



# St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

*March 2021*

**Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector**

Office: 810-750-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielmmm@gmail.com

2439 S. Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

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

Office Hours\*:

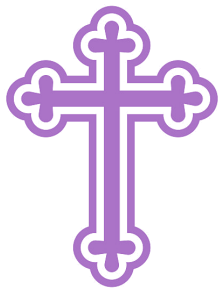
Monday 10:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm

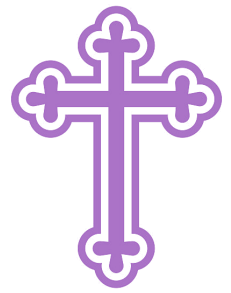
Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

\*or by appointment





# St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH



Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-720-1401

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## MONTHLY BULLETIN MARCH 2021

### Important Dates to Remember:

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- ✙ 3/6- Pan-Orthodox Retreat at St. George or Zoom
- ✙ 3/7- Fellowship of St. Photini Meeting
- ✙ 3/9- Parish Council Meeting
- ✙ 3/14- Forgiveness Sunday
- ✙ 3/15-3/18- Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
- ✙ 3/19- First Presanctified Liturgy
- ✙ 3/21- Sunday of Orthodoxy with procession of icons
- ✙ 3/24- Pan-Orthodox Presanctified @SMM
- ✙ 3/25- Pan-Orthodox Liturgy for the Annunciation, 10am @ Holy Assumption
- ✙ 3/27- Soul Saturday Panaxida

## Call Me Back to Eden!

A message from Fr. Gabriel

This month, we begin our incredible journey through Great Lent...and I can tell you that I am probably more excited for this year's journey more than I have ever been. After feeling like we were missing out a bit last year, every one of us is in need of the prescription of Lent that the Church gives us to weed out our selfish wants and desires...and to once again focus on our relationship with God.

The beginning of Great Lent starts off where it will eventually end...at the foot of the Cross which we will bring out to the center of the Church on Forgiveness Sunday. The entire congregation will have the chance to venerate the feet of our Lord, while gazing in wonder at the incredible love that God has for mankind.

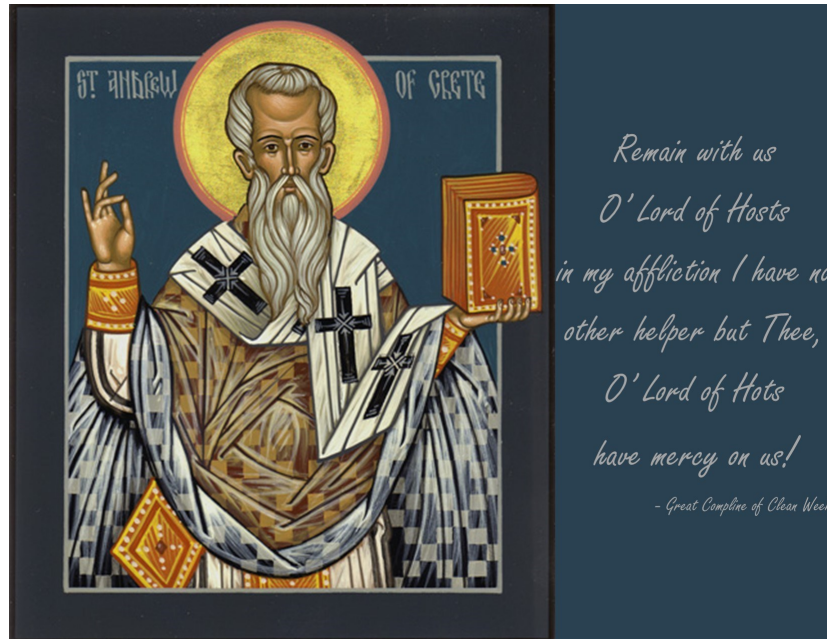
Beginning that Sunday of March 14<sup>th</sup> (*mark your calendars before you read the next sentence*) we will all take the place of Adam and Eve...walking in the Garden of Eden...weeping at what we as Human Beings have become, because we have put ourselves, our own wants, and our own desires above God. We have been inundated with "Philativa" (an excessive love of ourselves) while putting God and our neighbors second. We have seen throughout our entire lives what happens to the world when humanity does this. In the Matins service for the Saturday before Lent, we hear the incredible sadness of the first human being Adam, **who after casting himself out of paradise**, cried out:

*"Woe is me, for the serpent has deprived me of my boldness before God, and through eating from the tree, I have become an exile from the joy of paradise!" Woe is me! No more can I endure the shame! I was once king of all God's creatures upon the earth, and have now become a prisoner, led astray by evil council. I who was once clothed in the glory of immortality, must now as one condemned to die, wrap myself miserably in the skins of mortality. Woe is me! Who will share my sorrow with me? O Lord who loves mankind, Who has fashioned me from the earth and art clothed with compassion...call me back from the bondage of the enemy, and save me."*

What is Great Lent, brothers and sisters? It is our calling **back** from the enslavement of our passions, our wants, and our desires. It is about purging ALL of those things that lead us to forget **WHO WE ARE...WHAT WE WERE MEANT TO DO...AND WHERE WE ARE CALLED TO BE.**

March 14<sup>th</sup>...The church invites us to begin our journey back, all of the while repeating those words that we hear Adam say in Great Vespers the night before: *"O Lord...call me back to Eden."*

I ask for your forgiveness for any way that I might have offended you...whether voluntary or involuntary...whether in knowledge or in ignorance...and I ask that you pray not only for me, but for the rest of your brothers and sisters, as we journey together towards Golgotha and the Holy Pascha.



## ORTHODOX BOOT CAMP: THE HARDEST WEEK OF THE YEAR

Every year around this time, I like to reminisce about my time at St. Tikhon's Seminary, which was attached to the oldest Orthodox Monastery in our relatively young country. It was during the first week of lent, often called "Clean Week", where we would exchange all of our academic classes and mental work for the much more difficult and demanding work of purifying the heart.

Services would begin hours before the sun would rise and go for several hours in the dark. We would take a short break for an hour or so, and then head back to the Church for another few hours of services, before departing for the afternoon for some quiet reflection. Then, early in the evening, we would return for the Compline service and to hear the famous canon of St. Andrew of Crete, before going to bed and restarting the whole process over the next day.

As any seminarian can attest, you start out on clean week with a rush of adrenaline. Lent is here! The hymns have that familiar somber tone, and your heart knows that Pascha is on it's way! Many of us would even wake up a half hour early and go into the Church before the marathon of services even began, just to quiet our hearts! Then, after about Tuesday, the adrenaline wore off, and we were just happy to make it to Church on time. By Thursday, some of the seminarians would arrive around 5:45 AM instead of the 5:30 AM start time...perhaps pushing snooze one too many times. On Friday, after spending an exhausting week at the Monastery Church, we were nourished and enriched with the Eucharist at the first Presanctified Liturgy...and left with an incredible feeling of Grace and Preparation for the march towards golgatha that was to come.

Clean week in the Orthodox Church is incredible, beautiful, somber, enlightening, exhausting, and tiring all at the same time. On top of the services that are sharpening our hearts, we begin our strict fasting that first week, which also causes our bodies to feel a bit weaker as they adjust to the new period. Despite all of this, truthfully, there is no better way to start off a spiritual journey than by participating in Clean Week as fully as we possibly can.

Our little Church in the woods is not a monastery, and we do not do nearly the amount of services that you would see at a monastery...but we do offer a very rich and full week of spiritual pruning through the services that are held every day. Beginning on Monday, we have a beautiful Matins service in the morning beginning at 9:00 AM...the perfect start to the week. That evening, and every evening for the rest of the week, we participate in the Compline Service with the Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete. On Friday, we get that same nourishment from the Holy Gifts that the seminarians and monastics so desperately need after a long week of purification. Participating in Orthodox Clean Week is hard...it is difficult...but it is also absolutely necessary in the life of an Orthodox Christian. I cannot wait to experience it with the rest of you!

## Month in Review

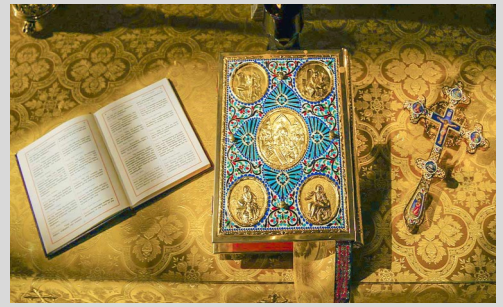
We had a wonderful month of February that was highlighted by a visit from His Eminence Archbishop Alexander! The offices and classrooms were blessed as we officially closed the book on our much needed repair and remodel project of the education center! Glory to God for all things!

## Recommended Reading

“Father George Calciu; Interviews, Homilies and Talks”

Father George Calciu (1925-2006) was one of the great confessors of Christianity in the twentieth century. Having survived the diabolic prison experiments of Communist Romania, Fr. George went on to become an apostle to spiritual seekers in Romania and, eventually, throughout the world. He was able to speak authoritatively of God's love and forgiveness because of his own experience of God's mercy. As a priest in America, Fr. George maintained a strict ascetic life of fasting and prayer, while at the same time pastoring his flock as a joyful and loving father. Here we present a collection of his interviews, homilies, and talks. In them he shares his thoughts on his imprisonment, how to pray, his own experience of God's Uncreated Light, and the Orthodox Christian's battle against temptations in America. Included in this volume are the Seven Homilies to the Youth that he gave in Bucharest in 1978. These homilies, in which he fearlessly called Romanian youth to turn from atheism and materialism to Christ, led to his second imprisonment by the Communist regime. Here, as in his other writings and talks, the common thread of God's mercy and forgiveness is woven into the fabric of man's need for repentance and union with his Creator.

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## *This Month's Sunday Scripture Readings*

### March 7th:

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2  
Matthew 25: 1-46

### March 14th:

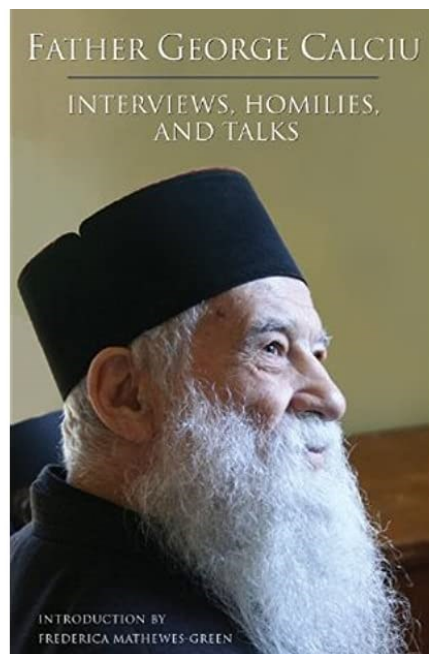
Romans 13: 11-14:4  
Matthew 6:14-21

### March 21st:

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2  
John 1:43-51

### March 28th:

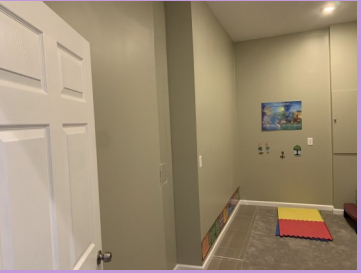
Hebrews 1:10-2:3  
Mark 2:1-12





# Our Newly Renovated Education Center

## Before:



## After:



# The Blessing with Archbishop Alexander



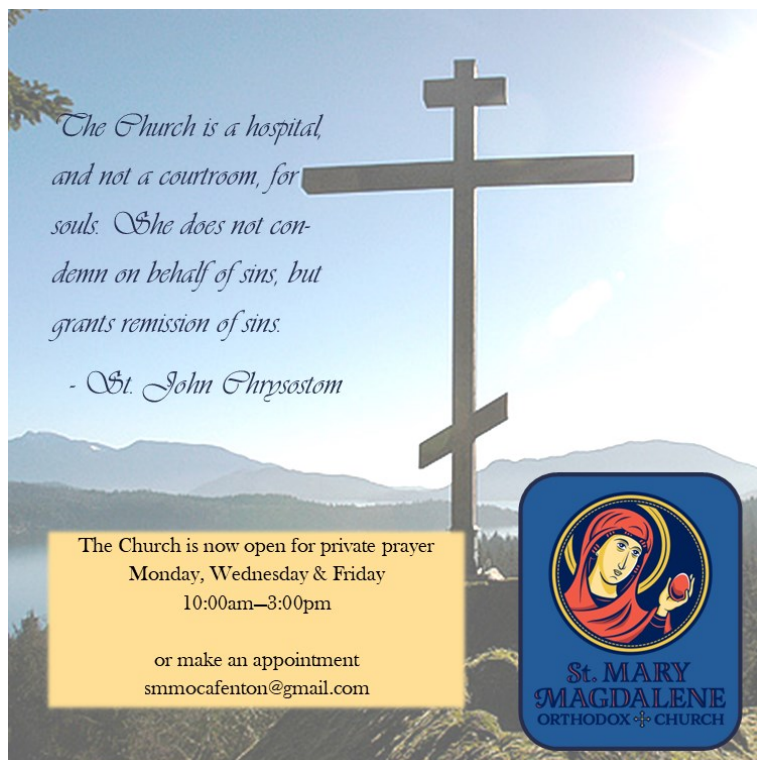
# WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- ✝ 3– Inna Bondira & Amanda Auxier
- ✝ 7– Brianna Walton
- ✝ 8– Anastasia Green
- ✝ 12– Steven Kekel & Katarina Jonascu
- ✝ 20– John Auxier
- ✝ 21– Joseph Suriano
- ✝ 22– Katherine Jannakos & Doug Ballnik
- ✝ 24– George Naum
- ✝ 27– Larry Shipley
- ✝ 31– Chris Burtka

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- ✝ 10– Brion & Theresa Cooley



### PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

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

The Library covers the following topics and MORE!

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

## Office Hours

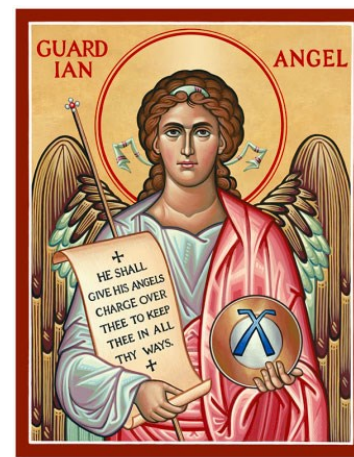
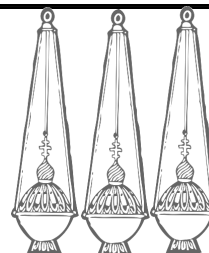
The Church Office and Sanctuary will now be open from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for private prayer and reflection, phone inquiries, deliveries, or for setting an appointment with Fr. Gabriel.



# Prayer Life

*Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and sisters*

Metropolitan Herman	Theodore
Archpriest Joseph	Bill
Matushka Laura	Joann
Anastasia	Ahron
Alex	Linda
Elaine	Joane
Peter	Irene
David	Bruce
Michael	Carol
Mason	Debra
Pat	Christy
Joseph	Nancy
Linda	Tonya
Tonya	Kim
Arminda	Mike
Ryan	Graham
Dimitri	
Damian	
Thom	



## Armed Forces

Matthew Beck; Air Force  
 Michael Oginsky; U.S. Marines  
 Patrick Tejkl; U.S. Marines  
 Lindsey Cazatt; U.S. Navy  
 Stephany Bishop; U.S. Navy  
 Jason Wilburn; Army Rangers  
 Alex Suriano; Air National Guard

## Armed Forces Cont.

Dallas Watson; Air Force  
 Bradley Grimes, Seraphim Lazar-Watson; Air Force  
 Stephen Bondaria— Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander  
 Sarah Tyler—U.S. Air Force

## Catechumens

Alyssa  
 William  
 Anthony  
 Anastasia

## Recently Departed

## Mother's With Child

Christina  
 Anna  
 Christine  
 Shannon

## Seminarian Family

Alexander & Danielle Earl

## Anniversary of Parish Member's Repose

13— Jacob Oslin  
 31— Brigitte Ziegler

## Parish Greeters

**March 7th:**  
Scott & Tina Shephard

**March 14th:**  
George & Julie Jonascu

**March 21st:**  
Seth & Mia Hillaker

**March 28th:**  
Scott & Tina Shephard

## Coffee Hour Volunteers

(Please note that coffee hour is suspended for  
the time being)

**March 7th**

**March 14th:**

**March 21st:**

**March 28th:**

## Epistle Readers

Primary

Back-up

**March 7th:**  
Janet Wiese

**March 14th:**  
Rdr. John Auxier

**March 21st:**  
Rdr. Nathaniel Auxier

**March 28th:**  
Jenni Otis

**March 7th:**  
Sbdn. Andrew Durand

**March 14th:**  
Rdr. Chris Ballnik

**March 21st:**  
Janet Wiese

**March 28th:**  
Rdr. John Auxier



# Derrick & Melissa

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

2439 S Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

## The light of CHRIST illumines all



Join us for the

Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Friday Evenings 6:30pm March 20th—April 16th

Join us as we prepare, through prayer and love, to journey with Christ to Golgotha and His Holy Resurrection!



# Monthly Forecast

## **Pre-Lenten Pan Orthodox Retreat and Vespers:**

On Saturday, March 6th, we will be joining with our Pan Orthodox Churches at 2:00 PM for our annual retreat. This year's speaker is Fr. Maximos Conostas, who will be speaking about an Orthodox Approach to Sickness and Suffering. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex, or you may email St. George directly to sign up [stgeorgeflint@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeflint@gmail.com) The retreat will be offered in person or via zoom, with Great Vespers following the retreat at St. George at 5:00 PM. This is a FREE RETREAT! Take advantage!

## **St. Photini Meeting:**

Our lay-led parish community outreach organization called the Fellowship of St. Photini. They organize charitable events, collections, and service projects so that we as a parish can truly follow the directives laid out by our Lord in Matthew 25, in helping our neighbor. The fellowship will be meeting for current and new members on Sunday, March 7th, following the Divine Liturgy. The meeting will also be offered virtually. Please see the St. Photini page of the newsletter for more details.

## **No Thursday Divine Liturgies during Lent :**

Remember that during Great Lent, there will be no Thursday Divine Liturgies offered. The last weekday Divine Liturgy will be on Thursday, March 11th, and will pick up after Great and Holy Pascha.

## **Socially Distanced Forgiveness Sunday:**

Great Lent starts on Sunday, March 14th with Forgiveness Sunday. We will be implementing a safe and socially distanced way of asking forgiveness of one another, so please make sure you attend this important beginning to Great Lent.

## **Orthodox Clean Week:**

The first week of Great Lent is called Clean Week, and offers us the opportunity to examine our souls for the various illness of the passions that assail us. For many, the first week can be demanding and tiring...as it serves as a bit of an Orthodox Boot Camp for the soul. If you have never done a full Orthodox Clean week...make this the year that you commit to going to all of the services, no matter how exhausted or tired you might be. The benefits that come from this physical and spiritual workout are such that they can propel you towards the rest of Great Lent. Clear your calendars, and make the commitment this year!

## **Orthodoxy Sunday Procession:**

Do not forget to bring your favorite icons to be blessed on Orthodoxy Sunday, as we will be doing an outdoor procession

with our icons after the Divine Liturgy, bringing the holiness of Orthodox Worship outside of the four walls of the Church!

## **Lenten Psalm Group:**

This year, we will be having our second annual parish lenten psalm group readings. Each day, we will be assigned a particular section of the psalter to read in our private prayers at home. We will also be on a separate email group, where we can pray for each other each day during Great Lent. If you are interested in joining the Psalm Group, please email the group at [smmpsalmgroup@gmail.com](mailto:smmpsalmgroup@gmail.com) to get more information!

## **Memorial Saturday:**

On Saturday, March 27th, we will be remembering all of our parish family departed with a memorial service starting at 3:30 PM. There will be a special box set in the vestibule with prayer cards for each family to fill out prior to the service. Please list your immediate families Orthodox and Non Orthodox Departed, so that we can continue to pray for them.

## **Great Feast of Annunciation:**

The Pan Orthodox Celebration of Annunciation will be held at Holy Assumption Greek Church on Thursday, March 25th, beginning at 10:00 AM.

## **Presanctified Liturgy Schedule:**

Our parish family will have Presanctified Liturgy every Friday during Great Lent, with the first one starting on the Friday of Clean Week. Remember to fast from eating after your noon meal if you will be partaking in the Holy Eucharist. The first Pan Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy will be hosted by our parish on Wednesday, March 24th, beginning at 6:00 PM.

## **Lenten Confessions:**

Confessions will be offered on Saturdays during Great Lent after the Vigil service, or on Wednesdays when there is not a Pan Orthodox Presanctified Scheduled. Keep an eye on the monthly calendar for confession times. If you are unable to make any of the times listed, please reach out to Fr. Gabriel to make other arrangements



*St. Mary Magdalene Service Schedule*  
**Great and Holy Lent**  
**2021**

*St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church*  
 2439 S. Long Lake Rd  
 Fenton, MI 48430  
 (810) 750-1401  
 st-marymagdalene.org

**Clean Week**

**Sunday, March 14th:** Liturgy and Forgiveness Vespers, 9:50am  
**Monday, March 15th:** Matins, 9:00am & Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30pm  
**Tuesday, March 16th:** Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm  
**Wednesday, March 17th:** Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm  
**Thursday, March 18th:** Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm  
**Friday, March 19th:** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, March 20th:** Vigil for Orthodoxy Sunday, 4pm

**1st Week of Great Lent**

**Sunday, March 21st:** Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy, 9:50am  
**Wednesday, March 24th:** Pan-Orthodox Pre-Sanctified @ SMM, 6pm  
**Thursday, March 25th:** ANNUCIATION Liturgy @ Assumption, 10am  
**Friday, March 26th:** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, March 27th:** Memorial Saturday 3:30pm, Vigil 4:00pm

**2nd Week of Great Lent**

**Sunday, March 28th:** Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am  
**Wednesday, March 31st:** Compline & Confessions, 6:00pm  
**Friday, April 2nd:** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, April 3rd:** Vigil & Confessions 4:00pm

**3rd Week of Great Lent**

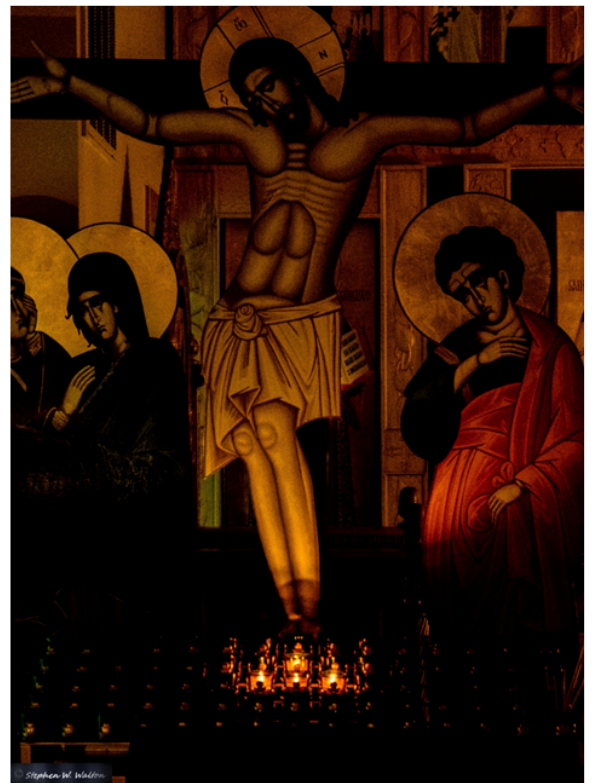
**Sunday, April 4th:** Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am  
**Wednesday, April 7th:** Pan-Orthodox Pre-Sanctified @ St. Nicholas, 6pm  
**Friday, April 9th:** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, April 10th:** Vigil & Confessions 4:00pm

**4th Week of Great Lent**

**Sunday, April 11th:** Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am  
**Wednesday, April 14th:** Compline & Confessions, 6:00pm  
**Thursday, April 15th:** Live Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt, 6:30pm  
**Friday, April 16th:** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, April 17th:** Vigil & Confessions 4:00pm

**5th Week of Great Lent**

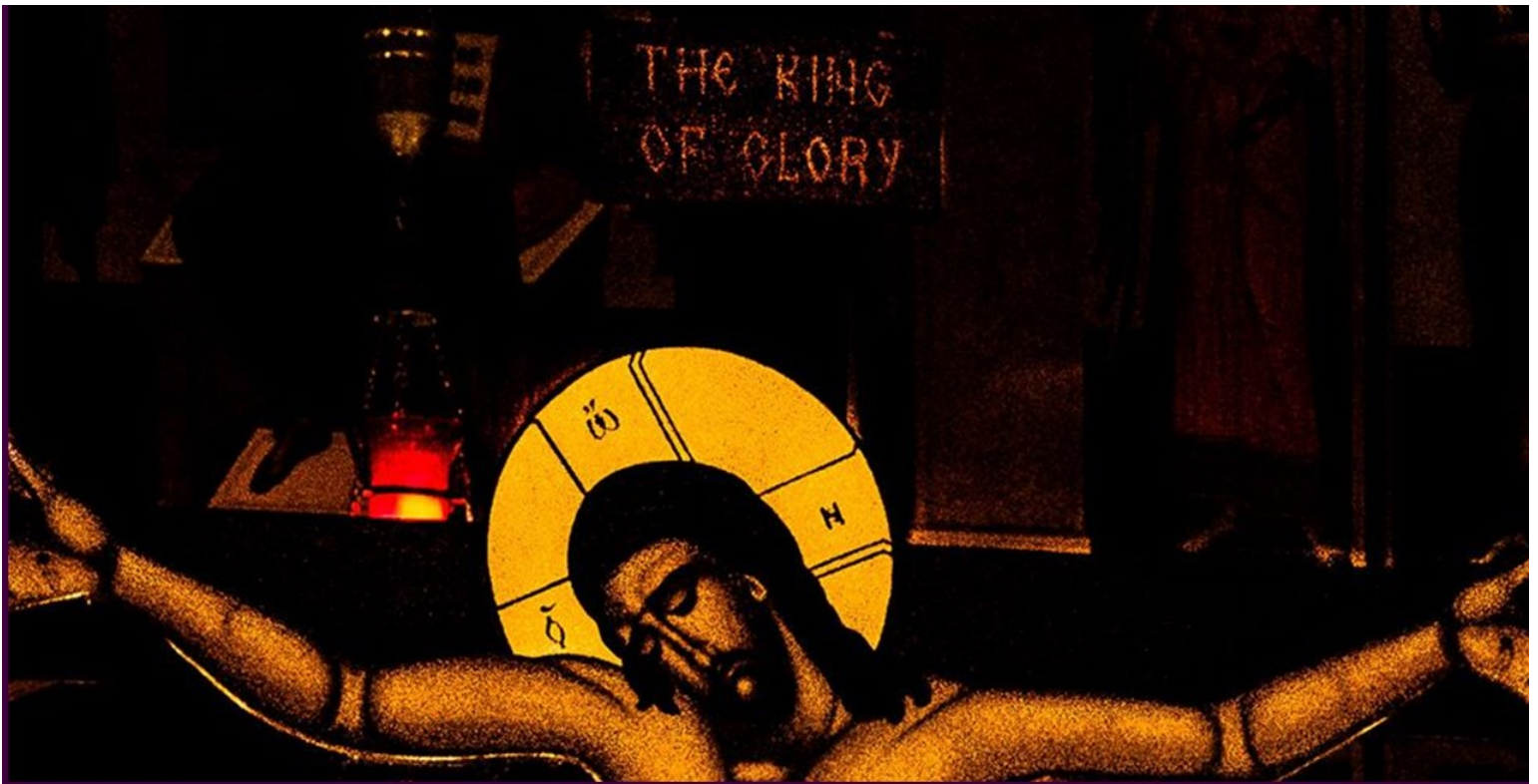
**Sunday, April 18th:** Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:50am  
**Wednesday, April 21st:** Pan-Orthodox Pre-Sanctified @ St. George, 6pm  
**Friday, April 23rd:** Lazarus Saturday Vespers & Confessions, 6:30pm  
**Saturday, April 24th:** Lazarus Saturday Liturgy @ St. Nicholas 9:30am, Palm Sunday Vespers & Confessions 4pm



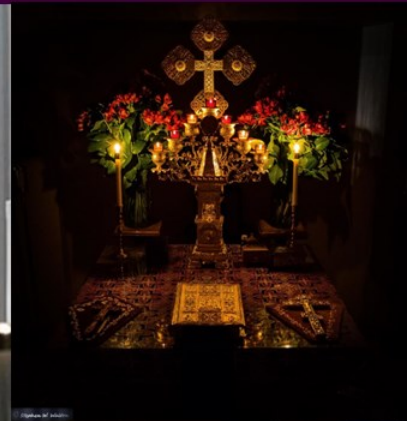
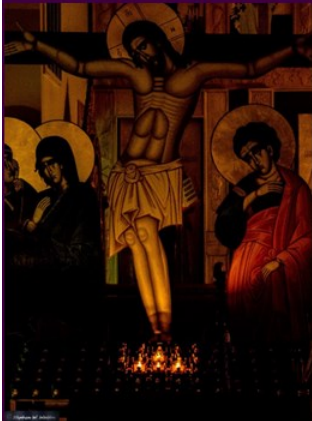
**Holy Week**

<b>Sunday, April 25th:</b>	+Palm Sunday Liturgy, 9:50am	+Bridegroom Matins, 7:00pm
<b>Monday, April 26th:</b>	+Bridegroom Matins, 7:00pm	
<b>Tuesday, April 27th:</b>	+Bridegroom Matins, 7:00pm	
<b>Wednesday, April 28th:</b>	+Holy Unction 7:00pm	
<b>Thursday, April 29th:</b>	+Liturgy 10:00am	+Passions Gospels, 7pm
<b>Friday, April 30th:</b>	+Unnailing Vespers, 3:00pm	+Lamentations, 7:00pm
		+All Night Vigil TBD
<b>Saturday, May 1st:</b>	+Liturgy of St. Basil & Old Testament Reading 10am	+Nocturns & Pascal Liturgy, 11:30pm





# Clean Week 2021



Sunday	March 14th	† Divine Liturgy and Forgiveness Vespers, 9:50am
Monday	March 15th	† Clean Week Monday Matins Service, 9:00am † Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm
Tuesday	March 16th	† Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm
Wednesday	March 17th	† Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm
Thursday	March 18th	† Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30pm
Friday	March 19th	† Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm
Saturday	March 20th	† Vigil for Orthodoxy Sunday, 4:00pm

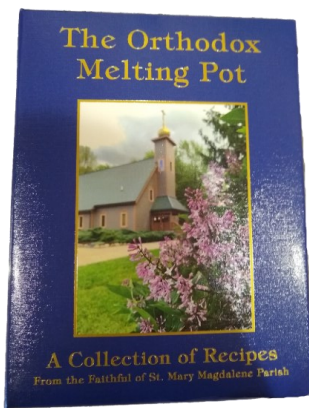
St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church  
2439 S Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

# Parish Kiosk



## “The Orthodox Melting Pot”

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



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

### New Arrivals in the kiosk this month!

- † Adult & Young Adults Books
    - † Children’s Books
    - † Home Altar Items
      - † Psalters
    - † Spiritual Psalters
    - † Lenten Materials
    - † Pascha Gifts
      - † Icons
- ....and more!!!

**Thank you to everyone who placed an apparel order!!  
orders will be in by Mid-March!**





# Our Parish Youth

## March Church School Announcements

For our Lenten Youth Almsgiving we will be collecting items needed for families who foster children in need. Often, these children come to their foster families with just the clothes on their back. These families turn to places like the Foster Closet of Michigan to get the basic items needed for these children.

### Items Needed

(Here is a list of Items for donating)

New or very gently used Clothing (Preemie – Teenage)

New or very gently used Shoes

Coats

Snow Pants/Snow suits

Boots

Non-Drop down Cribs

Toddler beds/Crib Mattress'

Any type of Stroller

Unexpired Car seats/Booster Seats

High Chairs/Booster Seats

All Baby Items

Halloween Costumes

Packs of Socks

Packs of Underwear

Bikes

Hygiene Products

Luggage

Duffel Bags

New or very gently used Books

New or very gently used Pajamas

New or very gently used Outfits

Toiletries

Homemade Items: Blankets and Pillow Cases

Any items a child may need or want

Part of Lenten almsgiving is giving of yourself to others. We are asking that each family come together with their children and donate gently used clothing, toys, furniture etc. (see the list of items needed). Have your children pack up these items and bring them to the church.

We will be collecting items for the months of March & April and will be making a donation after Pascha.

Please see Tonya Rice or Matushka Laura with any questions.

## Foster Closet



## of Michigan

**Parents you have been sent Pre-Lent through Pentecost workbooks for the younger children that will be distributed February 14th. If your children give Fr. Gabriel completed sheets he has goodies for them!**

**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     | Katerina Jonescu    |
| Katherine Schutt    | Katheryn Auxier     |
| Oliver Lazar Senter | Alexandra Kekel     |
| Elena Bucciarelli   | Lauren Serafimovski |
| Zachary Wilkinson   | Abigail Arnes       |
| Douglas Wilkinson   |                     |
| Sydney Wilkinson    |                     |



**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 Chitalas.



St. Mary Magdalene  
Young Adults

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



# Adult Education



## "METANOIA"

LEARNING TO CHANGE ONE'S HEART FOR GOD



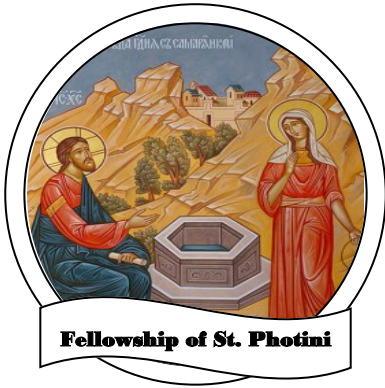
**In a Christian World now littered with various denominations, each teaching a different version of the same Gospel, have you ever wondered or thought about what the earliest Christians taught, how they worshiped, and what believed? Now is your opportunity to come, discuss, and learn about the fullness 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**

### **Spring Semester 2021**

<b>Wednesday, Jan. 27th</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>Introduction to Holy Tradition</b>
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 3rd</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>What do we know about God?</b>
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 10th</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>What it Means to be a Human Being</b>
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 17th</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>Who is Jesus Christ?</b>
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 24th</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>The Eastern Christian View of Sin and Salvation</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 3rd</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>The Church, Mary, and the Saints</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 10th</b>	<b>6:30 PM:</b>	<b>The Holy Spirit and the Jesus Prayer</b>

# FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI



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

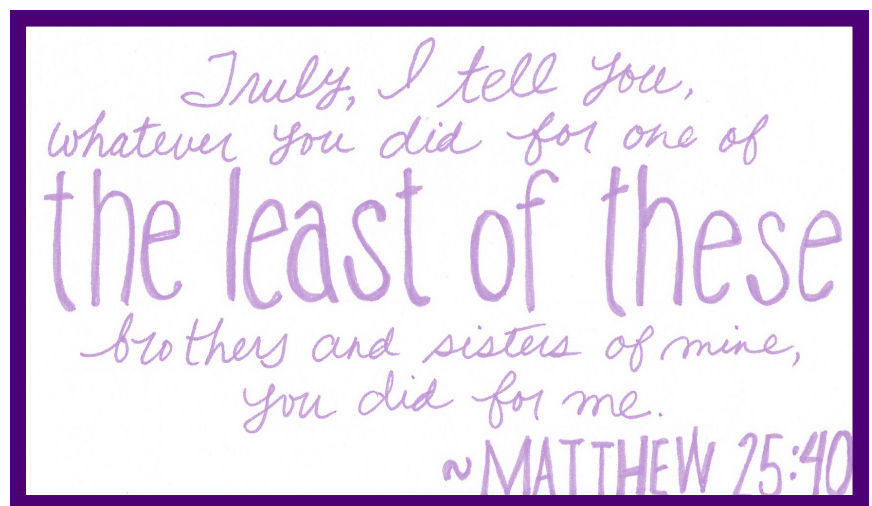
Glory to God! We were able to collect items to create 50 Lazarus Bags to give out to those in need in our community. These bags contain basic hygiene items as well as food and food cards for those who live on the streets. Thank you to all who participated in this year’s collection and to those who will participate in the packing and distribution.

There will be a Fellowship meeting on Sunday, March 7th following Divine Liturgy. We will meet in the Education Center. If your would like to attend but are unable to attend in person please contact the parish office for the Zoom Link for the meeting.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

Catholic Charities St. Patty’s Day Lunch, visit [www.ccsgc.org](http://www.ccsgc.org) for more information.

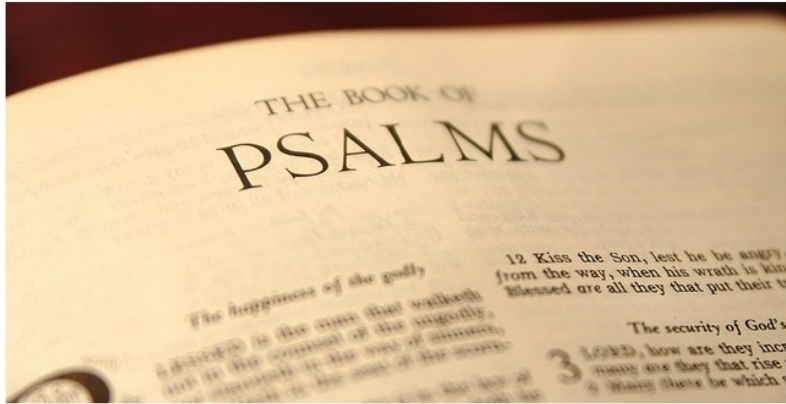
Please contact Theophan Forsyth, Terri Oginski or Rebekah Humphreys if you would like any information about upcoming projects or would like to donate to the works of the Fellowship of St. Photini.





# St. Mary Magdalene Lenten Psalm Group

Preparing for Pascha by Praying the Psalms



## The Goal:

To draw nearer to Christ and one another during the Lenten Fast, by praying the Psalms together as a community, as we journey together towards Holy Pascha.

## How it Works:

The Orthodox Church divided the book of Psalms into 20 sections (called a Kathisma). In our St. Mary Magdalene prayer group, we will each be assigned a different section each day, throughout the 40 days of the fast. By the end of Lent, our parish will have read through the entire book of Psalms twice. If everyone is keeping up with their individual sections every day, it also means that our parish community together is praying the entire book of psalms daily!

## Added Bonus:

As we go through the journey together, there may be a specific prayer request that you might ask the group to assist you in, whether it is for someone who is sick, suffering, or maybe someone who recently departed. Feel free to email the group email, asking for specific prayer requests to be sent out.

## What do I Need?

All you need is a bible, an email address, and some time each day to pray!

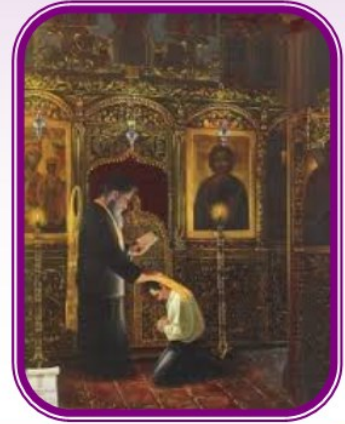
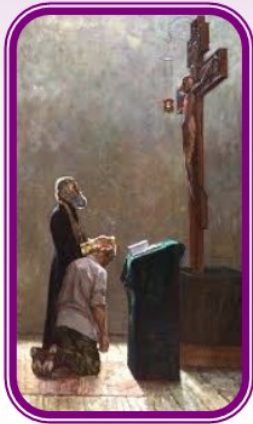
## How Do I Join?

There will be a sign up sheet available at the Church, or you can email [smmpsalgroup@gmail.com](mailto:smmpsalgroup@gmail.com)

## Holy Confession:

In confession, the sacrament of repentance, we come to Christ and receive His divine forgiveness. We are allowed once more to enter into Holy Communion with Him in the Church. We are reinstated into that life which we received in baptism and are renewed with that power which we were given in chrismation.

*Throughout Great Lent there will be confessions available on Saturday's following Vigils and every other Wednesday following Compline.*



## Confession Schedule for Holy Week

**Friday, April 23rd:** Following Lazarus Saturday Vespers

**Saturday, April 24th:** Following Vespers– 5:00pm

**Palm Sunday, April 25th:** After Bridegroom matins - 8:30 PM

**Holy Monday, April 26th:** After Bridegroom Matins - 8:30 PM

**Holy Tuesday, April 27th:** After Bridegroom Matins - 8:30 PM \*\*

**Holy Wednesday, April 28th:** There will be no confession following Holy Unction

\*\*After Holy Tuesday Evening, Father Gabriel will be making preparations for Holy Pascha, and confessions will be difficult to schedule.





## **Memorial Saturday**

**Saturday, March 27th, 3:30pm**

**On this day we will gather together as a parish to remember all of the departed members of our families, with a special memorial service before Vigil. Please submit your list of your departed family members to the parish office, indicating if they were Orthodox or Non-Orthodox.**

# Orthodox Churches of Genesee County, Michigan

Assumption (Greek) 2245 Baldwin Road ❖ Grand Blanc, MI 48439 ❖ 810-771-4611  
St. George (Antiochian) 5191 Lennon Road ❖ Flint, MI 48507 ❖ 810-732-0720  
St. Mary Magdalene (OCA) 2439 S. Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1401  
St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

## 2021 Great Fast and Bright Week



## Pan-Orthodox Divine Services

**Great Compline** (*Mondays, 6:30pm*) We will celebrate the Great Compline service together every Monday night at St. George. This beautiful service allows us to experience the Great Fast more deeply. Confessions will be available from 6pm–6:30pm and after the service.

**Lenten Hours** (*Wednesdays, 10:30am*) at St. Nicholas.

**Presanctified Divine Liturgy** (*Wednesdays, 6pm*) We will celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy and the Great Feast of the Annunciation together according to the schedule below. Holy Communion is given at both. To partake of Holy Communion, please be prepared with prayer and fasting (*no eating or drinking after 12 Noon*). Confessions will only be available prior to the Liturgy from 5:30pm–6pm. Unfortunately, we will not be having Potluck Lenten Meals this year.

- March 6<sup>th</sup>     **Pre-Lenten Retreat** led by Fr. Maximos Constas (*more information to follow*)  
March 24<sup>th</sup>    **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 6pm  
March 25<sup>th</sup>    **Great Feast of the Annunciation Divine Liturgy** at Assumption 10am  
April 7<sup>th</sup>     **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 6pm  
April 21<sup>st</sup>    **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. George 6pm  
April 24<sup>th</sup>    **Preparation of Gifts, Raising of Lazarus Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 9:30am

### **Bright Week** (May 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

- May 3<sup>rd</sup>     **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 10am  
May 4<sup>th</sup>     **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 10am  
May 5<sup>th</sup>     **Paschal Evening Liturgy & Feast of St. George** at St. George 6pm  
May 7<sup>th</sup>     **Paschal Divine Liturgy & Life-giving Font** at Assumption 10am

*Member Churches of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North America  
A Vision of Orthodox Unity*

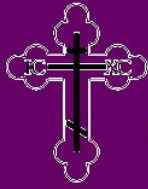


# ALL NIGHT VIGIL



**Teens & Families**  
**Friday, April 30th**  
**following Lamentations**





# 2021 Holy Week Schedule

Friday, April 23rd:

Lazarus Saturday Vespers 6:30pm

Saturday, April 24th:

Preparation of Gifts and Raising of Lazarus Divine Liturgy combined at St. Nicholas 9:30am

Palm Sunday Vespers at St. Mary Magdalene 4pm

Sunday, April 25th: PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:50am

Bridegroom Matins 7pm

Monday, April 26th: HOLY MONDAY

Bridegroom Matins 7pm

Tuesday, April 27th: HOLY TUESDAY

Bridegroom Matins 7pm

Wednesday, April 28th: HOLY WEDNESDAY

Holy Unction 7pm

Thursday, April 29th: HOLY THURSDAY, INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10am

Passions Gospels 7pm

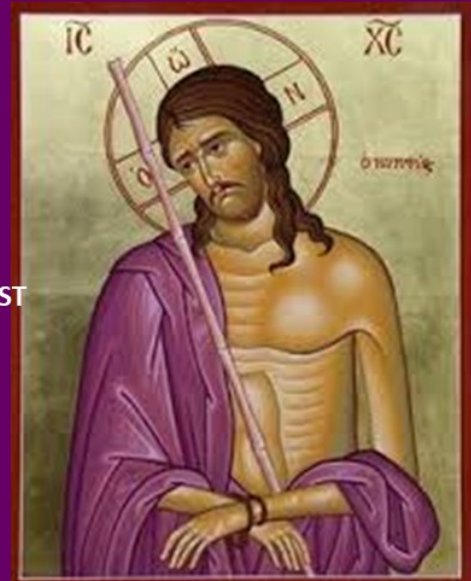
Friday, April 30th: GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

Holy Friday Vespers 3pm

Lamentations and Procession with the Shroud 7pm

Saturday, May 1st: HOLY SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with the Old Testament Readings 10am



## The Pascha of our Lord

Saturday, May 1st: HOLY SATURDAY

Paschal Nocturnes, Matins, Divine Liturgy and Feast 11:30pm

Sunday, May 2nd: HOLY PASCHA!!!

Agape Vespers 1pm



# Bright Week

# Schedule



## *Pan-Orthodox Churches of Genesee County*

Sunday, May 2nd:	Agape Vespers	1:00pm	At St. Mary Magdalene (2439 S. Long Lake Rd– Fenton, MI)
Monday, May 3rd:	Bright Monday Liturgy	10:00am	At St. Mary Magdalene (2439 S. Long Lake Rd– Fenton, MI)
Tuesday, May 4th:	Bright Tuesday Liturgy	10:00am	At St. Nicholas (2143 S. Center Rd– Burton, MI)
Wednesday, May 5th:	Bright Wednesday Liturgy & St. George Patronal Feast	6:00pm	At St. George (5191 Lennon Rd– Flint, MI)
Friday, May 7th:	Bright Friday Liturgy	10:00am	At Holy Assumption (2245 Baldwin Rd– Grand Blanc, MI)



# Pascha Egg Hunt

Sunday, May 9th following Divine Liturgy  
St. Mary Magdalen Orthodox Church  
2439 S Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430



Pascha egg hunt for our children will follow  
St. Thomas Sunday Liturgy  
ALL are welcome!!



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



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

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