February 2023



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

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

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

2439 S. Long Lake Rd Fenton, MI 48430 (810) 150-1401 Email: smmocafenton@gmail.com



MONTHLY FORECAST

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

We will be celebrating the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the temple on

Thursday, February 2nd with Divine Liturgy beginning at 10:00 AM. This is one of the 12 Major Feast Days of the Orthodox Church that requires your participation! God willing we will see you at the feast!

LAZARUS BAG COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION

This month, we begin our annual Lazarus Bag Collection for the homeless. Families may sign up to purchase from a list of items that will be included in the special bags that will be blessed and distributed to the homeless the week prior to Great Lent. All items are due by Sunday, February 12th and the bags will be blessed on Sunday, February 19th.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

Our monthly prayer service for the sick and the suffering is taking place on Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30 PM. If you would like anyone added to the list for prayers, please contact the parish office and plan on coming with us that evening to pray!

AKATHIST TO ST. INNOCENT OF IRKUTSK WITH HIS RELICS

The monthly Akathist, taking place on Thursday, February 9th on the feast day of St. Innocent of Irkutsk, beginning at 6:00 PM. We are blessed to have a small relic of St. Innocent that was given to us at the last All American Council in Baltimore!

METANOIA CONCLUDES

This month our Semester of Metanoia will conclude. While the cultivation of the mind will be ending, the more important cultivation of the heart will begin on the following week as we begin Orthodox Clean Week!

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

Great Lent is upon us this month dearly beloved!
Forgiveness Vespers will take place on Sunday,
February 26th immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Your presence is absolutely necessary if you are to get off on the right foot for Great Lent!

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Starting this year our parish prayer list will be recycled every 3 months. Often we forget to communicate whether a person needs to remain on the prayer list. To keep a name on the prayer list please email the parish office every 3 months.

CLEAN WEEK ATTENDANCE

As is my annual reminder, I cannot express enough how important it is for all of us to be present at the Clean Week Services. They run every evening of the first week of Great Lent at 6:30 PM with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete until Friday, when we have our first Presanctified Lituray. This is our Lenten Boot Camp...so please make sure you prepare and plan accordingly to be in Church all week!

BUILDING UPDATE

95% of the exterior framing has been completed (minus the East addition which will not begin until Spring). Work is now beginning on the interior, with trades like electrical, HVAC, and others beginning to put the interior back together. We are grateful to Clark Senter for keeping the project going for us!

GROUNDS KEEPING COMMITTEE

The parish council will be putting together a grounds keeping committee. If you are interested in joining or volunteering or have any questions reach out to John Wolf.

GREAT LENT BEGINS!

Keep an eye out midmonth for a special mailing on Great Lent!

"BE THE CANDLE"

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GABRIEL





Let's all shut our eyes for a minute and remember a time when we were sitting with our family in the living room or at the dinner table during a big storm that was raging outside. The lights in the house began to flicker and everyone stopped what they were doing to look around at this temporary break from normalcy. We shrugged it off and then continued to go about our business until we heard: "bzzt!" The lights all went out, leaving our families to freeze in their tracks.

Before the invention of flashlights on our phones, what did we do? The kids would scream while the adults stretched out their hands to try and gain an idea of where they were at in the room. Bruised knees were practically a given as we slammed into the coffee table, trying to remember where we kept the matches and the candles. Once we found them, and with a quick "swatch" of the match against the box, the small flame illuminated our entire room. We then quickly found a large candle so that the light could continue to shine until full power had been restored.

This is the primary purpose candles serve isn't it? They help us to keep light in the midst of darkness...to bring clarity in the midst of chaos. If a small flame can do that in the middle of a dark room, how much more can our Savior...the True Light...illuminate the dark recesses of the world which we find ourselves in?

On the feast of the Presentation of our Lord, it is the custom to bless candles in the Church. One of the things that I am reminded of this feast is how similar our own spiritual life is to a candle. The flame...the Light and Love of Christ...is ignited within us at Chrismation, providing within us a natural illumination to protect us from the darkness.

St. Nikolai of Zica once said:



"Candles remind us that before anything else, the Creator of the world created light, and after that, everything else in Order: "And God said, let there be light: and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). And so it must be so also at the beginning of our spiritual life...so that before anything else, the light of Christ's truth would shine in us. From this light of Christ's truth, subsequently, every good is created, springs up, and grows in us.

"BE THE CANDLE"

CONTINUED

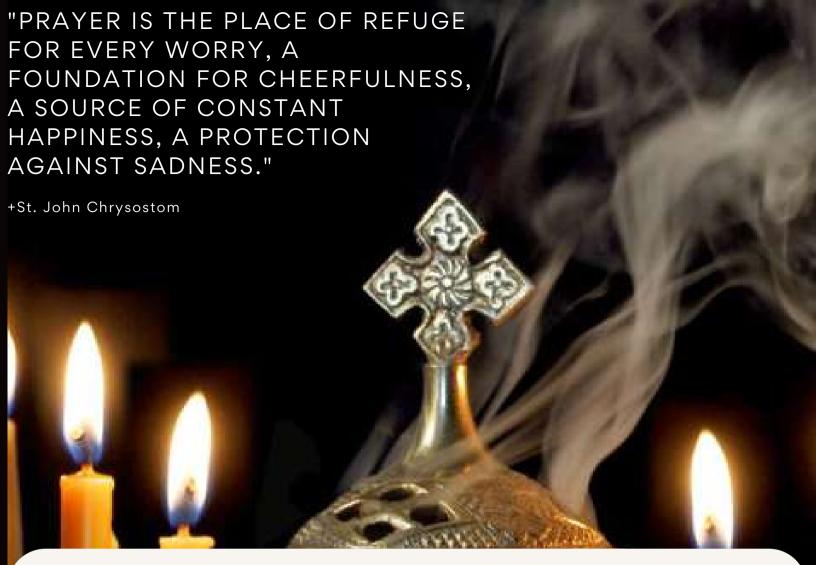
This past year, how many times have we either experienced or heard stories of those who have been driven to the brink of despair, shrouded in darkness, and seemingly absent of hope. As difficult as things have been for us Orthodox Christians, imagine how much more difficult it must be to those who do not have the light of Christ in their lives...who have been bumping into the proverbial "coffee tables" and searching for the "matches of meaning" where they can't be found. It is our calling as bearers of Christ's Light to illuminate not just our own lives, but all of those who are searching for that gentle presence of Christ in the midst of chaos.

Great and Holy Lent will soon be upon us. Now is the time to put forward our best efforts to test the purity of our inner candles that hold the Light of Christ. If there is a vice or impurity that we have allowed to plague us during the past year, wipe it away with tears of repentance.

If the foundation of our spiritual life has melted away, let us strengthen it with spiritual reading, fasting, and prayer. Keep the flame of God brightly burning with us, allowing His Life to shine from our souls, illuminating not just us, but all those who are searching for meaning in the midst of chaos.







Sick and the Suffering*

Nadia

James

Lucy

Henry

Tom

Darja

Jennie

Melanie

Michael

Marie

JJ

Vinnie Tinna Elaine Susan David Brian Sophia Pat Michael Miriam Jim Eva Mason Chrissy Cameron Theresa Theresa Robert Lynne Jeanne Linda Glenn Hudson Dimitri Gerald Damian Tony Martin Pam Arminda Ivanka Michael Dawn Jeff Sarah Mike Nicole Lauren Theresa Rich Debra Judy Betty Anthony David Megan Rob Shirley

Nadia

Mother's With Child

Christine Rachel Taylor Mat. Sara Anna Anastasia

Catechumenate

Collin Jaclyn Jacqueline William Nicholas Sarah Dimitri Mark

Seminarian Families

Father Alexander. Matushka Danielle & Cordelia Earl

Reader Paisios, Anna. John & Theodore Hamann

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

1st - Rose Caldarea 17-Pamela Cazatt

Recently Departed

Kristin

*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



Recent & Upcoming Baptism & Chrismations 11/7 Anna Joseph 1/21 Lucy Leveille

Engagements

1/29 Zachariah Auxier

Mark Foster & Katerina Jonascu Nick Swartz & Sarah Miller John Peters & Jaclyn Selewski William Keegan & Lauren Peters

Birthdays 1-Matthias Suriano

3-Andrew Barnhart

5-Fr. Gabriel Bilas & William Wolf

6-Niki Naum

10-Chris Dollins

12-Noah Bilas & Amelia Oginsky

13-Ethan Suriano

14-Diaconitza Susan Schlaack, Vivian Capatina &

Emmanuel Lazar-Watson

19-Andrew Auxier

20-Emmett Ballnik

21-Nyomi Forsyth

23-Benjamin Wilkinson

26-Ileana Bilas

27-Luke Shephard & Helen LoCascio

28-Dianna Auxier

Anniversaries

13- Andy & Rebekah Humphreys

15-Andrew & Lynne Marko

19-Vince & Carol Lizzio

20-Derrick Schmidt & Dr. Melissa Royer

23-Seth & Mia Hillaker

Weddings

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 Wednesday Mornings following Divine Liturgy

For the Sick and the Suffering

There is a prayer service for the sick and the suffering, especially those with cancer, held the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm. Please contact the parish office to add any names to the prayer list.

PARISHIIF

THIS MONTH

Lazarus Bags Collection

Collection Ends February 12th Packing of Bags 18th Distribution of Bags 19th

February 2nd: Divine Liturgy, 10:00am for the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple

February 5th:

40-Day Parastasis for Lon Slocum

February 7th:

Bell Ringing Practice, 10:30am Prayer Service for the Sick and Suffering, 6:30pm

February 9th:

Akathist to St. Innocent of Irkutsk with his relics, 6:15pm

February 11th: SMMOY bowling outing with St. Mark's in Rochester Hills.

February 14th: Parish Council, 7:00pm

February 19th: Meatfare Sunday

February 26th: Forgiveness Sunday

February 27th: First Day of Great Lent

Matins for the first day of Great Lent, 10:00am

Great Compline and Canon, 6:30pm

February 28th: Great Compline and Canon,

6:30pm

Preparatory Sundays of Great Lent

February 5: Publican & Pharisee (Beginning of the Lenten Tridion)

February 12th: Prodigal Son

February 19th: Meatfare

(Sunday of the Last Judgment)

February 26th: Cheesefare (Forgiveness Sunday)

PARISH GREETERS

February 5th: George & Julie Jonascu

February 12th: Seth & Mia Hillaker

February 19th: Freida Owens

February 26th: Steve & Sue Walton

BELL RINGERS

February 5th: Vivian Capatine & Tonya Rice

February 12th: Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

February 19th: Vivian Capatine & Tonya Rice

February 26th: Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

COFFEE HOUR

February 5th: Vince & Carol Lizzio

February 12th: Kurt & Ann Scutt

February 19th: David & Jaclyn Daugherty

(Meatfare)

February 26th: Scott & Tina Shephard

(Cheesefare)

EPISTLE READERS

February 5th: John Wolf & Ruth Karabina

February 12th: Jennifer Otis & Subdeacon

John Auxier

February 19th: Sue Walton & Rdr Nathaniel

Auxier

February 26th: Rdr. Brian-Philip Walton &

Sue Walton

JANUARY'S PASTORAL REPORT

EXPANDING THE MISSION OF THE LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WOODS! Worship

While the Christmas services I felt were a little light in attendance, I was very encouraged by participation in the feast of Theophany. I came across a quote on the internet that really speaks to where our mindset needs to be when it comes to the Church and its worship: "I'm glad God doesn't just love us on Sunday." While it seems harsh, it also underscores an important truth! Great Lent will soon be upon us, and we must prepare ourselves the best that we can to increase our prayer and Liturgical Life, which helps to make our repentance run deep within our hearts!

Community

We were blessed to welcome Anna Joseph, Lucy Leveille, and Zacharia Auxier into the parish family this past month! We were also blessed to celebrate the marriage of Reader David & Elena Schutt. The community continues to grow within, and priority needs to be on welcoming new visitors and encouraging them to meet with me for a few minutes after Liturgy! At the very least, we need to be having them fill out the visitor inquiry form if they are willing!

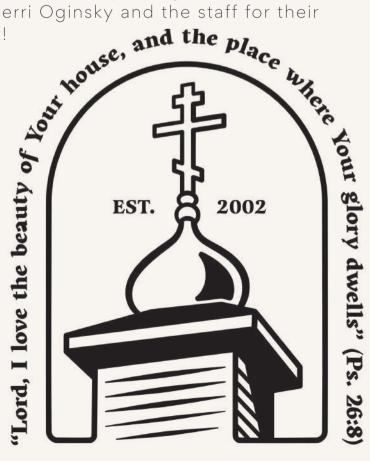
Education

Church School is now in full swing and will continue until a short pause during Great Lent. We are once again limited in our space for Church School, but as has been the case for the past year, we are desperately trying to make due with what we have to work with! My thanks to Terri Oginsky and the staff for their dedication amidst the construction project!

Stewardship

Lazarus Bags collecting will continue in the month of February! We also are grateful for all of the volunteers who helped out at the Annual Dormition Dinner! It was a great success!

In terms of outside of our parish community, I have been asked to continue to serve on the board for our city's charity arm of FARR. I pray that we will continue to be able to support this incredible charity, which acts as a "clearing house" to help those who are in need in our community



FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI

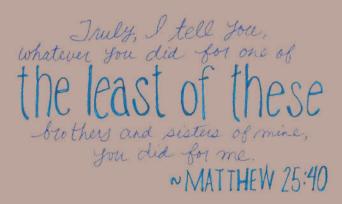
We took a short breath after the Nativity season but are now back in full swing with our charitable actions.

From January 22nd until February 12th we are collecting items for our Lazarus Bag Project. There is a sign-up list on the clipboard in the hallway for items that are needed. We have worked with social workers in our area to determine safe items that are needed for our homeless population. Please stick to only donating items on the list. If you would like to make a monetary donation please see Bree Walton or Rebekah Humphreys.

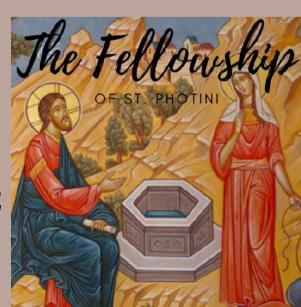
If you are unable to donate items this year, no problem! You can still participate in this ministry by staying after Vespers on Saturday, February 18th to help pack the Lazarus Bags. We also need help destributing the bags after they are blessed the next Day at Liturgy.

UPCOMING

February 18th- PACK BAGS AFTER VESPERS
February 19th- BLESS & DISTRIBUTE BAGS AFTER LITURGY
March - Support of the Bethany School & Orphanage



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





Lazarus Bags Items Needed

- +Handwarmers
 - +Razors
- +Shaving Cream
 - +Gloves
 - +Hats
- +White Socks
- +Protein Bars
- +Chicken/Tuna Kits

- +\$10 McDonald Gift Cards
 - +Assorted Bandaids
 - +Kleenex
 - +Combs
 - +Washcloths
 - +Bars of Soap
- +Sandwich Size Ziplocks

Sign up sheet is on the table Items due back on February 12th



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!



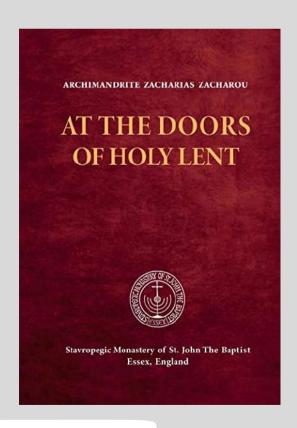


PARISH KIOSK

We were blessed last month to have so many of you take part in our Parish Kiosk. This was not only a great way to share your faith this Christmas season but also a wonderful fundraiser for the church. By the grace of God the kiosk has brought in \$1,816.18 in profit this year. This profit goes towards the day to day operations of the parish!

AT THE DOORS OF HOLY LENT ARCHIMANDRITE ZACHARIAS ZACHAROU

AVAILABLE FOR ORDER THROUGH THE KIOSK \$40 EACH



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

Contact Cindy Welch if you are interested in joining this ministry!

PARISH CHOIR

Rehearsals will be announced shortly for February. Reach out to Reader Gregory with any questions.

We will miss our secondary choir director the first part of February as she celebrates her honeymoon! Safe travels Rdr David & Elena and may it be blessed!



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!

Greetings Parents, Church School Teachers and Children! February has arrived and Great and Holy Lent will soon begin. This month, Church School will meet on February 5, 12 and 19 with lessons focusing on the Story of the Prodigal Son, the Last Judgment, and on the Miracles and Healings of our Lord. Church School classes will not meet again until after Pascha so children can fully participate in all of the services of the church beginning with Forgiveness Sunday on February 26. After Pascha, the church school will continue with three more lessons based on Acts. Wishing you all a blessed and spiritually fruitful Lenten Season.

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions, concerns and ideas.

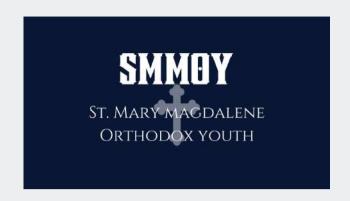
Yours in Christ,

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

PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Oliver Senter
Katerina Jonescu
Katheryn Brcic
Alexandra Kekel
Abigail Arnes
Tea Jonascu
Ethan Durand
Justin Auxier
Ava Arnes
Francis Lazar Senter





EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION

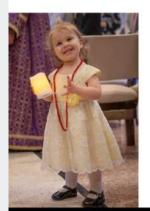






"METANOIA"

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 what about what the earliest Christians taught? How did they worship? What did they believe? Now is your opportunity to come, discuss and learn about the fullness of what the Ancient Christian Faith is all about!

This 8 week class will cover the fundamental beliefs of the Ancient Christian Church, passed down to us from Christ and His Disciples.

First Semester 2023- All classes begin at 6:30pm

Wednesday, January 11th: Introduction to Orthodoxy and Holy Tradition

Wednesday, January 18th: What do we believe about God? Wednesday, January 25th: What is mankind's purpose in life?

Wednesday, February 1st: What is sin?

Wednesday, February 8th: What did Jesus Christ come here to do?

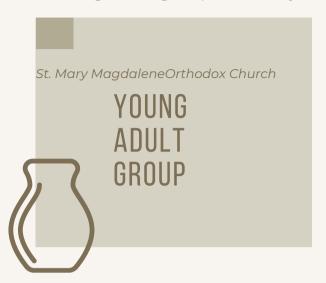
Wednesday, February 15th: How do we pray?

Wednesday, February 22nd: What is the big deal with the Theotokos and the Saints?

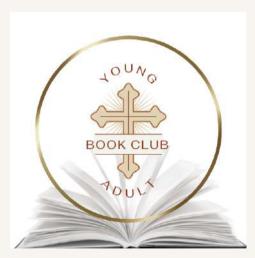
YOUNG ADULTS

BOOK CLUB AND FELLOWSHIP

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



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.

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 2023 SCHEDULE

JANUARY

12

FEBRUARY

9

MARCH

9

APRIL

6

MAY

11

JUNE

8

JULY **13**

AUGUST

10

SEPTEMBER

21

OCTOBER

12

NOVEMBER

9

DECEMBER

14

6:00PM

St. Seraphim of Sarov

6:00PM

St. Innocent of Irkutsk

6:00PM

Canon of Repentance

6:00PM

Canon of St. Mary of Egypt

6:00PM

Martyr Varus

6:00PM

Inexhaustable Cup

6:00PM

St. Mary Magdalene

6:00PM

St. Joseph the Hesychast

6:00PM

St. Iakovos of Evia

6:00PM

TBD

6:00PM

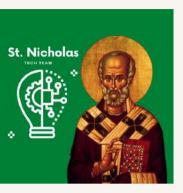
TBD

6:00PM

TBD

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

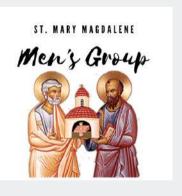
PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS



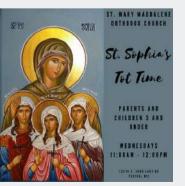
THE ST. NICHOLAS TECH TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING, UPDATING, AND ENHANCING THE ONLINE PRESENCE OF OUR PARISH. ENCOMPASSING THE WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS, AND LIVE-STREAMING SO THAT WE CAN SPREAD ORTHODOXY THROUGH MODERN COMMUNICATION CHANNELS.



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 OUESTIONS



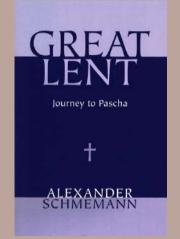
PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK STUDY HOSTED BY FR. MICHAEL BASSET

We will meet to discuss the book via both ZOOM and LIVE formats:

February Meeting

ZOOM: Sunday evening, 2/19 @ 7:00 PM

LIVE: Monday evening 2/20 @ 6:00 PM at St. George



To register for either the ZOOM or LIVE meetings OR if you need help ordering a book please contact Fr. Michael at frdnmike@gmail.com or 989-627-9580

We have several copies of this book in the parish library as well as a few for sale in the kiosk.

SAVE THE DATE

PAN-ORTHODOX LENTEN RETREAT
SATURDAY, MARCH 18
HOSTED AT ST. NICHOLAS IN BURTON

THE PAN-ORTHODOX LENTEN SCHEDULE WILL BE RELEASED SOON!



Upcoming Meetings:

All Meetings begin at 7:00pm

January	10th	July	11th
February	14th	August	8th
March	14th	September	12th
April	4th	October	10th
May	9th	November	14th
June	13th	December	12th

Annual Meeting December 3, 2023

Parish Council Members

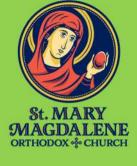
(Officers will be chosen at the January Meeting)

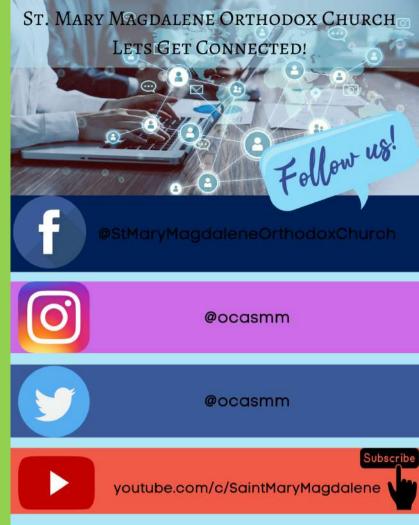
John Wolf, Chair
George Jonascu, Vice Chair
Ann Schutt, Treasurer
Rachel Burtka, Secretary
Subdeacon Andrew Durand
Terri Oginsky
Jay Rice
Subdeacon John Auxier

Alternate: Pat Matts

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









February

5th- 40 day memorial for Lon Slocum

12th-Items due for Lazarus Bags

14th -Parish Council

18th- Pack Lazarus Bags

19th Bless & Distribute Lazarus Bags

26th- Forgiveness Sunday

27th - 4th- Clean Week

March

14th-Parish Council

April

9th -15th- Holy Week

16th - GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA