



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

November
2020

Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-750-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielmmm@gmail.com

2439 S. Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

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

Office Hours*:

Monday 10:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm

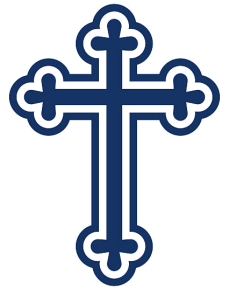
Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

*or by appointment

“Today, the living Temple of the great King enters into the temple, to be prepared as a Divine Dwelling place for Him. O ye people, rejoice exceedingly!”



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH



Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-720-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielstmm@gmail.com

2439 S. Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

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

MONTHLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2020

Important Dates to Remember:

Inside this issue:

Book of the Month	4
Birthday/Anniversary	5
Prayer List	6
Monthly Forecast	8
Parish Youth	13
Adult Education	18
Community Outreach	20



- ✚ 11/1—Trunk— or —Treat
- ✚ 11/1—Nativity Kiosk Orders due
- ✚ 11/1—Soup Sale
- ✚ 11/2, 11/16, 11/30—Inter-Christian Basketball
- ✚ 11/10 Parish Council
- ✚ 11/15 Beginning of Advent Fast
- ✚ 11/15 Beginning of Seminarian Giving Tree
- ✚ 11/18 Book of the Month Club
- ✚ 11/20 Vigil for the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos
- ✚ 11/21 Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy at Assumption
- ✚ 11/24 Molebin of Thanksgiving
- ✚ 11/26-11/28 Parish Office Closed

Return of the Ark

A message from Fr. Gabriel

“Today, the living Temple of the great King enters into the temple, to be prepared as a Divine Dwelling place for Him. O ye people, rejoice exceedingly!”

We hear this beautiful poetry in the Matins service of the feast for the Entrance of the Theotokos (celebrated on November 21st), where we remember how a simple three-year old girl was dedicated by her parents, Joachim and Anna, to a life of purity, virginity, and service to God in His Holy House.

When we look at the services for this magnificent feast day, we cannot help but notice an important image the keeps popping up in reference to Mary. Many of the verses from Matins, as well as the Old Testament readings that are called to be read on the feast, all speak about the Ark of the Covenant which held the tablets of the law that Moses had brought down from Sinai.

If I were to ask John Smith on the street what he knows about the Ark of the Covenant, I would imagine I would be told the story of how monumental the Ark was in helping Indiana Jones defeat the Nazis who wanted to use it to win World War II! This story comes from the mind of Stephen Spielberg in his movie “Raiders of the Lost Ark”, but the unfortunate reality is that there are so many people who will treat the ark like that do that movie... as fiction!



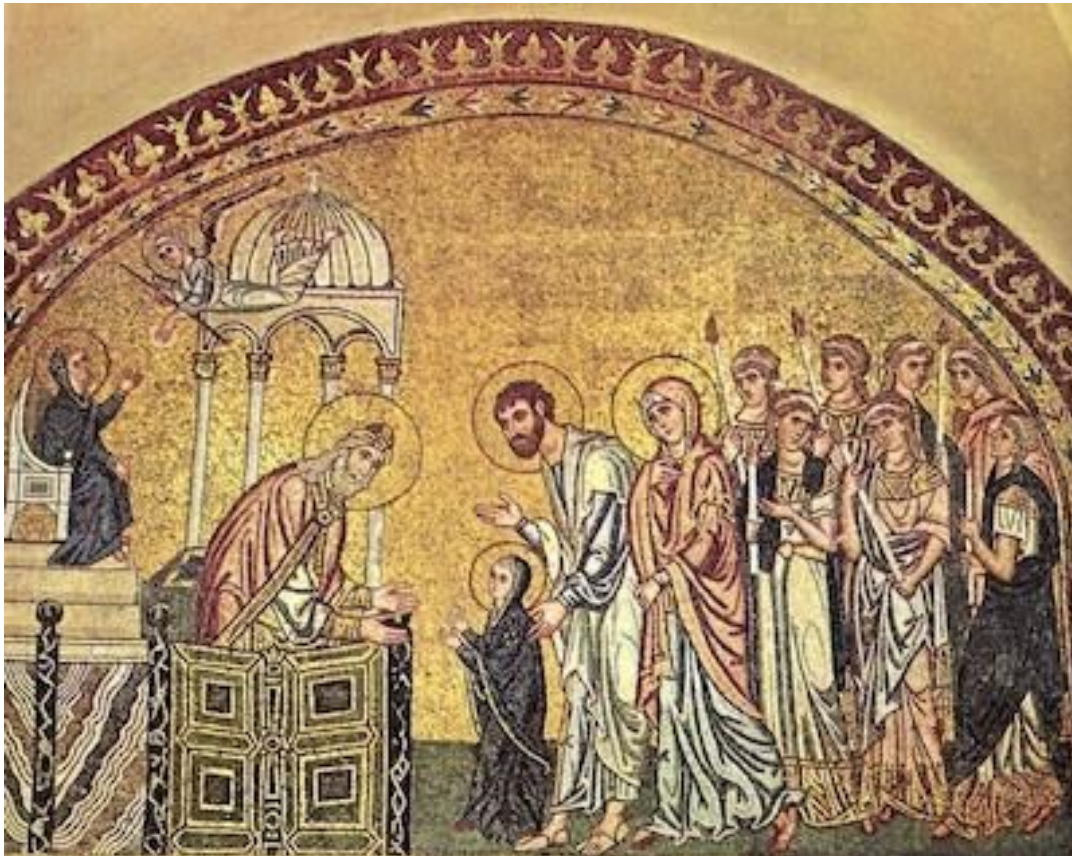
For our spiritual ancestors, the power and significance of the true Ark of the Covenant was definitely not a fairytale. The presence of the Ark had tremendous significance and importance for the nation of Israel, because it represented the physical presence and power of God amongst them. When King Solomon built the first Temple, the Ark had a special place of honor behind a large curtain called the Holy of Holies. When the priests placed it there for the first time, we read in scripture how the presence of God filled the entire space in the form of a cloud (which by the way is one of the reasons we use incense in the church). The Holy of Holies was off limits for everyone, with one exception. On Yom Kippur, or The Day of Atonement, the High Priest would go into the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood of a sacrifice on the Ark for the sins of the people.

The Ark remained in King Solomon's temple until the Babylonians sacked Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple. At that point in history, the Ark of the Covenant was lost. That tie to the Almighty, that physical presence and power of God that was in their midst was gone. This left a tremendous void in the spiritual life of Israel! When they rebuilt the Temple, they had no Ark of the Covenant to place in the Holy of Holies. The presence of God which once filled the first temple, was missing in the second temple! All of this background brings us to the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos. For the first time in centuries, the Living Ark is returned to the Temple of God.

We learn from the 1st century text written by St. James about the Life of the Virgin Mary, how her parents Joachim and Anna had vowed that after years of bareness, if they were granted a child, they would dedicate them in complete service to God. When Mary was three years old, her parents fulfilled their vow. They dressed her up in the finest clothes and brought her to the temple, where she was to live out the remainder of her childhood. She was greeted by the future father of St. John the Baptist, the High Priest Zacharias, who led her into the nave of the temple, and it was there that he then did the unthinkable! Being inspired from above, Zacharias allowed Mary to go up the steps and enter into that sacred place that no one was permitted to enter, the Holy of Holies.

This is a tremendous event in Christian History! It was the Return of the True Ark of God! The first Ark of the Covenant, which was made of wood and gold and held the tablets of the Law, was now replaced by the Living Ark, who would bear in her womb the Word...God Himself! The temple that was left desolate and without the Glory of God, was now restored to its former glory!

This Feast Day is filled with so many wonderful images for our own spiritual life, but perhaps the best one is that image of the Temple. Our spiritual lives at times tends to mirror that "desolate temple of Jerusalem", especially around this time of year, when society demands that we fill ourselves up with material wants and desires. Black Friday ads sometimes become our Gospel. Christmas Parties and celebrations take precedent over Church Services and the Sacraments. When things of the world become more important to us than being in the presence of God, then our own personal temples become like that of the second Jewish Temple...



desolate. When we fill ourselves up with the things of this world, we become like the inns at Bethlehem: "There is no place for the Christ Child to lay his head."

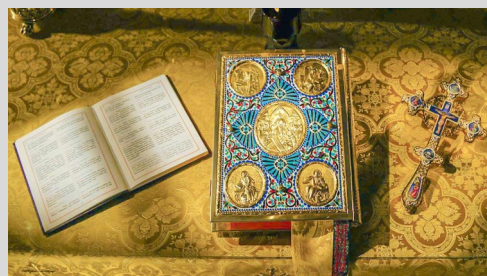
This Entrance of the Theotokos into the temple is a wonderful reminder of the "one thing that is needed" for all of us as we approach the Incarnation of Christ. She leads us all with a lighted taper on a journey through the desert of our souls towards Bethlehem, showing us what a life of obedience, purity, and service to God is all about. She reminds us all by her example that we too can become living arks which bear the image and likeness of God in our hearts...paving the way for Him to restore that life of peace, purity, and love that we were all given in the beginning.

Month in Review

This past month, we were able to share in some outdoor fellowship with our annual visit to Spicer's Orchard! We also were blessed to receive some new donated Icon Stands, replacing our existing stands which will be converted to permanent choir stands! Glory to God for all things!

Book of the Month Club

Beginning this month, for anyone who would like to join, we will come together on Wednesday, November 18th at 6:00pm to discuss the book of the month (below). This month we will meet in the Education Center with the goal to eventually move from home to home for a more intimate setting. As you read try to bring 1-3 things that really struck you or warmed your heart, and want to share with everyone who attends! Please contact the parish office if you would like to purchase a copy or visit store.ancientfaith.com



This Month's Sunday Scripture Readings

November 1st:

Galatians 2:16-20

Luke 8:26-36

November 8th:

Galatians 6:11-18

Luke 8:41-56

November 15th:

Ephesians 2:4-10

Luke 10: 25-37

November 22nd:

Ephesians 2:14-22

Luke 12:16-21

November 29th:

Ephesians 4:1-6

Luke 13:10-17



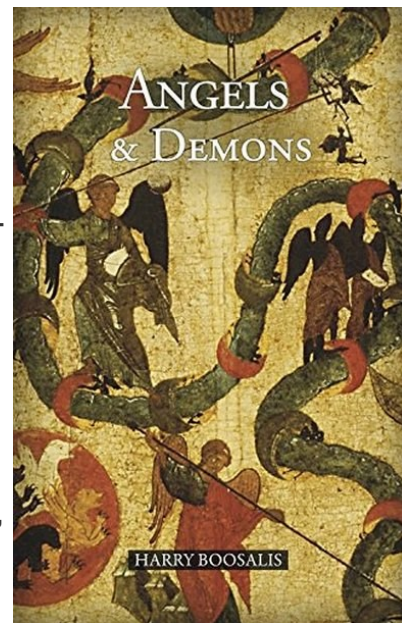
Recommended Book of the Month

Angels & Demons

By: Dr. Harry Boosalis

This book presents the Scriptural and Patristic teaching of the Church on the heavenly hosts of angels, the devil and his demons, and the enigma of evil. Dr. Boosalis offers a rich deposit of Tradition in simplified language, in a clear and concise style, but with an extensive body of scholarly documentation in the footnotes.

“This book is invaluable to our understanding of our faith, essential in our spiritual struggle, and so helpful in drawing us closer to Christ. It reads easily, as if the professor were speaking to us in person. Professor Boosalis takes a very rich and complex tradition and makes it understandable, offering us hope from what we learn. Reading this book is frightful yet reassuring, a journey and a joy.” -Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey



WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- † 2-Rosanne Cody & Sawyer Yonan
- † 4- Zachary Wilkinson
- † 6- Gregory Auxier
- † 7- Subdeacon Paul Hildreth & Thomas Yonan
- † 11- Brian Walton
- † 12-Susan Walton
- † 14- Dr. Janet Wiese
- † 15- Justin Auxier
- † 16-Jared Torrey
- † 19- Pamela Grubaugh
- † 22- Christopher Ballnik & Renea Becklehamer
- † 23- Daniel Lanterman
- † 26- John Hamann
- † 28- Michelle Forsyth
- † 29- Julia Auxier
- † 30- Emily Bieganski & Ezekiel Watson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- † 9- Bob & Elaine Boucher
- † 20- Scott & Tina Shephard



Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 8th there will be a small group staying to help finish cutting, splitting and stacking the wood left behind from our downed trees. If you would like to help or loan equipment (chain saws, chipper, log splitter, protective gear etc.) Please let Subdeacon Paul know. ALL are welcome to help. If any of our students need service hours for any reason this is a great opportunity to collect some!



Calling all Mothers!

The last few months have been a difficult time for many. With all of the changes in life and scheduling, balancing motherhood has been challenging to say the least. Check in on each other and be a listening ear until we can meet together again!

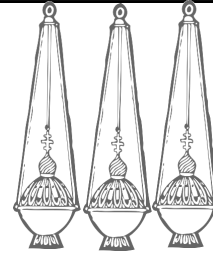
Office Hours

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

Prayer Life

Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and sisters

Metropolitan Herman	Fran	Anastasia
Matushka Laura	Corina	
Vinnie	Ryan	
Anastasia	Dimitri	
Alex	Damian	
Elaine	Thom	
Perpetua	Joseph	
Carol	Theodore	
Katelyn	JoAnn	
Frankie	Bill	
Stacie	Joe	
Peter	Ahron	
David	Linda	
William	Sean	
Sharon	Sophia	
Michael	Michael	
Mason	Linda	
Patricia	Tonya	
Joseph	Stephen	



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

Armed Forces Cont.
Dallas Watson; Air Force Bradley Grimes, Seraphim Lazar-Watson; Air Force Stephen Bondaria– Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander

Catechumens
Alyssa William Anthony James Anastasia
Recently Departed
John Robert Metropolitan Theodosius

Mother's With Child
Robyn Amanda Christina Ann Anna
Seminarian Family
Alexander & Danielle Earl
Anniversary of Parish Member's Repose
1– Shuko Phillips 11– Douglas Lyon 12– Helen Philips

Parish Greeters

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Epistle Readers

Primary

Back-up

November 1st:
Scott & Tina Shephard

November 8th:
Seth & Mia Hillaker

November 15th:
Pat Smith

November 22nd:
George & Julie Jonascu

November 29th:
Steve & Sue Walton

November 1st:
Doug & Melissa Auxier

November 8th:
Terri Oginsky

November 15th: (fasting)
Seth & Mia Hillaker

November 22nd: (Fasting)
Joe & Jenni Otis

November 29th: (Fasting)
Dave & Jackie Daugherty

November 1st:
Sue Walton

November 8th:
Subdeacon Andrew Durand

November 15th:
Rdr. Brian Walton

November 22nd:
Rdr. Chris Ballnik

November 29th:
Rdr. David Schutt

November 1st:
Rdr. Nathan Auxier

November 8th:
Jenni Otis

November 15th:
Sue Walton

November 22nd:
Subdeacon Andrew Durand

November 29th:
Rdr. Brian Walton

WE NEED YOU! As our parish opens up more and more we are in need new parish greeters and coffee hour volunteers. If this is a ministry that you are interested in taking part in please reach out to Sue Walton or the parish office.



Annual Meeting

There are several important decisions that will be coming up at this year's annual meeting, including new by-laws, a parish council slate, and perhaps even discussion about where to go from here regarding the church facilities. **The scheduled date for this year's annual meeting is Sunday, December 13th, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Mark that down please!**

Monthly Forecast

Trunk or Treat

On Sunday, November 1st, we will be having our Annual Parish Trunk or Treat! After the Divine Liturgy, the youth are encouraged to bring their appropriate costumes with them and go car to car outside for some special treats! For those participating, please keep in mind that we do have some nut allergies when you are purchasing your candy and sweets for the children!

Inter Christian Basketball Dates

This month, we will be meeting 3 times at Hope Lutheran Church in Linden for our parish pick up basketball games. Monday November 2nd, Monday November 16th, and Monday November 30th beginning at 6:30 PM are the dates for this month! Join us for a chance to lose a few pounds and have some fun in the process!

Vigil and Confessions Time Change

With the change in the clocks this month, we will be switching to our "winter" time schedule for Saturday Evening Services! Beginning on Saturday, November 7th, Great Vespers and Confessions will begin at 4:00 PM.

The Nativity Fast

On Sunday, November 15th, we begin the 40 day preparation for the Nativity by fasting from meat and dairy. If you need advice on developing your fasting rule, please see Father Gabriel. This is also a time to increase your scripture reading, with a special focus on the Prophets! During the Nativity Fast, we will also be switching to an abridged Vigil Service on Saturday evenings! May our preparation be fruitful as we prepare for the coming of Christ!

Entrance of the Theotokos

On Friday, November 20th, we will gather in the Church for Vigil and Lijtia at 6:00 PM to celebrate the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos. The Divine Liturgy will be served at Holy Assumption on Saturday, November 21st as a Pan Orthodox gathering, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Thanksgiving Molebin

Mark your calendars for the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 24th) as we have our annual Thanksgiving Molebin Service here at the Church, beginning at 6:00 PM.

Parish Office Closed for Thanksgiving Weekend

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th. Vigil and Confessions for Saturday, November 28th are also canceled, as Fr. Gabriel will be returning from out of town on that day.

Seminarian Gift Tree

With the coming of the Nativity Fast, one of the ways that our parish is able to give alms and to help others is by providing a gift card for some of our seminarian families in need. Most families who attend our seminaries, leave behind their jobs, stability, and support systems in order to go to learn how to lead others towards Christ. For the past several years, we have been able to support and send our seminarian families gift cards for Christmas, so that they can provide each other, as well as their children, some presents to have under the Christmas Tree. When the tree is up in the vestibule this month, be sure to stop by and take a tag with you, and return that tag with the attached gift card!

Book Club Meeting

The meeting of the book club will take place November 18th at 6:00pm This month's book is "Angels and Demons" by Dr. Harry Boosalis! A great topic of discussion!!!

Adult Education

Mark your calendars for December 2nd, 9th, and 16th at 6:30 for our Adult Education Course entitled "Early Roots", where we will be going through the earliest days of the Church and discussing what happened immediately after the Acts of the Apostles. Our 3 week class will wrap up with a special guest in Fr. Stephen De Young, who will be sharing with us "Where Did the Bible Come From"

Nativity Fast Begins Sunday, November 15th



*The Church is a hospital,
and not a courtroom, for
souls. She does not con-
demn on behalf of sins, but
grants remission of sins.*

- St. John Chrysostom

The Church is now open for private prayer
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
10:00am—3:00pm

or make an appointment
smmocafenton@gmail.com




For the Month of November, all
greeting cards in the parish Kiosk
are \$1 each or \$5 for a pack.

Contact the parish office with any
questions.

**Order your Nativity Gifts
through the parish kiosk!**

As you put together your Christmas gift list please
considering ordering your Nativity gifts through the
parish kiosk. Please see the attached flyer on how
to order or contact the parish office with any ques-
tions. **Orders due November 1st!**

PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

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

The Library covers the following topics
and MORE!

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

Kiosk New Arrivals

- ✝ We have received new books to our
parish kiosk.
- ✝ We also have several new children's
books available.
- ✝ We have new icons in stock! Perfect
additions to your home prayer corner
- ✝ If you would like to see anything spe-
cific in the kiosk please let us know!

Purchase your Nativity Gifts through the St. Mary Magdalene Kiosk.

- ✚ Easy ordering!
- ✚ You will support the Church with a small portion of your purchase!
- ✚ Spread your faith through your gifts!
- ✚ Let us pay for the delivery!



For icons, books and gifts visit
these websites:

<https://uncutmountainsupply.com/>

<https://www.jordanville.org/>

<https://stmpress.com/>

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/>

<https://svspress.com/>

<https://www.holycross.org/>

- ✚ Its simple! Visit the above websites, add items to your cart like you normally would and then either send your cart via pdf to smmocafenton@gmail.com or print out your cart and give it to Rebekah Humphreys.
- ✚ We will accept orders from October 1st—November 1st. All orders will be placed at the November 1st deadline to ensure delivery by Christmas.
- ✚ You may pay the balance of your order up front or we will also accept payment when the items arrive. You may pay by cash, a check written out to St. Mary Magdalene, or major credit card for orders over \$50

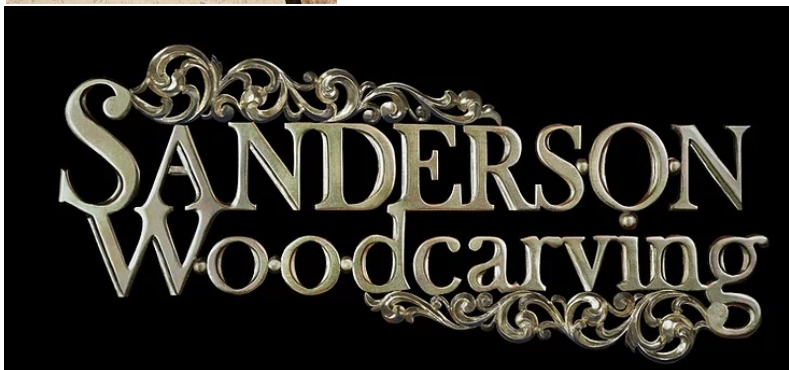
Orders Due November 1st

After several months of carving, the icon stands that were donated last year have finally arrived! A big thanks goes to our anonymous donor! May God grant you many more blessed years in His Service!!!

We will be converting the previous icon stands, donated in memory of Nicholas Brock, into choir stands with shelves.



New Icon Stands



Article On Obedience from the book "The Way of the Ascetics"

OBEDIENCE is another indispensable implement in the struggle against our selfish will. With obedience you cut off your physical members the better to be able to serve with the spiritual, says St. John Climacus. And again, obedience is the grave of your own will, but from it rises humility.

You must remember that you have of your own free will given yourself over to slavery, and let the cross you wear around your neck be a reminder of this: through slavery you are proceeding towards true freedom. But has the slave a will of his own? He must learn to obey.

Perhaps you ask: Whom shall I obey? The saints answer: you shall obey your leaders (Hebrews 13:17). Who are my leaders, you ask? Where shall I find any, now that it is so utterly hard to discover a genuine leader? Then the holy Fathers reply: The Church has foreseen this too. Therefore since the time of the apostles it has given us a teacher who surpasses all others and who can reach us everywhere, wherever we are and under whatever circumstances we live. Whether we be in city or country, married or single, poor or rich, the teacher is always with us and we always have the opportunity to show him obedience. Do you wish to know his name? It is holy fasting.

God does not need our fasting. He does not even need our prayer. The Perfect cannot be thought of as suffering any lack or needing anything that we, the creatures of His making, could give Him. Nor does he crave anything from us, but, says John Chrysostom, He allows us to bring Him offerings for the sake of our own salvation.

The greatest offering we can present to the Lord is our self. We cannot do this without giving up our own will. We learn to do this through obedience, and obedience we learn through practice. The best form of practice is that provided by the Church in her prescribed fast days and seasons.

Besides fasting we have other teachers to whom we can show obedience. They meet us at every step in our daily life, if only we recognize their voices. Your wife wants you to take your raincoat with you: do as she wishes, to practice obedience. Your fellow-worker asks you to walk with her a little way: go with her to practice obedience. Wordlessly the infant asks for care and companionship: do as it wishes as far as you can, and thus practice obedience. A novice in a cloister could not find more opportunity for obedience than you in your own home. And likewise at your job and in your dealings with your neighbor.

Obedience breaks down many barriers. You achieve freedom and peace as your heart practices non-resistance. You show obedience, and thorny hedges give way before you. Then love has open space in which to move about. By obedience you crush your pride, your desire to contradict, your self-wisdom and stubbornness that imprison you within a hard shell. Inside that shell you cannot meet the God of love and freedom.

Thus, make it a habit to rejoice when an opportunity for obedience offers. It is quite unnecessary to seek one, for you may easily fall into a studied servility that leads you astray into self-righteous virtue. You may depend upon it that you are sent just as many opportunities for obedience as you need, and the very kind that are most suitable for you. But if you notice that you have let an opportunity slip by, reproach yourself; you have been like a sailor who has let a favorable wind go by unused.



Remembering our Veterans on Veterans Day

If you or your family member are a military veteran please submit a photo of their military service, including their branch and their rank, to the parish office (smmocafernton@gmail.com) by Sunday, November 8th. We will be putting together a collage of our St. Mary Magdalene Veterans!



Our Parish Youth

November Church School Announcements

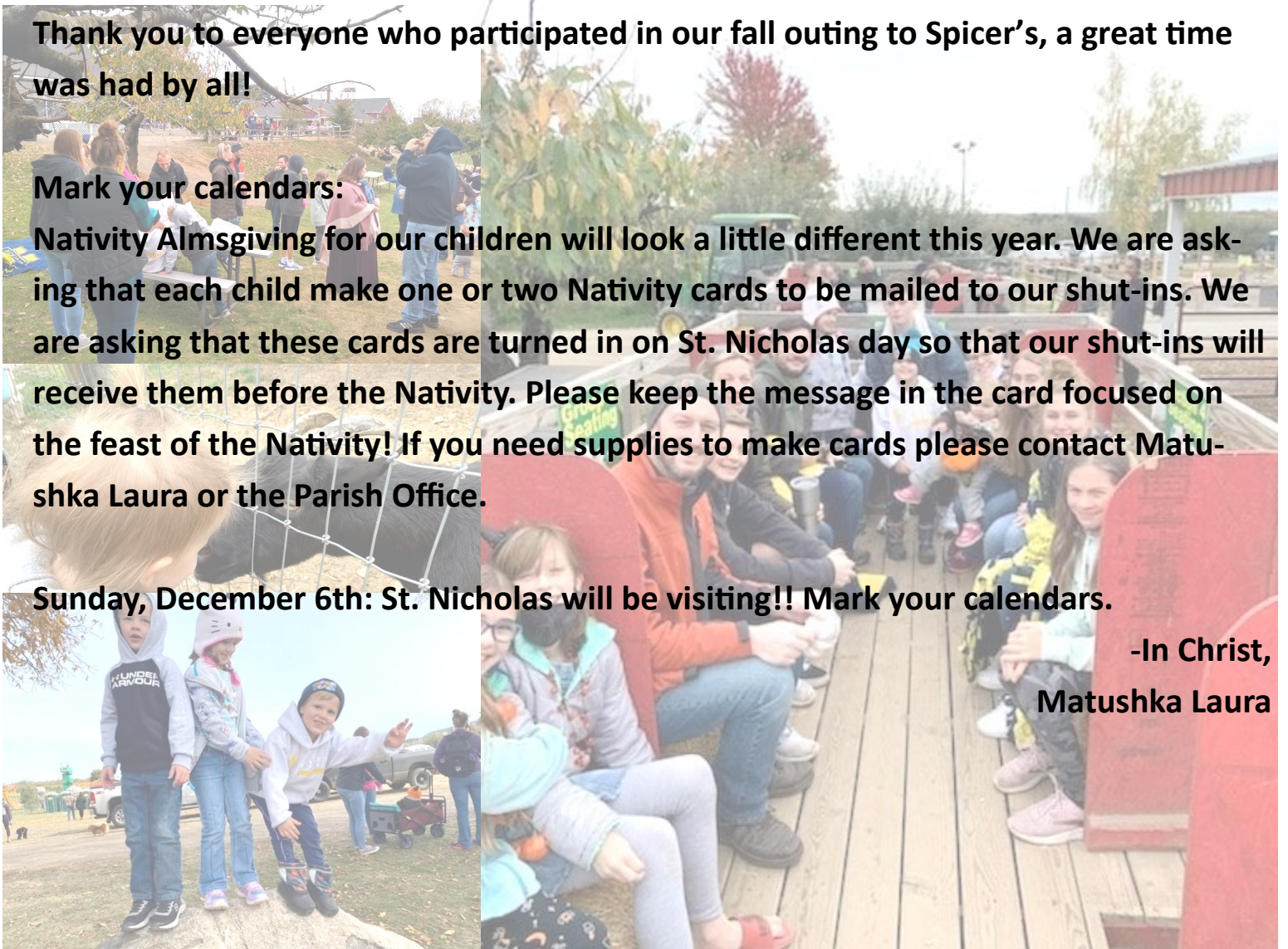
Thank you to everyone who participated in our fall outing to Spicer's, a great time was had by all!

Mark your calendars:

Nativity Almsgiving for our children will look a little different this year. We are asking that each child make one or two Nativity cards to be mailed to our shut-ins. We are asking that these cards are turned in on St. Nicholas day so that our shut-ins will receive them before the Nativity. Please keep the message in the card focused on the feast of the Nativity! If you need supplies to make cards please contact Matushka Laura or the Parish Office.

Sunday, December 6th: St. Nicholas will be visiting!! Mark your calendars.

**-In Christ,
Matushka Laura**



Youth Advent Alms-Giving

This year's Church School Alms-Giving for the Nativity will look a little different. With various restrictions in place we will not be visiting the nursing home this year on Christmas Day.

We are asking that each child make one or two 'Feast of the Nativity' themed cards that can be sent to our shut-ins in time for the Nativity. Please keep the theme of the cards on the Nativity Feast. You can use the exclamation "CHRIST IS BORN" "GLORIFY HIM"

Please turn in all the cards that your child makes on St. Nicholas Day, we will mail the cards that week so that they are delivered before Christmas.

If you are in need of supplies to make cards please contact Matushka Laura or the Parish office. The Church School has plenty of arts & crafts materials available!



Share the Joy of the
NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD!

*2020 Youth Advent
Alms-Giving Project*

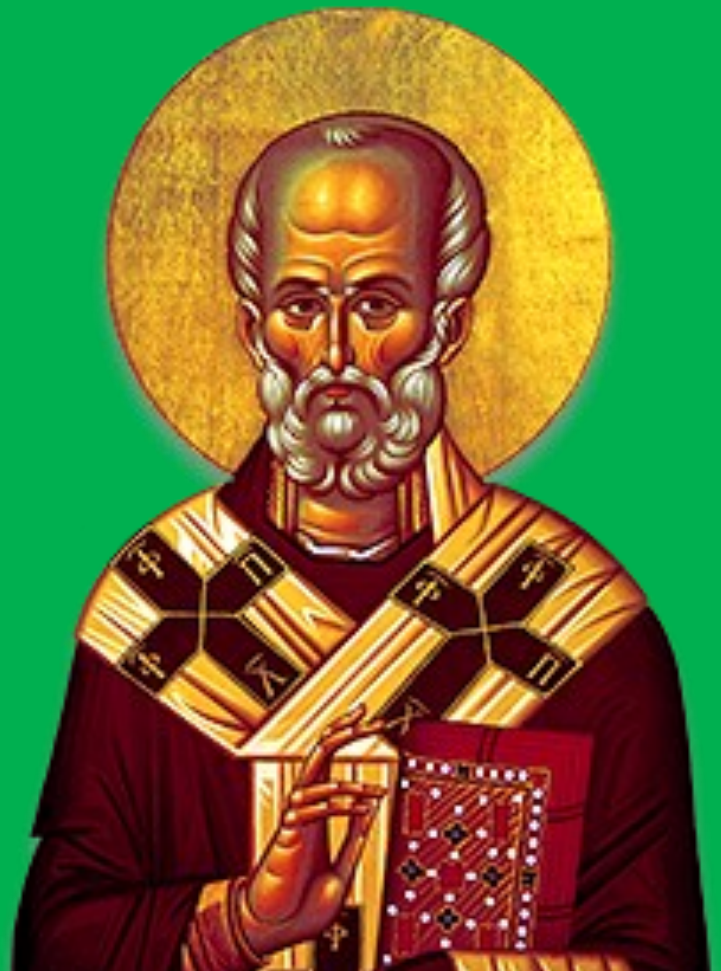
St. Nicholas Day!

On Sunday, December 6th our children will have the opportunity to meet with St. Nicholas and receive their nativity gifts from our parish. Please be sure to bring your children to Divine Services so that they can celebrate this feast!

O who loves Nicholas the saintly,
O who serves Nicholas the saintly,
Him will Nicholas receive,
And give help in time of need:
Holy Father Nicholas!*

He who dwells in God's holy mansions,
Is our help on the land and oceans,
He will guard us from all ills,
Keep us pure and free from sins
Holy Father Nicholas!*

Holy Saint, hearken to our prayer,
Let not life drive us to despair,
All our efforts shall not wane,
Singing praises to your name:
Holy Father Nicholas!*



**"As many as have been baptized into Christ,
have put on Christ."**



In October we welcomed two new warriors for Christ into our parish family.

Above: Ruth Torrey and her parents Jarod & Ruthanne with sponsors Katherine & Joshua
Below: Nicodemus Auxier and his parents John & Renee with sponsors Peter & Anna



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (OCF) is the official campus ministry organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.

Flint OCF:

As the school year gears back up the OCF is hoping to get back to a bit of normalcy. David who has been the leader of the Flint OCF will be graduating this year. We are looking for any of our college students in the area who would like to step into this leadership role. Please contact David Schutt or your local priest if you are interested.

Prayer of a Student

Christ my Lord, the Giver of light and wisdom, who opened the eyes of the blind man and transformed the fishermen into wise heralds and teachers of the gospel through the coming of the Holy Spirit, shine also in my mind the light of the grace of the Holy Spirit. Grant me discernment, understanding and wisdom in learning. Enable me to complete my assignments and to abound in every good work, for to You I give honor and glory. Amen.

Prayers Before Study

Most blessed Lord, send the grace of Your Holy Spirit on me to strengthen me that I may learn well the subject I am about to study and by it become a better person for Your glory, the comfort of my family and the benefit of Your Church and our Nation. Amen

Christ, the true light, who enlightens and sanctifies every person coming into the world, let the light of Your countenance shine upon me (us) that I (we) may see Your unapproachable light; and guide my (our) steps in the way of Your commandments, through the intercessions of Your all-holy Mother and of all the Saints. Amen.

Prayer After Study

I thank You, Lord our God, that again on this occasion You have opened my eyes to the light of Your wisdom. You have gladdened my heart with the knowledge of truth. I entreat You, Lord, help me always to do Your will. Bless my soul and body, my words and deeds. Enable me to grow in grace, virtue and good habits, that Your name may be glorified, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



Prayers for our college students:

Katherine Arnes

Sydney Wilkinson

David Schutt

Katerina Jonescu

Katherine Schutt

Katheryn Auxier

Oliver Lazar Senter

Alexandra Kekel

Elena Bucciarelli

Lauren Serafimovski

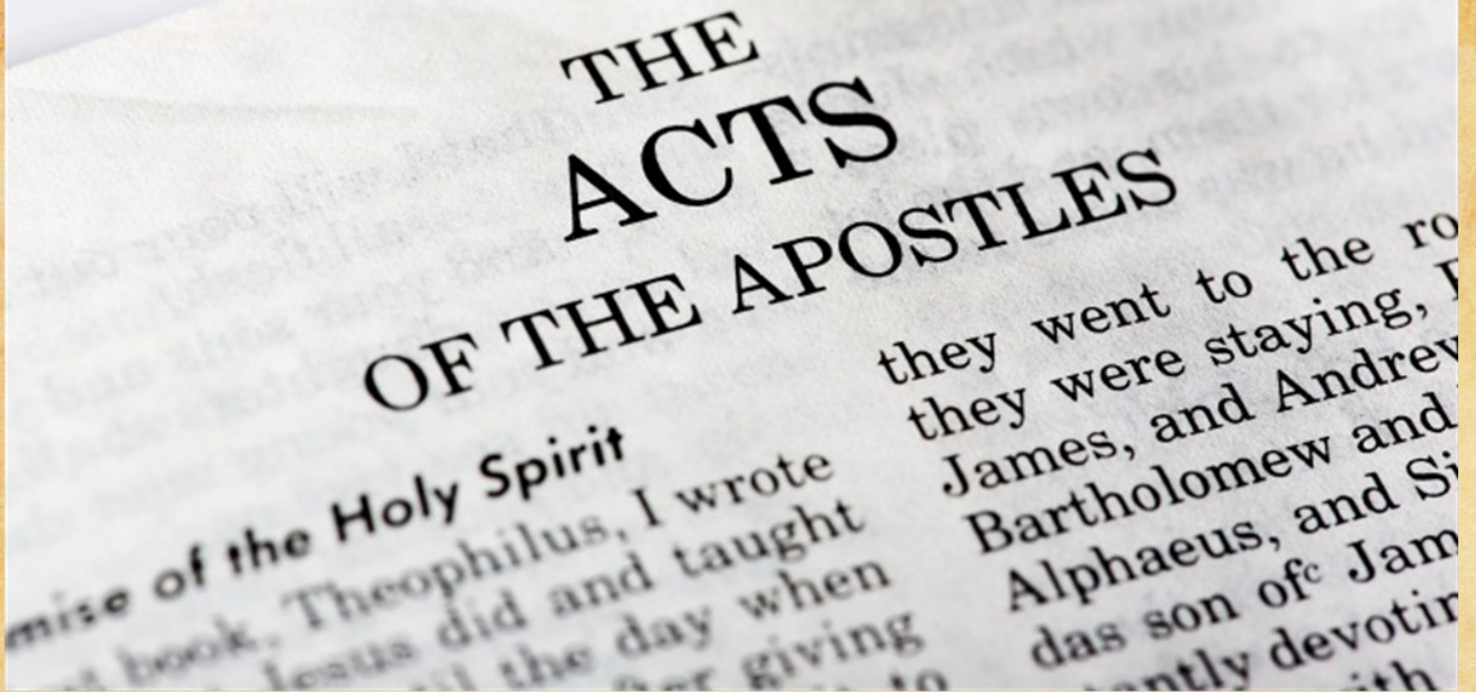
Zachary Wilkinson

Abigail Arnes

Douglas Wilkinson

"Early Roots"

The First Days of Christianity



Advent Three Part Lecture Series

Class 1, December 2nd, 6:30 PM:

The Apostolic Fathers, What did the Church Look Like After The Book of Acts

Class 2: December 9th, 6:30 PM:

Fighting for Truth: Defending Against
Heresy

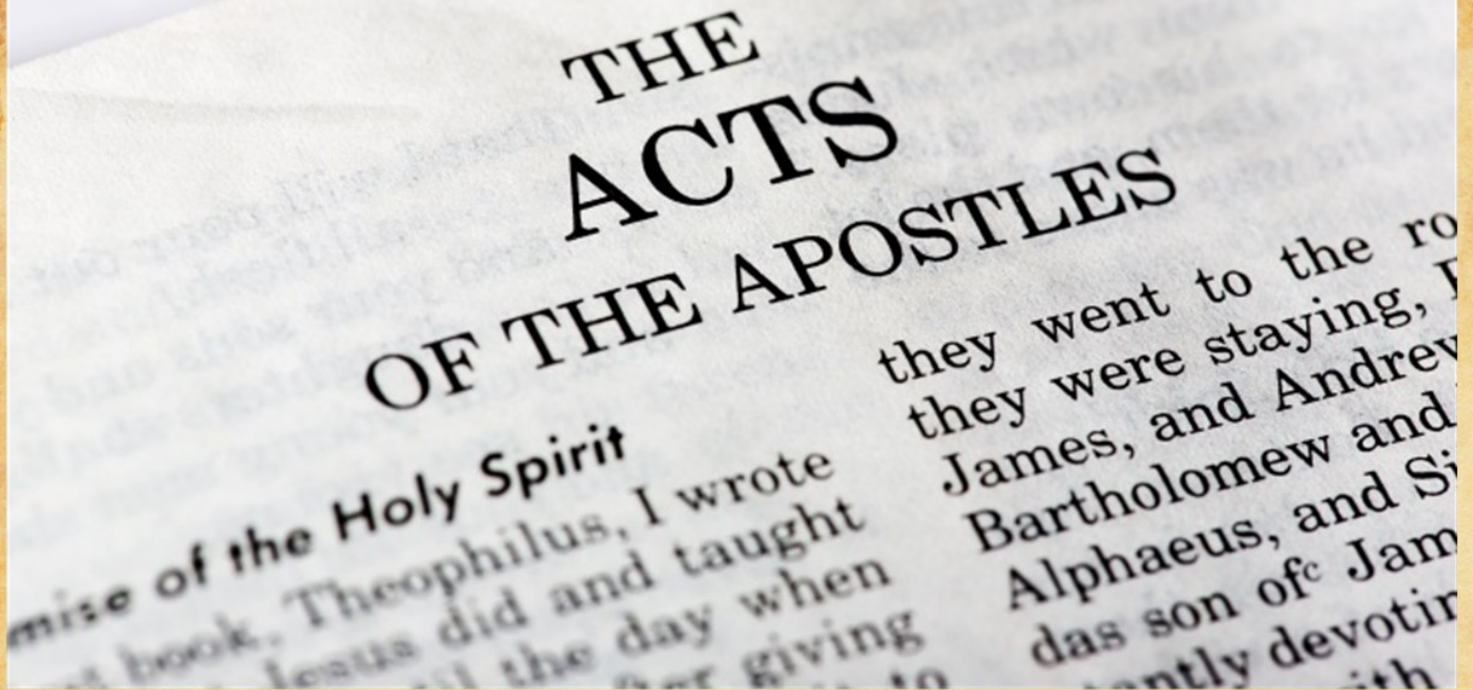
Class 3: December 16th, 6:30 PM:

Where Did the Bible Come From? With Guest Speaker, Fr. Stephen De Young



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Where Did the Bible Come From?



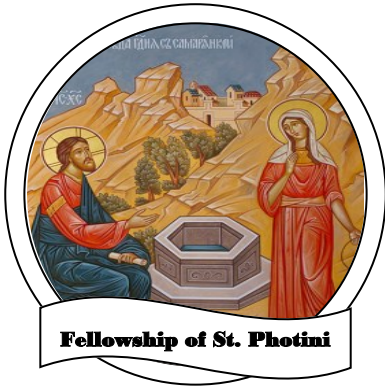
Advent Lecture—The Pan Orthodox Churches of Genesee County

December 16th, 6:30 PM: Where Did the Bible Come From? With Guest
Speaker, Fr. Stephen De Young

Rev. Dr. Stephen De Young is the Priest of Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church in Lafayette, Louisiana. He holds a PhD in Biblical Studies from Amridge University. Fr. Stephen is also the host of the Whole Counsel of God podcast from Ancient Faith and author of the Whole Counsel Blog. He co-hosts the live call-in show and podcast Lord of Spirits with Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick.



FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI



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

In October we, once again, made our blankets to help those in need. Through the Glory of God we were able to complete 25 blankets that will be handed out to the homeless population in Flint. A special thank you to Helen LaCascio for taking a leadership role in the project!

Beginning with the start of the Advent Fast (November 15th) We will have our Annual Seminarian Angel Tree Project. As some of you know, it takes a tremendous financial sacrifice for a family to follow a calling to go to seminary to study the faith. Many of these future Priests give up their financial stability, and put their trust in God that He will support their families. Years ago, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America began to collect gifts for those seminarian families who were unable to afford gifts for their children at Christmas. Starting on November 15th (the beginning of Advent), there will be a Seminarian Gift Card Tree located in the front of the Church. We are asking that everyone purchase one of the gift cards (\$25 or \$50) on the tree to be given to a seminarian family...giving them the opportunity to have some extra blessings during the Advent Season! Please contact Liz Ziats if you would like more information.

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

*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

Every year many families spend time away from their loved ones while they attend Seminary to further their call to God



Annual Seminarian Giving Tree

As some of you know, it takes a tremendous financial sacrifice for a family to follow a calling to go to seminary to study the faith. Many of these future Priests give up their financial stability, and put their trust in God that He will support their families. Years ago, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America began to collect gifts for those seminarian families who were unable to afford gifts for their children at Christmas. Starting on November 15th (the beginning of Advent), there will be a Seminarian Gift Card Tree located in the front of the Church. We are asking that everyone purchase one of the gift cards (\$25 or \$50) on the tree to be given to a seminarian family...giving them the opportunity to have some extra blessings during the Advent Season!

Church School Presents

Trunk or Treat



Sunday, November 1st



Following Divine Liturgy

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

For more information please contact the Parish Office 810-750-1401 or email smmocafenton@gmail.com



**Decorate your
vehicle and hand out
individually packaged
snacks. Please change
into costumes after
Divine Liturgy**



Craft Sales & Cookie Walk

Beginning on Sunday, December 6th and running until Sunday, December 20th the Christmas store will be open in the Educational Center following Divine Liturgy (11:30 am-1pm). There will be many homemade crafts and gifts for purchase made by our parishioners.

On Sunday, December 20th we will have our annual bake sale. All items will be prepackaged for everyone's safety. Look for the sign up sheet to bring baked goods.

***This year's sales are not open to the public**

Any questions? See Liz Ziats or contact the parish office.

Nativity Schedule

2020

Sunday, December 20th: Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 24th:

Royal Hours 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Vigil 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 25th: NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 26th: Divine Liturgy for the Theotokos 10:00 a.m.



Advent Confessions: Please make sure that you make time this advent season for the Holy Sacrament of Confession. Fr. Gabriel is available Saturday after vigils. If this do not work for your schedule, email him to make other arrangements.

Referral Program To Benefit The St. Mary Magdalene Church Expansion



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

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