



MARCH 2024

**ST. MARY MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.st-marymagdalene.org

Photo from the Presentation of our Lord

**2439 S. Long Lake Rd
Fenton, MI 48430**

Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-750-1401

**Church Email:
SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com
Father's Email
frgabrielsmm@gmail.com**

Office Hours*:

Monday 10:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm

Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

*or by appointment

WORSHIP WITH US!



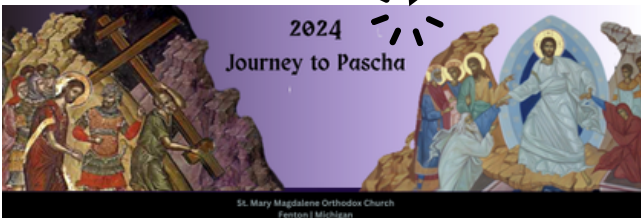
Weekly Service Schedule*
Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy, 9:40am
Wednesday Divine Liturgy, 10:00am
Saturday Vespers & Confessions, 4:00pm

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

ADDITIONAL SERVICES THIS MONTH

This month we will begin our Lenten Services!

Visit the Great Lent Page of our website for the full service schedule!



12- Prayer Service for the Sick & Suffering, 6:00pm

14-Reader's Akathist to Martyr Varus, 6:00pm

24-Vespers for the Annunciation, 6pm at Holy Assumption

25-Divine Liturgy for Annunciation, 10am at Holy Assumption

Great Lent Begins:

The time for preparation comes to a close on March 17th, as we begin our journey towards Golgotha and the Tomb.

ALL PARISHIONERS OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE NEED TO BE IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT AND THE MUTUAL RITE OF FORGIVENESS!

Let us not stumble out of the gate for the holiest time of the year by neglecting our hearts during the first services of "clean week". There are services every day of the first week of Lent, so please mark your calendars and plan on attending!

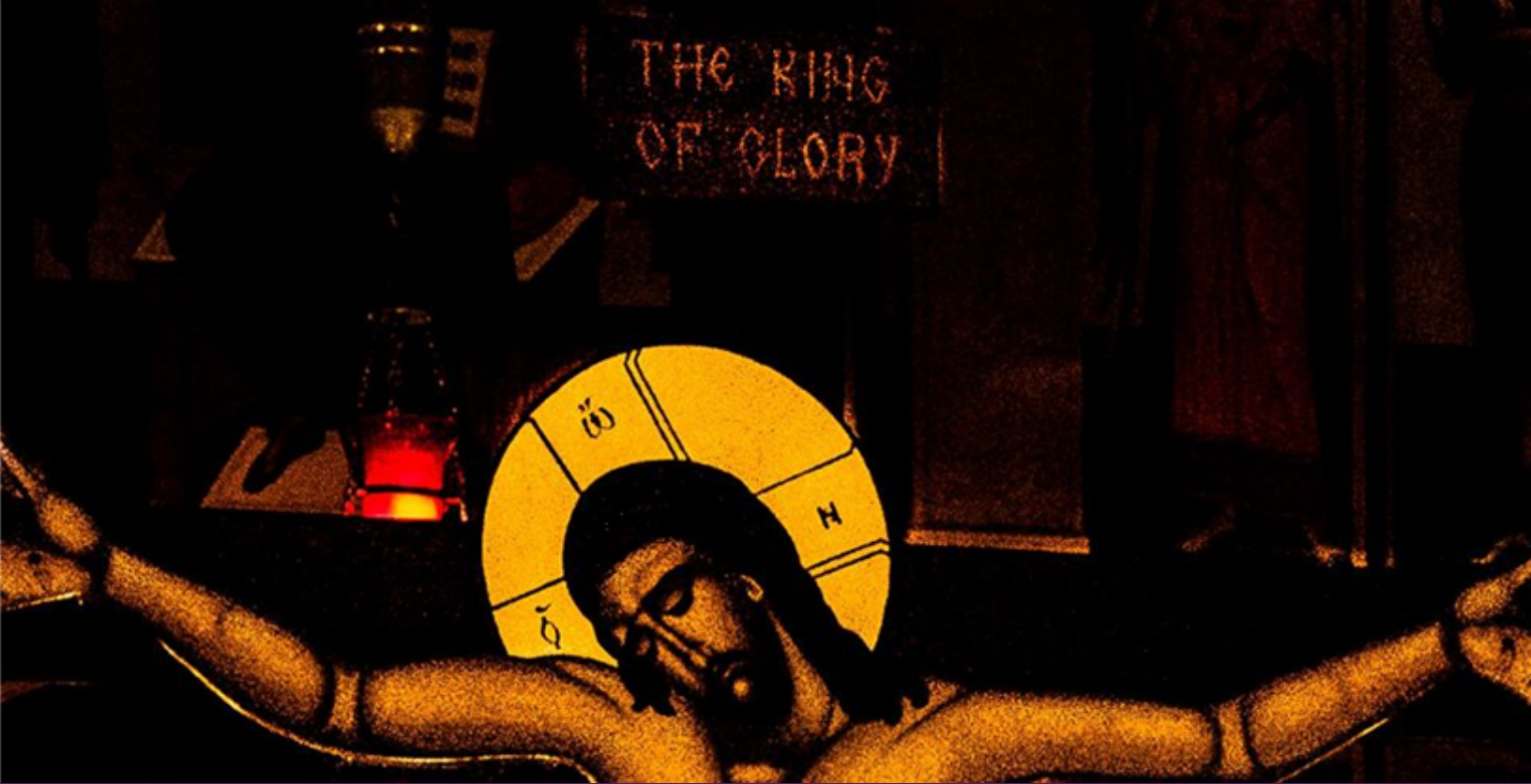
2439 S. Long Lake Rd
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(810) 150-1401
Email: smmocafernton@gmail.com

wwwst-marymagdalene.org

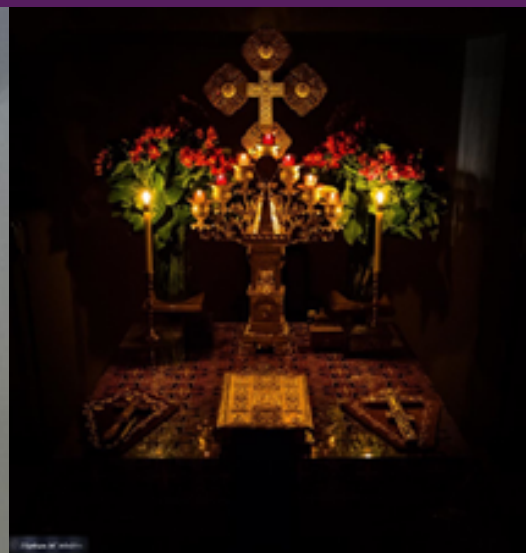
DONATE



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Clean Week 2024



Sunday, March 17th

Hours & Divine Liturgy 9:40am followed by Forgiveness Vespers

Monday, March 18th

Clean Week Matins, 10:00am

Tuesday, March 19th

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

Wednesday, March 20th

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

Thursday, March 21st

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

Friday, March 22nd

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

Saturday, March 23rd

PreSanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm

Soul Saturday, 3:30pm & Great Vespers, 4:00pm

MONTHLY FORECAST

Parish Happenings!

ALTAR SERVER CLASS

On Saturday, March 9th, we will be having an altar server class to help many of our new servers get acclimated to the new Church Space. Please make sure all of our altar servers are at the Church by 3:00 PM that Saturday (an hour before Great Vespers!)

ORTHODOXY SUNDAY

Sunday March 24th is Orthodoxy Sunday, We will be having a special icon procession (weather permitting) after the Divine Liturgy. Everyone should bring their favorite icons from home, or an icon of their patron saint, so that we can share them with the world.

LENTEN MOVIE NIGHT AT ST. MARY MAGDALENE

On Saturday, March 30th following Vigil there will be a Parish Movie Night. We will feature the movie "Ostrov" or "The Island" in English! Please bring a lenten dish to share. This will be subtitled.

PAN ORTHODOX DIVINE SERVICES

Look on the Pan Orthodox Calendars for the combined services of our four parishes in Genesee County. These services are for all members of our communities to attend, and attendance is highly encouraged, even if the services are not held at St. Mary Magdalene.

After the Annunciation services, the first Pan Orthodox Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be held at St. Nicholas in Burton on Wednesday, March 27th beginning at 6:00 PM. There will be a Potluck Lenten Meal following each Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Liturgy.

GREAT LENT BEGINS!

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CHARITABLE GIVING:

Cereal Collection Drive:

Everyone has their favorite or go-to cereal that they love for breakfast! This month's collection is a big one, as we need to help supply breakfast cereal items for the local food pantry (who is running low on supplies). **On Sunday, March 10th**, please bring in at least one box of your favorite cereal with you to donate!

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Lenten Retreat with Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick

This year's topic is "Salvation and the Unseen World". Fr. Damick will join us on Saturday, April 6th for an all day Lenten Retreat. You must register for the retreat. You can do so at st-marymagdalene.org/adult-education Details are in the flyer below!



Saturday

MARCH 9TH

3:00PM

Altar Servers Class 3:00pm

Who can join?

- Altar Servers Workshop: Males who have received or are about to receive their first confession that would like to serve in the Altar.
- If your would like your son to serve in the Altar but they have not yet done so, please reach out to Fr. Gabriel.
- We ask that as many Altar servers as possible attend this class if they plan to continue serving. It is important to all of our servers to know how to properly use our new expanded temple.



MOSES AND THE CLOUD

The first Sunday of Great Lent is known as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy". When we hear that word "*Triumph*", we often think that this word means "victory", but in Ancient Rome a "triumph" referred to the **ceremonies** that marked the celebration of victories! The emperor would parade and celebrate around the cities with the treasurers and spoils he captured from the enemy, and this is the action that millions of Orthodox Christians are taking today throughout the world!



History remembers this as the day in which Holy Icons, after years of persecutions from the iconoclasts, were restored to the entire Church in the 8th century. We thank God today for the victory of the Church over the heresy of iconoclasm! Look what icons do for our lives as Christians! When we come to the Church to see Christ and the Saints and his mother, depicted on the iconostasis, do they hinder the prosperity of the Gospel in our lives? Or is the Gospel enhanced for us? When we see and venerate (not worship!) icons, do we think more about the greatest miracle ever; that God became Man and conquered death so that we might have eternal life? Or does it cause us to think less about these saving truths?

Every First Sunday after Lent since the year 843, the Church celebrates the Triumph of Orthodoxy. Our victorious general, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, came into the flesh to conquer death for us! We hold icons up as the spoils of war and as the treasure that displays that victory to the world!

One thing that we might notice if we are paying attention to the readings and hymns for Orthodoxy Sunday, is that both the Gospel and the Epistle don't speak about icons at all! This is because before 843, before a time when icons came under attack, the Church had dedicated this Sunday to another kind of victory. It was on this first Sunday of Lent that our ancestors remembered the victory of the Prophets and Saints who came before Christ and spent their lives pointing towards the coming of God into the world!

While we can spend several weeks contemplating the lives of these holy ones, let us follow the example that St. Paul leads us with in his epistle to the Hebrews, and speak about the life of one of the Greatest Prophets in Moses! We remember how he came into this world in the midst of the Egyptian's persecution of the Hebrew people. Pharaoh had ordered that all Hebrew males should be thrown into

the Nile River in a cruel attempt to subdue the Hebrew population. Moses, who was a particularly beautiful baby as St. Gregory of Nyssa shares, was spared this evil by being placed in a little boat by his mother and sent down river. It was here that Pharaoh's daughter happened to see the little boat while walking near the river, saw the beautiful countenance of this little boy, and adopted the young Moses to raise him like a prince in the palace.

As he grew older, Moses had a choice to make. In the palace, he was surrounded by riches, food, glories, and honors! He lived the life that so many in our world dream of living...in material comfort and wealth! Despite all of that, he could not bear to see the plight of his own people, and so prefiguring what Christ had done for us, Moses gave up the riches of the Kingdom to live amongst the slaves as a shepherd. He chose poverty over riches, suffering over the easy life, and dishonor and scorn over glory.

MOSES AND THE CLOUD

CONTINUED

Our entire lives as Orthodox Christians, **especially** during this period of Great Lent, is about following this same example! We are so inundated with the good life here in our country, yet there are so many people out there that have no food. In order to imitate Christ, we have to sometimes humble ourselves and in some way experience those same things our brothers and sisters are experiencing, in order to grow in our love and understanding of them. We fast, not just to control our bodies, but to also remember and to grow closer in understanding to those who don't have food. We grow in our love for the poor by giving them money to buy food and clothes to warm themselves in. We do these things to grow in our love for our fellow men, so that our love for Christ can continue to grow! All these things Moses did out of love and compassion for his own people, and (as St. Paul says) was richly rewarded for doing so.

If we fast forward in the life of this great prophet, we remember how Moses had led his people out of Egypt and out of the tyranny of Pharaoh. While they were in the desert, they were led to the promise land by God in the form of a Divine Cloud that was beyond our human comprehension. It wasn't a misty composition that we are used to when we hear "cloud". Scripture tells us that when the rays of the Sun would show in the desert, making it extremely hot and unbearable, the cloud would shelter the people, and moisten them with a light dew. At night, when the desert would get extremely cold, the cloud would become like a fire, leading the

Israelites in procession with its own light from sunset to sunrise! It was this cloud that guided them on their journey, and Moses and the Hebrews followed it with tremendous faith.

The cloud eventually led them to a place called Mount Sinai, and the people were ordered to keep themselves and their bodies pure of passions so that they could approach the mountain. On the third day, the mountain was shrouded with a dark cloud. Thunder, lightning, and the sound of a trumpet was heard booming over the people, who were awestruck and in fear! St. Gregory of Nyssa, who wrote the life of Moses (4th century) described this scene by saying...

"The manifestation was of such a nature that it not only caused consternation in their souls through what they saw, but it also struck fear in them through what they heard! A terrible sound ripped down from above, upon everything below. It's first impact was harsh and intolerable to every ear. It's sound was like a blaring of trumpets, but the intensity and terribleness of the sound surpassed any such comparison. As it drew nearer, it's blaring steadily increased to a more terrifying volume. The sound was sharp and clear, the air articulating the word by divine power without using organs of speech. The word was not articulated without purpose but was laying down divine ordinances (the 10 commandments). As the sound drew nearer, it became louder, and the trumpet surpassed itself, the successive sounds exceeding in volume the preceding ones."



MOSES AND THE CLOUD

CONTINUED



The people were so frightened, that they sent Moses to go alone and to approach this incredible sight and be the mediator between God and the people. He ascended up the mountain and disappeared from their sight while the Thunder and Lightning continued...and it was there that He received the law.

St. Gregory says in his "Life of Moses", that if we are going to associate intimately with God, **we have to go beyond all that which is visible.** We must lift our minds to the mountaintop towards the invisible and incomprehensible, and understand that God is there, where our understanding does not always reach.

Why does God allow his people to suffer? Why did he allow the Hebrews to remain in bondage for so long before sending Moses? Why does he permit a senseless war to continue to develop in Ukraine? What is it like to come into His presence at the judgment seat? How does bread and wine becoming the Body and Blood of God at the Divine Liturgy? How does an icon weep or a Gospel Book bleed? The life of Moses shows us how to navigate all of these doubts and questions that come up in our lives.

We follow with faith the "Cloud of the Church", that is piloted by the Holy Spirit itself, which answers every need that we have in this life. We lower ourselves to the ground in humility, understanding that there are questions that we have that are simply beyond our human capacity to answer. We lift ourselves up by knowing and remembering the incredible gift of Love that our Lord offered us on the

Cross and in the Tomb, because we understand that no matter what happens in this life, **true victory and triumph is found in faith.**

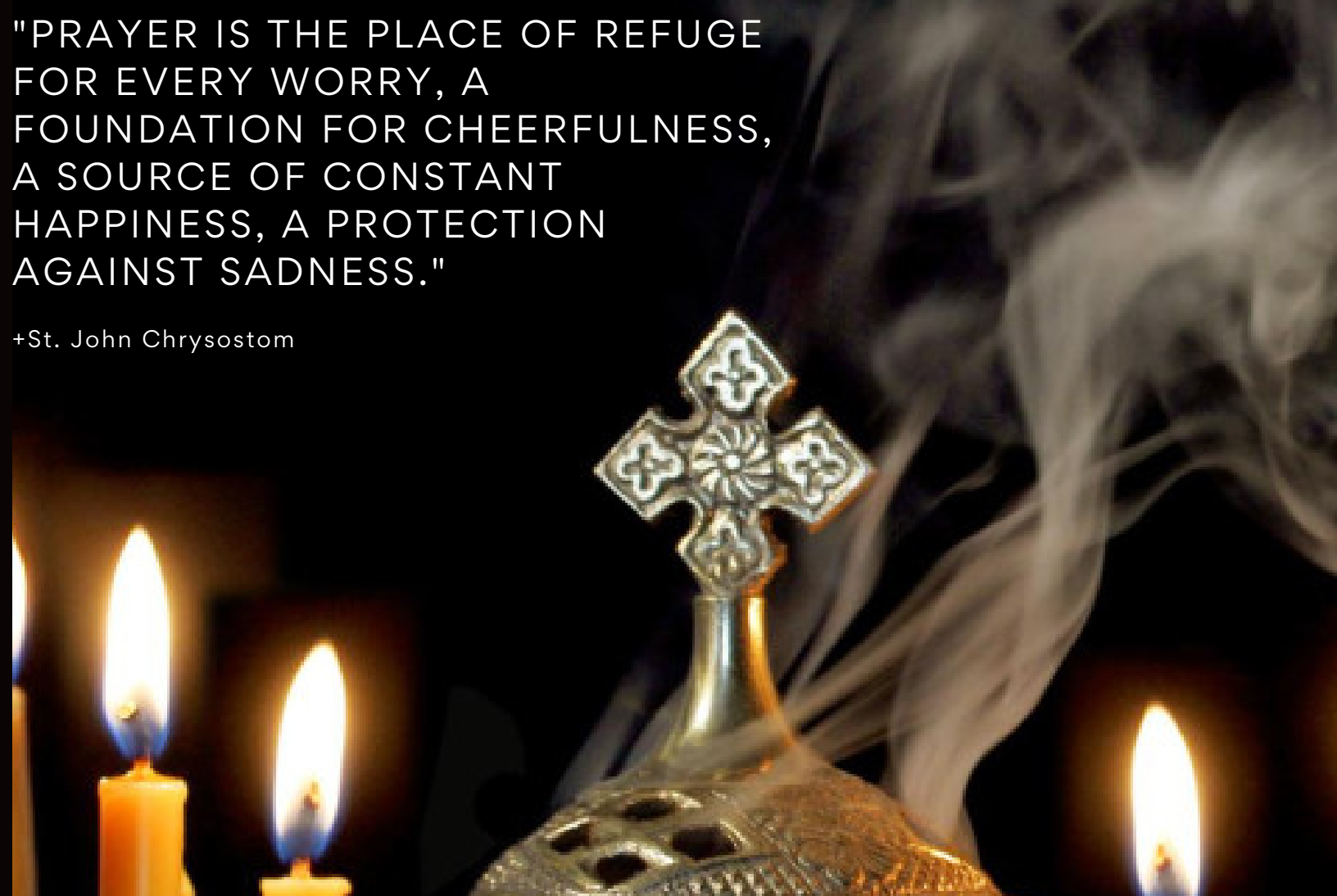
May God give us the courage to continue this triumph of faith in our own lives, showing the world what it means to be a part of the faith that has established the universe.



Bring your Icons of Sunday, March 24th for a procession following Divine Liturgy!

"PRAYER IS THE PLACE OF REFUGE
FOR EVERY WORRY, A
FOUNDATION FOR CHEERFULNESS,
A SOURCE OF CONSTANT
HAPPINESS, A PROTECTION
AGAINST SADNESS."

+St. John Chrysostom



Sick and the Suffering*

+Alexander	Jeanette
+Nathaniel	Richard
Sbdn. Paul	Paul
Vinne	Mike
Elaine	John
David	Harry
Pat	Patricia
Michael	Dottie
Lauren	
Mason	
Theresa	
Robert	
Arminda	
Martin	
Shirley	
Nadia	
Child	
Hudson	

Mother's With Child

Anna	Renee
Catherine	Emily
Chloe	Mat. Danielle
Allison	Morgan
Lauren	

Catechumenate

Sarah	Ryan
Jeannie	Morgan
Landen	Milo
Ethan	Gavin
Allison	Nathan
Stella	Catherine
Vera	Thomas
Kane	Aaron
Stephanie	Skyler
Derek	Theoden
Alexis	
Maverick	
Camden	

Armed Forces

Michael Oginsky - U.S.
Stephany Bishop - U.S. Navy
Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers
Alex Suriano - Air National Guard
Sarah Tyler- U.S. Air Force
Sergeant Mark Stringer -Army Reserves

Anniversary of Repose

4-Philip Moorman
13-Jacob Oslin
31-Brigitte Ziegler

Recently Departed

Suzanne

Seminarian Family

Reader Paisios, Anna, John,
Theodore & Alexander Hamann

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



MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!

SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH



Birthdays

2-Jane Bartley	21-Joe Suriano
3-Inna Bondira	22-Doug Ballnik
3-Amanda Auxier	24-George Naum
7-Brianna Walton	27-Larry Shipley
8-Anastasia Kline	28-Pat Matts
11-John Bartley	30-Chris Burtka
12-Katerina Jonascu	
14-LeeAnn Barnhart	
20-Subdeacon John Auxier	

Anniversaries

10-Brion & Theresa Cooley

Recent & Upcoming Baptism & Chrismations

None this Month

Weddings

None this month

Engagements

William Keegan & Lauren Peters
Mark Foster & Katerina Jonascu
Gregory Auxier & Alexis Ferguson
Nick Schwartz & Sarah Miller
Tyler Hinsley & Emily Lizzio
Jeff Schalk & Julia Zayan
Nicholas Berens & Katherine Arnes

New Catechumens

None this Month

Recent Funerals

None this Month

Confession Schedule

Father Gabriel will hear confessions on the following days or by appointment.
Saturday Evenings following Great Vespers/Vigils or following weekday Liturgies

Keep an eye on the calendar for exact dates and times.

For the Sick and the Suffering

There is a prayer service for the sick and the suffering, especially those with cancer, held the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm. Please contact the parish office to add any names to the prayer list.

PARISH LIFE

THIS MONTH

Fellowship of St. Photini March Outreach Ministry:

On Sunday, March 10th we will be collecting Breakfast Cereal for the FARR food pantry

Adult Education: Register for the Lenten Retreat held on April 6th

Tot Time: Wednesdays following Divine Liturgy and continuing at 10:30am as we enter into the Lenten Schedule

Parish Council: Tuesday, March 12, 7pm

PARISH GREETERS

March 3: Steve & Sue Walton

March 10: Jacob Bowers

March 17: Scott & Tina Shephard

March 24: George & Julie Jonascu

March 31: Seth & Mia Hillaker

BELL RINGERS

March 3: Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

March 10: Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

March 17: Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

March 24: Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

March 31: Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

COFFEE HOUR

March 3: Doug & Joyce Ballnik

March 10: Tom & Cindy Chiatialis
(Meatfare)

March 17: Vince & Carol Lizzio
(Cheesefare)

March 24: Terri Oginsky
(fasting)

March 31: Bartley Family
(fasting)

EPISTLE READERS

March 3: Rdr. Brian-Philip Walton & Sue Walton

March 10: Ruth Karabina & John Wolf

March 17: Rdr. Tom Chiatialis & Jenni Otis

March 24: Rdr Chris Ballnik & Rdr Brian-Philip Walton

March 31: Rdr. David Schutt & Rdr Tom Chiatialis

PASTORAL REPORT

UPDATE FROM FR. GABRIEL

Worship

We have slowly been preparing for entering back into our Church, and it seems that now it is finally within reach. It was a tremendous blessing to watch all of the members of our community come together to help with all of the tasks that were required for us to get back, including painting, cleaning, drywall patching, moving of furniture, and so much more. My thanks to all members of our community who have helped to make this happen!

In terms of enhancements for the Church, the iconography for the dome has been completed. From a donation received last year, we are purchasing new altar boy lanterns, as well as some high place furniture for the altar.

Community

We have welcomed many newcomers and inquirers recently, and I anticipate that the re-opening of our sanctuary will bring even more. We also celebrated the wedding of Jared and Ruthanne Torry, as well as welcomed the newborn Kira Elizabeth Bondira into our parish community! I have also started house blessings, but due to the record number of sign ups, this will most likely fall into Great Lent!

Education

Metanoia classes are in full swing in a hybrid setting, with many people coming in person. Teen classes are continuing in the central classroom, and now that there is a beginning in sight for our return to the Church, the Church School will get into full swing in the coming weeks. We will also be hosting the Pan Orthodox Lenten Retreat on Saturday, April 6th with guest speaker Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick from Ancient Faith Radio.

Stewardship

St. Photini has completed their collection for the Lazarus bags, and now we will be preparing them for blessing and distribution to the parish. In the month of March, we will also be doing a cereal drive for our local food pantry.



St. Mary Magdalene

Parish Council

Upcoming Meetings:

All Meetings begin at 7:00pm

January 9
February 13
March 12
April 9
May 14
June 11

July 9
August 13
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10

**Annual Meeting
December 1, 2024**

Parish Council Members

John Wolf, Chair

George Jonascu, Vice Chair

Ann Schutt, Treasurer

Rachel Burtka, Secretary

Subdeacon Andrew Durand

Terri Oginsky

Jay Rice

Subdeacon John Auxier

Alternate: Pat Matts

Building Project Update:



If you have any questions regarding the building project please reach out to our contractor Jonathan Peters or to a member of parish council.

February Highlights:

Major finishing touches including:

- first inspection done and remaining code issues are being addressed.
- Final touches are in the works
- Thank you to all of our volunteers who have helped move items & clean the space
- Elevator production will be finished in April.

Our donor has extended their matching donation through the month of March. We are hoping to collect up to \$35,000 from our parish and community to be matched this month!



Keep an eye out over the next month for our wishlist of items needed for the new big church.

If you would like to volunteer to clean the new temple space either once or on a regular basis please reach out to Pat Matts.

If you have talents in the trades or are willing to roll your sleeves up and learn please reach out to John Wolf.

If you would like to volunteer for any reason please reach out to the parish office.

FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI

We were able to collect and put together 50 Lazarus Bags for the homeless in our community!

A lot of hands make light work! This year we hit a record and were able to pack all 50 bags in under 15 minutes with all of our volunteers!

Next Month we are asking for people to bring in their favorite cereal for a one day collection on Sunday, March 10th. This will be donated to the local food bank.



Lazarus Bags Items Needed

- +Handwarmers
- +Gloves
- +Hats
- +White Socks
- +Water Bottles
- +Assorted Band-aids
- +Kleenex
- +Combs
- +Washcloths
- +Bars of Soap
- +Sandwich Size Ziplocks
- +Snack Size Ziplocks

Sign up sheet is in the lobby area!
Items due back on February 18th



UPCOMING

Great Lent: Bethany School Project



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

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



St. Mary Magdalene Church School

Cereal Drive

Sunday, March 10th

Drop Off Location

2439 S. Long Lake Rd | Fenton, MI 48430

Donate Breakfast Cereal
(economy bags preferred)





Ronald McDonald
House Charities
Ann Arbor

#KeepingFamiliesClose

POP TAB PROGRAM

Collecting pop tabs is an easy way for anyone to support Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor! It is also a great way to teach kids about philanthropy and the importance of recycling while raising funds to help children and their families at the same time.



Why save pop tabs? RMHCAA collects pop tabs instead of the entire aluminum can because it is more hygienic to store tabs than cans, and collection and storage is easier. The program allows people of all ages to support RMHCAA and know they are making a difference for families and children.

What does RMHCAA do with the pop tabs? The pop tabs collected are turned in and weighed to determine their value. The proceeds collected from recycling helps fund the programs provided by RMHCAA to support our families and provide a “home away from home”.

What does it take to collect pop tabs? It’s easy! Pull tabs mostly come from soda cans but may also come from other aluminum items like vegetable and soup cans. Encourage your class, church, business or community organization to collect them too. Every little bit helps! Collect tabs any way you would like – in zip lock bags, coffee cans, boxes, or any other wide-mouthed container.

What do I do with the pop tabs collected? When your collection is complete, you can drop your tabs off at the RMHCAA office located in the Main House, at 1600 Washington Hts., Ann Arbor. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and weekends.

Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor | 1600 Washington Hts. Ann Arbor 48104
(734) 944-4442 | www.rmhcann Arbor.org

PARISH EXTRAS

PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

The parish lending has recently gone through a reorganization and added several new titles. The list of current titles are available digitally on our website. Use the sign-out sheet to check out a book.

You can find reading on the following topics;

St. Mary Magdalene Pictorial History, Young Adult, Journals, Children's Books, Orthodox Theology, Spirituality, Multi Media, Family Life, Orthodox Living, About Prayer & Prayer Books, Sacraments, Advent, Great Lent & Pascha, Intro to Orthodoxy, Scriptural Study, Church History, Liturgical Theology, Service Books, Lives of the Saints. Patristics. Memoirs & Commemorations, and Ethics

Access the full list of library titles by clicking the stack of books below!



PARISH KIOSK

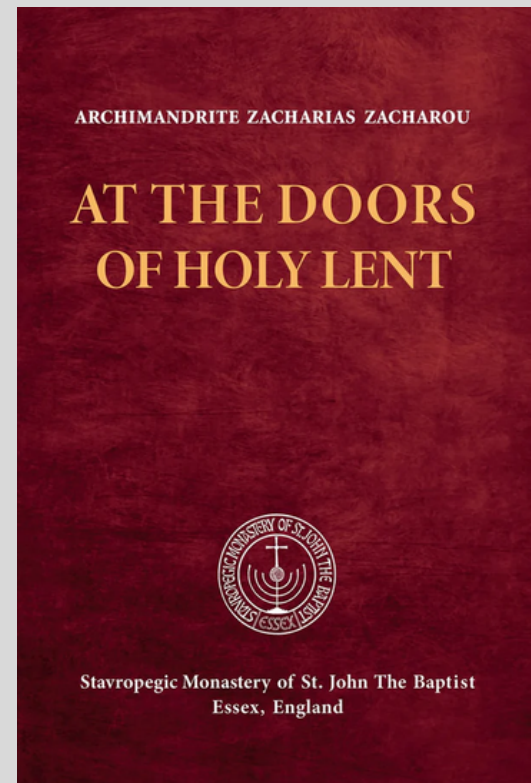


If you would like to order any items for your home altar please reach out to the parish office!

“AT THE DOORS OF HOLY LENT” BY ARCHIMANDRITE ZACHARIAS ZACHAROU

We stand with awe at the doors of the fearsome Great Lent. It is fearsome, not because it imposes on us superhuman exercises, but because of the awesome things the grace of this period performs in the heart of the faithful. In the bosom of the Church, the atmosphere is stirred up spiritually, and the grace that permeates it is so tangible and abundant that it would be terrifying to lose it.

—Excerpt from Arch. Zacharias, At the Doors of Holy Lent



If you are looking for something specific please reach out to the parish office and we can order it from our suppliers. Your order helps support the parish.



MUSIC MINISTRIES

PARISH BELL RINGERS AND CHOIR



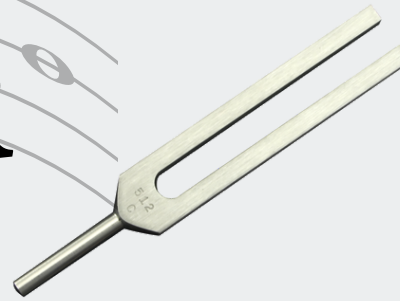
Regular Bell Ringing Rehearsals

1st Tuesday of the Month, 10:30am

1st Sunday of the Month following Divine Liturgy

This ministry needs new volunteers! If you are interested contact Cindy Welch to join this ministry!

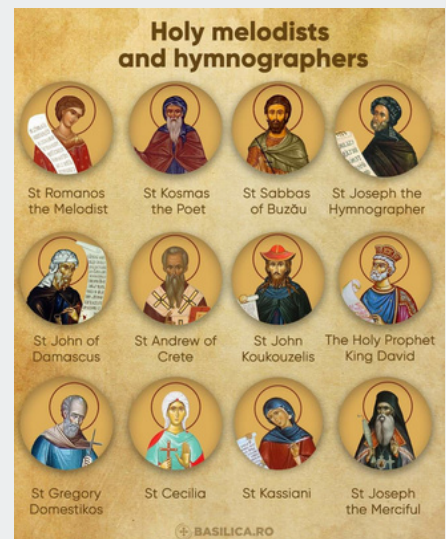
PARISH CHOIR



UPCOMING REHEARSALS:

Saturday, March 2: Men's Choir Rehearsal 2:30pm

Choir Kick-Off Party:
All singers and those who have an interest in joining the choir (and their families) are invited to a special pre-lenten Choir Kick Off Party at the Fenton Winery and Brewery (1370 N Long Lake Rd. Fenton Twp) on Sunday March 3rd after Divine Liturgy. All those attending, please reach out to Tom Chiatlas at tchiatlas@gmail.com, or reach out to him at the Church next week, to RSVP and get more details!



“
Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For he has done marvelous things...

-Psalm 98:1



EDUCATION

LIVE AND LEARN THE FAITH!



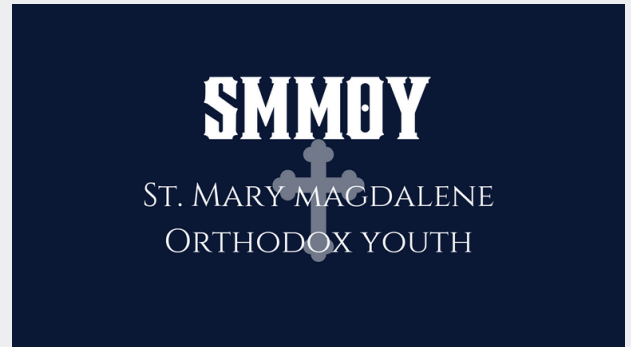
Our Parish Youth!

I hope February finds everyone well and looking forward to Great Lent!!

Take home lessons are available each week. Children and their families are invited to participate in Lenten almsgiving by donating a box of cereal (one or more per family) for the Food Pantry sponsored by FARR (Fenton Area Resources and Referral network). Children might help around the house to “earn” enough to purchase some cereal. Please bring your donation to church on Sunday, March 10 (Meatfare Sunday). The church school schedule for the remainder of the year will be shared with everyone as soon as possible.

Yours in Christ,

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



KEEP AN EYE ON BAND!!

PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Katheryn Brcic
David Brcic
Abigail Arnes
Tea Jonascu
Ethan Durand
Justin Auxier
Ava Arnes

YOUNG ADULTS

BOOK CLUB AND FELLOWSHIP

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

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

YOUNG
ADULT
GROUP



The Young Adult Social group meets Monthly for an Akathist, meal and fellowship.

This group also spends time together following Vespers/Vigils on Saturday

Monthly Akathist 2024 SCHEDULE

HOSTED BY THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP

JANUARY	6:00PM
11	Guardian Angel
FEBRUARY	6:00PM
8	Romanov Passion Bearers
MARCH	6:00PM
14	Martyr Varus
APRIL	6:00PM
11	Canon of St. Mary of Egypt
MAY	6:00PM
9	St. Paisios
JUNE	6:00PM
13	St. John Maximovich
JULY	6:00PM
11	St. Matushka Olga
AUGUST	6:00PM
8	Joy of all Who Sorrow
SEPTEMBER	6:00PM
12	Holy Cross
OCTOBER	6:00PM
10	Inexhaustible Cup
NOVEMBER	6:00PM
14	Joachim & Anna
DECEMBER	6:00PM
12	Holy Myrrhbearers

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

To join either of these groups on the Band App, reach out to Subdeacon John Auxier and he will get you added!



The Young Adult self-guided book club is open to everyone in our Pan-Orthodox community. They meet Thursday evenings at 6:00pm (*with the exception of Akathist evenings*) and move from home to home to read spiritual books and enjoy a meal together.

“SALVATION AND THE UNSEEN WORLD”

A PAN-ORTHODOX LENTEN RETREAT APRIL 6, 2024

Join us for our annual Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat hosted by St. Mary Magdalene Parish (2439 S. Long Lake Rd Fenton, MI 48430)

This year’s guest lecturer is Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick.
Retreat Schedule:

9:30am - 10:00am	Hospitality & Registration
10:00am - 12:00pm	Session 1: “What Do Demons Have to Do with the Gospel?”
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lenten Fellowship Lunch
1:00pm - 2:30pm	Session 2: “What do Angels Have to Do with Salvation?”
2:30pm - 2:45 pm	Break Time
2:45pm - 3:30pm	Open Q & A
4:00pm	Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND THIS ALL-DAY RETREAT IN PERSON AND JOIN IN THE FELLOWSHIP. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO JOIN US IN PERSON THERE WILL BE A PRIVATE LIVESTREAM OF THIS EVENT. THE RETREAT WILL NOT BE BROADCAST PUBLICALLY, SO PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

PLEASE USE THE QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT OR VISIT [ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG/ADULT-EDUCATION](https://st-marymagdalene.org/adult-education)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH AT 3:00PM EST



*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)

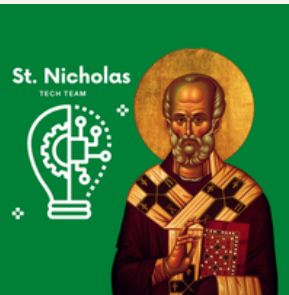
St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox
Church
(2439 S. Long Lake Rd Fenton, MI)

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



PARISH

MINISTRIES & GROUPS



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



THE ORTHODOX MOM'S GROUP IS MADE UP OF MOTHERS WHO GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS HOW BEST TO HELP RAISE THEIR CHILDREN WITHIN THE TRADITIONS OF THE ORTHODOXY FAITH. WE ARE IN NEED OF A MOTHER TO HEAD THIS MINISTRY.



THE MEN OF THE PARISH GET TOGETHER A FEW TIMES A YEAR AT VARIOUS PLACES TO ENJOY IN FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER. FOR MORE INFORMATION, DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO THE PARISH OFFICE.



THE ST. SOPHIA'S TOT TIME IS FOR PARENTS OF BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN TO COME TOGETHER FOR FELLOWSHIP, AND COFFEE, DURING THE WEEK. THE GROUP GATHERS ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY APPROX. 11:00AM -12:00PM (*THE GROUP STILL MEETS ON WEDNESDAY EVEN IF DIVINE LITURGY IS NOT HELD*) THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN AND EXPLORE THE CHURCH WHILE PARENTS COME TOGETHER TO SHARE PARENTING LIFE, JOYS AND DISCUSS THE RAISING OF THEIR LITTLE SAINTS. REACH OUT TO MATUSHKA LAURA WITH ANY QUESTIONS



THE HOLY MYRRHBEARERS IS A DEVELOPING MINISTRY IS TO HELP OUR PARISHIONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES NAVIGATE END OF LIFE, DEATH AND THE BURIAL OF LOVED ONES. AS WELL AS EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL AFTERCARE FOLLOWING THE FUNERAL.



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Church
(2439 S. Long Lake Rd Fenton, MI)

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



***Upcoming Events with
our Pan-Orthodox
Brothers and Sisters***

UPCOMING PAN-ORTHODOX EVENTS

PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS FOR ANNUNCIATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

6:00PM

HOSTED AT HOLY ASSUMPTION

PAN-ORTHODOX DIVINE LITURGY FOR ANNUNCIATION

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024

10:00AM

HOSTED AT HOLY ASSUMPTION

THE LENTEN SCHEDULE OF PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES ARE BELOW! SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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

2024 Great Fast and Bright Week



Pan-Orthodox Divine Services and Lenten Refreshments

Great Compline at St. George (*Mondays, 6pm*) All are welcome every Monday night. This beautiful service, along with the Lenten Hours on Wednesdays at St. Nicholas, allows us to experience the Great Fast more deeply. Confessions will be available after the service.

Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas (*Wednesdays, 10am*) All are welcome every Wednesday morning.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy and **Lenten Potluck Dinner** (*Wednesdays, 6pm*) We will celebrate together the Presanctified Liturgy and the Great Feast of the Annunciation according to the schedule below. Holy Communion is given at both. To partake of Holy Communion at evening liturgies, please be prepared with prayer and fasting (*no eating or drinking after 12 Noon*). Confessions will be available prior to the evening liturgies from 5:30pm–6pm. The Lenten Potluck Dinners will be coordinated by the host parish.

Sunday, March 24th Great Feast of the **Annunciation Great Vespers** at Assumption 6pm

Monday, March 25th Great Feast of the **Annunciation Divine Liturgy** at Assumption 10am

March 27th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 6pm

Saturday, April 6th **Lenten Retreat** (*more information to follow*)

April 10th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. George 6pm

April 24th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 6pm

April 27th **Preparation of Gifts, Raising of Lazarus Liturgy** at Assumption 9:30am

Bright Week (May 5th - 11th)

May 6th **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 10am

May 7th **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 10am

May 8th **Paschal Evening Liturgy** at St. George 6pm

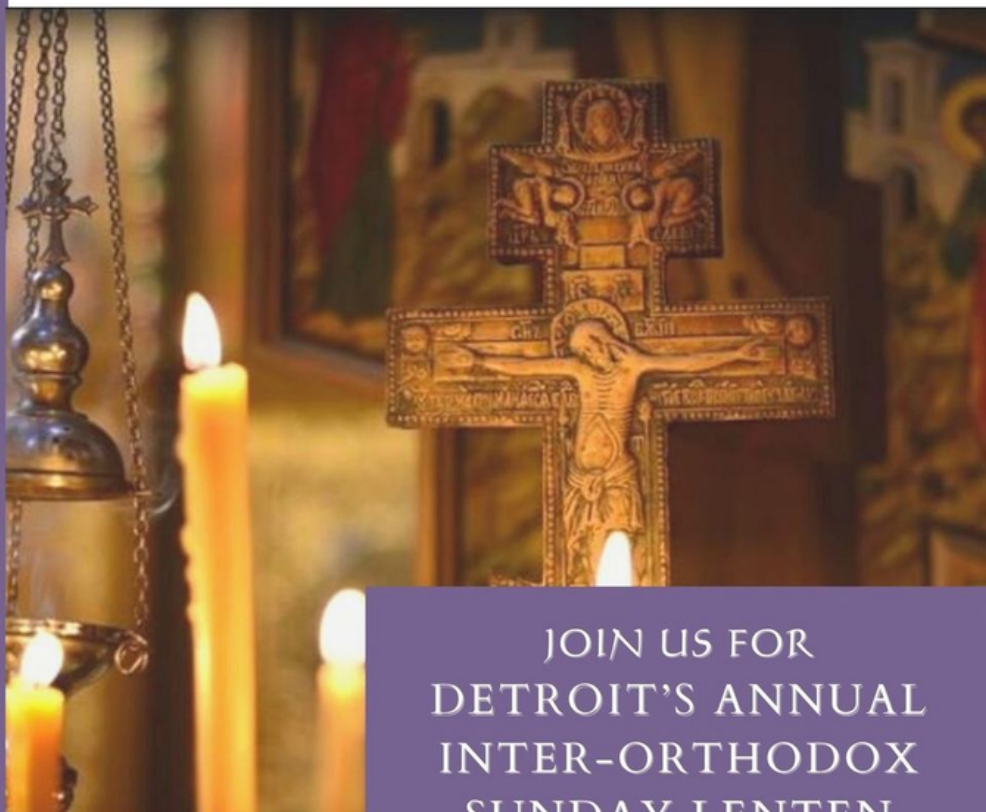
May 10th **Paschal Divine Liturgy for the Life-giving Font** at Assumption 10am

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

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages.

LENTEN PRAYER OF ST. EPHREM



JOIN US FOR
DETROIT'S ANNUAL
INTER-ORTHODOX
SUNDAY LENTEN
VESPERS

www.coccdetroit.org

Join us each Sunday evening for Vespers and Fellowship

24 MARCH | TRIUMPH of ORTHODOXY with Procession of Icons
St. Lazarus "Ravanica" Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
4575 E. Outer Drive, Detroit 48234

31 MARCH | ST GREGORY PALAMAS
Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church
36075 W. Seven Mile Rd, Livonia 48152

7 APRIL | VENERATION of the HOLY CROSS
St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral
18405 W. Nine Mile Rd, Southfield 48075

14 APRIL | ST JOHN CLIMACUS
St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church
3212 W. 12 Mile Rd, Berkley 48072

21 APRIL | ST MARY of EGYPT
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
760 W. Wattles Rd, Troy 48098

Services each Sunday at 6:00 pm
FREE-WILL OFFERING
REFRESHMENTS

Officiated by the St. John
Chrysostom Clergy Brotherhood
Responses by the Orthodox
Choir of Detroit

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 25th		<i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week MARCH 3rd		The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare MARCH 10th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY		The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 17th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY		Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 24th		<i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 31st		ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 7th		VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 14th		ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 21st		ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 28th GREAT WEEK BEGINS		<i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY MAY 3rd		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 5th NO FASTING!		<i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

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
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youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene

Subscribe

save the date

March:

10-Meatfare

17-Forgiveness Sunday- Beginning of Great
Lent

17-23 Clean Week

25-Annunciation

April:

6- Lenten Retreat with Fr. Stephen Damick