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MONTHLY BULLETIN

JUNE 2021

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Running the Race!

A message from Fr. Gabriel

After we celebrate the feast of Pentecost later on this month (June 20th), the Church will remember how the same Holy Spirit that descended on the Apostles spread throughout the entire world, entering into the lives of Holy Men and Women who not only received the Spirit, but allowed it to champion their lives. On the last Sunday of the month, we celebrate the feast of All Saints! Baseball has Cooperstown. Football has Canton. We in the Church have the iconostasis which depicts **LIFE's** "Hall of Famers"; the Holy Saints of the World!

In the epistle for the feast of All Saints, St. Paul gives us perhaps one of my favorite images of what it means to live a saintly life. After speaking about all of the attributes and wonderful things the Saints of the Old Testament were able to do, and then going through all of the hardships that they had to endure, he says in his letter to the Hebrews: "We also, since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight... and the sin which easily ensures us. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us... looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

I was reflecting on this epistle and remembering my time on the high school track team. Although I was never very fast, one event I enjoyed more than any of the others was the 400 meter hurdles. For those who have never been to a track meet before, there is a lot of preparation that a runner has to go through before participating in a race. It starts with getting their feet into position on the blocks, spending a moment to calm their heart rate from the adrenaline, and remaining focused on the task ahead while waiting for the shot of the starting gun.

Important Dates

to Remember:

- 6/3 –Typica & Breakfast
- ⊕ 6/8—Parish Council
- 6/9—Leavetaking of Pascha Liturgy at St. Nicholas
- ⊕ 6/9 Ascension Vespers at St. Mary Magdalene
- ⊕ 6/10 Ascension Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas
- ⊕ 6/26 NO VESPERS
- ⊕ 6/27 Fellowship of St.Photini Meeting
- ⊕ 6/27 Pan-OrthodoxSoftball game
- 6/28 Pan-Orthodox
 Vesperal Liturgy for Sts.
 Peter & Paul at St.
 George

Once the race starts, the runners have a jolt of energy and adrenaline as they begin to concentrate on their form in trying to jump the hurdles that had been placed before them. Leaping off the right foot, bending your back knee just right so that it can clear the bar, and landing in a way that they don't break their stride takes a lot of practice and preparation. If by some chance they hit one of the bars or stumble, a good runner also has a short memory so that they can reset themselves for the next hurdle. While all of this is going on, the runners are surrounded on the track by crowds, their teammates, and their coaches who are cheering them on, encouraging them if they stumble, and embracing them when they finally cross the finish line!

In a very real way, as St. Paul and so many of the other Saints can attest, our spiritual life is very much like a race. It isn't one of speed, but rather one of "endurance" as we heard in the epistle. The race begins every morning when we open our eyes to a new day. We go into our prayer corners and (as St. Paul says) we "lay aside every weight", by asking forgiveness for our sins and the ways that we had fallen in the past. Then, just like when we are at the starting line, we focus our minds and our hearts on Christ, and the race that lies before us that day.

One of the morning prayers we read asks our Lord to: "Enlighten the eyes of my understanding, open my ears to receive your words...teaching me Your commandments. Help me to do Your will, to sing to you, to confess you with all my heart, and to praise Your All-Holy Name...".

Help me Lord, to allow the Holy Spirit to be my guide and my rock as I begin to tackle the day!

When the gun sounds and we leave our prayer corners, we go out into the world, and we are hit with daily tests and hurdles that we have to climb over. Whether it is a conversation or a post on social media that angers us, or a moment of greed or gluttony overcomes us, or we are hit with larger hurdles like a pandemic or political unrest, The Church, **through her Saints**, has trained us how to overcome every hurdle! There is no obstacle in life that is new or unique to our own place and time. The Saints, through the work of the Holy Spirit, offer us a chance through their lives and experience, to prepare ourselves for everything that life throws at us, if we only had the patience to listen to their coaching!



Once the day is over and we find ourselves at the finish line, we come face to face with Christ in our icon corners. In the evening prayers, there is a beautiful song of thanksgiving, thanking our Lord for allowing us to complete the race, and asking Him to **continue** to allow our hearts to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Through the Grace of the Holy Spirit, we pray that we can run an even stronger race the next day, encouraged by the loud cheers coming from the Church's Hall of Fame.

This is our life, brothers and sisters in Christ! This is the life of an Orthodox Christian! We have all received the Holy Spirit at Chrismation, and we continue to receive Him again and again when we partake of the Holy Eucharist! Among the first words we will sing after receiving Him is: "We have seen the true life...we have received the heavenly spirit...we have found the true faith....worshiping the undivided trinity who has saved us!" After every Divine Liturgy, we should be asking ourselves: "now what?" There is a temptation to move on from Church and go about our normal routine without giving a thought to the Holy Spirit that we had just received. This is an attitude that we all need to change within ourselves, if we ever hope to accomplish a successful race through life.

We have the Holy Spirit within us. If we quiet our minds to listen, it is He that guides us and gives us the endurance that is needed to conquer the day, leading us all to the footsteps of our Lord. May He enlighten our minds to this understanding and lead us on the right path, surrounded by the Saints who have already completed the race, and who continually cheer and encourage us as we jump over the difficult hurdles of life.

Month in Review

May was a month of "new beginnings" as far as the parish grounds and our expansion phases. We began the process of creating a playground and recreation space for our children near where the fire pit used to be. We also completed the required paperwork for the city for the planned addition of a multipurpose space off of the Education Center. God willing in June, we will begin to see work completed on the playground, and beginning on the new addition!

Post Paschal Sunday Feasts

Sunday, June 6th: Sunday of the Blind Man

Sunday, June 13th: Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical

Council

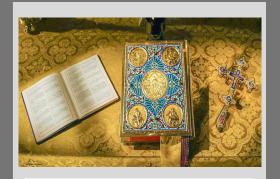
Sunday, June 20th: Holy Pentecost

Recommended Reading (Preorder Available)

"Saint Nektarios; The Saint of our Century"

by Sotos Chondropoulos

St. Nektarios was born in Silyvria of Thrace in October 1, 1846 and gave up his soul to the Lord in November 8, 1920 at an Athens hospital. His baptismal name was Anastasios; the name Nektarios was given to him when he was ordained a deacon. In 1886, after the completion of his studies, he returned to Alexandria of Egypt where he was ordained Archpriest of the Metropolis of Pentapolis. His philanthropic deeds, the love of his flock and his saintly manners that began to manifest themselves gave rise to jealousy and slander. As a result, he was expelled from Alexandria—an unjust act that caused him great suffering. He arrived in Athens where he was treated with distrust while new tribulations, sorrows, and afflictions started to invade his life. However, nothing could extinguish the fire that his burning heart had for love towards Jesus Christ and towards his fellow-men. During the last years of his life, he established the convent in Aegina, where he was also entombed. Thus, his exemplary life left an unfading mark in the twentieth century; that of humility, perseverance, wise silence, and hope. In other words, the mark of saintliness.



This Month's Sunday Scripture Readings

June 6th:

Acts 16:16-34 John 9:1-38

June 13th:

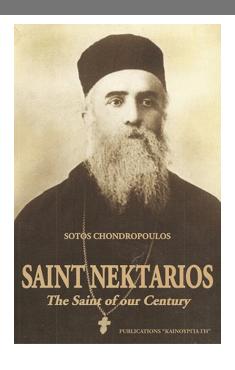
Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 John 17:1-13

June 20th:

Acts 2:1-11 John 7:37-52, 8:12

June 27th:

Hebrews 11:33-12:2 Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30



WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

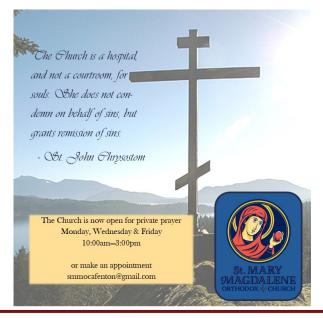
- ⊕ 5– Freida Owens
- ⊕ 6- Tonya Rice
- ⊕ 7– Dennis Kemp
- ⊕ 8– Melissa Auxier
- ⊕ 11– Erica Rice
- ⊕ 12– Stephan Owens

- ⊕ 21– Kurt Schutt
- ⊕ 24– Ethan Durand
- ⊕ 25– Stephen Bondira
- ⊕ 28 Patricia Smith
- ⊕ 30– Francis Senter

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- † 7− Terry & Freida Owens
- ⊕ 8- Brian & Tamara Arnes
- ⊕ 11– Rdr John & Renee Auxier

- ⊕ 30– Larry & Margaret Shipley



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

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

• We are looking for an individual to take on our parish lending library ministry. Please reach out to the parish office for more information!

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

Dawn

Vinnie

Eric

| |Elaine

Terry

Peter

Tracy

David

, Maurice

Michael

Anthony

Mason

Alisha

Pat

Paul

Joseph

Linda

Arminda

Dimitri

Damian

Thom

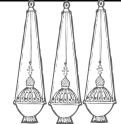
Linda

Irene

Nancy

Rachael

Ronald





Armed Forces

Matthew Beck; Air Force

Michael Oginsky; U.S.

Marines

Patrick Tejkl; U.S. Ma-

rines

Lindsey Cazatt; U.S. Navy

Stephany Bishop; U.S.

Navy

Jason Wilburn; Army

Rangers

Alex Suriano; Air National

Guard

Armed Forces Cont.

Dallas Watson; Air Force Stephen Bondaria— Coast

Guard Lieutenant Com-

mander

Sarah Tyler—U.S. Air

Force

Catechumens

Alyssa

William

Anastasia

David

Emily

Anniversary of Parish Member's Repose

3– Milan Glusica 7– John Baker

14– Anne Roldougina

18- Michael Popilchak

Mother's With Child

Anna

Christine Matushka Laura

Inna

Seminarian Family

Alexander & Danielle Earl

Recently Departed

Heidi Schlaack

Parish Greeters

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Epistle Readers

Bell Ringers

June 6th:

Steve & Sue Walton

June 13th:

George & Julie Jonascu

June 20th:

Seth & Mia Hilaker

June 27th:

Scott & Tina Shephard

June 6th:

Sbdn. Andrew & Meghan Durand

June 13th:

Doug & Joyce Ballnik

June 20th: AGAPE MEAL Please bring a dish to pass Clean-up help needed

June 27th:

Dave & Jackie Daugherty

June 6th:

Jenni Otis

Sbdn Andrew Durand

June 13th:

Sue Walton

Rdr. Nathan Auxier

June 20th:

Sbdn. Andrew Durand

Jenni Otis

June 27th:

Rdr. John Auxier Rdr. David Schutt

June 6th:

Cindy Welch

June 13th:

Renea Becklehamer

June 20th:

Tony Rice

June 27th:

Vivian Capatina

Holy Pentecost



When Orthodox Christians throughout the world come into the Church on the day of Pentecost, they are often greeted with the sight of trees and various greens decorating the icons and the rest of the temple. This would have been a normal sight to the Apostles, who were celebrating the Feast of Shavuot, where the Hebrews would bring the first fruits of the year's harvest into the temple, to offer them to God. In the Orthodox World, we continue that tradition! The trees and plants outside are in full bloom, and the landscape has changed from a dead winter wasteland to a scene that is full of life. We bring that life into the temple of God to remind us of the **new life** that sprouts within all of us on this day, when the Holy Spirit comes down upon us and changes the outlook of our lives for all eternity.

Monthly Forecast

Pan Orthodox Divine Liturgy of the Leavetaking of Holy Pascha

There will be a Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas in Burton on Wednesday, June 9th at 9:30 AM for the leavetaking of Pascha. This is the last opportunity we have to sing "Christ is Risen!" together until next year!

Christ Has Ascended in Glory!!!

We will be welcoming the Pan Orthodox community here to our parish as we celebrate the festal Vespers and Lijtia for the feast of Ascension on Wednesday, June 9th, beginning at 6:00 PM here at St. Mary Magdalene. Divine Liturgy will be held the next morning at 10:00 AM at St. Nicholas in Burton!

VCS Save the Date

St. Mary Magdalene is hosting the Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School this year. We will host on August 17–19th, details TBD. There will be a VCS planning meeting on June 12th at 3pm. Please reach out to Terri Oginsky or Matushka Laura if you are interested in helping.

Weekday Divine Liturgy Changes

June will look a bit different for weekday services. Due to the Liturgical Calendar, schedules and travel we will not have our typical Divine Liturgies on Thursday mornings. On Thursdays, June 3rd & June 17th we will have a Typica to learn new music followed by a light breakfast. On Thursday, June 10th we will come together for a Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas in Burton. There will be no services held on Thursday, June 2th as Father Gabriel will be out of town.

Sponsoring Trees for Pentecost

If you or your family are interested in purchasing a tree to plant in your yards for Holy Pentecost, please reach out to Fr. Gabriel so that we can arrange for the trees to be purchased and brought to the Church for the Holy Feast!

Holy Pentecost and Agape Meal

Great Vespers and Lijtia will be held on Saturday, June 19th for Pentecost. The Festal Divine Liturgy will be on Sunday, June 20th at the normal time of 9:50 AM. There will be an agape meal following the Divine Liturgy to honor our Fathers on Father's Day! Please bring a dish to pass!!

Fellowship of St. Photini

There will be a quick gathering following Divine Liturgy on June 27th to finalize plans for our community outreach activities in July. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Pan Orthodox Softball Game

This year's Pan Orthodox Softball Game will be on Sunday, June 27th at 3:00 PM at the St. Pius X Baseball field in Flint. There is a sign up available in the Vestibule if you are able to play!

Feast of St. Peter and Paul

The Pan Orthodox Vesperal Divine Liturgy will be held at 6:00 PM at St. George in Flint on Monday, June 28th for the feast of St. Peter and Paul.

SMM Parish Family Week

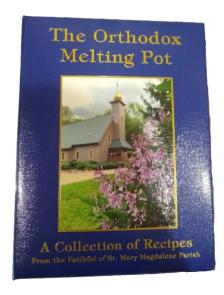
Mark your calendars NOW for our first St. Mary Magdalene Parish Family Week, which will run from Sunday, July 18th to July 25th! There are a lot of events planned for that week so mark it on your calendar so you don't miss out!

O Heavenly King,
Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
Who is everywhere-present
and fills all things:
Come and abide in us,
cleanse us from every stain,
and save our souls,
O Good One.



"The Orthodox Melting Pot"

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



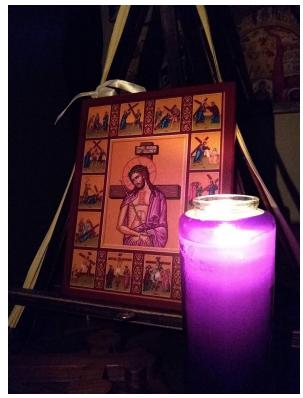
The Parish Cookbook is available for a suggested donation of \$25 each. Please use the specific envelope designated for the cookbook to make your donation. If you would like a copy shipped to you please contact the parish office.



June'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.





St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church 2021 Graduates!



Katherine Schutt University of Michigan-Flint Bachelor of Science in Public Health







Tèa Antonina Jonascu High School Graduate

Attending Spring Arbor University

Honors Program of Health and Exercise Sciences with plans to pursue a career in physical therapy.



June Church School Announcements

Mark your calendars!!!! Our parish is hosting Vacation Church School this year. The dates are August 17-19th the details are still to be determined. We need your help! If you would like to help plan or staff VCS please reach out to Terri Oginsky or Matushka Laura. There will be a VCS planning meeting on Saturday, June 12th at 3pm prior to vespers.

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.





E COLLEGE CORN

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

Oliver Lazar Senter

Elena Bucciarelli

Zachary Wilkinson

Douglas Wilkinson

Sydney Wilkinson

Katerina Jonescu

Katheryn Auxier

Alexandra Kekel

Lauren Serafimovski

Abigail Arnes

Tea Jonascu



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 Chiatalas.





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 outreach month in July. If you are interested in helping with any of our out reach please plan on attending the last planning meeting we have for these events. This will take place on Sunday, June 27th following Divine Liturgy!

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.

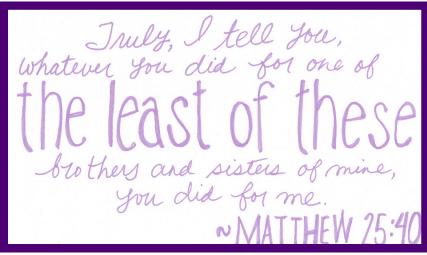
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

July 18th: Kayak Blessing and Boat Launch

July 25th: First Responder's & Vehicle Blessing

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

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.



The Pan-Orthodox Churches of Genesee County Softball Game



Drinks & Food will be provided.

For Questions call
St. George Orthodox Church –Host
810-732-0720
or contact your parish coordinator.

Sunday, June 27, 2021 3:00pm

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church2439 S. Long Lake Rd– Fenton

St. George Orthodox Church5191 Lennon Rd, - Flint

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church2143 Center Rd—Burton

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church2245 E. Baldwin Rd.—Grand Blanc

St. Pius X Catholic School Baseball Field

(3139 Hogarth Ave. Flint, MI 48532)



Lamb Cookers Workshop

JULY 3RD 10:30am - ???



If you are interested in learning on how to clean, tie and rotisserie a lamb on our amazing lamb wood burning roaster then this workshop is for you!

Reach out to Rebekah Humphreys for more information!



O Lord God of our fathers, Who commonded Thy servant O Lord God of our fathers, Who common trees for the solutional O Lord God of our fathers, Who common trees for the solutional O Lord God of our fathers, Who common trees for the solutional O Lord God of our fathers, Who common trees for the solutional O Lord God of our fathers, Who common trees for the solutional Noch to construct an ark from many trees for these boats and of the world, by Thy mighty arm, preserve these boats and of the world, by Thy mighty arm, keep in peace those that Noch to construct an arm of the world on the world on the might of the world, by Thy mighty arm, and grant that they may do so with assign to them guardian angels. Keep in peace those that assign to them guardian and sanctify all things O our God, and desire to travel in them, and grant that they may do so with assign to them guardian and sanctify all things O our God, and of the world, by Thy mighty arm, and grant that they may do so with assign to them guardian angels. To the father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now soffety. To the father, and unto ages of orges. To the father, and unto ages of orges. St. Mary Magdalane Onholder Charach-Featon, M. St. Mary Magdalane Onholder Charach-Featon, M.



ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHRUCH

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 smmocafenton@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 . 11:30 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

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

JULY 18

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

\$25 per kayak

included:
paddle
life jacket
delivery to the Church
shuttle back to the Church

Sign up by July 11th





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.

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 frgabrielsmm@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
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!