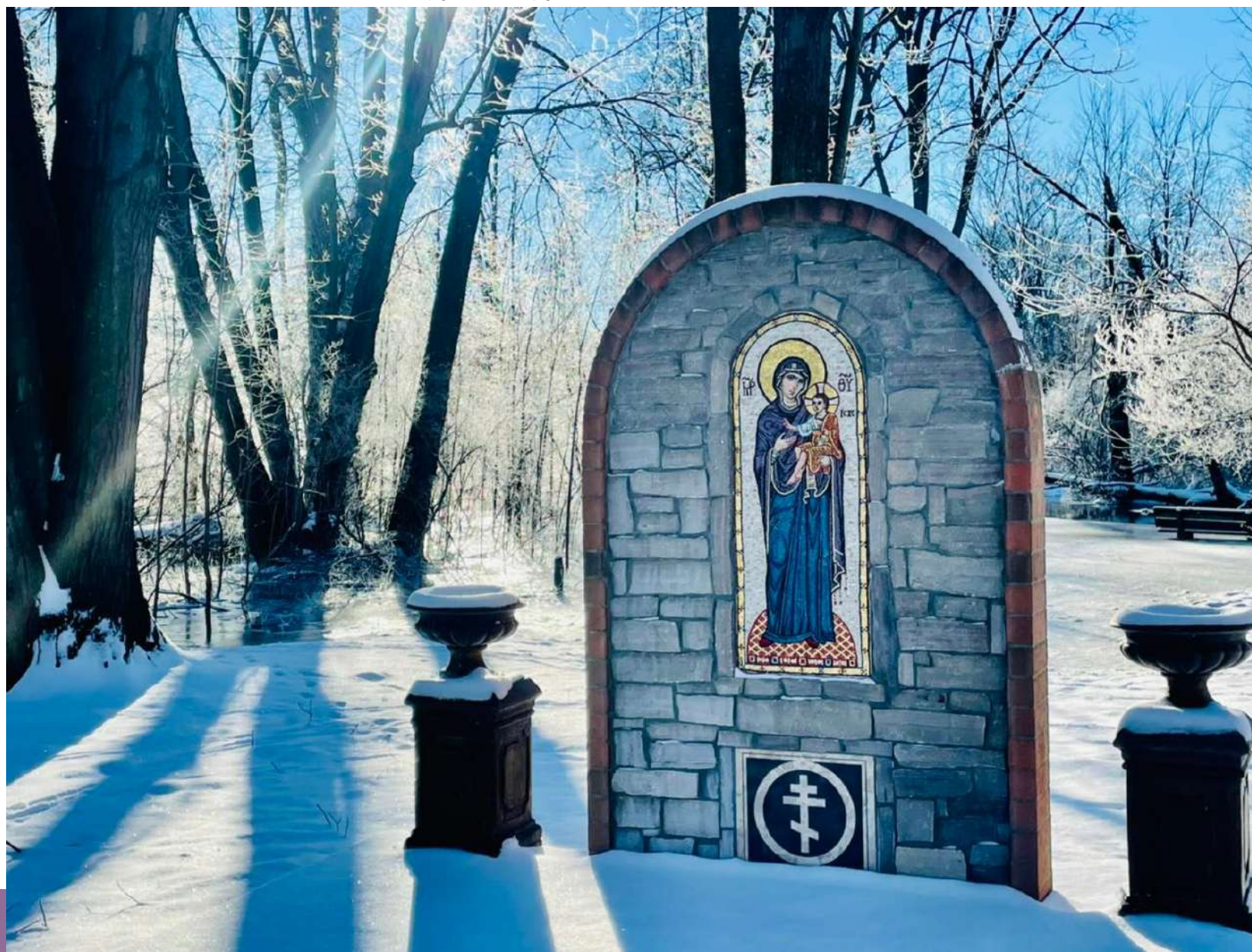


# March 2022

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

## Adding Color to the Scripture on the Annunciation

From the Desk of Fr. Gabriel

Later in the month of March, we celebrate the Great Feast of the Annunciation. This pivotal moment in human history, when the Angel Gabriel came to Mary to announce that she was to be the chosen vessel of which God was to come into the world, is hard to understand from a human perspective! No amount of science or logical can explain or comprehend how The Uncontainable God...the same that created both the heavens and the earth... comes to be in the womb of a Virgin!

Every year, I am always particularly struck by the texts of the Canon in the Matins service of Annunciation. The Festal Canon is somewhat unique, because all of the hymns contained in it are set up as a dialogue between the Angel and Mary. While scripture might offer us the words that were spoken, it is these hymns that truly add some color to the entire picture!

Let's set the scene of what we get from the Gospel. A young but very faithful virgin is sitting and sewing a curtain for the temple (as depicted in the icon). A bright angel appears and tells her: *"Rejoice highly favored one...the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women! Don't be afraid, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David...and He will reign over a house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end!"*

Now, let the Festal Canon of Matins provide some depth and color:

**Theotokos:** *"There is no more a prince from Judah's line, but the time is at hand in which Christ, the hope of the Gentiles, shall appear. But can you make it plain to me how I, being a virgin, shall bear him?"*

**Angel Gabriel:** *"O virgin, you seek to know from me the manner of your conceiving, but this is beyond all interpretation. The Holy Spirit shall overshadow you in His creative power and shall make this come to pass!"*

**Theotokos:** *"My mother Eve, accepting the suggestion of the serpent, was banished from divine delight: and therefore I fear you strange salutation, for I take heed lest I slip! "*

**Angel Gabriel:** *"I am sent as the envoy of God to disclose to thee the divine will. Why are you, O undefiled, afraid of me, who rather am afraid of you? Why, o Lady, do you stand in awe of me, who stand in reverent awe of you? "*

### UPCOMING THIS MONTH

2- PreLenten Reflection

5- Choir Rehearsal

6-12 Clean Week Services

13- Sunday of Orthodoxy (Bring your Icons for procession)

15- Parish Council

16- Pan-Orthodox PreSanctified at St. George 6pm with Potluck

18- PreSanctified with Potluck, 6:30

19- Pan-Orthodox Retreat, all day at St. Nicholas

20- All parish meeting

21- Man of God movie night

23- Canon of Repentance

24- Choir Rehearsal

25- Annuciation Pan-Orthodox Liturgy, 6pm at Assumption

30- Pan-Orthodox PreSanctified, 6pm at St. Nicholas



## Adding Color to the Scripture on the Annunciation cont.

*"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>Terry</i>	<i>Shirley</i>
<i>Elaine</i>	<i>Michelle</i>	<i>Peter</i>
<i>David</i>	<i>Sarah</i>	<i>Norm</i>
<i>Michael</i>	<i>Rich</i>	
<i>Mason</i>	<i>Harry</i>	
<i>Pat</i>	<i>Judy</i>	
<i>Joseph</i>	<i>Anthony</i>	
<i>Theresa</i>	<i>Dorothy</i>	
<i>Robert</i>	<i>Tyler</i>	
<i>Linda</i>	<i>Mary</i>	
<i>Hudson</i>	<i>Silvia</i>	
<i>Dimitri</i>	<i>Megan</i>	
<i>Damian</i>	<i>Roger</i>	
<i>Martin</i>	<i>Jim</i>	
<i>Terry</i>	<i>Joanne</i>	
<i>Ivanka</i>	<i>Susan</i>	
<i>Dawn</i>	<i>Phillip</i>	

The Church beautifully adds to this incredible scene, showing that even the Angel Gabriel was in awe at what was happening! God coming down and taking His abode in the womb of a simple teenager!

Here's the lesson for us today: Despite all of these things that were beyond the comprehension of even the angels, what was Mary's response? *"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to be according to Your Word!"* **Simple and PERFECT faith.**

I often wonder what would have been our response. An angel appears to us and says: *"You will be the vessel in which God will enter into the world!"*

Our response? *"How do I know you are really an angel? How will I avoid ridicule and judgment from my friends and family, which will no doubt rain upon me who am a virgin? Will He be born before January first and can I still claim the Child Tax Credit at the end of the year?!"* All manner of responses tied up in our own selfish desires, doubts, and lack of faith, all of which emulated the thoughts of Adam and Eve, who desired paradise and union with God, but wanted to do so **without** the Faith that God would provide it in the fullness of time.

We have to be better than that, and this is why we hold Mary up as the Greatest Saint in the Church. She is the perfect Christian because she lived in the same doubting world that we are a part of, and was able to counter the poking and prodding of the devil, who tempts us day after day to give up on our faith. The Theotokos was able to defeat the deceiver that day, and throughout all of her life, by escaping her head and learning to live with God in her heart. She learned how to defy logic, and live in faith. This is the state that we as Christians will spend the rest of our lives trying to achieve.

We do not look on the Theotokos as "an example" but rather **"THE** example" of how strong and steadfast our faith needs to be.

### Mother's With Child Catechumenate

<i>Alexandra</i>	<i>Vince</i>
<i>Tailer</i>	<i>Carol</i>
<i>Erika</i>	<i>Jacob</i>
<i>Mia</i>	<i>Mary Ellen</i>
<i>Lauren</i>	<i>Timothy</i>
<i>Natalia</i>	<i>Daniel</i>
<i>Eleni</i>	<i>Andrew</i>
<i>Mat. Kaila</i>	<i>Jake</i>

**Seminarian  
 Family**  
*Alexander &  
 Danielle Earl*

### Anniversary of Parish Members Departed

*13- Jacob Oslin  
 31- Brigitte Ziegler*

**Recently Departed**



*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**

**March 6**

Steve & Sue Walton

**March 13**

George & Julie Jonascu

**March 20**

Freida Owens

**March 27**

Seth & Mia Hillaker

**COFFEE HOUR**

**March 6**

Joe & Jenni Otis (Cheesefare)

**March 13**

Scott & Tina Shephard (fasting)

**March 20**

Minka Owens (fasting)

**March 27**

Steve & Sue Walton (fasting)

**BELL RINGERS**

**March 6**

Tonya Rice

**March 13**

Vivian Capatina

**March 20**

Cindy Welch

**March 27**

Renea Becklehamer

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

2-JANE BARTLEY

3- INNA BONDIRA, AMANDA AUXIER

7- BRIANNA WALTON

8- ANASTASIA KLINE

11- JOHN BARTLEY

12-KATERINA JONASCU

14- LEEANN BARNHART

16- JODI BARTLEY

20-SUBDEACON JOHN AUXIER

21-JOE SURIANO

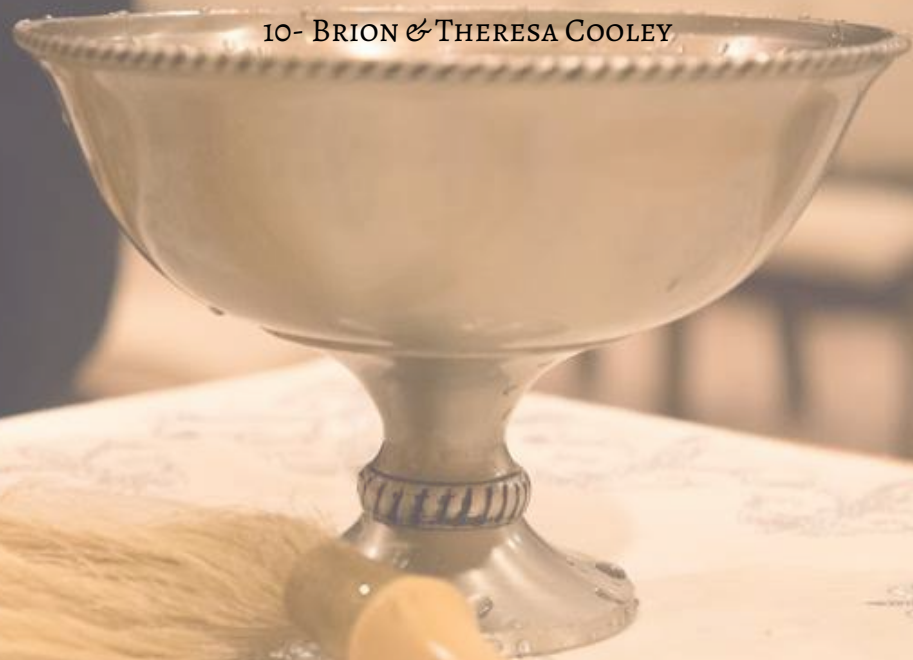
22-DOUG BALLNIK, PEYTON HEIKKILA

24-GEORGE NAUM

27- LARRY SHIPLEY

31- CHRIS BURTKA

10- BRION & THERESA COOLEY



## EPISTLE READERS

March 6:  
Theophan Forsyth  
John Wolf

March 13:  
Subdeacon Andrew Durand  
Jenni Otis

March 20:  
Reader Chris Ballnik  
Reader Brian-Philip Walton

March 27:  
Reader David Schutt  
Subdeacon Andrew Durand



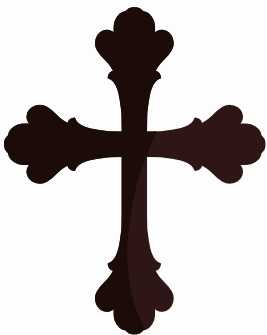
## SCRIPTURE READINGS

March 6  
Rom 13:11-14:4  
Matthew 6:14-21

March 13  
Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2  
John 1:43-51

March 20  
Hebrews 1:10-2:3  
Mark 2:1-12

March 27  
Hebrews 4:14-5:6  
Mark 8:34-9:1



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

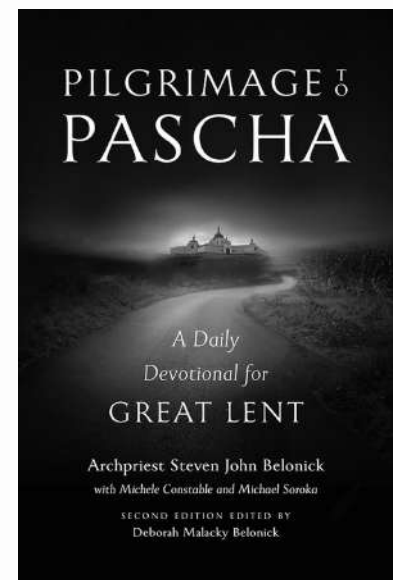
## RECOMMENDED

### READING

**PILGRIMAGE TO PASCHA: A  
DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR  
GREAT LENT**

**BY ARCHPRIEST STEVEN JOHN  
BELONICK WITH MICHELE  
CONSTABLE AND MICHAEL  
SOROKA**

This unpretentious little book of meditations based on Scripture, ancient hymns, and writings from Church Fathers will nourish the souls of reflective seekers during the forty-day period of Great Lent. Authors of each meditation have delved deeply into the sins and shortcomings of their own hearts, enabling readers to share in a collective human experience - from darkness to light, from despair to hope, and from isolation to commonality in the body of Christ - as they move steadily toward our Lord's Resurrection.



# MONTHLY FORECAST

## **Fr. Josiah Virtual Visit**

Don't forget to register and join us for a pre-lenten talk with Fr. Josiah Trenham on Wednesday, March 2nd! All of the registration information is available in the flier located in this newsletter!

## **Clean Week Attendance:**

The first week of Great Lent offers us daily services of repentance in order to set ourselves up for the journey ahead. This week is a vital week, and **I HIGHLY ENCOURAGE OUR ENTIRE PARISH COMMUNITY to attend ALL OF THE SERVICES** that are being offered for this week. I promise you that there is nothing more important in your life on the week of March 6th, than to be present in the Church.

## **Friday Night PreSanctified and Potlucks:**

Starting with our first Friday Pre-Sanctified on March 11th, we will be having a pot luck after the evening Liturgies. Please plan on bringing a lenten dish to pass and to share as we gather as a community after receiving the Divine Eucharist! Remember to fast after your noon meal if you plan on receiving the Eucharist at PreSanctified Liturgies.

## **All Parish Meeting**

There will be an all parish meeting on **Sunday, March 20th** immediately following the Divine Liturgy to discuss the next steps in the building expansion. These decisions must be made as a whole body of the parish family. Please reach out to Fr. Gabriel with any questions.

## **Man of God Movie Night:**

One of our Parish Family Lenten Outings will be on Monday, March 21st at the Hartland Movie Theatre, to see a screening of the movie about St. Nektarios called "Man of God". Tickets are available on the Hartland Imagine Theatre website (a link is available on the fliers in this newsletter).

## **Orthodox Sunday BRING YOUR ICONS:**

The First Sunday of Great Lent (March 13th) is called "Orthodoxy Sunday", and is a remembrance of the 7th Ecumenical Council where Icons were restored to the Church. On this day, we traditionally do a procession around the Church, and all are encouraged to bring their icons from home!

## **Pan Orthodox Presanctified Liturgies:**

On the Wednesdays of Great Lent, there is either a Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at one of our Pan-Orthodox Parishes, or the Canon of Repentance followed by Confessions available at our parish. See the calendar to know where services are being held for a particular Wednesday Evening.

## **Pan Orthodox Retreat at St. Nicholas:**

On Saturday, March 19th, our Pan Orthodox Retreat will be held at St. Nicholas. Sign up is available in the Narthex. There will be no Vigil or Saturday services at St. Mary Magdalene, as we will be having them at St. Nicholas following the retreat.

## **Choir Rehearsals:**

Choir rehearsals are set for March 5th and March 24th. Members should be receiving reminders for these in the group text for the choir! If you wish to be added to the group text, please see Greg or Elena.

# BUILDING THE LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WOODS

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS ON THE FOUR PILLARS OF CHURCH GROWTH

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

February, as is typical as we prepare for Great Lent, continued to have wonderful attendance at the services. My thanks to the choir, who has seen some new members join and add their God-given talents to our shared worship!

The live-stream is finally back and working in the way it should be. We have spent these past few months experimenting with the sound, using different programs in an effort to improve the quality of the stream for those who are unable to join us in person.

Lent is right around the corner, and with that comes the incredible service schedule that is meant to guide us during this focused time of repentance. I encourage all of our faithful to be present at each and every service to the absolute best of their ability!

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

During Great Lent, we hope to not only bring several new catechumens to the fold, but we will also see the Baptisms/Chrismations of 8 new warriors for Christ! By the Grace of God, we continue to try and fulfill the number one vision for our parish, which is to foster continuous growth in our faithful and in those that are outside of our community.

While February was a relatively quiet month for community events, we did have a very well attended and wonderful outing at the Detroit Pistons game. Thank you to all who helped to make that possible.

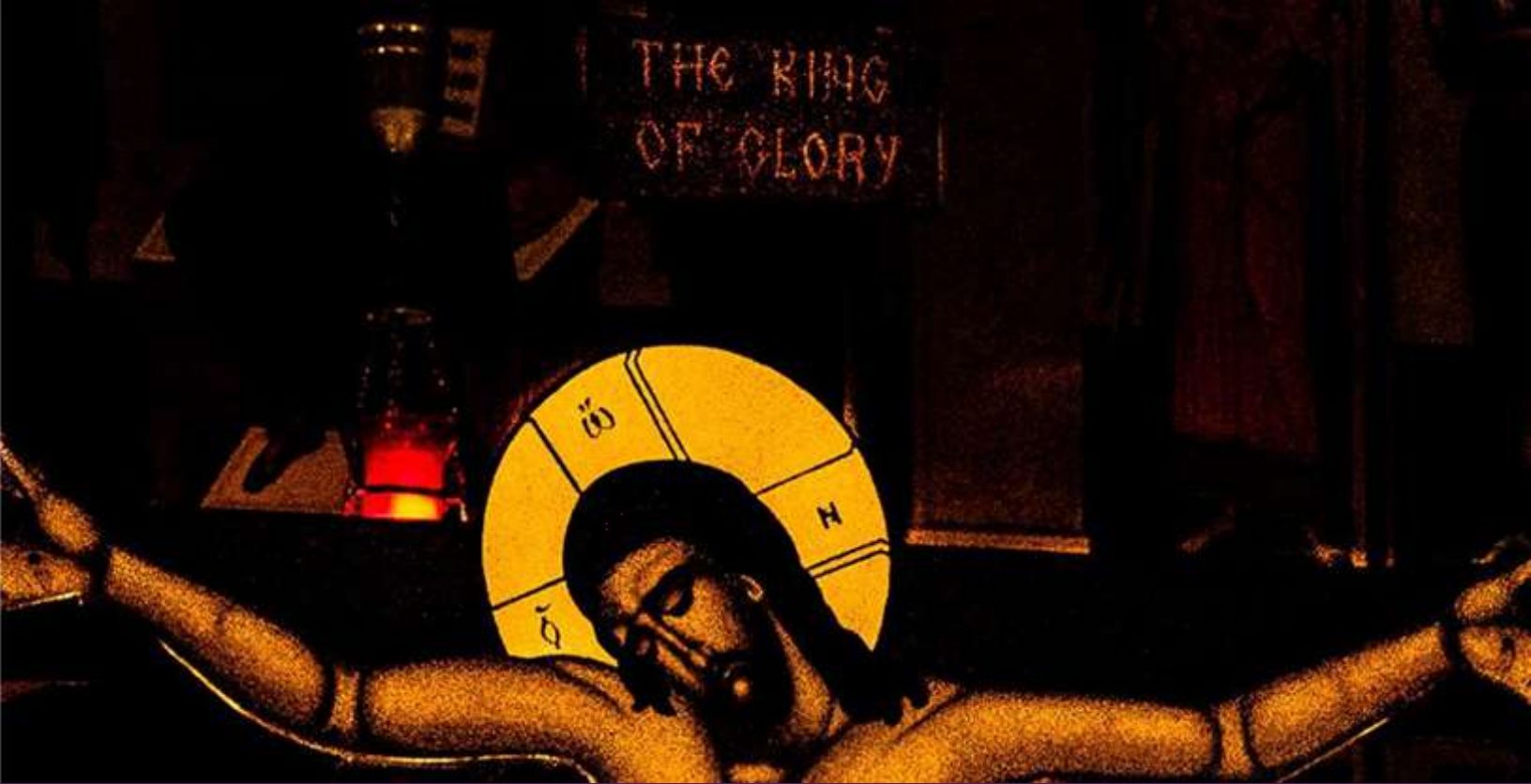
### **What is Happening in the Pillar of Education?**

By God's Grace, the Church School has been continuing to go through its regular program, with the addition of the First Confession Class for those children preparing for their first time. As far as adult education, with the Metanoia class wrapping up this past week, we are looking forward to a special virtual visit from Fr. Josiah Trenham on March 2nd, who will be speaking about King Josiah and Repentance as we get ready for Holy Lent. We also have our Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat scheduled for Saturday, March 19th!

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

The Pistons Community outing was able to raise over \$1,000 to the building fund, which continues to grow by the Grace of God. We are also thank God for all of those who helped to donate, raise, and give out the Lazarus Bags, which have been distributed and will go to help those who are in need.





# Clean Week 2022



**Sunday, March 6th**

**Hours & Divine Liturgy 9:50am followed by  
Forgiveness Vespers**

**Monday March 7th**

**Clean Week Matins, 9:00am**

**Tuesday, March 8th**

**Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30pm**

**Wednesday, March 9th**

**Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30pm**

**Thursday, March 10th**

**Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30pm**

**Friday, March 11th**

**Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30pm**

**Saturday, March 12th**

**Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm**

**Vigil, 4:00pm**



# ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

2439 S. LONG LAKE RD FENTON, MI

## THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ILLUMINES ALL



JOIN US FOR THE

## LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

EVERY FRIDAY THROUGH GREAT LENT, 6:30PM

AS WE PREPARE, THROUGH PRAYER AND LOVE, TO JOURNEY WITH CHRIST TO GOLGOTHA AND  
HIS HOLY RESURRECTION!

# 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

Saturday, March 5th  
3:00pm

Thursday, March 24th  
6:30pm

Thursday, April 14th  
6:30pm

Please see Reader  
Greg with any  
questions



## MARCH'S CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

**MARCH 6: NO CLASS -FORGIVENESS SUNDAY**

**MARCH 13: NO CLASS- SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY(DONT FORGET YOUR ICONS)**

**MARCH 20: ANNUNCIATION**

**MARCH 27:COLOSSIANS: CONFESSION**

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Welcome to March and to Great Lent.

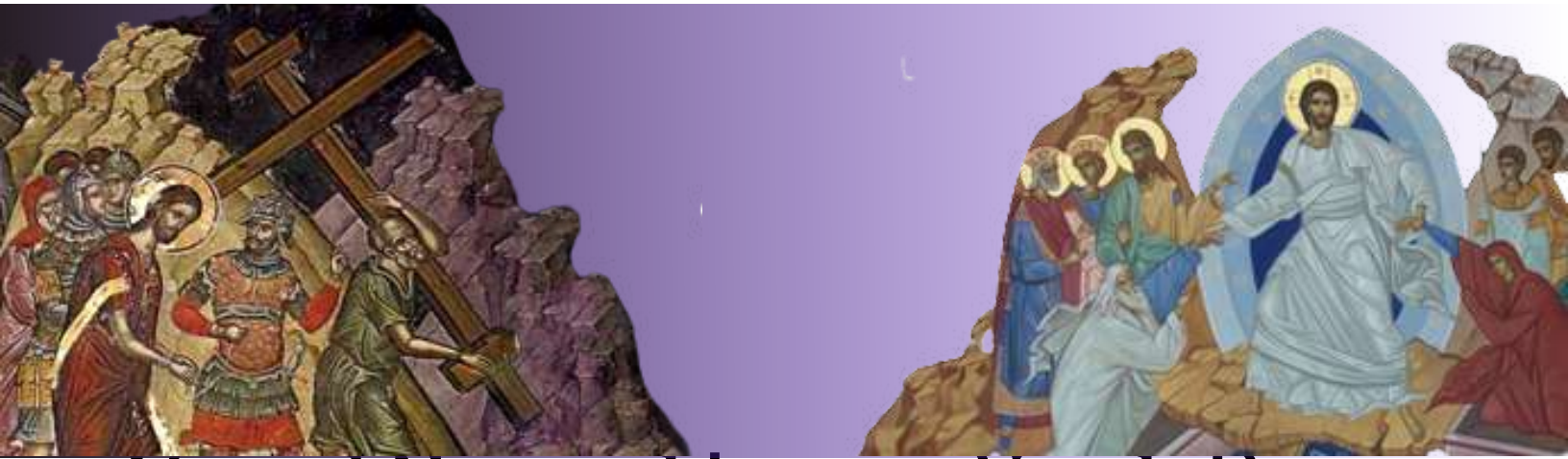
Lent begins on March 6, Forgiveness Sunday and the children will remain in Church to participate in the Rite of Forgiveness, a very special way to begin our journey through Great Lent as a Church family. The children will also remain in church on March 13 to celebrate Orthodoxy Sunday. Church School Class will resume on March 20 with a lesson about the Feast of the Annunciation and on March 27 the lesson will be about the Sacrament of Confession. The children preparing for First Confession will meet on those days during church school as they continue to learn about why this Sacrament is so necessary for our growth in the faith.

The children will continue to work with Anna Hamann on music for Palm Sunday. She will work with them during church school time so it becomes doubly important that children are at church school each week.

This month the children will be learning about the sacraments of Marriage and Ordination. There will also be a lesson on the Orthodox view of death and how we remember the dead (requiem) in the church and our lives. The final lesson of the month is on Forgiveness based on Colossians 3:13. This topic will lead us into the beginning of Lent on March 6, Forgiveness Sunday. Church school will NOT meet on that day as we all take part in the Rite of Forgiveness following Divine Liturgy. This beautiful tradition is a perfect beginning to our Lenten Journey.

We look forward to seeing all the children and thank you all for supporting their participation in Church School. A child's first and best teachers about the faith are their parents and there is no better place for all of us to learn than in church.

Yours in Christ,  
Terri Oginsky  
Church School Coordinator  
989-906-0135  
toginsky@gmail.com



# Virtual National Lenten Youth Retreat

## "Tools for Growing Closer to Christ; the Preparatory Sundays of Great Lent"

Retreat Leaders:

**Father Gabriel Bilas**

**Father Andrew P. Nelko**

A gathering via Zoom of Orthodox  
Youth in grades k-12

**Sunday, March 20, 2022**

**4:00pm - 6:00pm EST**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



Scan the QR code to go directly to  
the registration page  
or visit [ww.orthodoxfellowship.org](http://ww.orthodoxfellowship.org)

Sponsored by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America





SMMOY

ST. MARY MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX YOUTH

Remember to encourage each other to attend  
as many Lenten services as possible!

Mark your calendars!

Lazarus Saturday Pancake Breakfast  
April 16th

ALL NIGHT VIGIL  
Friday April, 22- Saturday, April 23rd

UPCOMING  
GATHERING  
MARCH 12TH  
FOLLOWING VIGIL



# COLLEGE CORNER

## PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Katherine Arnes  
Oliver Senter  
Sydney Wilkenson  
Renee Wilkenson  
Katerina Jonescu  
Katheryn Brcic  
Alexandra Kekel  
Abigail Arnes  
Tea Jonascu  
Ethan Durand  
Justin Auxier

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is the official campus ministry organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America



ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

PRE-LENTEN REFLECTION  
WITH GUEST SPEAKER  
FR. JOSIAH TRENHAM



# King Josiah & Repentance

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND  
6:30PM EST

SCAN HERE  
TO REGISTER  
FOR THE  
ZOOM EVENT



2439 S. LONG LAKE RD  
FENTON, MI 48430  
SMMOCAFENTON@GMAIL.COM  
810-750-1401  
ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG



# *The Orthodox Churches of Greater Flint*

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 South Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1701

St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

**Come, Join Us for this Lenten Retreat by Fr. Bogdan Bucur!**



## **Our Covenant with God: Lessons from the Patriarchs, Prophets, Scribes, and Pharisees**

Fr. Bogdan will discuss some Biblical texts including the persons of Abraham, Jacob, Esau, Moses, and the woman caught in adultery.

**Saturday, March 19, 2022**

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church • 2143 S Center Rd • Burton, MI**

**Please RSVP by March 14 to (810) 744-0070 or**

**[stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com)**

<b>10 am</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy</b>
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Lunch (free will offering)</b>
<b>12 pm</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>12:30 pm</b>	<b>Session 1 with Fr. Bogdan</b>
<b>1:30 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>1:45 pm</b>	<b>Session 2 with Fr. Bogdan</b>
<b>2:45 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3 - 3:30 pm</b>	<b>Questions and Answers</b>
<b>4 pm</b>	<b>Vespers followed by Confessions</b>

### ***Guest Speaker: Fr. Bogdan Bucur***

Fr. Bogdan Bucur is associate professor of Patristics at St Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY since 2020. He is a priest of the Antiochian Archdiocese who received his M.Th. in Orthodox Theology at the University of Bucharest in his native Romania and then came to the United States to study under now-Archbishop Alexander (Golitzin) at Marquette University where he received his M.A. in Theology and Ph.D. in Religious Studies. Between 2007 and 2020, he was Assistant and then Associate Professor of Theology at Duquesne University, in Pittsburgh, where he worked in the areas of Early Christian Studies and Reception History of the Bible. In 2010 he was ordained a priest in the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese and served as the pastor of St Anthony Orthodox Church in Butler, PA (2010-2020). Fr Bogdan He is a scholar of early Christianity, with a special interest in the link between reception history of the Bible and doctrinal developments in early Christianity and the Byzantine tradition.

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





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

NOTHING SCHEDULED UNTIL AFTER PASCHA

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE LAZARUS BAG PROJECTS!  
BY THE GRACE OF GOD WE WERE ABLE TO COMPLETE 50 KITS TO DISTRIBUTE TO  
THOSE IN NEED IN OUR COMMUNITIES!

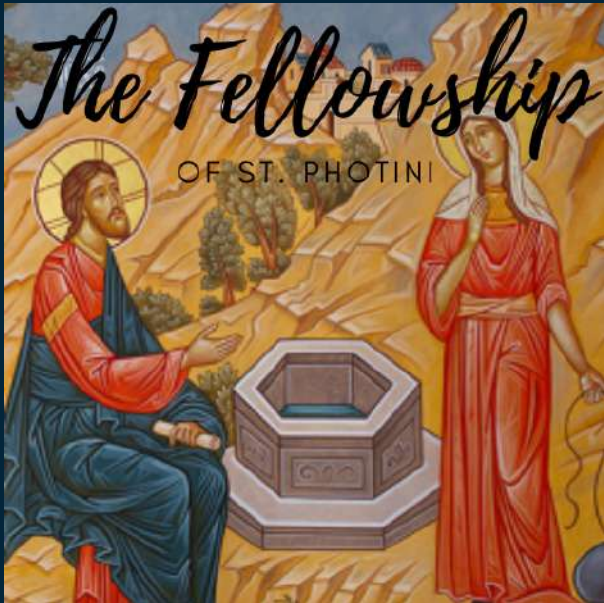
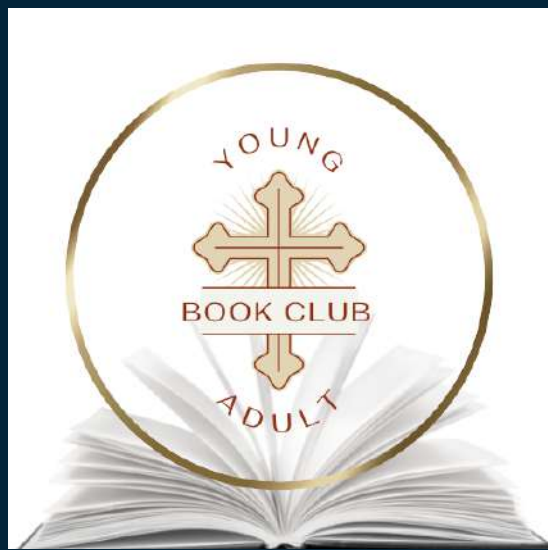
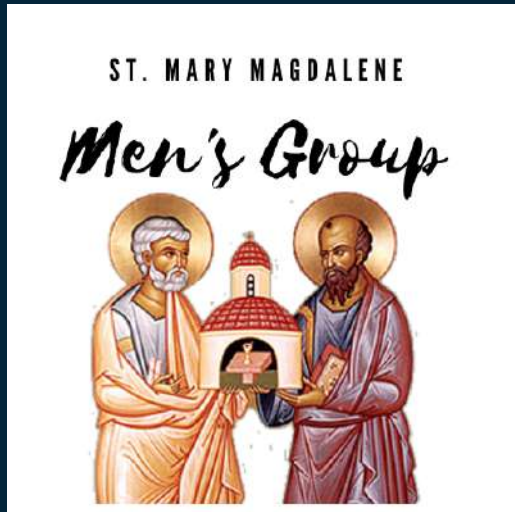
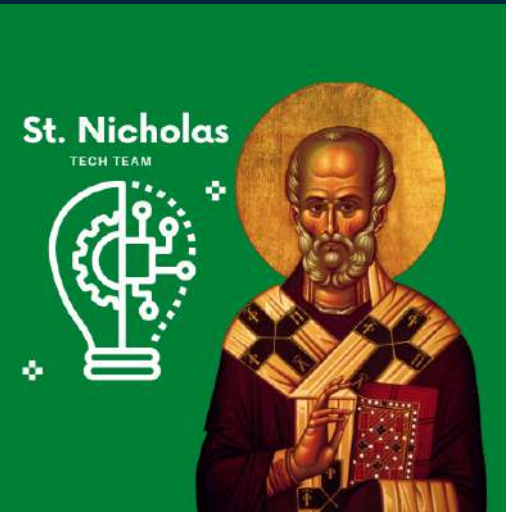


Please contact Deacon Mike or the Parish  
office if you would like to join the efforts of  
the Fellowship of St. Photini

*Truly, I tell you,  
whatever you did for one of  
the least of these  
brothers and sisters of mine,  
you did for me.*  
~MATTHEW 25:40



# PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS





**St. Mary Magdalene**

Parish Council

## Upcoming Meetings:

**March 15th, 7:00pm**  
**April 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

**January 9th:** Theophany Lamb Roast please bring a dish to pass.

**February 27th:** Meatfare please bring a meaty dish to pass

**March:** No Agape Meal since we will have potlucks following all Pre-Sanctified Liturgies.

**April 24th:** Pascha Celebration, bring your basket!

**May 1st:** Agape Meal bring a dish to pass - Egg Hunt for the kids.

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

**July 24th:** First Responders Blessing, Main Meal provided please bring a dessert to share

**August:** No Agape Meal

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

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

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

**December 11th:** Agape Meal (Fasting)\

**December 24th:** Holy Supper

# MAN of GOD

The story of Saint Nektarios

Monday, March, 21st ONLY!

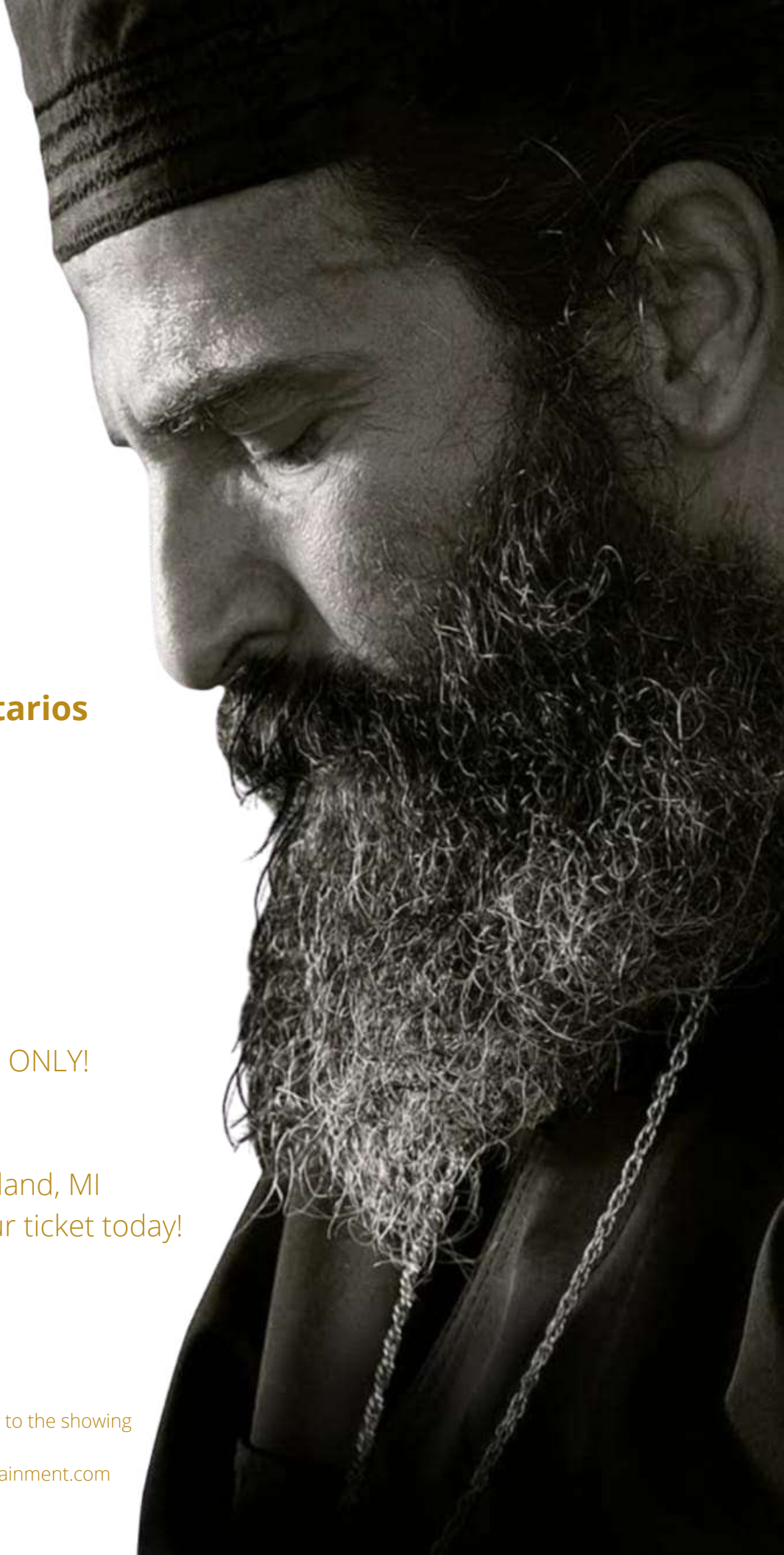
7:00pm

Imagine Theatre-Hartland, MI

Space is limited, reserve your ticket today!



Scan here to go directly to the showing  
or visit  
[www.imagine-entertainment.com](http://www.imagine-entertainment.com)



# 2022 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

## Friday, April 15th:

Vespers for Lazarus Saturday, 6:30pm (confession available)

## Saturday, April 16th: Lazarus Saturday

Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene, 9:15 am, fellowship meal immediately followed by Vespers (confession available)

## Sunday, April 17th: Palm Sunday

Divine Liturgy, 9:50am Bridegroom Matins, 7pm (confession available)

## Monday, April 18th: Great & Holy Monday

Bridegroom Matins, 7pm (confession available)

## Tuesday, April 19th: Great & Holy Tuesday

Bridegroom Matins, 7pm (confession available)

## Wednesday, April 20th: Great & Holy Wednesday

Holy Unction, 7pm (fast from your noon meal for the sacrament)

## Thursday, April 21st: Great & Holy Thursday

Divine Liturgy, 10am

Passions Gospels, 7pm

## Friday, April 22nd: Great & Holy Friday

Royal Hours, 10am

Unnailing Vespers, 3pm

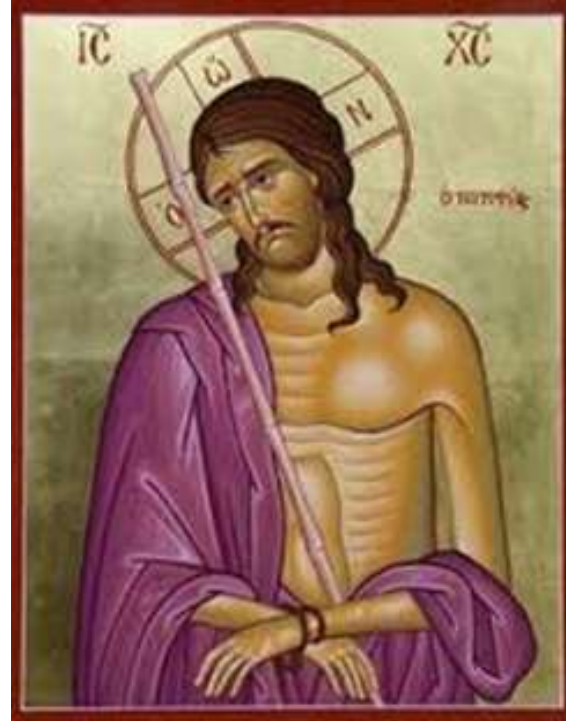
Lamentations & Procession, 7pm

All Night Vigil

## Saturday, April 23rd: Great & Holy Saturday

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

Nocturns & Paschal Service, 11:30pm followed by agape meal



## PASCHA & BRIGHT WEEK



## Sunday, April 24th: GREAT & HOLY PASCHA

Agape Vespers, 1pm

## Monday, April 25th: Bright Monday

Divine Liturgy, 10am at St. Mary Magdalene

## Tuesday, April 26th: Bright Tuesday

Divine Liturgy, 10am at St. Nicholas

## Wednesday, April 27th: Bright Wednesday

Divine Liturgy, 6pm at St. George

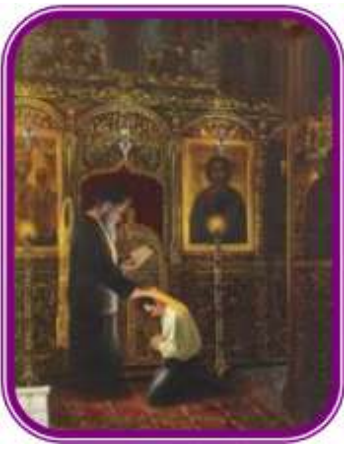
## Friday, April 29th Bright Friday

Divine Liturgy 10am at Holy Assumption

## Saturday, April 30th

Great Vespers, 5pm at St. Mary Magdalene

# LENTEN CONFESSION SCHEUDLE



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.



To schedule an appointment outside of these times please reach out to Fr. Gabriel directly  
810-750-1401 or  
frgabrielsmm@gmail.com

Throughout Great Lent there will be regular confessions available on Saturday's following Vigils and every other Wednesday following The Canon of Repentance. There will not be confessions following Pre-Sanctified Liturgies.

# HOLY WEEK CONFESSION SCHEUDLE

Friday, April 15th:

Saturday, April 16th:

Palm Sunday, April 17th:

Holy Monday, April 18th:

Holy Tuesday, April 19th:

Holy Wednesday, April 20th:

Following Lazarus Saturday Vespers

Following Palm Sunday Vespers

Following Bridegroom Matins

Following Bridegroom Matins

Following Bridegroom Matins \*\*

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.

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



Outdoors from the front of the building.



The inside of the Sanctuary.



Outdoors from the back of the building.



## 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





## 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.



DETROIT'S ANNUAL  
INTER-ORTHODOX SUNDAY LENTEN

# Vespers 2022

## **13 MARCH: TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY**

with Children's Procession of Icons  
**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX BASILICA OF ST MARY**  
18100 Merriman Rd, Livonia (between 6 & 7 Mile Rds)  
The Very Rev Fr PAUL PATISTAS, Homilist

## **20 MARCH: ST GREGORY PALAMAS**

**HOLY TRANSFIGURATION ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
36075 W 7 Mile Rd, Livonia (between Newburgh & Farmington Rds)  
The Very Rev Fr RADOMIR OBSENICA, Homilist

## **27 MARCH: THE HOLY CROSS**

**ST GEORGE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**  
18405 W 9 Mile Rd, Southfield (just W of M-10 & M-39 Fwys)  
The Very Rev Fr MICHAEL VARLAMOS, Homilist

## **3 APRIL: ST JOHN OF THE LADDER**

**HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
25225 Middlebelt Rd, Farmington Hills (between 10 & 11 Mile Rds)  
The Very Rev Fr MICHAEL BUTLER, Homilist

## **10 APRIL: ST MARY OF EGYPT**

**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
39851 W 5 Mile Rd, Plymouth (just E of Haggerty Rd)  
The Very Rev Fr JOHN BAKER, Homilist

**Prayer. Education. Fellowship.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME - Services 6:00pm | Free-will offering | Refreshments follow**

Officiated by members of the St John Chrysostom Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood | Responses by the Detroit Inter-Orthodox Vespers Choir

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



@orthodoxdetroit

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN  
OF MICHIGAN (OCW)  
PRESENTS

# LIVE FROM BYZIMOM'S KITCHEN!



LYNNE WARDACH OF BYZIMOM.COM SHARES  
HER TIPS, HACKS, AND RECIPE IDEAS  
FOR MAKING SOME  
GREAT FAST (LENTEN) MEALS

THIS EVENT WILL ALSO INCLUDE A LENTEN  
RECIPE TASTING AND SWAP. IF YOU WOULD  
LIKE, PLEASE BRING A FAVORITE LENTEN  
DISH TO SHARE AND AT LEAST 10 TO 15  
COPIES OF THE RECIPE.

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022, 7:00 P.M.  
ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
CULTURAL CENTER  
18405 WEST NINE MILE ROAD  
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

Questions about this event?  
Contact Gia Cherpes-See at [gcseel@gmail.com](mailto:gcseel@gmail.com)

# ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

## LET'S GET CONNECTED!

Follow us!



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

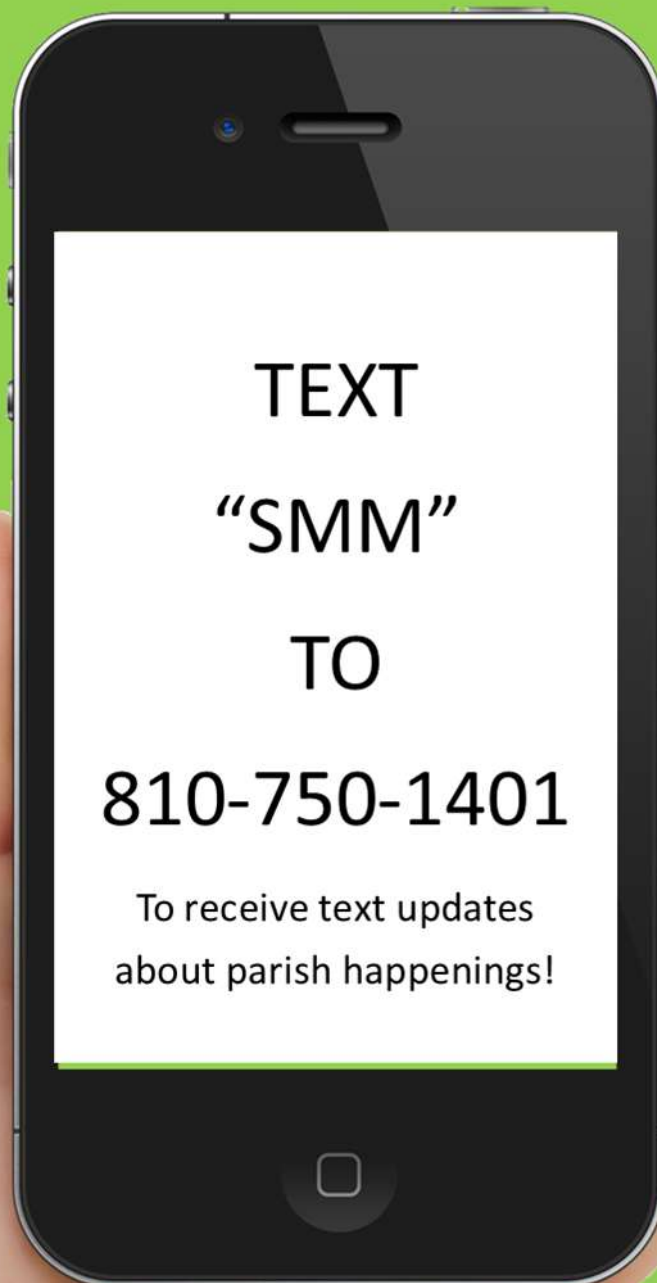
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# Stay up-to-date with St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



St. MARY  
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TEXT

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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

