

# November 2021

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



**Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector**

**Office: 810-750-1401**

**Church Email: [SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com](mailto:SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com)**

**Father's Email: [frgabrielmm@gmail.com](mailto:frgabrielmm@gmail.com)**

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

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

**Office Hours\*:**

**Monday 10:00am-3:00pm**

**Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm**

**Friday 10:00am-3:00pm**

**\*or by appointment**



# Monthly e-Newsletter

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

## The Definition of Holiness

From the Desk of Fr. Gabriel

As lovers of Holy Scripture, specifically of the Old Testament stories surrounding the Ark of the Covenant and the Jewish Temple, our entire perception of what the Ark is, where the true temple is, and what true holiness looks like, is magnified this month as we celebrate the Entrance of the Theotokos on Sunday, November 21st!

For those that need a small refresher of the Feast, we remember how Mary's parents Joachim and Anna were unable to bear children. They made a promise to God that if they were granted a child, they would dedicate him or her to a complete life of service to God. A short time later, Mary was born. After living out her first few years being guided by her parents, the day had finally come for Joachim and Anna to fulfill their vow to God. They brought the three-year-old girl to the temple, where she was to live out the remainder of her childhood in service to the Lord.

Mary was greeted by the High Priest Zacharias, who led her into the nave of the temple, but it was there that something unthinkable happened! Instead of going where she was supposed to go, Mary was led by the Holy Spirit to begin climbing the steps that led to a sacred place that absolutely no one, not even the priest except for one day a year, was permitted to enter! She entered into The Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept before it was lost!

No one dared go back into the Holy of Holies! We see stories in the Old Testament of what happened to people who tried to defy God's law in regard to holy things and holy places! One of my favorite stories is one that we read in 3rd Maccabees, just a few hundred years before Christ. King Ptolemy, after he had made peace with the Jews, wanted to visit the temple of their God. When he walked into the sacred space, like most people when they walk into an Orthodox Church for the first time, he was astonished by its beauty. But, in King Ptolemy's arrogance, he wanted to go see the Holy of Holies...that one place that was forbidden in the entire temple. The Jewish Priests begged him not to go, telling him that not even their own people were permitted to go in there! But King Ptolemy ignored the cries of the priests and continued to walk towards the Holy Place. As soon as he entered the sacred space, the King experienced intense seizures, and began to shake so much that he could not even muster the strength to call out for help. His servants eventually had to drag him out of the temple, which sets up the rest of the book. (Spoiler alert, it involves God delivering His people from drunken elephants in the arena!)

This story about King Ptolemy isn't unique. Throughout all of the Old Testament, we hear a slew of examples of what happens when people unworthily come into the presence of God. Yet, on this Feast Day, we hear how the High Priest silently watches as the Holy Spirit leads this little girl into the Holy of Holies, eventually taking the place of the Ark of the Covenant as the New Ark that would soon bear the Word of God within herself!

What made Mary unique? What made her stand out from all the men in history who had disregarded the Power of God in their lives?

## UPCOMING THIS MONTH

3rd - Adult Education Begins

6th - Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers at St. Nicholas, 5pm followed by movie night

8th - Divine Liturgy, 10am

13th - No Vespers wedding of Tricia and Bryce

13th - SMMOY gathering

14th- Veteran's Day Luncheon & Seminarian Giving Tree

15th- Nativity Fast Begins

17th -Holy Dormition Monastery Trip

20th - Baptism of Lucas Bondira, 10am

20th - Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers, 5pm at Holy Assumption

24th - Molcibin of Thanksgiving, 6pm

27th - Choir Rehearsal, 3pm

30th - Parish Council, 7pm



*"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

## The Definition of Holiness Continued

**Holiness...**She was unblemished by sin and lived a life of complete holiness.

Mary living a holy life didn't happen by accident. All of this was made possible by the two wonderful models that she had in her parents Joachim and Anna, who taught their daughter **by their own example** of what it meant to live a life of holiness. This is perhaps the most important lesson that we can pass on to our children, and even if you do not have children, we are reminded (especially in our little Church) that it takes a village to raise this new generation. It isn't done by books, lectures, or finger pointing, it is done by example. We show our children how to become holy by putting GOD FIRST in all things.

Our children learn from us by watching what we do, not what we say. If we devour our food before offering things to God, the fact that the food came from Him is lost, and we teach our children that thanksgiving is meaningless. If we put other things in life before Church, either staying in bed on Sunday Morning, or attending a concert or a sporting event (anything where we put the Church second) we teach our children that our faith isn't important. We teach and pass on **holiness** not by the words that come out of our mouth, but by the way that we live our life.

We might ask, why is this important? Because every time we come to a Divine Liturgy, all of us, (our children included) approach the Holy Altar in what is our own personal *"entrance into the temple"* feast day. All of us approach God Himself in the chalice, and in a very real sense, approach the Holy of Holies itself. Do we exude holiness like the Theotokos did when she drew near to God? When we are making those steps towards the altar, can we truly say that we draw near without stain or blemish? Or do we echo the words of St. John Chrysostom by saying:

*"O Lord my God, I know...oh how I know...that I am not worthy or sufficient that you should enter under my roof, into the habitation of my soul...for it is deserted and in ruins, and you have no fitting place in me to lay your head."*

Holiness, Purity, and an "awe" of God...these are the key words that make up the importance of the Entrance of the Theotokos Feast Day. As we begin our journey towards the Cave in Bethlehem, let us practice these virtues so that our Lord can descend down from heaven above, and find a worthy place to lay His head within our Hearts, while lifting us all up into His Presence!

### Prayers for our Sick and our Suffering

*His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman*

Vinnie	Nancy	Melissa
Elaine	Rachael	Dawn
Peter	Dawn	Michelle
David	Eric	Harry
Michael	Terry	Mauve
Mason	Tracy	Jeanette
Pat	Maurice	Terry
Joseph	Anthony	Gail
Linda	Alisha	Sarah
Arminda	Janet	Joanne
Dimitri	Ivanka	Judy
Damian	Theresa	Judy
Thom	Gus	John
Linda	Jeff	Hudson
Irene	Jennifer	

### Mother's With Child

Natania

### Seminarian Family

Alexander & Danielle Earl

### Catechumenate

Emily  
 Vince  
 Carol  
 Jacob  
 Mary Ellen  
 Timothy  
 Daniel  
 Andrew  
 Jake

### Anniversary of Parish Members Departed

- 1- Shuko Phillips
- 6- Robert Oginsky Sr. (1 year)
- 11- Douglas Lyons
- 12- Helen Philips
- 13- Michael Zak (1 year)



## FELLOWSHIP AGAPE MEAL

Bring a dish to pass  
 Sunday, November 14, 2021



Michael Oginsky - U.S.  
Stephany Bishop - U.S. Navy  
Patrick Tejkl - U.S. Marines  
Lindsey Cazatt - U.S. Navy

*Prayers for our Armed Forces*  
Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers  
Alex Suriano - Air National Guard  
Dallas Watson - Air Force

Stephen Bondira - Coast Guard  
Lt. Commander  
Sarah Tayler - U.S. Air Force

## PARISH GREETERS

November 7

Seth & Mia Hillaker

November 14

Steve & Sue Walton

November 21

Scott & Tina Shepherd

November 28

George & Julie Jonascu

## COFFEE HOUR

November 7

Katherine & Clark Senter

November 14 (agape meal)

Freida Owens

November 21 (fasting)

John & Renee Auxier

November 28 (fasting)

Chris & Rachel Burtka

## BELL RINGERS

November 7

Renea Becklehamer

November 14

Tonya Rice

November 21

Vivian Capatina

November 28

Cindy Welch

# WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

## BIRTHDAYS

6- GREGORY AUXIER  
7- SUBDEACON PAUL HILDRETH  
11- READER BRIAN-PHILIP WALTON  
12- SUSAN WALTON  
15- JUSTIN AUXIER  
16- JARROD TORREY & JOHNATHAN PETERS  
19- PAMELA GRUBAUGH  
22- READER CHRISTOPHER BALLNIK & RENEA  
BECKLEHAMER  
23- DANIEL LANTERMAN  
26- JOHN HAMANN  
28- MICHELLE FORSYTH  
29- JULIA AUXIER  
30- EMILY BIEGANSKI

## ANNIVERSARIES

9- BOB & ELAINE BOUCHER  
20- SCOTT & TINA SHEPHERD



## EPISTLE READERS

November 7  
Subdeacon John Auxier  
Jenni Otis

November 14  
Reader Brian Walton  
Sue Walton

November 21  
Reader Chris Ballnik  
Subdeacon Andrew Durand

November 28  
Reader David Schutt  
Reader Brian Walton



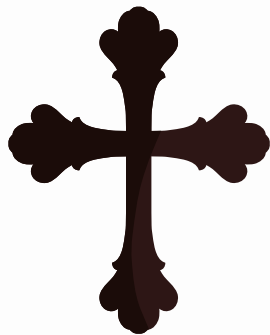
## SCRIPTURE READINGS

November 7  
Gal. 1:11-10  
Luke 8:41-56

November 14  
Gal. 2: 16-20  
Luke 10: 25-37

November 21  
Heb 9:1-7  
Luke 10:39-42; 11:27-28

November 28  
Eph. 2:4-10  
Luke 13: 10-17



## MONTH IN REVIEW

In October, we welcomed a total of six new souls to the Holy Orthodox Faith! Many years go out to Sarah, Mary, Martha, Mark, Anastasia, and Baby Elijah! Welcome Home!

Also, a big thanks goes out to all who helped to make the FARR Soup Sale an incredible success! We were able to donate \$2,000 to help families in need for our local communities!

The Church is opened for private prayer Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 10am -3pm or by appointment



"The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins but grants remission of sins."  
+St. John Chrysostom

## RECOMMENDED READING

### ON THE INCARNATION: SAINT ATHANASIUS

By any standard, this is a classic of Christian theology. Composed by St Athanasius in the fourth century, it expounds with simplicity the theological vision defended at the councils of Nicaea and Constantinople: that the Son of God himself became "fully human, so that we might become god." Its influence on all Christian theology thereafter, East and West, ensures its place as one of the few "must read" books for all who want to know more about the Christian faith.



**WOMEN'S GATHERING**



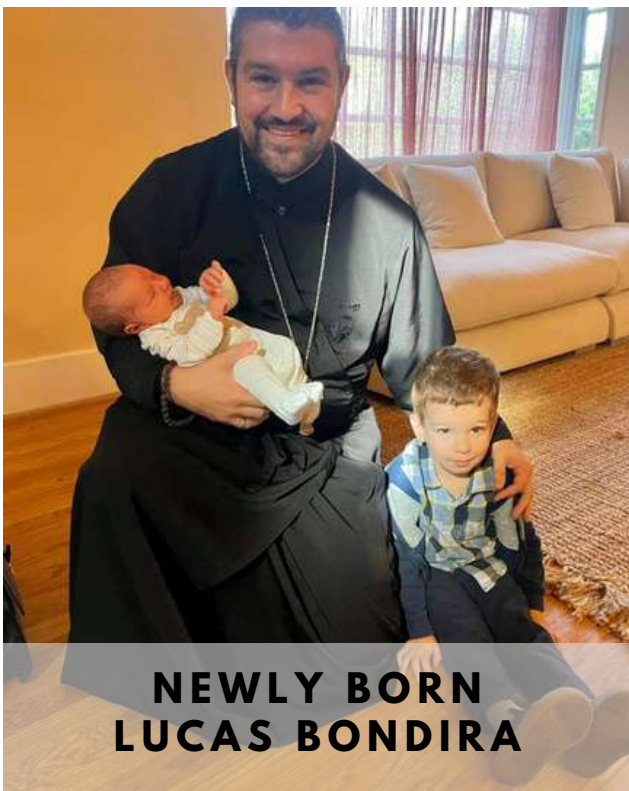


**NEWLY ILLUMINED  
BRYCE LEVEILLE**



**NEWLY BAPTIZED  
ANASTASIA KLINE**

**Wishing you many  
blessed years!**



**NEWLY BORN  
LUCAS BONDIRA**



**NEWLY BAPTIZED  
SARAH, MARY & MARTHA**

**UPCOMING ILLUMINATIONS  
BAPTISM OF LUCAS BONDIRA  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH  
10:00AM**

# MONTHLY FORECAST

## **105th Anniversary of St. Nicholas:**

On Saturday, November 6th, we will be gathering together at St. Nicholas with His Eminence Archbishop Alexander for the celebration of their 105th anniversary. Great Vespers will be celebrated at 5:00 PM!

## **Advent Adult Education Opportunity:**

Dcn. Michael will be offering a class in person and via zoom entitled: Keeping the Faith in a Noisy World: A Christian Approach. The Classes will begin on November 3rd and will take a small break for the Thanksgiving Holiday and will resume in December. Be sure to reach out to Dcn. Michael or the parish office to sign up!

## **Agape Potluck and Advent Fast Begins:**

The Advent Fast begins on Monday November 15th! Orthodox Christians strive to fast from meat and dairy for the 40 days leading up to the Feast of the Nativity. On Sunday, November 14th, the day before the fast, we will be having a Pulled Pork Agape Meal following the Divine Liturgy! Be sure to bring a dish to share with everyone!!!! We will be honoring our Veterans so spread the word!

## **The Seminarian Angel Tree:**

As is our annual tradition, we ask that each family take a special card off of the Seminarian Angel Tree once Advent Begins. Each card will have a denomination and a store that you are asked to purchase a gift card from. Please get these cards back to us as soon as possible so that we can send them out to Seminarian Families in Need before Christmas break!

## **Holy Dormition Monastery:**

Our Metanoia class will be taking a pilgrimage to Holy Dormition Monastery on Wednesday, November 17th. All are welcome to join. See the flyer below for specific times and information.

## **Choir Rehearsals Announced:**

Starting on Sunday, November 7th, the Choir will be rehearsing every Sunday at 9:30 AM before Divine Liturgy. These rehearsals are necessary to not only rehearse the music that will be sung for that Sunday, but also to continue to learn and practice music for the upcoming Feasts. There will be a Saturday Rehearsal on November 27th at 3:00 PM. Please be sure to attend these rehearsals! Also, we are always in search of new singers, please consider joining the choir for rehearsals!

## **SMMOY Group Meeting:**

November's SMMOY Teen Group will be meeting at Airborne Adventure Park in Brighton on Saturday, November 13th from 7-9 PM! See Seth and Mia Hillacker, or reach out to the parish office, for more details!

## **Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos:**

On Saturday, November 20th, there will be Pan Orthodox Great Vespers and Lijtja for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos at Holy Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, beginning at 5:00 PM.

## **Molebin of Thanksgiving:**

Come and Give Thanks to God for all He has given us, as we have a Molebin of Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 24th, beginning at 6:00 PM at the Church! God willing, we will see you all there!

## **Daylight Savings and Vigil Time Change:**

Don't forget to change your clocks back 1 hour on Sunday, November 7th! With the days getting dark earlier and earlier, we now move to our Fall and Winter Saturday Schedule with Great Vespers and Vigils beginning at 4:00 PM. NOTE: BECAUSE OF THE PAN ORTHODOX SERVICES, THERE IS ONLY ONE SATURDAY VIGIL SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER ON THE 27TH! That being said, please reach out to Fr. Gabriel in regards to Holy Confession during the Month of November to make arrangements.



# ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH



## DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGELS

Monday, November 8th | 10:00am



St. Mary Magdalene  
Orthodox Church

2439 S. Long Lake Rd  
Fenton, MI 48430  
810-750-1401







# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## WITH THE BUSY MONTHS AHEAD MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS AT ST. MARY MAGDALENE!

### **Annual Meeting Announcement:**

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 5th. Annual Pledge Cards will be going out in November, as well as other reports and financial figures that will be needed for the meeting. Mark your Calendars for that Sunday, as we have a lot of wonderful things to discuss! If you have any questions prior to the annual meeting please plan on attending the parish council meeting on November 30th.

### **St. Nicholas Visit:**

St. Nicholas will come and visit our children on Sunday, December 12th following the Divine Liturgy, please make every attempt to have your children, grandchildren and Godchildren present. During coffee hour we will have a fun fellowship opportunity as we participate in St. Nicholas Day Trivia!

### **Annual Craft & Bake Sale:**

We will host our annual craft and bake sale on December 18th & 19th. If you are interested in making crafts please connect with Liz Ziats. For those of you who plan to bake, keep an eye out in the Narthex for the sign up sheet in a few weeks.

### **Announcing Holy Supper:**

We will be bringing back the wonderful Tradition of the Holy Supper on Friday, December 24th at 4:30 PM. Join us for the traditional supper before Vigil on Christmas Eve! This event is open to all!

### **Nativity Schedule:**

Friday, December 24th | Royal Hours, 10am - Holy Supper, 5:30pm - Nativity Vigil, 7pm  
Saturday, December 25th | Divine Liturgy, 10am - Christmas Caroling Following Liturgy  
Sunday, December 26th | Divine Liturgy for the Synaxis of the Theotokos, 10am



# SCHEDULE

# CHANGES

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH GREAT VESPERS WILL BE HOSTED BY ST. NICHOLAS IN BURTON, 5:00PM**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH THERE WILL BE NO GREAT VESPERS**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH GREAT VESPERS WILL BE HOSTED BY HOLY ASSUMPTION IN GRAND BLANC, 5:00PM**

**SATURDAY'S GREAT VESPERS/VIGILS WILL CHANGE TO 4:00PM AT ST. MARY MAGDALENE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS**

**NOVEMBER'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH**

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NOVEMBER 24-26TH IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING.**



# THE NATIVITY FAST – WHY WE FAST

from oca.org

November 15, marks the beginning of the Nativity Fast (40 days before Christmas). The following article offers some thoughts on the purpose of fasting.

Fasting is not very alive and well in the Christian world. Much of that world has long lost any living connection with the historical memory of Christian fasting. Without the guidance of Tradition, many modern Christians either do not fast, or constantly seek to re-invent the practice, sometimes with unintended consequences.

There are other segments of Christendom who have tiny remnants of the traditional Christian fast, but in the face of a modern world have reduced the tradition to relatively trivial acts of self-denial.

I read recently (though I cannot remember where) that the rejection of Hesychasm was the source of all heresy. In less technical terms we can say that knowing God in truth, participating in His life, union with Him through humility, prayer, love of enemy and repentance before all and for everything, is the purpose of the Christian life. Hesychasm (Greek Hesychia=Silence) is the name applied to the Orthodox tradition of ceaseless prayer and inner stillness.

But these are incorrectly understood if they are separated from knowledge of God and participation in His life, union with Him through humility, prayer, love of enemy and repentance before all and for everything.

And it is the same path of inner knowledge of God (with all its components) that is the proper context of fasting. If we fast but do not forgive our enemies – our fasting is of no use. If we fast and do not find it drawing us into humility – our fasting is of no use. If our fasting does not make us yet more keenly aware of the fact that we are sinful before all and responsible to all then it is of no benefit. If our fasting does not unite us with the life of God – which is meek and lowly – then it is again of no benefit.

Fasting is not dieting. Fasting is not about keeping a Christian version of kosher. Fasting is about hunger and humility (which is increased as we allow ourselves to become weak). Fasting is about allowing our heart to break.

I have seen greater good accomplished in souls through their failure in the fasting season than in the souls of those who “fasted well.” Publicans enter the kingdom of God before Pharisees pretty much every time.

Why do we fast? Perhaps the more germane question is “why do we eat?” Christ quoted Scripture to the evil one and said, “Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” We eat as though our life depended on it and it does not. We fast because our life depends on the word of God.

# THE NATIVITY FAST – WHY WE FAST

continued

I worked for a couple of years as a hospice chaplain. During that time, daily sitting at the side of the beds of dying patients – I learned a little about how we die. It is a medical fact that many people become “anorexic” before death – that is – they cease to want food. Many times family and even doctors become concerned and force food on a patient who will not survive. Interestingly, it was found that patients who became anorexic had less pain than those who, having become anorexic, were forced to take food. (None of this is about the psychological anorexia that afflicts many of our youth. That is a tragedy)

It is as though at death our bodies have a wisdom we have lacked for most of our lives. It knows that what it needs is not food – but something deeper. The soul seeks and hungers for the living God. The body and its pain become a distraction. And thus in God’s mercy the distraction is reduced.

Christianity as a religion – as a theoretical system of explanations regarding heaven and hell, reward and punishment, is simply Christianity that has been distorted from its true form. Either we know the living God or we have nothing. Either we eat His flesh and drink His blood or we have no life in us. The rejection of Hesychasm is the source of all heresy.

Why do we fast? We fast so that we may live like a dying man – and in dying we can be born to eternal life.





# PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

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

The Library covers the following topics and MORE!

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



P

**NOW AVAILABLE**

**Parish Kiosk Gift Certificates**

**For purchase at any value for any occasion. See Rebekah in the parish office to purchase yours as a gift today!**

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S S

H K

**Be on the lookout mid November for our Nativity display which will include several gifts and stocking stuffers! What a way to share your faith!**





## 2022 LIVES OF THE SAINTS CALENDAR

**\$25 EACH**

SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED

# AVAILABLE IN THE KIOSK MID-NOVEMBER

## 2022 LITTLE CHURCH PLANNER

**\$42 EACH**

SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED





# UPCOMING CHOIR REHEARSALS

## Holy melodists and hymnographers



St Romanos  
the Melodist



St Kosmas  
the Poet



St Sabbas  
of Buzău



St Joseph the  
Hymnographer



St John of  
Damascus



St Andrew of  
Crete



St John  
Koukouzelis



The Holy Prophet  
King David



St Gregory  
Domestikos



St Cecilia



St Kassiani



St Joseph  
the Merciful



Saturday,  
November 27th,  
3:00pm

Saturday,  
December 18th,  
3:00pm

Sundays prior to  
Divine Liturgy,  
9:30am

Please see Reader  
Greg with any  
questions



## **NOVEMBER'S CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

**NOVEMBER 7TH: CHRISMATION**  
**NOVEMBER 14TH PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS**  
**NOVEMBER 21ST: HEBREWS: ANGELS**  
**NOVEMBER 28TH: THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)**

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Happy November to everyone. October was a busy time for St. Mary Magdalene Church School and November promises to be the same.

This month, the pre-k through Middle School Classes will be learning about the Sacrament of Chrismation, the Feast of the Presentation of the Theotokos and a lesson from St. Paul's epistle to the Hebrews. They will also be preparing a greeting for St. Nicholas.

Advent begins November 15. As an almsgiving opportunity, we are asking children to donate new toys to be given to children in need. Having children earn the money for a toy by doing some extra chores around home is a great way of making this truly their gift to someone in need.

Looking ahead, there will be no church school Sunday, November 28 (Thanksgiving weekend). Children will be preparing to welcome St. Nicholas on December 12 (no class) and we will all be taking a break from church school (but not from Church :) until January 16.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have.

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



St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

# St. Nicholas Visit

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021**

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!\*

O kto kto Nikolaja l'ubit,  
O kto kto Nikolaja sluzit,  
Tomu svjatyj Nikolaj,  
Na vsjakj cas pomahaj:  
Nicolaj, Nicolaj!\*

\*Repeat the three lines of the refrain.

St. Nicholas will be joining us following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 12th. Traditionally this is the day gifts are exchanged in honor of the life of St. Nicholas and his benevolence. He will be bringing gifts for all our children. Be sure your children, Godchildren and grandchildren are present to hear about the life of St. Nicholas and his giving soul.





# SMMOY

ST. MARY MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX YOUTH

This past month we gathered with Fr. Gabriel for Q & A on the "Defense of the Dark Arts".

Our next event on November 13th from 7-9 pm at Airborne Adventure Park in Brighton. See Seth & Mia Hillaker for more information.

## UPCOMING GATHERINGS

NOVEMBER 13

DECEMBER 11





# COLLEGE CORNER

## PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

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

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



# KEEPING THE FAITH IN A NOISY WORLD: A CHRISTIAN APPROACH

The course will focus on the noise of our world that causes stress and anxiety, and what we can do as Christians to deal with it.

Deacon Michael Schlaack will be using scripture and the teachings of the saints to see how they handled the stress and anxiety in their worlds.

Classes will be held on Wednesdays at 6:00pm

November 3rd

November 10th

December 1st

December 8th

December 15th

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church  
2439 S. Long Lake Rd.  
Fenton, MI 48430  
810-750-1401  
smmocafenton@gmail.com







# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER:

SEMINARIAN ANGEL TREE GIFT CARD COLLECTION

VETERAN'S DAY LUNCHEON

DECEMBER:

DISTRIBUTE GIFT CARDS FROM SEMINARIAN ANGEL TREE

CAROLING FOR SHUT-INS FOLLOWING NATIVITY LITURGY

CHURCH SCHOOL ALMSGIVING

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

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



★ St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church ★

# HONORING OUR VETERANS

Remembering our Veterans on Veterans Day! If you or your family member are a military veteran, please submit a photo of their military service. Also include their branch, rank and years served and submit it to the Parish office by **Sunday, November 7th**. We will be putting together a collage to honor our St. Mary Magdalene Veterans! (if you submitted information last year, there is no need to resubmit)

**Celebrating Veterans Day  
Sunday, November 14th!**

ADDRESS:

2439 S. Long Lake Rd  
Fenton, MI 48430

WEB:

[st-marymagdalene.org](http://st-marymagdalene.org)  
[smmocafernton@gmail.com](mailto:smmocafernton@gmail.com)





★ ★ ST MARY MAGDALNE ORTHODOX CHURCH ★ ★

# VETERAN DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021  
LUNCHEON BEGINS 11:45



2439 S. LONG LAKE RD FENTON, MI 48430



11

11

ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG | 810-750-1401

NOVEMBER 15- DECEMBER 1ST

# Seminarian Angel 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.

STARTING ON NOVEMBER 15TH (THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT), THERE WILL BE A SEMINARIAN GIFT CARD TREE LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX 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!





**ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH**



**Nativity  
Caroling  
2021**

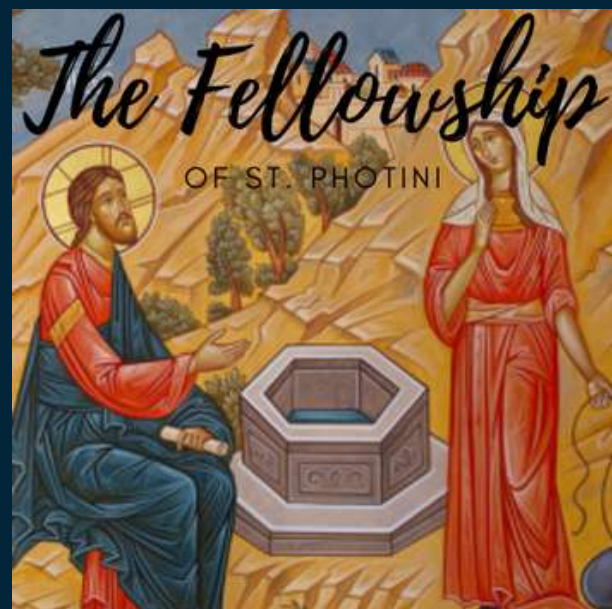
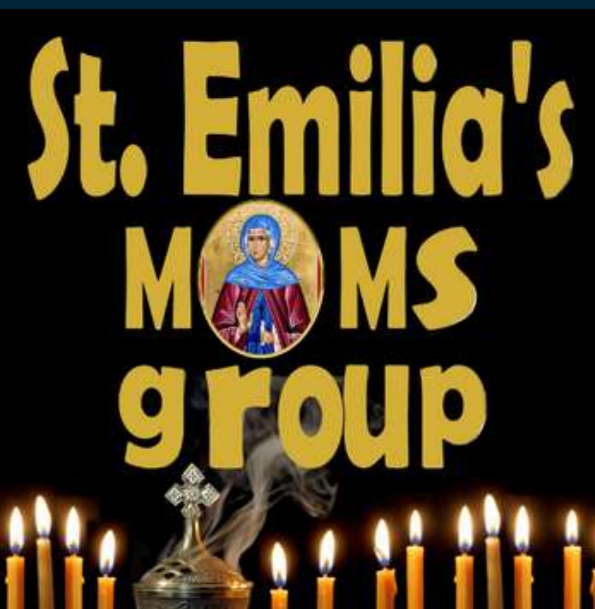
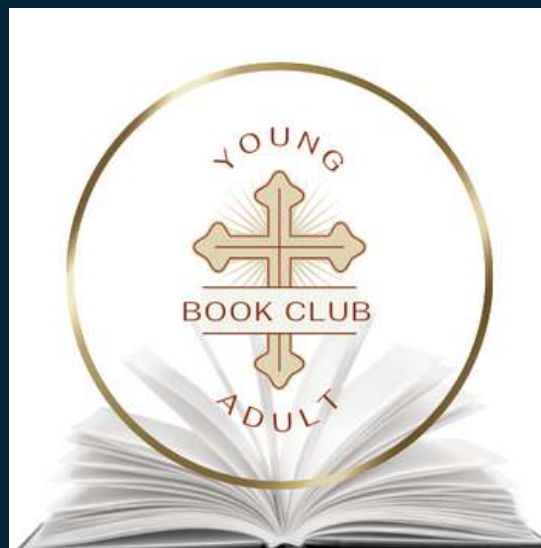
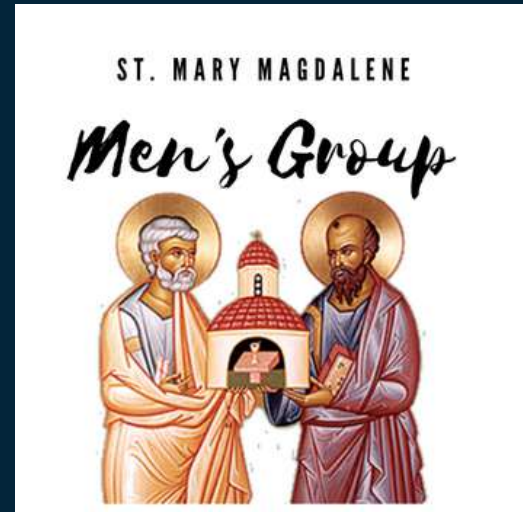
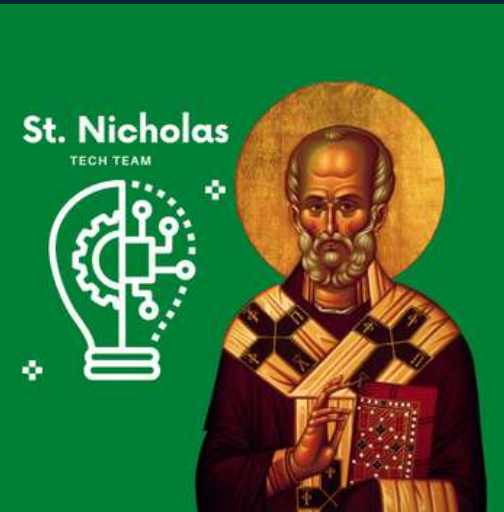
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25TH  
FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY**

**LOCKWOOD OF FENTON  
16309 SILVER PKWY**

**JOIN US AS WE PUT OUR FAITH INTO ACTION AND VISIT WITH THOSE WHO  
ARE ALONE ON THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY.**



# PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS







**St. Mary Magdalene**

Parish Council

## Upcoming Meetings:

November 30th, 7:00 pm

December 14th, 7:00 pm

## Annual Meeting:

**Sunday, December 5th**

### Parish Council Members

Joe Otis, Chair

Reader Chris Ballnik, Secretary

Ann Schutt, Treasurer

David Welch

Tina Shepherd

Subdeacon Andrew Durand

Rachel Burtka

Terri Oginsky

Alternate: Jay Rice

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021  
FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY



Topics of Discussion:  
Pastoral Report  
Building/Expansion Plan  
Annual Budget  
Committee Reports

.... and more!



*Q give thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good, for His  
mercy endures forever.  
(psalm 136)*

# *Molieben of Thanksgiving*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2021 | 6:00PM



ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH  
2439 S. LONG LAKE RD - FENTON, MI  
[ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG](http://ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG)



# St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

Glory be to Jesus Christ!  
Glory Forever!

The past two years for the entire world can be best described as chaotic. I have been constantly reminded of that image that is used in the Matins service, describing our existence as a rough sea that is surging with storms. However, despite the choppy waters and regardless of size of the waves that knock against us, we are reminded of one of the images the Church is: **The Ship, guided by the Holy Spirit, that provides a refuge for all who are constantly being tossed about in the storms.**

We have been so extremely blessed over the past two decades to have offered a place for all to come who are searching for something deeper than the limited existence that the outside world offers us. Our little Church in the woods, located on the shores of the Shiawassee River, has truly provided a place of beauty, serenity, and peace for thousands of men, women, and children who have graced us with their presence and prayers. Now, more than ever, there is a need for our Temple to be expanded to accommodate those who are coming to our doorstep.

The upcoming expansion of our temple is currently set to include a larger worship space, an open dome, an expanded hall with a kitchen, a moms and babies room, enhanced handicap accessibility, and much more. The estimated cost of the expansion is coming in at \$900,000.

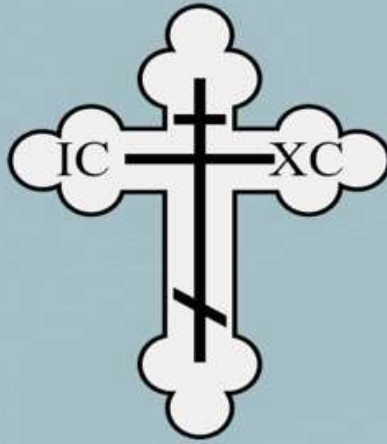
While that figure might seem daunting, allow me to share an incredible gift that could only be made possible by the workings of the Holy Spirit. We have received a matching financial pledge of up to \$500,000 towards the building fund. This means that for every dollar that is raised or pledged from now until the end of 2022 will be doubled by an anonymous donor!

In your generosity, if you are able to donate, checks can be made out to "St. Mary Magdalene" with the memo "building fund". Contributions can be made in person or can be sent to our address below.

We give glory to God for all of the financial sacrifices that so many people have made to our parish. This Church has truly grown into a beacon which shows the Gentle Presence of Christ in the midst of the world. That Presence is not only experienced by our parishioners, but by so many others in our local community who have embraced us. May our Lord continue to give us the strength to grow the vineyard which He has planted with His Own Right Hand, as we all move towards His Heavenly Embrace!

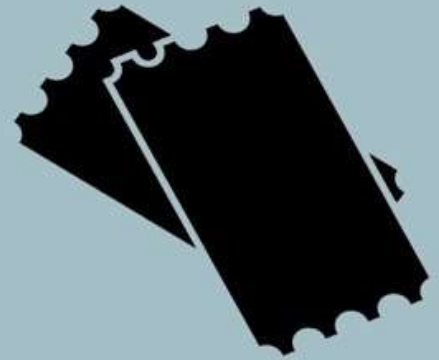
Your Servant in Christ,  
Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector, St. Mary Magdalene, Fenton, MI





# Pan-Orthodox Movie Night

Hosted @ St. Nicholas



**\* Dates Change \***

**First** Saturday of the Month

- 1) September 11th - Остров (The Island) PG-13
- 2) **October 2nd** - Поп (The Priest) NR
- 3) **November 6th** - Silence R
- 4) **December 4th** - TBD

Vespers @ 5pm with Movie and Refreshments following

**2143 S. Center Rd.  
Burton, MI 48519**



**ST MARK ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**AUTUMN RETREAT 2021**  
**ACQUIRING THE MIND OF CHRIST**  
*Ancient Spirituality for Modern Times*

Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery, will be the guest speaker at St. Mark's Autumn Retreat this year. He will present on topics from his book, *Acquiring the Mind of Christ*. Father Sergius will be traveling with the Miraculous Icon of St. Anna which will be at the church.



**RETREAT SCHEDULE**

**Friday,  
November 5<sup>TH</sup>**

6:30pm, Moliben  
(Service of Supplication)  
to St. Anna followed by  
presentation by  
Father Sergius

**Saturday,  
November 6<sup>th</sup>**

11:00am, Session One  
12:30pm, Lunch &  
Fellowship  
1:30pm, Session Two  
3:30pm, Confessions  
4:00pm, Vespers

**ST MARK ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

400 W. Hamlin Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
(248) 656-1630  
stmarkrochester.org

Father John Baker  
fjbaker317@gmail.com



St Mary Magdalene  
Orthodox Church

Visit



# Holy Dormition Monastery



Wednesday,  
November 17

*2:30pm* Depart from St. Mary Magdalene  
& Caravan to Holy Dormition  
Monastery

*4:00pm* Meet at the Monastery for a tour  
of the grounds

*5:00pm* Vespers Service with the Nuns

*6:00pm* Short talk about Monasticism and  
Q & A with Mother Gabriella

*7:30pm* Depart for Fenton

Please visit the monastery's website for information on dress code,  
visitor's etiquette and Covid protocols or contact the parish office.

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

**Holy Dormition Monastery** 3389 Rives Eaton Rd, Rives  
Junction, MI 49277

# St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

2439 S. LONG LAKE RD  
FENTON, MI 48430

ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG



## NATIVITY SCHEDULE

12/24 Royal Hours | 10:00am  
12/24 Holy Supper | 5:30pm  
12/24 Nativity Vigil | 7:00pm  
12/25 Nativity Liturgy | 10:00am  
12/26 Hours & Divine Liturgy | 9:50am

## THEOPHANY SCHEDULE

1/5 Blessing of the Waters | 7:00pm  
1/6 Theophany Liturgy | 10:00am  
1/8 Vespers | 4:00pm  
1/9 Hours, Divine Liturgy, Blessing of the  
River & Lamb Roast | 9:50am







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

## First Semester 2022- All classes begin at 6:30pm

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, January 12th:  | Introduction to Orthodoxy and Holy Tradition          |
| Wednesday, January 19th:  | The True God  |
| Wednesday, January 26th:  | The Human Being                                       |
| Wednesday, February 2nd:  | Sin   |
| Wednesday, February 9th:  | Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the World |
| Wednesday, February 16th: | The Holy Spirit and Prayer                            |
| Wednesday, February 23rd: | The Church and Mary                                   |



# ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

## LET'S GET CONNECTED!

Follow us!



@StMaryMagdaleneOrthodoxChurch



@ocasm



@ocasm



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

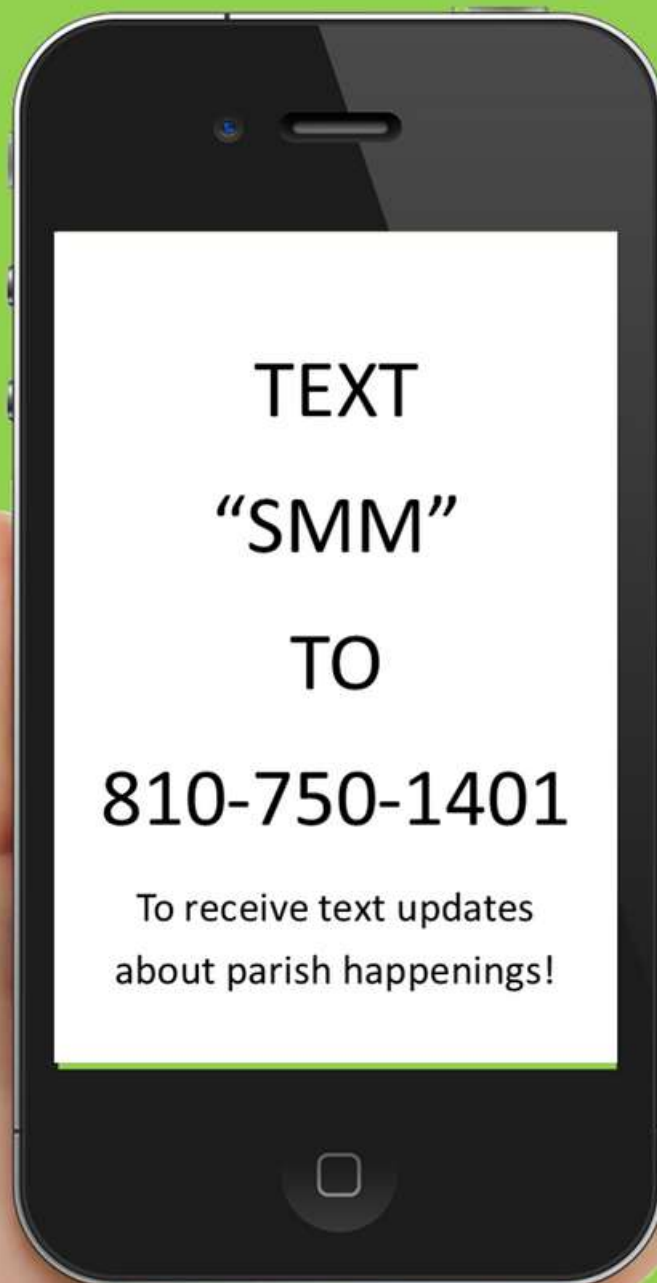
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# Stay up-to-date with St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH



TEXT

"SMM"

TO

810-750-1401

To receive text updates  
about parish happenings!





St. MARY  
MAGDALENE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Call: 248-318-7342

Donation of

\$500.00

# REFERRAL PROGRAM

To benefit the Building Expansion Project

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

Conne Terova  
Real Estate One

Cell: 248-318-7342  
cterova@gmail.com  
teamterova.com

