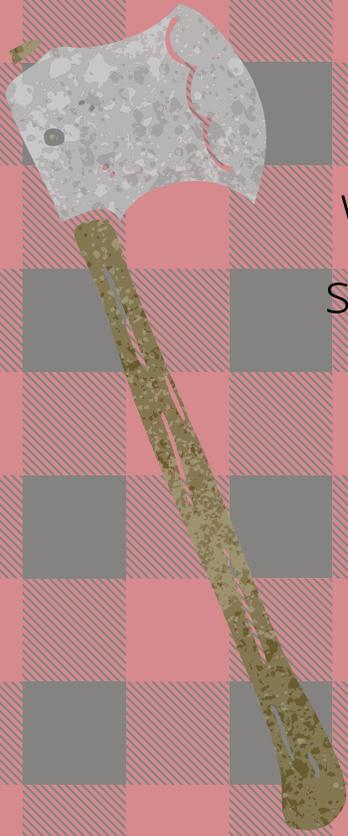


FREE -WILL  
OFFERING

# **FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FOLLOWING COFFEE HOUR**

We are looking for a strong group to help cut, split and stack some logs that are down on the property.

Please bring a change of clothes, chainsaws, axes and safety equipment.



**July 2nd  
August 6th  
September 3rd**



# YOUNG ADULTS

## BOOK CLUB AND FELLOWSHIP

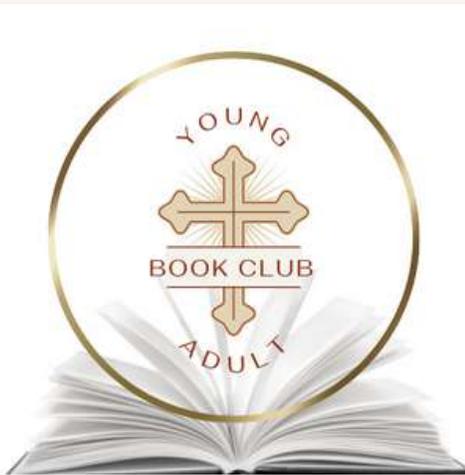
Our Young adult group is for anyone ages 21-45 who wish to join in fellowship and faith.

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

YOUNG  
ADULT  
GROUP



**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.

The Young Adult Social group meets Monthly for an Akathist, meal and fellowship. This group also spends time together following Vespers/Vigils on Saturday

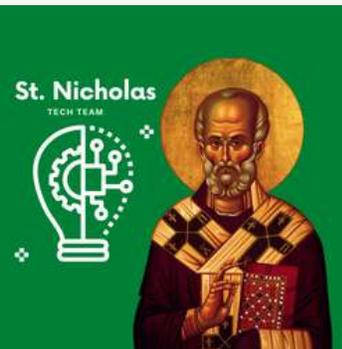
## Monthly Akathist 2023 SCHEDULE

HOSTED BY THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP

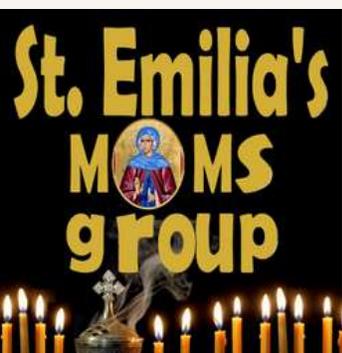
JANUARY	6:00PM
<b>12</b>	St. Seraphim of Sarov
FEBRUARY	6:00PM
<b>9</b>	St. Innocent of Irkutsk
MARCH	6:00PM
<b>9</b>	Canon of Repentance
APRIL	6:00PM
<b>6</b>	Canon of St. Mary of Egypt
MAY	6:00PM
<b>11</b>	Martyr Varus
JUNE	6:00PM
<b>8</b>	Inexhaustable Cup
JULY	6:00PM
<b>13</b>	St. Mary Magdalene
AUGUST	6:00PM
<b>10</b>	St. Joseph the Hesychast
SEPTEMBER	6:00PM
<b>21</b>	St. Iakovos of Evia
OCTOBER	6:00PM
<b>12</b>	TBD
NOVEMBER	6:00PM
<b>9</b>	TBD
DECEMBER	6:00PM
<b>14</b>	TBD

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

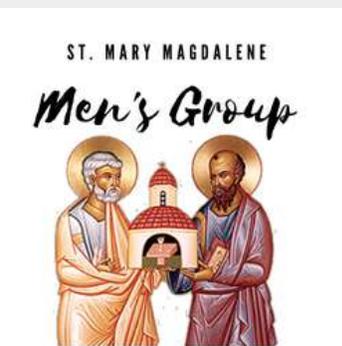
# PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS



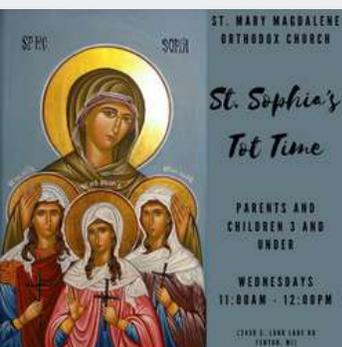
THE ST. NICHOLAS TECH TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING, UPDATING, AND ENHANCING THE ONLINE PRESENCE OF OUR PARISH. ENCOMPASSING THE WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS, AND LIVE-STREAMING SO THAT WE CAN SPREAD ORTHODOXY THROUGH MODERN COMMUNICATION CHANNELS.



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 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***

## PAN-ORTHODOX LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF STs. PETER & PAUL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28TH, 6:00PM AT ST. NICHOLAS  
(2143 S. CENTER RD | BURTON, MI 48519)

## PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB LEAD BY FR. MICHAEL BASSET

SUMMER CLUB: OUR FIRST BOOK WILL BE "THE WAY OF THE ASCETICS" BY TITO COLLIANDER. THE GROUP WILL MEET TWICE TO DISCUSS THIS BOOK. THE FIRST LIVE DISCUSSION OF THIS BOOK WILL TAKE PLACE MONDAY, JUNE 26TH, 6:00PM AT ST. GEORGE IN FLINT. THERE WILL BE A SECOND DISCUSSION OF THIS BOOK.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING PLEASE REACH OUT TO FR. MICHAEL AT  
989-624-9580 OR FRDNMIKE@GMAIL.COM

# PAN-ORTHODOX SOFTBALL GAME

Sunday, July 9, 2023  
3:00pm



Drinks and Food provided  
for questions call  
St. Nicholas -Host

810-744-0070

or contact your parish coordinator

## GAME LOCATION

St. Pius X Catholic School  
Baseball Field

(3139 Hogarth Ave  
Flint, MI 48532)



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Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan (OCW) presents

## ANNUAL OCW RETREAT

Saturday, July 22, 2023, 8:45 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
(Divine Liturgy, Memorial, and Lunch included)



### Being Married to Christ:

### Christ the Bridegroom, the Church as His Bride



*Keynote Speaker:*

**Fr. Dusan Koprivica**

St. Demetrius Orthodox Church, Jackson, MI

### The Marriage Covenant Between Jesus and the Church

*Special Guest Speaker:*

**Abbess Mother Gabriella**

Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Monastery, Rives Junction, MI

### Jesus as the Bridegroom from the Monastic Prospective

Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Monastery

3389 Rives Eaton Road

Rives Junction, MI 49277-9739

[www.dormitionmonastery.org](http://www.dormitionmonastery.org)

Mother Gabriella, Abbess

Driving Directions from the east: Take I 94 West to Exit 138-Rte. 127 North. Go approximately 7.5 miles and exit at Berry Road/Rives Junction. Turn left. Go to the end of Berry Rd. and turn right at the stop sign. Go approximately 3/10 mile. The monastery is on the left side of the road.

**Appropriate attire must be worn at all times: no shorts, revealing tops, or miniskirts. Head covering is recommended for Church.** Smoking is strictly prohibited on the monastery grounds. **Pets are not permitted.**

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY JULY 8**

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**2023 Retreat Cost: OCW Members: \$20, Non-members: \$25**

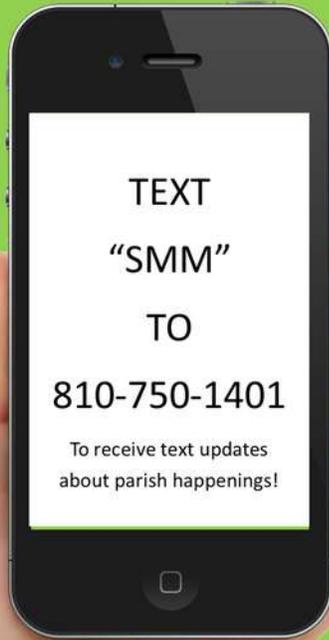
**Questions? [OCWMichigan@gmail.com](mailto:OCWMichigan@gmail.com)**

**QUESTIONS? [OCWMICHIGAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OCWMICHIGAN@GMAIL.COM)**

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



St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH



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



Follow us!



# save the date

## July

- 2-Grounds Clean-up and Wood Cutting
- 9-Pan-Orthodox Softball Game
- 13- Akathist to St Mary Magdalene
- 22- Parish Feast Day
- 23-Blessing of the Vehicles & Picnic

## August

- 6-Blessing of the Harvest
- 6-Grounds Clean-up and Wood Cutting
- 12- Vacation Church School
- 14-Matins & Lamentations
- 15-Holy Dormition Pilgrimage
- 20-Kayak & Picnic