

November 2022

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

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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

How Christians Change the World

From the Desk of Fr. Gabriel

On His way to Jairus's home, where Jesus was going to heal the temple ruler's daughter, we hear in the Gospels of a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years secretly try to grab ahold of our Lord's garments to be healed. There was a very specific reason why she tried to be discreet, which comes from the book of Leviticus. According to Jewish Law, if a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, every bed which she lies on, every garment she wears, every seat she sits on, is considered unclean. Moreover, if anyone touches her, they too are considered unclean, and need to wash all their clothes, bathe in water, and quarantine themselves until evening (Leviticus, 15:25)! Knowing all of these laws, it took tremendous courage and faith for the woman in the Gospel to not only go out into a crowd of people, but also to reach out and touch the garment of Jesus!

As soon as her fingers touched the hem of Jesus's garments, the woman was completely healed. Our Lord immediately stopped and asked: *"Who touched me?"*, and this poor woman knew she was caught! She would have to go and explain herself now, possibly opening Christ up to having to quarantine himself for the rest of the day.

The woman fell down before Jesus, implicating herself, and explain what happened. Yet after all of this, our Lord replied quite simply: *"Daughter, be of good cheer, your faith has made you well. Go in peace."* He then continued to Jairus's house to show his power over death, by raising the daughter from her bed.

These incredible miracles, like so many other passages in the Gospels, show us how Jesus was different than anyone who had come before Him. He wasn't just another prophet who healed people or performed miracles after prayer to God. He IS God!

When confronted with the demoniac, Jesus drove out Legion by His words alone! He took the hand of Jairus's daughter who had died and raised her back to life by His own authority! When a woman with 12 years of blood flow came and touched Christ, He didn't become sick or unclean, because when we come to our Lord with the sickness of sin, it is we who become healed by the God of all!

How necessary is that authority over evil needed in our own day and age?! I was reading the very famous work by St. Athanasius this week, who is one of the great Church Fathers of the 3rd century, called *"On the Incarnation"*. The book seeks to answer the question of why it was necessary for the Creator to come into the world, and it starts off by describing the fall of Adam and the introduction of sin and death into the human race.

There is a particular passage that I am always struck by because despite being written 1700 years ago, it describes quite vividly what sin has done in our own day and age, and how things seem to continually go from bad to worse!

UPCOMING THIS MONTH

1-Prayer Service for the Sick and Suffering

2-Pilgrimage to Holy Dormition Monastery

5-Pan-Orthodox Charity Concert

6- 40 Days for Eleftheria

8-Synaxis of the Archangels

13-Seminarian Tree Begins

17-Akathist to the 12 Apostles

19- Choir Rehearsal

20- Final Day of Church School

27- Nativity Shop Opens

21-Dec 1 -Holy Land Pilgrimage



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

How Christians Change the World Cont.

"When this (the fall) happened, men began to die, and corruption ran riot among them and held sway over them to an even more than natural degree, because it was the penalty of which God had forewarned them for transgressing the commandment. Indeed, they had in their sinning surpassed all limits; for, having invented wickedness in the beginning and so involved themselves in death and corruption, they had gone on gradually from bad to worse, not stopping at any one kind of evil, but continually as with an insatiable appetite, devising new kinds of sins."

"Adulteries and thefts were everywhere. Murder and rapine filled the earth. Law was disregarded in corruption and injustice. All kinds of iniquities were perpetrated by all, both singly and in common. Cities were warring with cities. Nations were rising against nations. The whole earth was rent with factions and battles, while each strove to outdo the other in wickedness. Even crimes contrary to nature were not unknown, but as the martyr-apostle of Christ says: "Their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature; and the men also, leaving the natural use of the woman, flamed out in lust towards each other, perpetrating shameless acts with their own sex, and receiving in their own persons the due recompense of their perverseness.""

St. Athanasius gives us this very gruesome image of what happens to the human race when it turns away from God. We go from bliss to despair...from paradise to hell...and from life to death. Yet, despite how far the human race has fallen, we are so incredibly blessed to have a loving God Who could not bear to see His own creation destroy itself. St. Athanasius continues:

*"...pitying our race, moved with compassion for our limitation, unable to endure that death should have the mastery, rather than that His creatures should perish and the work of His father for us men come to naught, (in other words, so we wouldn't end up in oblivion) He took to Himself a body, a human body, even as our own...**This He did out of sheer love for us, so that in His death all might die, and the law of death thereby be abolished...**"*

Brothers and Sisters, this is what God came into the world to do! He came to sanctify our flesh! He humbled Himself down to our existence to pull us out of corruption and death, to pull us out of that scene which we just read above, and just like the woman in the Gospel today, **to make us whole again!**

Knowing this incredible reality, how have we changed our lives as Orthodox Christians to make the most of this selfless gift of love? When we wake up in the morning, are we thinking about God and the necessity of prayer, or is our first instinct to see what emails, texts, and social media posts we missed? When we speak with others throughout the day, do we begin our conversations by praising God for the day we have been given? With other Orthodox Christians, this is easy! We greet one another with *"Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!"* Do we do the same with non-Christians, thus showing the rest of the world how deeply connected we are to our Savior? When sickness comes upon us, or we are about to have surgery, is our first reaction to turn to God and to reach out for the hem of His garment? Or do we first turn to Web MD to further obsess over things that are beyond our control? When we go to Liturgy, is it just a place that we go to have coffee afterwards, hear the choir, listen to a homily, and have Christian fellowship...or do we truly allow ourselves to be **transformed**? Do we come to take all of the Grace that we received, so that we can take it out into the world, in order to save it from itself...or do we quickly fall back into the arms of the world, thus losing the incredible gift that we had received?

Self-examination like this helps all of us to realize where our true priorities lie. As Orthodox Christians, if we are lacking in any of these areas, this needs to change now, before it is too late.

The reason God allows miracles in our life is to remind us that "all of this" (the Grace we receive from the Liturgy, the miracles, our faith, etc) is **absolutely real and necessary** if we are going to fulfill our Christian calling, and to change the world. The healing presence of Christ in our lives is **absolutely necessary**, if we are to make the most of the gift of life and love that we have been freely given. Knowing that reality, let us not waste another moment of our lives without giving Glory to Him who has come to transform us and the rest of the world through us!

"Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness."

+St. John Chrysostom

Prayers for our Sick and our Suffering

Vinne	Jeff	Mary Valarie
Elaine	Mike	Lynne
David	Lauren	Jeanne
Pat	Rich	Glenn
Michael	Judy	Gerald
Jim	Anthony	Tony
Elaine	Dorothy	Pamela
Mason	Megan	Elizabeth
Theresa	Shirley	Arminda
Robert	Tinna	Michael
Linda	Susan	Sarah
Hudson	Brian	Nicole
Allison	Sophia	Theresa
Dimitri	Miriam	Debora
Damian	Bryan	
Martin	Chrissy	
Ivanka	Kristen	
Dawn	Cameron	

ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 5, 2022

Glory be to Jesus Christ!
Glory Forever!

Per our bylaws, the Annual Parish Meeting is the highest legislative, judicial, and administrative authority of the Parish as a corporation. It is also the place where we have the opportunity as a parish community to come together to get an update on where we are at with our mission of growing Orthodoxy in our community.

This year's annual meeting will take place after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 4th. As has been the case in year's past, we will be streamlining this meeting by providing all financial reports, budgets, parish reports, and parish council slate ahead of time. Any issues, concerns, or in depth questions can be submitted to Fr. Gabriel or to the parish council ahead of time, so that the meeting can go as quickly and smoothly as possible.

As a reminder, all members of the parish are requested to be at this meeting!

Your Servant in Christ,
Fr. Gabriel

Mother's With Child

Tricia
Renee
Rachel
Christine
Taylor
Matushka Sara

Catechumenate

Collin Jacqueline
Jaclyn William
Mark Dimitry
Sarah Nicholas

Seminarian Families

Deacon Alexander,
Matushka Danielle &
Cordelia Earl

Reader Paisios, Anna,
John & Theodore
Hamann

Anniversary of Parish Members Departed

1- Shuko Philips	6- Robert Oginsky Sr.
11/11 Douglas Lyon	12- Helen Philips
11/13 Michael Zak	28- Sarah Heikkila

Recently Departed

Eleftheria Rissin



Prayers for our Armed Forces

Michael Oginsky - U.S.
Stephany Bishop - U.S. Navy

Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers
Alex Suriano - Air National Guard

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

PARISH GREETERS

November 6

Freida Owens

November 13

Steve & Sue Walton

November 20

Scott & Tina Shephard

November 27

George & Julie Jonascu

COFFEE HOUR

November 6

Joe & Jenni Otis

November 13

Rdr Chris Ballnik

November 20

TBD

November 27

TBD

BELL RINGERS

November 6

Vivian Capatina

November 13

Cindy Welch

November 20

Ruth Karabina

November 27

Vivian Capatina

WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

BIRTHDAYS

6- GREGORY AUXIER

7- SUBDEACON PAUL HILDRETH

11- RDR BRIAN-PHILIP WALTON

12-SUE WALTON

15-JUSTIN AUXIER

16-JARROD TORREY & JOHN PETERS

19-PAMELA GRUBAUGH

22- RDR CHRIS BALLNIK & RENEA BECKLEHAMER

23-DANIEL LANTERMAN

24-JACLYN SELEWSKI

26- JOHN HAMANN

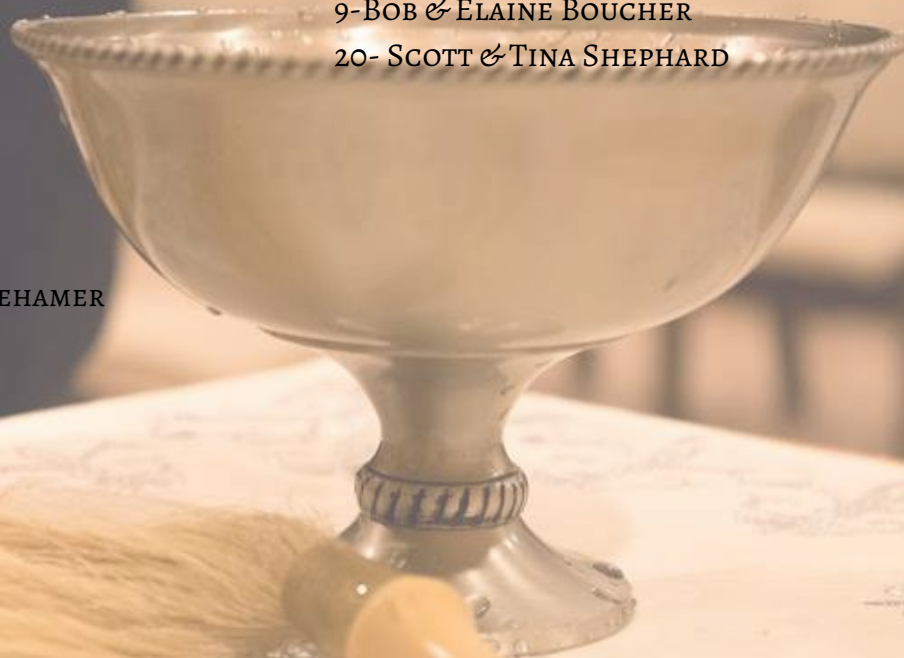
29-JULIA AUXIER

30- EMILY BIEGANSKI

ANNIVERSARIES

9-BOB & ELAINE BOUCHER

20- SCOTT & TINA SHEPHARD



EPISTLE READERS

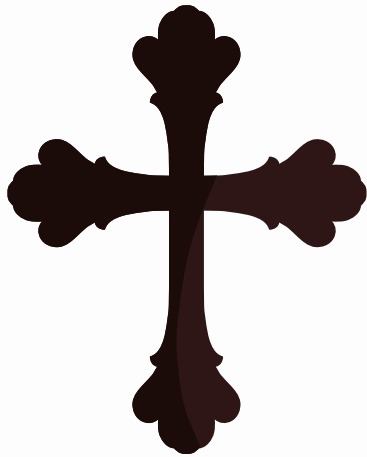


November 6
Reader David Schutt
Reader Tom Chiatas

November 13
Subdeacon John Auxier
Reader Christopher Ballnik

November 20
Reader Nathaniel Auxier
Reader David Schutt

November 27
John Wolf



SCRIPTURE READINGS

November 6
Gal. 2: 16-20
Luke 8:41-56

November 13
Gal 6:11-18
Luke 10:25-37

November 20
Eph. 2:4-10
Luke 12:16-21

November 27
Eph. 2:14-22
Luke 13:10-17

SCHEDULE CHANGE

From November 19th until
after Pascha
regular Saturday services
will be moved to 4:00pm



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

MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT:
PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S BIRTH
BY VASSILIOS PAPAVALASSIOU

*Meditations for
Advent*

PREPARING
FOR CHRIST'S BIRTH

Vassilios Papavassiliou

MONTHLY FORECAST

Prayer Service for Sick and Suffering

Our Monthly Prayer Service for the Sick and the Suffering will take place on Tuesday, November 1st at 6:30 PM. If you have any names, you would like added to this service, especially those suffering from terminal illnesses, please submit those to the parish office.

Pilgrimage to Dormition Monastery

We will be taking our annual pilgrimage to Dormition Monastery on Wednesday, November 2nd for 9th hour, Great Vespers, a quick tour of the monastery, and a talk with Mother Gabriella! Great Vespers begins at 5:00 PM! Please inform the office if you plan on attending.

Pan-Orthodox Ukraine Ensemble/Charity Concert

On Saturday, November 5th we will join our Pan-Orthodox brothers and sisters at St. George in Flint for a charity concert to benefit humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. The concert will begin at 3:00pm and a free-will offering will be held. Following the charity concert we will come together for Vespers at 5:00pm at St. George. Father Gabriel will be hearing confessions during Vespers. There are NO services at St. Mary Magdalene on this day.

Synaxis of the Archangel Michael

The Feast of the Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and All of the Angels will take the place on Tuesday, November 8th at 10:00 AM. This Liturgy will take the place of our normal Wednesday morning Liturgy for that week!

Nativity Fast

Don't forget that the 40-day Nativity Fast begins on Tuesday, November 15th. To the best of your ability, be mindful to fast from meat and dairy as we prepare for the coming of our Lord! This period is also a wonderful chance for us to focus on increasing our prayer rules and spiritual reading. If you need help in coming up with a Nativity plan, do not hesitate to reach out to Fr. Gabriel

Vigil Time Change

As the days begin getting shorter, we will be making our annual time change for Saturday Great Vespers and Vigil to 4:00 PM. This will remain until after Pascha! Also, during the Nativity Fast, we will be celebrating the Vigil Service (Vespers and abridged Matins) in place of Great Vespers. Confessions will continue after services as normal.

Preparation for Annual Meeting

This month, you will be receiving all of the documents necessary for the Annual Parish Meeting, which is scheduled for after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 4th. Please review these documents at home, and submit any questions, comments or concerns to a member of the parish council so that they can be answered and discussed PRIOR to the meeting. God willing, we will not break our streak of under 25 minutes for the annual meeting!

Prayer Service for our Veterans

After Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 13th, we will be having a special prayer service for all of our veterans of the parish, as well as a singing of the memory eternal for all those who had lost their lives in service to their country. Please consider inviting or submitting the names of veterans to the parish office for the service!

Angel Tree Collection

Every year around this time, we ask all of our parishioners to take a special tag off of the Nativity Tree and return it with the gift card listed. These cards are collected and sent to the families of seminarians, many of whom had given up everything in order to study the faith for future service in the Church. The angel tree will begin on Wednesday, November 13th, with all cards due back by the annual meeting, December 4th. We are mailing these out in bulk shortly after the meeting, so that the seminarians can get them before their Nativity break.

Choir and Bell Rehearsal

There will be an all choir rehearsal scheduled for Saturday, November 19th at 3:00 PM. For those wanting to learn how to ring bells, there is a new monthly bell ringers class and practice on the first Thursday of every month (November 3rd) at 10:30 AM!

Akathist to the 12 Apostles

To ring in the Nativity Fast, there will be a special Akathist to the 12 Apostles on Thursday, November 17th at 6:00 PM.

Holy Land Pilgrimage Contact Information

After Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 20th, Fr. Gabriel, Dcn. Michael, and many of our parishioners will be taking a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. They are scheduled to return on December 1st. Sunday Services will continue as normal with Fr. Michael Bassett. Should there be any emergencies, hospitalizations, or special prayers that are needed, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office, Fr. Matthew Butrie of St. Nicholas (810) 247-4265 or Fr. Joseph Abud (810) 444-9108 of St. George

BUILDING THE LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WOODS

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS ON THE FOUR PILLARS OF CHURCH GROWTH

What is Happening in the Pillar of Worship?

This past month, on top of our regular schedule of services, we began our special community akathist to the Theotokos for those suffering from terminal illness and cancer. It was a beautiful beginning, which I hope and pray continues to grow as time goes on. It was also wonderful to hear our choir begin their sectional practices, which God willing will culminate in a whole choir rehearsal around once a month. May our Lord continue to bless and improve our worship to His Glory!

What is Happening in the Pillar of Community?

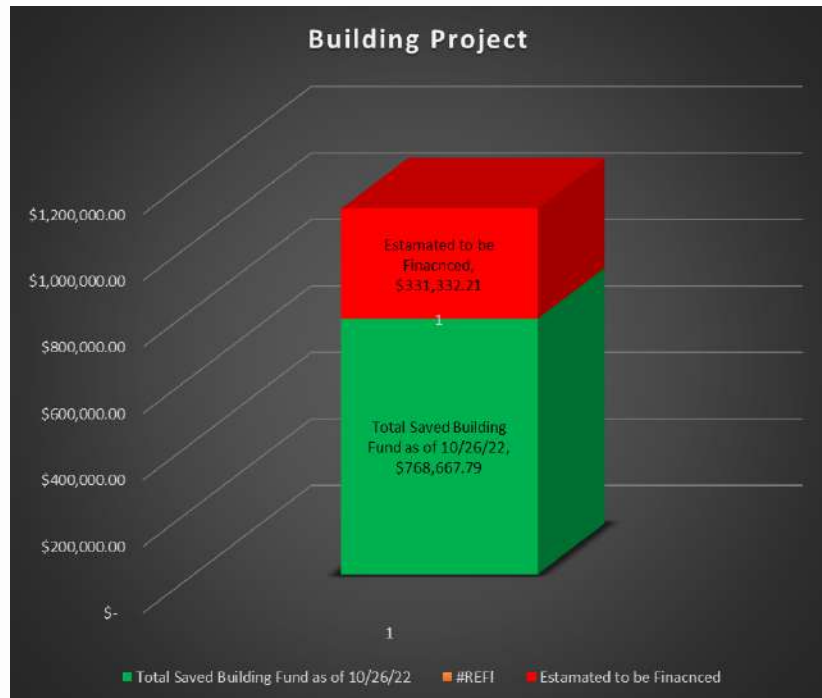
This past month, we welcomed Tikhon Hilllacker and Anastasia (Leighton) Conover to Holy Orthodoxy with some beautiful baptisms! We also added Mark Foster to our list for the catechumenate. We have several baptisms that are upcoming as well before the end of the year as well! Just a reminder, as visitors continue to grace the doors of our Church, we all need to continue to welcome them and make them feel as comfortable as possible, despite our construction!

What is Happening in the Pillar of Education?

Metanoia classes wrapped up in the month of October! On the 2nd of November, the Metanoia participants (as well as anyone else who would like to join) are welcome to take a trip with us for a tour of Holy Dormition Monastery! While we will continue to have book club and other educational opportunities, due to the trip to Jerusalem, we will probably not have a very large educational offering during Advent.

What is Happening in the Pillar of Stewardship?

While the parish will be hearing more about Church Finances in our upcoming annual meeting, I would like to highlight the wonderful workers that we have in the parish. There are those who are cooking for the soup sale, right down to the small group of brave men who volunteered to escort "Bambi the departed deer" to the back to bury. Anytime there is a need in the parish, people are always willing to stand up! By the Grace of God we were able to complete 29 blankets for the local memory care facility which were delivered and quickly used by the residents. We were also able to collect a total of \$785 from our Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry special collection.



Total Collected 9/26 -10/26
\$10,340.00

SEMINARIAN UPDATE

ST. VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

To our parish family at St Mary Magdalene,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

We have had an exciting and busy semester so far, and it is not over yet! As many of you know, on September 17th we welcomed our first child, Cordelia, into the world. Words cannot describe our joy and delight in her presence. You may of course be thinking, “wow, I bet they are sleep deprived!” Well—and prepare to be envious now—I must tell you that Cordelia is simply saintly. She eats well, sleeps well, and is already alert, smiling and laughing; she has only had a few moments where she was inconsolably upset, otherwise she has been rather generous to our sleep. In short, we have been extraordinarily blessed so far in the journey of new parenthood. Now I suspect this is our Lord lulling us into a false sense of security. Our second child may be a totally different story, so we won't rest on our laurels just yet.

The second event which is quickly approaching is my own ordination to the sacred priesthood on the morning of November 6th by His Eminence Archbishop Alexander (Golitzin). A journey which has taken over a decade has led here, and, much like the birth of my daughter, I feel a little lost for words. Perhaps this is the nature of fatherhood, in both its physical and spiritual modes. I will also have the privilege of serving at Cordelia's baptism on the same day as a new priest. So the instances of profundity and mystery are only multiplied. I ask for your continued prayers as the day approaches: that I might be found worthy, that God might give me strength, that grace might fulfill all that is lacking. Pray for my family, my wife and daughter, and my own parents and sister who worship with you.

Mat. Danielle is in good spirits, enjoying motherhood, and eager for the ordination. As you might expect, one does not get here without the support and prayers of an extraordinary wife. She has enjoyed her maternity leave, though it will sadly be shorter than is ideal. She will be returning to work sometime mid-November, so especially pray for us as we begin to tackle those sorts of challenges.

We are continually grateful for your support, both in prayer and financially. None of this would be possible without you. Be assured I will remember you all at the altar. Good strength as the building project continues. It has been exciting to see some of the steel work begin.

By your prayers, we hope to see you all soon.

Dn Alexander & Mat Danielle

SEMINARIAN UPDATE

ST. TIKHON'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dear Family and Friends,

We hope you are well! It has been an eventful couple of months since our last update. We are starting to get into the rhythm of life here at St. Tikhon's. First year seminarians are assigned 24.5 credits worth of classes, including Spirituality, Old Testament, Liturgics, Early Church History, Dogmatics, New Testament Greek, and Church Music courses. Thank God, I was able to pass out of the Greek class, and I'm very happy for that fact since things are quite intense even without Greek. In addition to classes, seminarians are obligated to attend Vespers (evening prayer service) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, as well as Divine Liturgy (main Eucharistic service) on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. Students often assist in these services, whether by reading, serving at the altar, or singing in the choir. I've been learning that time management is critical, as between classes, writing papers, studying, and attending church there is precious little time to spend with family. It's one of our main goals to not let family life suffer during our time here. Thankfully, the seminary is very supportive of married students and understands the occasional need of students to take time away from their usual obligations to attend to their families.

There are so many fantastic opportunities here for development that it's hard to put them into email, but far and away the most important of these is the monastery nearby, which is populated by monks who have tremendous experience living the life in Christ. Each seminarian is required to select a spiritual father (spiritual guide/ director) from the monastic community, and it's a wonderful blessing to be able to take advantage of such a wealth of experience and wisdom. There's so much to learn and so many ways to grow here that it is often completely overwhelming, but we keep reminding ourselves that at the end of the day, this is a wonderful problem to have!

John and Theodore continue to grow and develop, and seem to be loving life here in the country. Their favorite activity is walking to a nearby farm and saying hello to the cows. Theodore started walking just a few weeks ago, and already he is toddling around like a pro! The kids have been spending quite a bit of time in church, and we were initially concerned about pushing them too hard with all the services, but they seem to have been adapting quite well. They've been playing very well together and have many little friends around the seminary area with which to burn off all that excess toddler energy.

Recently, Anna started babysitting for another seminarian and teaching piano lessons. This will help us quite a bit with our finances, and we are very thankful to have this opportunity for her to work from home so that she can continue to be a full-time mother. Autumn here in NEPA is absolutely gorgeous, and while dropping temperatures signify the coming of winter, we have decided to just ignore that fact and enjoy the beautiful weather while we have it.

That's all the update we have for now! We hope to send another in the next month or two. Until then, thank you once again for all your prayers, support, and love!

In Christ,
The Hamanns





Prayer Service for the Sick and Suffering, Especially those suffering with Cancer.

We welcome anyone who is sick or has a loved one or friend who is sick and suffering with cancer or a chronic illness to join us for this once a month prayer service. We will be offering prayers for the healing of soul and body, for compassion and for comfort to those who are fighting illness.

Please join us in person or submit your names to be read during the healing service

Beginning in October 2022
The first Tuesday of the Month
6:30pm

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church
2439 S. Long Lake Rd. Fenton, MI 48506
st-marymagdalene.org



Scan this code to submit
names for prayer or to
find more information.

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH



DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGELS

Tuesday, November 8th | 10:00am



St. Mary Magdalene
Orthodox Church

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





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. Make the most of your summer!

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.

[HTTP://WWW.ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG/PARISH-LENDING-LIBRARY](http://www.st-marymagdalene.org/parish-lending-library)



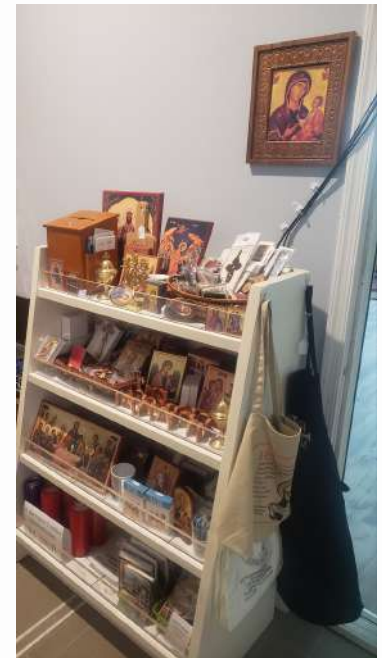
P
A K
R I
I O
S S
H K

We are still here!!!!

The Parish Kiosk was moved to the hallway in the temporary chapel. We still have a wide array of treasures available from books to home altar supplies to icons. Check it out!

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.

We Still have St. Mary Magdalene tumblers available for \$20 each!

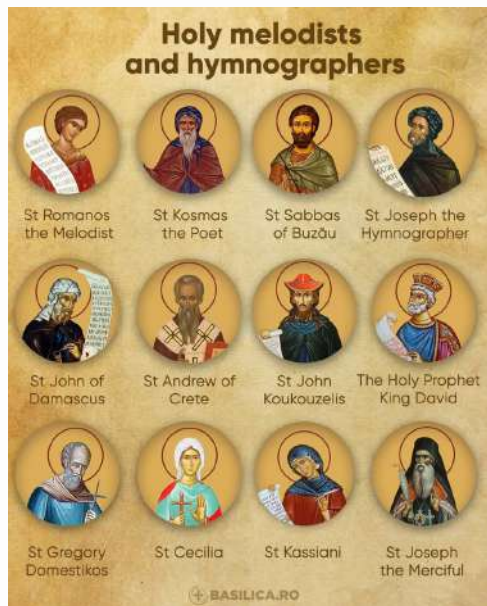


**NATIVITY STORE WILL BE AVAILABLE
AFTER THANKSGIVING**

PARISH CHOIR



UPCOMING REHEARSALS TO PREPARE FOR THE NATIVITY

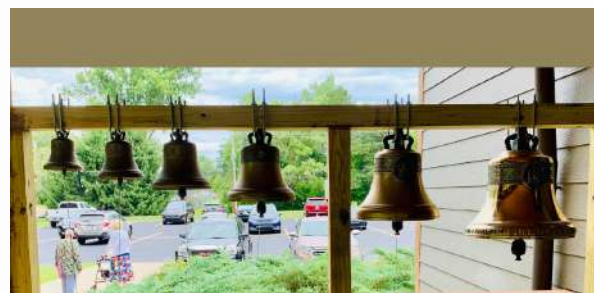


Saturday, November 19th, 3:00pm
Saturday, December 3rd, 3:00pm
Saturday, December 10th, 3:00pm
Saturday, December 17th, 3:00pm

Regular Bell Ringing Rehearsals

- 1st Thursday 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
Bell Ringers*



Our Parish Youth!

Greetings from St. Mary Magdalene Church School. Classes went well in October as children focused on New Testament Scripture and bible stories. The weather with a few exceptions has been cooperative so coffee hour has continued to take place outside the education center and classes have gone smoothly. Thanks to everyone for their cooperation and flexibility.

November brings us the final three classes of the Fall Semester. November 20 will be the last class until January 2023.

Remember St. Nicholas will be coming to visit in December and we are asking children to bring a new small toy for distribution (one per family) to the Foster Closet. Children will be able to experience the blessing of a small gift from St. Nicholas as well as the blessing of giving a gift for other children.

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

Orchard Outing

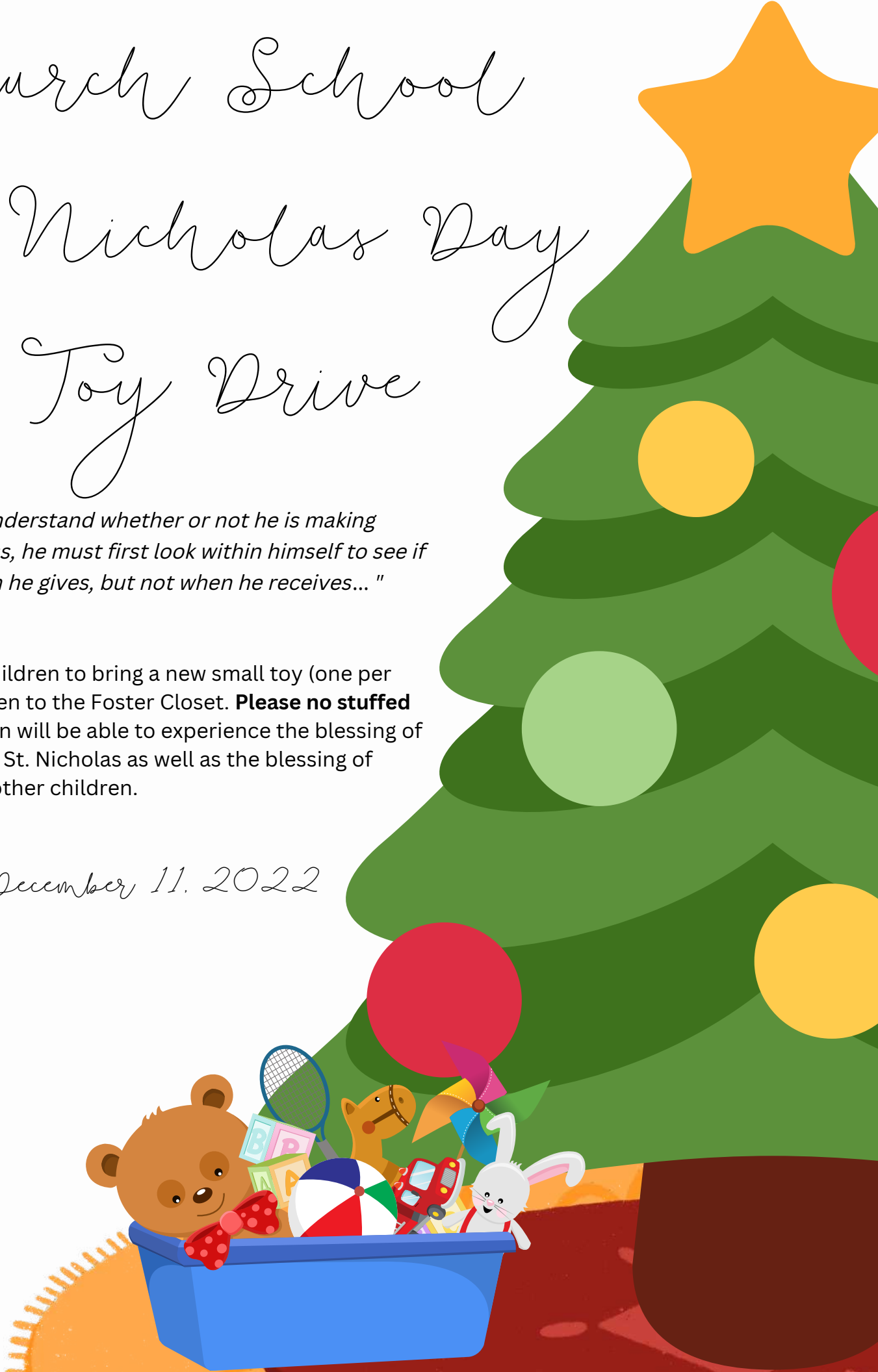


Church School St. Nicholas Day Toy Drive

"If a man is to understand whether or not he is making spiritual progress, he must first look within himself to see if he rejoices when he gives, but not when he receives..."
St. Paisios

We are asking children to bring a new small toy (one per family) to be given to the Foster Closet. **Please no stuffed animals.** Children will be able to experience the blessing of a small gift from St. Nicholas as well as the blessing of giving a gift for other children.

Sunday, December 11, 2022



St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

St. Nicholas Visit

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022

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 11th. 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

As summertime is busy for all, we will be moving our Saturday gatherings to weeknights for the remainder of the summer.

UPCOMING GATHERING

TBD, AS SETH AND MIA TRANSITION TO PARENTHOOD

COLLEGE CORNER

PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Oliver Senter

Katerina Jonescu

Katheryn Brcic

Alexandra Kekel

Abigail Arnes

Tea Jonascu

Ethan Durand

Justin Auxier

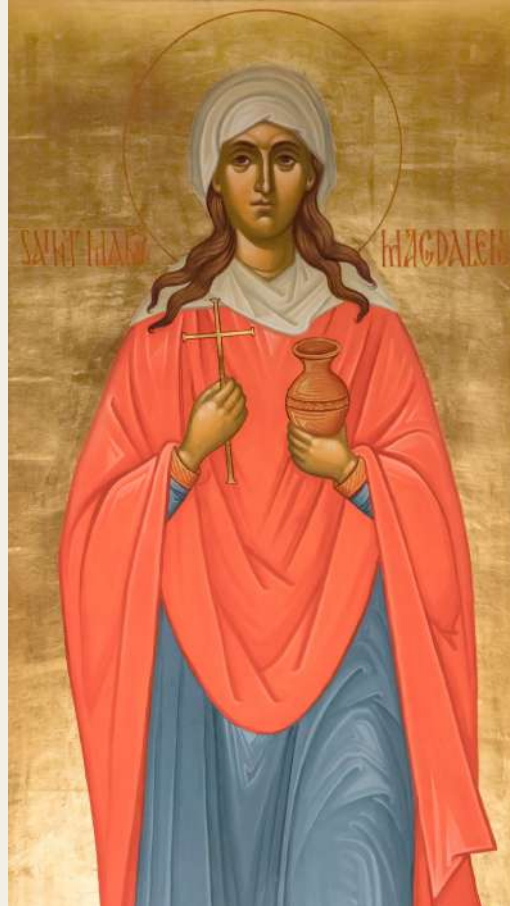
Ava Arnes

Francis Lazar Senter



St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

YOUNG ADULT GROUP



THERE WILL BE YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL TIME EVERY SATURDAY FOLLOWING GREAT VESPERS, BEGINNING WITH THE THE PRE-COMMUNION PRAYERS.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE BAND APP FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE BAND APP PLEASE REACH OUT TO SUBDEACON JOHN AUXIER.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE O.C.P.M SPECIAL COLLECTION BY THE GRACE OF GOD WE WERE ABLE TO RAISE \$785

WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE SUCH A KIND AND CARING PARISH. WE WERE ABLE TO COMPLETE 29 BLANKETS THAT WERE DISTRIBUTED ALONG WITH AN ICON CARD OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE TO THE PATIENTS AT COURTYARD MANOR MEMORY CARE FACILITY. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE PARISH'S SUPPORT!!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEMINARIAN ANGEL TREE: NOVEMBER 13- DECEMBER 4TH

NEW TOY DRIVE: DECEMBER 11TH

CAROLING AT THE NURSING HOME: DECEMBER 25TH



*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

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

NOVEMBER 13- DECEMBER 4

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 13TH (THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT), THERE WILL BE A SEMINARIAN GIFT CARD TREE. 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 MAGDALNE ORTHODOX CHURCH ★ ★

VETERAN DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2022
LITURGY BEGINS AT 9:40AM



2439 S. LONG LAKE RD FENTON, MI 48430

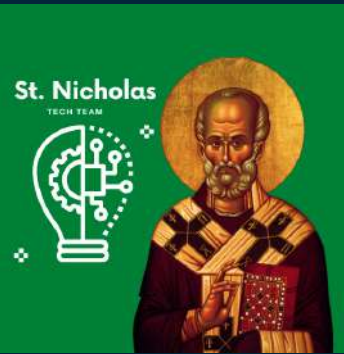


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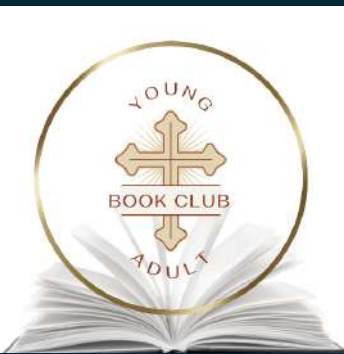
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ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG | 810-750-1401

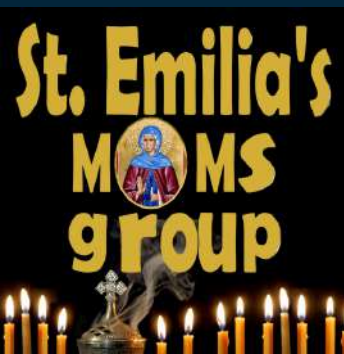
PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS



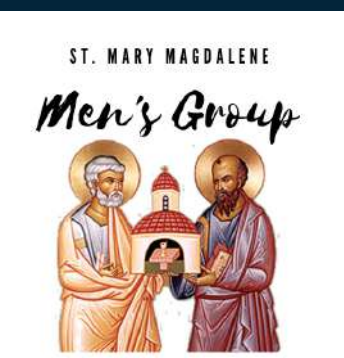
THE ST. NICHOLAS TECH TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING, UPDATING, AND ENHANCING THE ONLINE PRESENCE OF OUR PARISH. ENCOMPASSING THE WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS, AND LIVE-STREAMING SO THAT WE CAN SPREAD ORTHODOXY THROUGH MODERN COMMUNICATION CHANNELS.



THE YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB MEETS EVERY THURSDAY TO DISCUSS VARIOUS BOOKS AND TOPICS RELATING TO THE ORTHODOX SPIRITUAL LIFE. THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE GROUP RANGE FROM 18-45 YEARS OLD, BUT ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!



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.



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.



St. Mary Magdalene

Parish Council

Upcoming Meetings:

November 8th, 7:00pm

December 4th ANNUAL MEETING

December 13th, 7:00pm

Parish Council Members

Joe Otis, Chair

Reader Chris Ballnik, Secretary

Ann Schutt, Treasurer

David Welch

Tina Shepherd

Subdeacon Andrew Durand

Rachel Burtka

Terri Oginsky

Alternate: Jay Rice



FELLOWSHIP AGAPE MEALS

Agape (Greek *agapē*): in the New Testament, the fatherly love of God for humans, as well as the human reciprocal love for God. In Scripture, the transcendent agape love is the highest form of love and is contrasted with *eros*, or erotic love, and *philia*, or brotherly love.

Sobornost: Divine-Human Oneness

Sobornost means spiritual harmony based on freedom and unity in love. It is a necessary component in our membership with the Body of Christ, for if we are not bound together in love, our freedom becomes our enemy, separating us from others and ultimately from Christ Himself. This concept was so important to early Christians that it was the basis for the agape meal, when Christians shared their food with one another after the celebration of the eucharistic banquet.

That the pre-communion fast would be broken after the Divine Liturgy with a communal meal (the love feast) clearly demonstrates the importance of community within the life of the Church. Sobornost is the divine human oneness we experience as members of the on Body, the Church, and is the moment when we who are many become one. It is the image of the unity of the Holy Trinity, finding its expression among the believers.

Sobornost is not the same as fraternity, a submission to a brotherhood for benefit of the individual. Rather, it is akin to *kenosis* (the relinquishment of divine attributes by Jesus Christ in becoming human) Sobornost is when the individual gives up self-benefit for the community or ecclesia.

We cannot truly be one in Christ if we do not seek out oneness with our fellow Christians. Nor can we be one with Christ if we routinely reject sobornost for heights of spirituality that make us so conscious of self that they separate us from our neighbor.

-"The Morning Offering" Abbot Tryphon November 16th

2022 AGAPE

MEAL SCHEDULE

There are no more agape meals scheduled for this year.

We will set a schedule for next year based on the progress of construction.

save the date

NOVEMBER

1ST- AKATHIST FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

13TH- VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION

13TH- ANGEL TREE KICK-OFF

20TH- END OF THIS SEMESTER OF CHURCH SCHOOL

DECEMBER

4TH- ANNUAL MEETING

4TH- ANGEL TREE GIFT CARDS DUE

6TH- AKATHIST FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

11TH- ST. NICHOLAS VISIT

11TH- CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS BRING A NEW TOY FOR THE FOSTER CLOSET

23RD- ROYAL HOURS

24TH- NATIVITY VIGIL

25TH- CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT THE NURSING HOME FOLLOWING LITURGY

JANUARY (SCHEDULE YOUR HOUSE BLESSINGS THIS MONTH)

5TH -COMPLINE, LITIJA & BLESSING OF THE WATERS

6TH THEOPHANY LITURGY

8TH- RIVER BLESSING

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

December 23rd Royal Hours | 10:00 AM
December 24th Nativity Vigil | 6:00 PM
December 25th Nativity Liturgy | 9:40 AM
December 26th Divine Liturgy | 10:00 AM

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



Advent confessions are available on Wednesday mornings following Divine Liturgy, Saturday evenings following Vigil or by appointment.

PAN-ORTHODOX GOINGS ON

The Pan-Orthodox Churches of Genesee County

Holy Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church

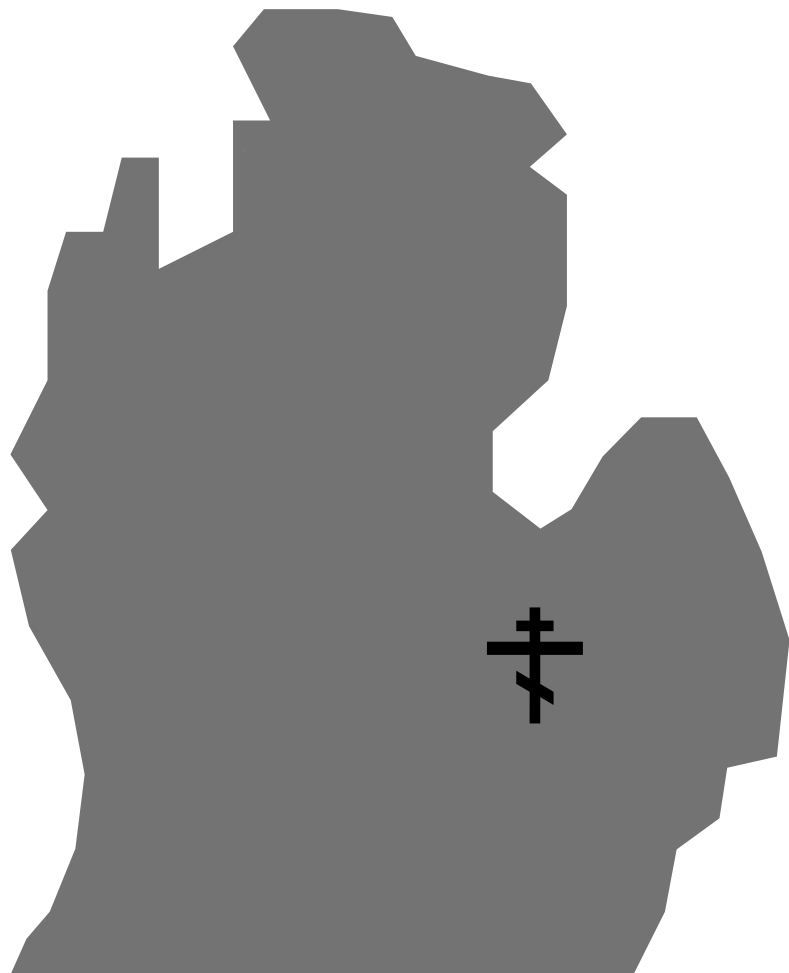
(2245 E. Baldwin Rd Grand Blanc, MI)

St. George Orthodox Church
(5191 Lennon Rd Flint, MI)

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox
Church

(2439 S. Long Lake Rd Fenton, MI)

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





Saint George Orthodox Church and Helping Hands for Ukraine



November 5, 2022, 3pm

invite you to join us for the performance of

UKRAINIAN ENSEMBLE



You will have an opportunity to learn about struggle of Ukrainian people and how you can make a difference in their lives.

We will be taking a "Free-will offering" to go towards humanitarian aid.

Address: 5191 Lennon Rd., Flint, Michigan, 48507

Phone: (810) 732-0720

<http://www.saintgeorgeflint.org/>





ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF
MICHIGAN (OCW) PRESENTS

A Nativity Fast Reflection:

Being Set Apart for God and the Example
of Holiness Found in the Entrance of the
Theotokos into the Temple

FR. JAMES KING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022
7 :00 PM

**NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
39851 FIVE MILE ROAD
PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN 48170**

Any questions?
Contact Gia Cherpes-See at gcsee1@gmail.com

ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB is in the process of ordering their next book Shepherd of Souls: The Life and Teachings of Elder Cleopa, Master of Inner Prayer and Spiritual Father of Romania (1912 - 1998). If you are interested in obtaining a copy (whether you plan on joining the book club meetings or not) please contact Fr. Michael Bassett (frdmike@gmail.com/ 989-627-9580). After books are obtained each person will read the book on their own for about 4 - 6 weeks. During that time the date and time of a “meet in person” discussion and also a Zoom discussion will be coordinated with all readers. We anticipate our next meeting will be at the end of November or beginning of December. A short report on our first book and discussion (the first since well before COVID): 30 copies of the book May It Be Blessed by Archimandrite Symeon Kragiopoulos (70 pages) were distributed. Many of our readers felt it was one of the more significant books they have read. We had 6 participate in our in person discussion and 5 in a zoom discussion. The book was acquired by individuals from all of our parishes except Assumption as well as individuals in parishes in several other states. Additionally I am discussing the book with 5 Protestant Pastors in Owosso on Thursday and on Sunday evening with several close friends from the Catholic Tradition.

-Contact Fr. Michael Basset



WE'RE BACK!! SAVE THE DATE!

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

FALL SALAD LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Enjoy an assortment of individual,
delectable salads. Includes a cheese
triangle & beverage.

\$10 PER PERSON

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2245 E. BALDWIN ROAD

GRAND BLANC, MI 48439

810-771-4611

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

LET'S GET CONNECTED!

Follow us!



@StMaryMagdaleneOrthodoxChurch



@ocasm



@ocasm



youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene

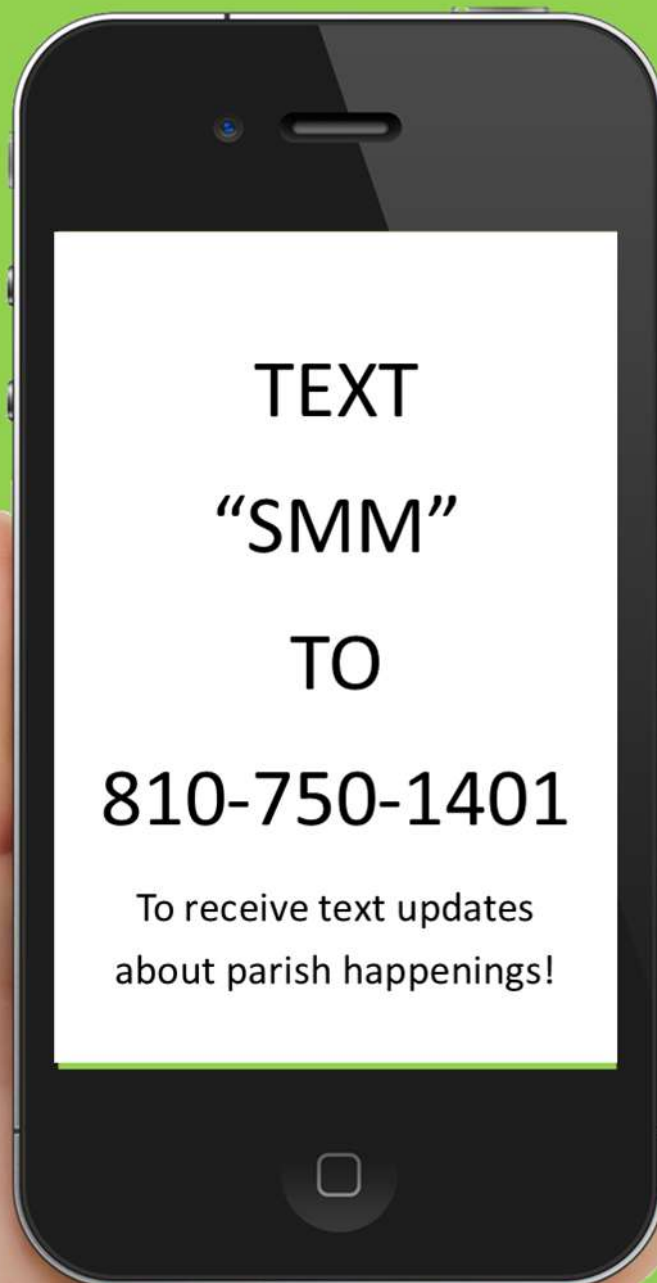
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TEXT

"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

