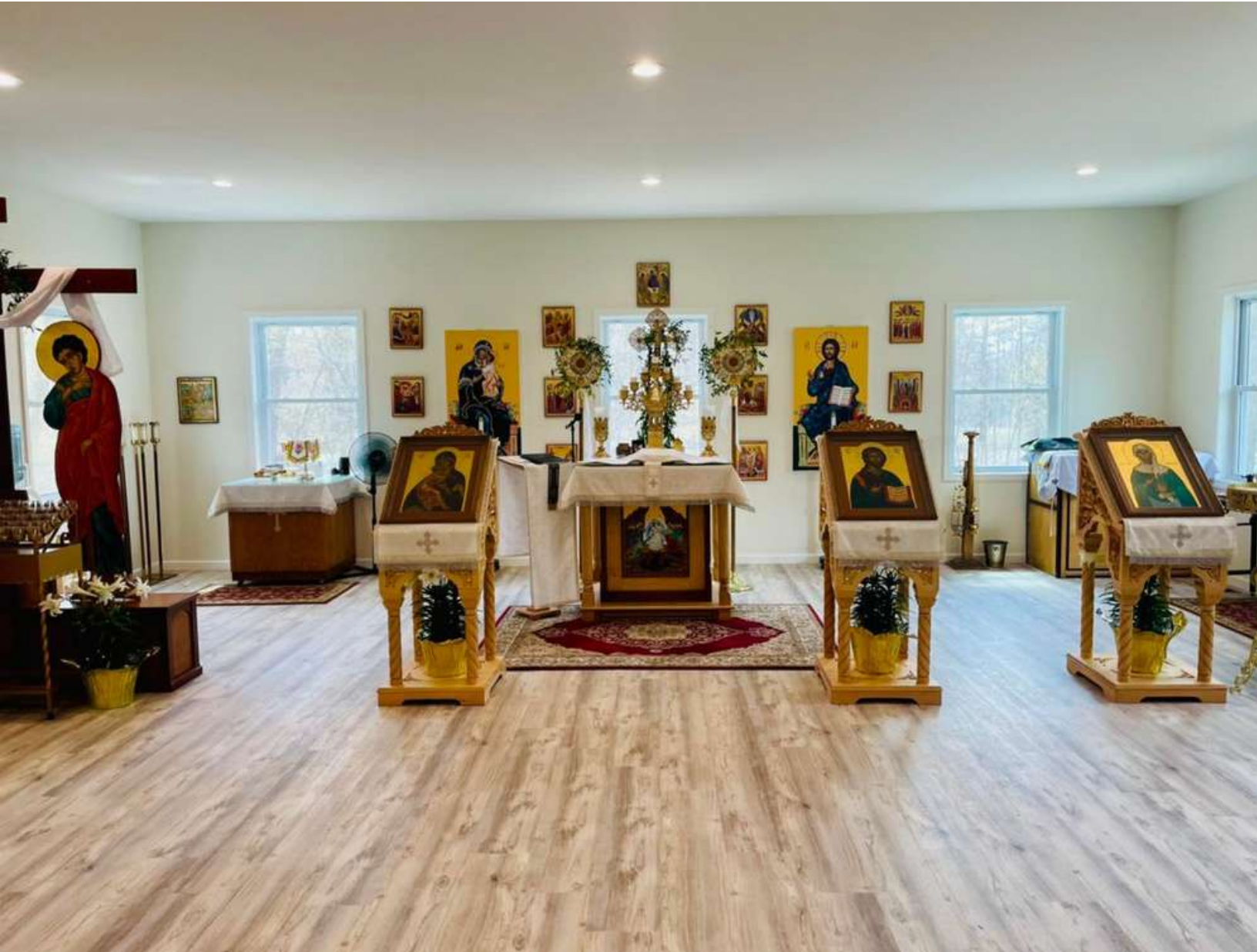


# June 2022

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



**Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector**

**Office: 810-750-1401**

**Church Email: [SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com](mailto:SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com)**

**Father's Email: [frgabrielstmm@gmail.com](mailto: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

## The Power to Do Things That Are Humanly Impossible!

From the Desk of Fr. Gabriel

There is a special prayer that all of you know by heart. It serves as a daily reminder of how big of a deal the Holy Spirit is in the life of an Orthodox Christian.

"O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who art everywhere present and fills all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life...come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls O Good one!"

This prayer is one that calls down the Holy Spirit to give us the power to accomplish what is set before us. We say it before any good work that we are about to do! It begins all of our prayers and services. We say it before meetings, before classes, and before reading scripture, because in all aspects of life, we ask the Holy Spirit to come and abide in us and give us the power to complete the things in life that without Him, are simply impossible to do!

In order for us to gain a deeper understanding of the power of which I am speaking of, I wanted to offer three real world examples of how the Holy Spirit strengthens us in ways that simply do not make sense in the secular world.

### 1.) Fear, particularly fear of death, is completely wiped away.

After the Holy Spirit descended on the Disciples, they went from hiding in an upper room, to becoming bold proclaimers of the faith. This was despite all of the Jewish leaders that were out to get them!

This boldness was just the beginning! How many men and women, whose lives we read about every day, JOYFULLY went to their deaths proclaiming the truth of Christianity to others? This doesn't make logical sense to the outside world! They would ask: "Why risk your life for faith? For a book? For a story about a Man who was born to a poor family, who supposedly performed miracles, who was accused and condemned to death, and who's body disappeared three days later?"

They did it because their Christian faith wasn't just a mental exercise, it was something that they lived. They knew it was truth because they experienced the Holy Spirit within them. They experienced what True Life was for the first time and no worldly power or thought could take that away from them.

### 2.) Praying without Ceasing

How can a person pray constantly? It's humanly impossible to do! There are so many things that require our attention and our effort in this world, how can someone, even someone who has dedicated their entire life to prayer? How can one learn to pray without ceasing?

## UPCOMING THIS MONTH

1- Pan-Orthodox Vesperal Liturgy for Holy Ascension, 6:00pm at St. George-Flint

4- Reader's Vespers , 5:00pm NO CONFESSIONS

12-Holy Pentecost Outdoor Liturgy (weather permitting) Followed by an Agape Meal. Bring a dessert to share.

13-Divine Liturgy for the Holy Spirit, 10:00am

18- SMMOY Gathering following Vespers

June 20th through 29th  
APOSTLES FAST

26-1st Annual Fellowship Golf Scramble

29- Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy for the Feats of Sts. Peter & Paul, 10:00am at St. Nicholas-Burton



St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

## The Power to Do Things That Are Humanly Impossible! cont.

There is a video I love to share with our catechumens of a Romanian Hermit who is speaking to a reporter about how to achieve prayer of the heart. He beautifully said:

"One's empowerment for prayer comes from God. It is according to God's will that it descends into one's heart. I once had prayer of the heart...and I lost it because of my unworthiness. But when you are in contact with the Holy Spirit, you just sit there...and the Holy Spirit prays for you! Just like a mill, once you put the belt on, it keeps running by itself without you.

And how do you get this to happen? Purity of heart and Humility...because exalting oneself...haughtiness, has always been repulsive to God."

If we prepare ourselves properly, the Holy Spirit can even pray for us, giving us a power that is not humanly possible!

### 3.) Learning to Love Even our Worst Enemies.

I was inspired recently while reading the life of St. Nektarios, a Bishop who lived in Greece in the 20th century, who spent a lifetime of being the victim of slander from people, even religious leaders of the time!

There was a particular story that struck me. At the end of his life, there was a certain woman whose beautiful daughter had gone to a convent that was started by St. Nektarios to become a nun. The mother was so angry with him, that she spread a horrible rumor that St. Nektarios, this saintly man who could barely walk because of many illnesses and physical ailments, had seduced this large group of women who were now living with him in this place of "ill repute" under the disguise of a monastery.

The town prosecutor stormed the monastery and burst into St. Nektarios's office and screamed: "You have made a harem here and you aren't embarrassed? Where is the well where you throw the bastards that are born from those supposedly tonsured nuns? You are a low life...and repulsive! Tell me all you have done, or I will throw you down, step on your throat, and pluck out the hairs of your beard one by one...you dirty old man!"

St. Nektarios's response? Did he offer a defense? Demand the man get out of his office? Scream and proclaim his innocence? No. Instead, he emulated the words of the prophet Isaiah when he was foretelling Jesus's response to the accusations against Him: "Like a blameless lamb...before it's shearers is dumb...so He opens not his mouth." St. Nektarios lifted up his arms in prayer while the prosecutor searched the entire monastery looking for a lie.

When that same prosecutor ended up in the hospital a few months later with gangrene, his wife came to the monastery to apologize to St. Nektarios, who then turned around and offered deep and heartfelt prayers for the torment that his persecutor was going through. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can someone respond with prayer and love towards their enemies, just like St. Nektarios had done all of his life, and that power is within us today!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Our Lord once said: "With men, these things are impossible. But with God, all things are possible." If we take a deep enough look at the lives the Saints, we can see this theme play out over and over since the beginning of time!

*"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>Dawn</i>	<i>Douglas</i>
<i>Elaine</i>	<i>Jeff</i>	<i>Janice</i>
<i>David</i>	<i>Terry</i>	<i>Bryan</i>
<i>Pat</i>	<i>Mike</i>	<i>Wayne</i>
<i>Michael</i>	<i>Rich</i>	<i>Pat</i>
<i>Jim</i>	<i>Harry</i>	
<i>Mason</i>	<i>Judy</i>	
<i>Theresa</i>	<i>Anthony</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>	
<i>Ivanka</i>	<i>Samantha</i>	

### Mother's With Child

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

### Catechumenate

*Scott  
Collin*

### Seminarian Families

*Deacon Alexander &  
Matushka Danielle Earl  
  
Reader Paisios, Anna,  
John & Theodore  
Hamann*

### Anniversary of Parish Members Departed

**3- Milan Glusica**

**7- John Baker**

**14- Anna Roldougina**

**18- Michael Popilchak**

### Recently Departed

**Metropolitan Hilarion  
Archbishop Paul**

**Prayers for our Armed Forces**

Michael Oginsky - U.S.  
Stephany Bishop - U.S. Navy  
Patrick Tejkl - U.S. Marines  
Lindsey Cazatt - U.S. Navy

Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers  
Alex Suriano - Air National Guard  
Dallas Watson - Air Force

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

**PARISH GREETERS**

**COFFEE HOUR**

**BELL RINGERS**

June 5

Freida Owens

June 5

Chris & Rachel Burtka

June 5

Vivian Capatina

June 12

Seth & Mia Hillaker

June 12

Agape Meal, bring a dessert

June 12

Cindy Welch

June 19

Scott & Tina Shephard

June 19

Doug & Joyce Ballnik

June 19

Renea Becklehamer

June 26

Steve & Sue Walton

June 26

Andrew & Meghan Durand

June 26

Tonya Rice

**WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!  
BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES**

2- THEODORE HAMMAN

5-FREIDA OWENS

6- TONYA RICE

7- DAN BARNHART & DENNIS KEMP

8- MELISSA AUXIER

16- SOPHIA SURIANO

20 - ANDY HUMPHREYS & JAQUELINE GUITERREZ

22- MICHAEL LIONAS

21- KURT SCHUTT

24- ETHAN DURAND

25- STEPHEN BONDIRA

27-REBEKAH HUMPHREYS

28- PAT SMITH

30 - FRANCIS SENTER

7- TERRY & FREIDA OWENS

8- BRIAN & TAMMY ARNES

11-SUBDEACON JOHN & RENEE AUXIER

17- DOUG & JOYCE BALLNIK

18- DAVID & CINDY WELCH

19- SUBDEACON PAUL & JEANETTE HILDRETH

26- READER GREGORY & TAILER JANNAKOS

30- LARRY & MARGARET SHIPLEY



## EPISTLE READERS

June 5  
Reader David Schutt  
Reader Tom Chiatallas

June 12 HOLY PENTECOST  
Subdeacon John Auxier  
Reader Christopher Ballnik

June 19  
Reader Nathaniel Auixer  
Reader David Schutt

June 26  
John Wolf  
Theophan Forsyth



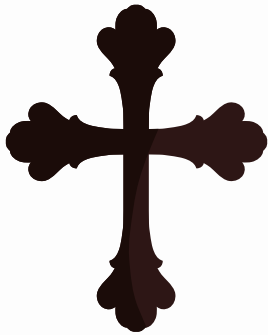
## SCRIPTURE READINGS

June 5  
Acts 20:16-18, 28-36  
John 17:1-13

June 12 HOLY PENTECOST  
Acts 2:1-11  
John 7:37-52; 8:12

June 19  
Heb. 11:33-12:2  
Matt. 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

June 26  
Rom 2:10-16  
Matt 4:18-23



# JUNE 20TH THROUGH 29TH APOSTLE'S FAST

The Apostle's fast is one of the 4 major fasting periods in the Liturgical Year. This fast is of variable length depending on the date of Pascha. It begins after the Sunday of All Saints and concludes with the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. While this fast is not as strict as Great Lent, people should still do their best to abstain from animal products. According to the Typicon: "It should be noted that in the Fast of the Holy Apostles and of the Nativity of Christ, on Tuesday and Thursday we do not eat fish, but only oil and wine. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday we eat neither oil nor wine... On Saturday and Sunday we eat fish..."



FEAST OF  
ST. PETER & PAUL  
JUNE 29TH

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

ON ACQUISITION OF THE HOLY  
SPIRIT

BY ST SERAPHIM OF SAROV

Renowned and respected as one of the wisest monks of Russia, Saint Seraphim promoted the monastic discipline within the wider context of the Christian faith. Lay persons hearing his sermons and lessons would be encouraged to contemplate their place on Earth as one of God's creatures, while practising a modest existence mindful of others.

This text encapsulates the beliefs and core teachings of St. Seraphim, including an introduction to his life and achievements and the tenets of his philosophy in faith. Famously ascetic and harsh on himself, Seraphim would often greet others with kindness and gentleness, going so far as to prostrate at their feet.

Seraphim for much of his life lived in the rugged, harsh terrain of the Russian countryside and woods; one heinous incident of his life saw thieves beat and seriously wound him, yet during their trial the monk - permanently hunchbacked from the attack - plead to the judge to have mercy on the perpetrators.

# MONTHLY FORECAST

## **Brick Fundraiser**

The parish council is excited to announce a very special way to contribute to both the building fund AND add your own personal touch to the expansion. We are asking our parishioners to pick their favorite verse from Holy Scripture or a favorite quote from a Saint and have it inscribed in a special brick that will be used to make up an inspirational wall in the new patio area. Bricks are a suggested donation of \$100 for a 4x8 or \$200 for an 8x8! See the flier in the bulletin for more details, or reach out to the parish office with further questions! There will be a physical sample available for you soon!

## **St. Photini Collection**

For the month of June the Fellowship of St. Photini will be collecting NEW boys and girls underwear for the Foster Closet of Michigan. This community partner is in desperate need of new underwear in both girls and boys cuts in sizes toddler through teen, but primarily smaller sizes. The Foster Closet of Michigan allows foster parents who are given emergency placement of children a place to come "shop" for any needs free of charge. We are also accepting cash donation to purchase ethnic hair care kits, which is another need the closet has. Each hair care kit costs approx. \$34 a piece. Please reach out to Tonya Rice with any specific questions.

## **The Feast of Ascension**

The Great Feast of Ascension will take place at St. George Antiochian Church in Flint beginning at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, June 1st. This is one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Church, so please be sure to attend! There will be no Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene that morning.

## **Spring Clean-up at Holy Dormition**

There will be a spring clean-up day on Saturday, June 4th from 10am - 4pm at Holy Dormition Monastery. All help is welcome. See the flyer below for more information.

## **Holy Pentecost Outdoor Liturgy and Agape Meal**

Weather and construction permitting, we will be celebrating the Great Feast of Pentecost at our outdoor shrine on Sunday, June 12th, beginning at 9:50 AM. There is also an Agape meal planned for this Sunday where the entire meal will be provided! Just bring a dessert to pass and share! Bring a picnic blanket or a lawn chair.

## **Divine Liturgy for the Holy Spirit (No Wednesday Liturgy on the 15th)**

On Monday, June 13th, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Holy Spirit with Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM. This will take the place of our regular Wednesday Liturgy that week.

## **SMMOY Gathering**

On Saturday, June 18th after Great Vespers, Fr. Gabriel will be meeting with the SMMOY group for a talk on overcoming depression and anxiety. All young adults are welcome to join us!

## **The Apostles Fast and the Feast of St. Peter and Paul**

This year's Apostles Fast begins on Monday, June 20th and concludes on Wednesday June 29th with Pan Orthodox Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas in Burton beginning at 10:00 AM. During this holy period, we should be fasting from meat and dairy as we focus on prayer and spiritual nourishment.

## **First Annual St. Mary Magdalene Parish Family Fellowship Golf Scramble**

On Sunday, June 26th we will tee off at 1pm for a fun golf gathering. This is NOT a fundraiser. See the flyer below for more details. The scramble will take place at Captain's Club at Woodfield. Non-golfing family and children will be hosted by Cindy Chialatas at their home. Please reach out to Tom Chialatas with any questions or to register. Deadline is June 19th.

## **Fr. Gabriel out of Town**

From July 1st to the 9th, Fr. Gabriel will be out of town on vacation. Should any pastoral emergencies arise, do not hesitate to reach out to Fr. Matthew Butrie at St. Nicholas or Fr. Joseph Abud at St. George.

## **Check the Confession Schedule Throughout the Summer!**

As there are several Church related conferences scheduled for this summer, please keep an eye on the parish calendar for Saturday Confession schedules. If you would like to have confession on a week that confessions will not be offered, please reach out to Fr. Gabriel directly to schedule something during the week.

# BUILDING THE LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WOODS

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS ON THE FOUR PILLARS OF CHURCH GROWTH

### What is Happening in the Pillar of Worship?

+Holy Week and Pascha were absolutely wonderful (as always). We had near 180 people in the Church for Pascha night, with many of them staying afterwards. Dcn. Michael was elevated to the rank of Protodeacon and Paisios Hamann was tonsured to be a reader as well.

+On St. Thomas Sunday, the Church was moved to our multipurpose space. We had many volunteers throughout the last few weeks help with organizing the sacristy area (the teen room), as well as to set up the space to be a little Church for the next 9 months or so. I am grateful to God for all those who helped to move us! It went extraordinarily well!

### What is Happening in the Pillar of Community?

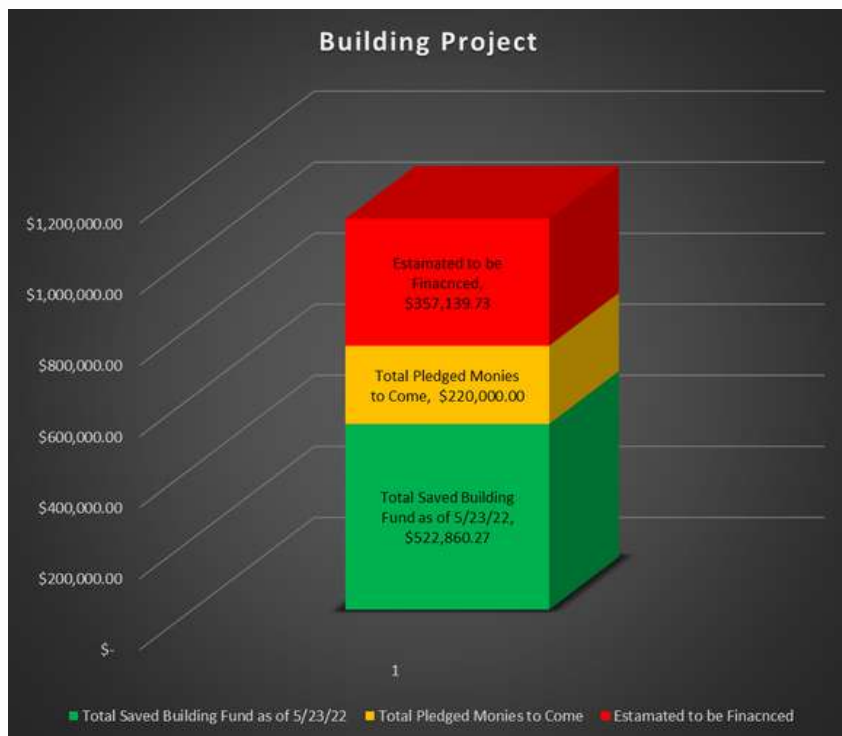
+We have continued to welcome many inquirers and visitors in our midst. By God's Grace, people continue to visit and search out the Fullness of the Christian Faith found in Orthodoxy. Our focus always needs to be not only on each other, but on those who are searching for truth! Even in our smaller worship space, we have to continue to find ways to make newcomers feel welcome and comfortable!

### What is Happening in the Pillar of Education?

+There are currently no classes being offered at SMM as our space is limited and there are also a lot of summer vacations upcoming for many in the parish. That being said, I plan on rolling out a brand new and revamped Metanoia class beginning in August, using the works of Elder Cleopa of Romania. There are also seeds of a fall course on apologetics that is currently in the works. Stay Tuned!

### What is Happening in the Pillar of Stewardship?

+We received approval for the Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund Loan for our Church this past month. That being said, we have until roughly August to collect as many funds as possible to reduce the liability the Church will have to take out to complete the expansion.



# 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](mailto:frgabrielsmm@gmail.com) to set up at time.



# PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

Take time this summer to disconnect from electronics and refocus on your edification through spiritual reading. We have several books available in our parish lending library! There are also great books in the library for our teens who will need reading during their summer vacation.

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



**P**

**NOW AVAILABLE**

**Parish Kiosk Gift Certificates**

**For purchase at any value for any occasion. See Rebekah in the parish office to purchase yours as a gift today!**

**A K**

**R I**

**I O**

**S S**

**We have hot/cold tumblers for sale for \$20 each. These are great for your summer adventures out on the boat or out in the woods!!!**

**What a great way to share your faith!**

**H K**

# UPCOMING CHOIR REHEARSALS



## Holy melodists and hymnographers



St Romanos  
the Melodist



St Kosmas  
the Poet



St Sabbas  
of Buzău



St Joseph the  
Hymnographer



St John of  
Damascus



St Andrew of  
Crete



St John  
Koukouzelis



The Holy Prophet  
King David



St Gregory  
Domestikos



St Cecilia



St Kassiani



St Joseph  
the Merciful

NO rehearsals  
this month as  
Reader  
Gregory and  
Tailer welcome  
their new baby  
into their  
family.



## THANK YOU PARENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR!

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### Tips on how to prepare your family for Liturgy

1. Practice at home - having a regular prayer rule at home is a must, not only for our own spiritual lives but for the spiritual well being of our children. Practice standing quietly in front of icons, praying the common prayers together (Creed, Lords Prayer, Hymn to the Theotokos) and lighting candles.
2. Arrive early to begin in peace- there is nothing worse then being rushed into an activity. Same is said for the Divine Services. Arriving just 10 minutes early and quietly listening to the hours being read allows your family enough time to take a communal breath and prepare to enter into the Liturgy peacefully. This allows you time to settle in. Take your children to light candles, say a prayer & venerate the icons and find a place to stand together.
3. Explain the service as you go- we have several resources for this in our parish but the best is the Divine Liturgy book for children. This is great for all levels. It has picture explanations for the young ones and age appropriate written explanations for the bigger kids. It also allows for kids that are readers to fully follow along in the Liturgy. Explain and encourage proper church behavior and etiquette. Children will be active and will move and that is okay, but remind them to be reverent and attentive.
4. Talk about Liturgy and Liturgical Life at home-DON'T LET LITURGY BE A SUNDAY ONLY THING! Talk about the liturgy often and practice with your prayer rule at home. Ask your children about their experiences at Liturgy, what they thought of the homily, what did they see, etc.



SMMOY

ST. MARY MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX YOUTH

UPCOMING  
GATHERING  
SATURDAY, JUNE  
18TH

We will soon be completing our Orthodox Board Game that the SMMOY has created! We are looking forward to playing it all together.

At our June gathering Fr. Gabriel will be discussing how to overcome depression and anxiety.

## 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



# Congratulations!

## 2022



Katherine Arnes

Katherine Maria Arnes  
University of Findlay  
College of Pharmacy  
Doctor of Pharmacy  
Residency with the V.A. Hospital



Renee & Sydney  
Wilkinson

Renee Wilkinson  
University of Michigan-Flint  
Masters of Arts  
Early Childhood Education  
  
Sydney Wilkinson  
University of Michigan -Flint  
Bachelor of Science  
Early Childhood Education



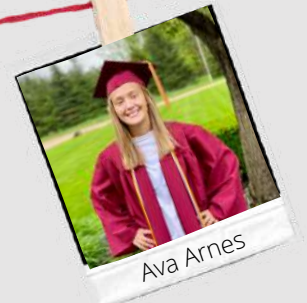
Elena Bucciarelli

Elena Bucciarelli  
Kettering University  
Bachelor of Science  
Computer Science



Francis Senter

Francis Lazar Senter  
Lake Fenton High School  
  
The University of Detroit Mercy  
Business Administration



Ava Arnes

Ava Elizabeth Arnes  
Davison High School  
  
Adrian College  
Secondary Education  
Mathematics

Jacob Bowers  
Graduating from  
Durand High School

Mary Ellen McClean  
Graduating from  
Atherton Virtual Academy



# "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:

FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE WE WILL BE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE FOSTER CLOSET OF MICHIGAN. THEY ARE IN NEED OF NEW BOYS AND GIRLS UNDERWEAR IN SIZES TODDLER THROUGH TEEN. WE WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTING CASH DONATIONS TO PURCHASE ETHNIC HAIR CARE KITS THAT ARE ALSO NEEDED. EACH HAIR CARE KIT COSTS APPROX. \$34 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR AN ENTIRE KIT.

## UPCOMING:

JULY- 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

# Collecting NEW Underwear

Sizes needed  
Toddler - Teen  
Boy and Girl

New in package

Drop off at the  
parish office through  
the Month of June

Also accepting cash  
donations



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



## Foster Closet of Michigan







FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI

# ETHNIC HAIR CARE KITS

Foster Closet of Michigan

**COST IS \$34 PER KIT  
PRODUCT RECCOMENDATION FROM  
A TRAINED ETHNIC HAIR STYLIST  
SEE TONYA RICE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

The Foster Closet of Michigan provides clothing, underclothing, toys, shoes, baby equipment, and gear and in some cases furniture to children placed in the foster care system in State of Michigan. These items are new and like new items that have been donated to them. Children are often placed in foster care with no personal items and in many cases they come into care with only the clothes on their back.

Our organization provides these kids with stylish new or like new clothes and personal items helping to begin the process of rebuilding their self-esteem and providing them with belongings they can call their own.

REGISTER ONLINE!

9TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR!



Online via Zoom!  
One Day Only!  
FRI. JUNE 17, 2022  
10:00AM - 5:00PM EDT



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
HIS GRACE,  
BISHOP DANIEL  
OF SANTA ROSA CA



ENHANCES AAC THEME:  
BECOMING VESSELS OF GRACE  
RENEWING MINISTRY IN POST-  
COVID PARISH LIFE



FREE WILL DONATION  
'BUDGET-FRIENDLY' OPTIONS,  
BRING YOUR WHOLE TEAM!  
[REGISTER ONLINE NOW!](#)

# THE ORTHODOX PARISH

as a Vessel of Ministry  
*'Increasing Our Capacity for Ministry'*

## THREE CONTENT TRACKS:

- Living Active Ministry  
- Personal, Internal, External
- Education as Ministry  
- Empowering adults and youth
- Coordinating Ministry  
- Principles, Practices, Effectiveness

### Practical Guides to help you:

- Determine** the array of ministries appropriate for your parish.
- Find and train** good ministry leaders.
- Remove obstacles** to ministry participation.
- Learn examples** and best practices of essential & unique activities.
- Renew** your ministry of education in light of new technologies and needs.

# PARISH DEVELOPMENT FORUM



## 2022 | ONLINE

FRIDAY, JUNE 17 | 10:00AM - 5:00PM EDT

Returning parishioners and newcomers yearning for expanded, updated and renewed ministries may be one of the most significant opportunities for the Church in recent years. Our 2022 theme was chosen to enhance the theme of the OCA's 20th All-American Council, *Becoming Vessels of Grace*, and to emphasize the importance of renewing ministry in post-COVID parish life.

This year's Parish Development Forum will incorporate a blend of keynote presentations and parallel breakout meetings in which attendees can choose from an array of skill building and dialogue sessions. Topics will be organized into three important content tracks: **"Leading and Coordinating Ministry"** will help parish leaders determine the array of ministries appropriate for their parish, find and build good ministry leaders, and remove obstacles to ministry participation. **"Living Active Ministry"** will help those involved in parish ministry by exploring examples and best practices of essential and unique "in-reach" and outreach activities. The third track, **"Rethinking Education As Ministry,"** will examine post-pandemic changes in religious education and ways faith can be lived in action. The role of a fully functional diaconal ministry and the need for Orthodox youth to be empowered witnesses in their communities will be explored. Full descriptions of the content tracks can be found on the [Registration Page](#).

For the past eight years this conference has attracted persons from virtually every OCA Diocese and many other Orthodox jurisdictions.

**LINKS:** [Parish Forum Web Page](#) | [Full Info w/Link to Register](#) | [Register Online Now!](#)

**'Budget Friendly' Registration!** Registration is open to clergy or lay leaders from any Orthodox jurisdiction, and includes various budget-friendly, freewill pricing options. Select the option that best fits your situation. Each attendee must register.

**Multiple Representatives Encouraged!** - Participation by multiple parish leaders will enable the parish maximum exposure to track content.

**Most sessions will be recorded.** Registered attendees will have access to recordings. | **Login credentials** will be sent to registrants a few days before the event.

Co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania, the Diocese of the Midwest and the Bulgarian Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America.

# Holy Dormition Monastery

3389 Rives Eaton Rd  
Rives Junction, MI 49277  
(517) 569-2873

## SPRING WORK DAY

**JUNE 4, 2022**

TIME: 10 AM to 4 PM

As always, there is work to be done on the monastery grounds. If possible, please come to help the Mother's and Sister's of the monastery. If you can come that day, bring a friend. Spread the word.

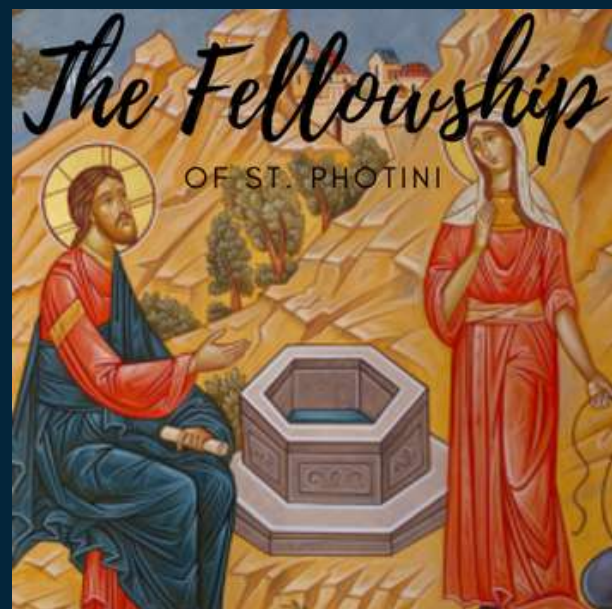
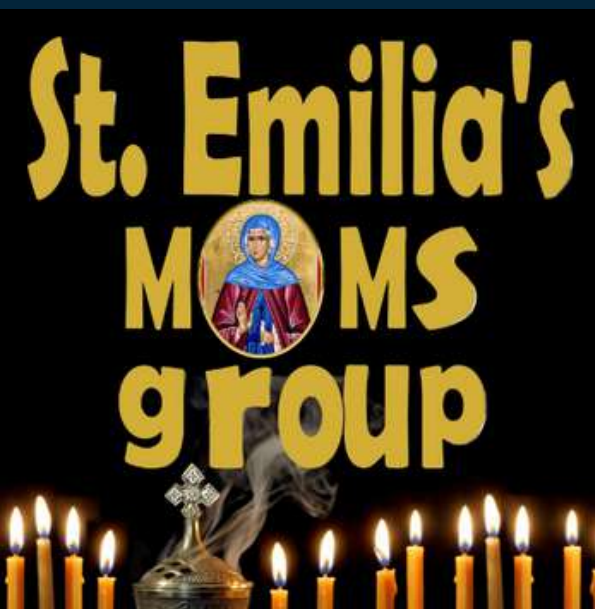
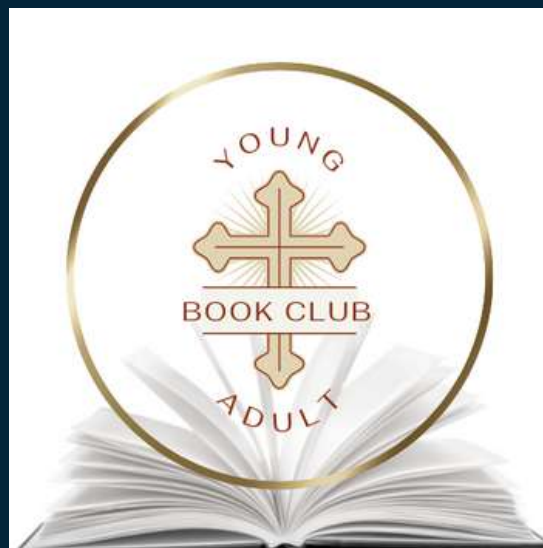
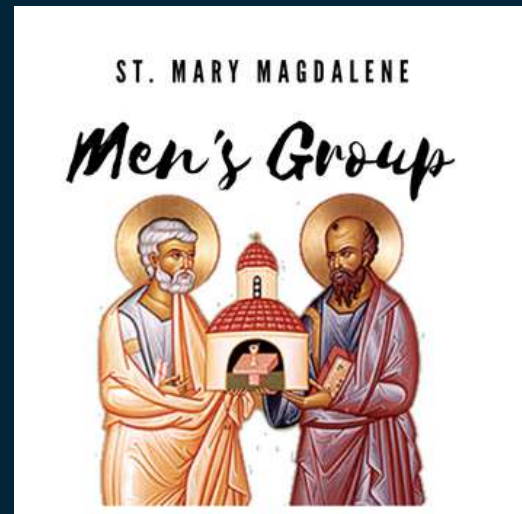
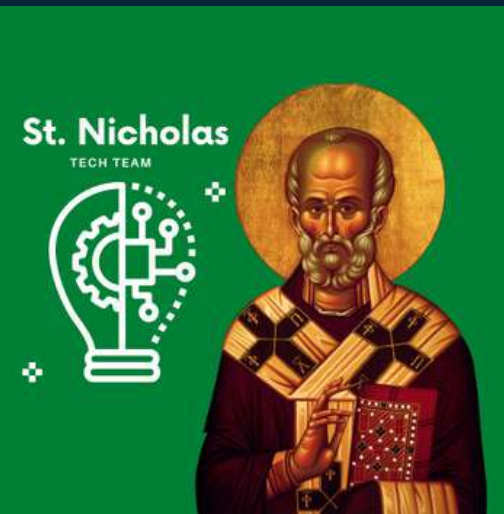
What to bring:

Tylenol, Naproxin, Water, Work gloves, and dress for the weather.

A lunch will be provided. Please notify Roxy if you are coming or how many in order for the sister's to provide ample lunch.



# PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS





**St. Mary Magdalene**

Parish Council

## Upcoming Meetings:

June 14th, 7:00pm  
July 12th, 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

**June 12th:** Holy Pentecost, bring a dessert dish to pass

**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**

# 2022 St. Mary Magdalene Family & Friends Annual Golf Scramble



St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2022**  
**1:00 Tee Times Begin**  
**\$50 per golfer**



**Captain's Club at Woodfield**

1000 Woodfield Dr. | Grand Blanc, MI 48439

**Invite Family and Friends**

**Build your own 4-some**

**Lunch and Food @ 5<sup>th</sup> Hole**

**Family Retreat & non-golfers at Chiatalas' home:**

**6404 Woodburne Ct., Grand Blanc, MI 48439**

## **REGISTRATION** *(Deadline 6/19)*

E-Mail or call Tom Chiatalas: [TChiatalas@gmail.com](mailto:TChiatalas@gmail.com) or 248.504.8828

- Player names, **GUARANTEED**
- # adults & children not golfing but staying at Chiatalas' home
- Indicate dietary needs/restrictions

**PAY GREENS FEES AT GOLF COURSE \$40**

# 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)

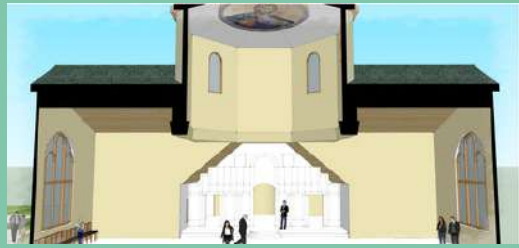
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
(2143 S Center Rd Burton, MI)







Outdoors from the front of the building.



The inside of the Sanctuary.



Outdoors from the back of the building.



"Look down from Heaven of God and Behold, and Visit this Vineyard which You have planted with Your right hand, and establish it!"

### CONNECT WITH US

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church  
2439 S. Long Lake Rd  
Fenton, MI 48430  
810-750-1401  
smmocafernton@gmail.com  
st-marymagdalene.org



St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## WE BREAK GROUND THIS MAY!!!!



## EXPANDING THE MISSION

By the Grace of God, since the founding of the mission in 2002, our Lord has indeed allowed tremendous growth to our little parish in the woods. The time has now come, as was the hope of our founding members, to complete the expansion of our Church Temple in order to accommodate an ever growing parish family!

## WORSHIPING IN THE CENTER OF THE CROSS

Beginning in 2019, the parish began to make plans for a future expansion with the goal of doubling the size of our current worship space, while still maintaining the "Little" Church feel by keeping the faithful in close proximity to the altar. The expansion calls for each side of the existing temple to extend out into the shape of a cross, leaving us to worship in the very center of the cross which is where Christians belong!



## WINDOWS INTO THE PAST

Along with the new additions, we have been given the blessing to acquire the stain-glass icon windows from St. Tikhon's Monastery, the oldest Orthodox Monastery in the country, thus tying a small piece of History from the Orthodox Church in America to our little parish in the woods.

## A TREMENDOUS BLESSING

We have received a commitment from a private donor who has offered to match any donation dollar for dollar, up to \$500,000! If God so wills that we are able to make the most of this incredible gift, we should be able to cover the cost of the expansion without the need of a mortgage!

**If you would like to help take advantage of this blessing, checks can be made out to St. Mary Magdalene with the memo "Building Fund".**

## HOW CAN YOU HELP FULFILL THE MISSION?

The first and most important thing that all of us can do is to pray, by adding this prayer to your daily intentions:

"O Lord our God, we ask that you bless the good intentions and works of the faithful of St. Mary Magdalene parish, and by the Grace Guidance, and indwelling of the Most Holy Good and Life Creating Spirit, allow it to build up it's Holy Community to Your Glory. For unto You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen!"

How can you help?

1. Like and share our social posts to spread awareness
2. Keep us in your prayers as we embark on this new mission.
3. Give as you are able, remember we have a matching donor that will meet dollar for dollar up to \$500,000 so no amount of giving is too small!

How to give.

1. Checks can be made payable to St. Mary Magdalene with "building fund" in the memo line and mailed to St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church 2439 S. Long Lake Rd - Fenton, MI 48430
2. Visit our website at <http://www.st-marymagdalene.org> and click the donate button on the bottom right hand side of the page
3. Cash can be dropped at the Parish Office Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 10am & 3pm or by appointment.
4. The parish also has options available for investment transfers of appreciated stocks, bonds and mutual funds. For more information on this option call the parish office at 810-750-1401.

# 19th Annual Elias D. Chinonis

## Golf Classic

August 22, 2022  
at Pine Knob Golf Course



5580 Waldon Road • Clarkston, MI 48348

\$130 per Golfer • Registration 8:00 AM • **NEW:** 10:30 AM Shotgun Start

• Breakfast Buffet starting at 8:30 AM

Join us after golf for: Dinner Buffet/Cash Bar/Prizes & Raffles

More Info: John Kaloydis • 810-922-2047 • jekaloydis@comcast.net

RETURN BOTTOM PORTION

### SPONSORSHIPS

■ \$1000

■ \$500

■ \$150

■ \$50



Gold Sponsor

Silver Sponsor

Bronze Sponsor

Dinner Only

Other

Includes 2 T box signs and 4 golfers

Includes 1T box sign and 2 golfers

includes 1T box sign

All sponsors receive numerous recognition and flyer placements.

Wording for Sponsorship: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Foursome: Name & Phone

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

***Please Return by: August 1, 2022***

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

2245 E. Baldwin Road • Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Attn: John Kaloydis • 810-922-2047 • jekaloydis@comcast.net



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church • Grand Blanc

# ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

## LET'S GET CONNECTED!

Follow us!



@StMaryMagdaleneOrthodoxChurch



@ocasmm



@ocasmm



[youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene](https://youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene)

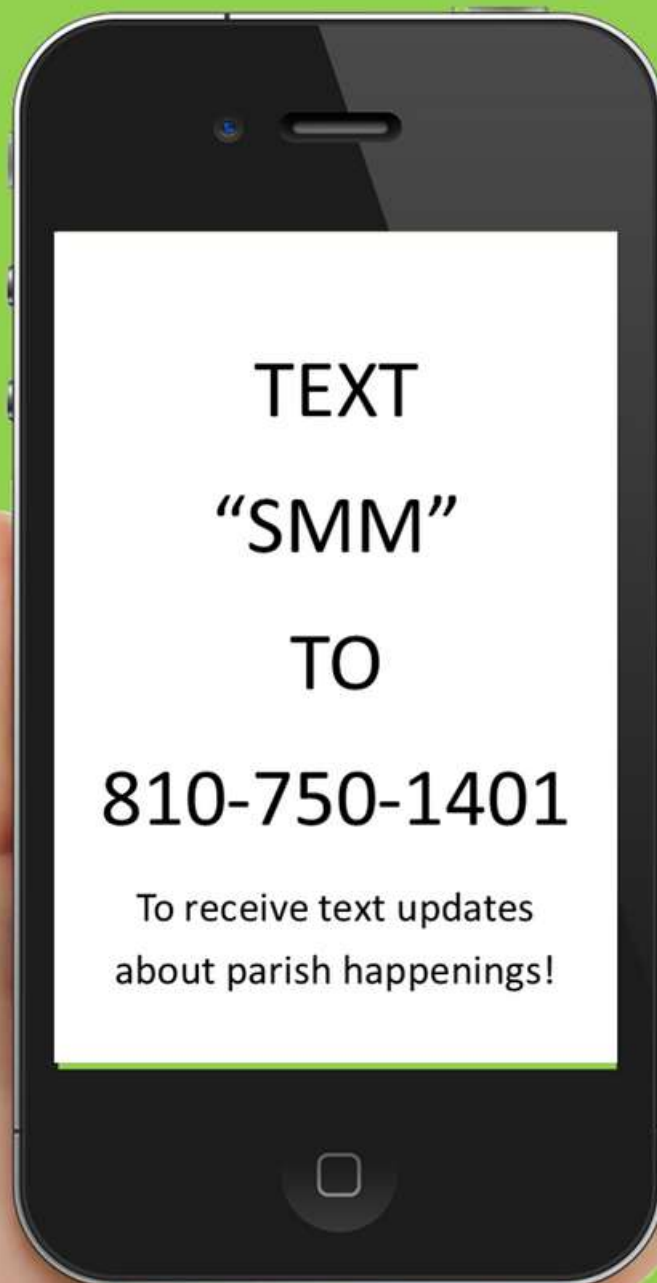
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# Stay up-to-date with St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH



TEXT

"SMM"

TO

810-750-1401

To receive text updates  
about parish happenings!



St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

