

# November 2023



2439 S. Long Lake Rd  
Fenton, MI 48430

Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-750-1401

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

[www.st-marymagdalene.org](http://www.st-marymagdalene.org)

Office Hours\*:  
Monday 10:00am-3:00pm  
Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm  
Friday 10:00am-3:00pm  
\*or by appointment

# WORSHIP WITH US!



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

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

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[wwwst-marymagdalene.org](http://wwwst-marymagdalene.org)

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# MONTHLY FORECAST

## **Great Vespers Time Change:**

As we get into the winter months, beginning Saturday, November 4th, we will be changing the time of Great Vespers and Vigils on Saturdays to 4:00 PM. This will remain in effect until after Pascha!

## **Dormition Pilgrimage:**

On Wednesday, November 8th, we will be taking one of our annual trips to Holy Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction for a chance to tour the grounds, celebrate Vespers with the nuns, share in a meal, and talk about monasticism with those who spend their entire life dedicated to prayer. If you have not already, sign up in the office to get more detail and to attend!

## **Akathist to Archangel Michael:**

On Thursday, November 9th, the young adult group will be having their monthly Akathist and fellowship beginning at 6:00 PM. All are invited to pray, as this month we sing hymns to the Archangel Michael!

## **Church School Movie Night:**

After Great Vespers on Saturday, November 11th, the Church School Children are invited to a movie night at the Church! All Church School aged children are encouraged to attend and share in a meal and fellowship!

**SMMOY Event:** This Month's SMMOY Event will be a service event to benefit the Fenton Center for Hope Food Pantry on Saturday, November 11th. You can support this effort by bringing your pop cans for the teens to return by November 5th.

## **Seminarian Angel Tree Begins:**

Our major charity event for the Nativity Season is the Seminarian Angel Tree, which will be set up on Friday, November 10th. We ask that each of our parishioners, to the best of their ability, remove a tag from the tree, and return it with a gift card that is listed on the tag. These cards will be going to seminarian families at St. Tikhon's Seminary, many of whom are unable to support themselves while studying to be the future clergy of the Church. These cards need to be returned by the Annual Meeting on December 3rd.

## **Veterans Day Celebration:**

On Sunday, November 12 we will honor our parish veterans with a special display and prayers following the Divine Liturgy. See the flyer below!

## **2024 Membership Pledge Cards:**

Keep an eye out in the church for the 2024 Membership Cards. All families who will be members of the Church in 2024 need to fill out these forms! They will be available on November 12th for pick up. These all need to be returned by November 26th. Please leave them in the tithe box or hand to Ann Schutt.

**Nativity Fast Begins:** The Nativity Fast begins on Wednesday, November 15th to Christmas Day. Refrain from eating meat or dairy to the best of your ability during this period of preparation. For questions, please contact Fr. Gabriel directly!

## **Announcement for Annual Meeting:**

This year's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 3rd. This is the first official written announcement of the annual meeting.

**Lenten Soup Sale:** Let us cook for you the week of Thanksgiving! We will have a to-go soup sale on Sunday, November 19th. All soups will be Lenten and available on a first come first serve basis. Quarts are \$10 and Pints are \$5 to benefit the Temple expansion.

## **Feast Entrance of the**

**Theotokos:** There are two opportunities to celebrate the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos! The first one is the evening of Monday, November 20th, where a Pan Orthodox Vespers Liturgy at Holy Assumption will be held at 6:00 PM. On Tuesday, November 21st, We will have the Divine Liturgy for the Feast at St. Mary Magdalene, beginning at 10:00 AM. (Please note, you can only receive communion on one of these two days!)

**Moleben of Thanksgiving:** As Thanksgiving approaches, it is important for us to offer thanks unto God for all that we have been given. This year's Moleben of Thanksgiving will take place on Wednesday, November 22nd, beginning at 6:00 PM at the Church.

## **"Hidden Prayers of the**

**Liturgy" Mini-Series:** On Wednesday, November 29th, our Advent Mini-Lecture Series on the "Hidden Prayers of the Liturgy" will begin. You can sign up for this class on the Mystery of the Divine Liturgy either online or in the office. It is offered both in person and via zoom! Come study the most important service we have in the Church while you are preparing for the coming of Christ Himself at the Nativity!

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022  
FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY



Topics of Discussion:

Pastoral Report  
Building Expansion Update  
Annual Budget  
Committee Reports  
.... and more!

Watch your inbox!

The Meeting Primer will be emailed to you on Sunday, November 12th

# “THE DEFINITION OF HOLINESS”

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GABRIEL



If you are a lover of Holy Scripture, specifically of the Old Testament stories surrounding the Ark of the Covenant and the Jewish Temple, you celebrate a Feast Day this month (November 21st) that changes your entire perception of what the ark is, where the true temple is, and (most importantly for us) what **true holiness looks like**.

For those that need a small morning refresher on what happened on this feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos, we remember how Mary's parents Joachim and Anna were childless throughout all of their lives, but made a promise to God that if they were granted a child, they would dedicate them in complete 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.

She 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: 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.

In King Ptolemy's arrogance, he wanted to go see the Holy of Holiness, but the Jewish Priests begged him not to, telling him that not even their own people were permitted to go in there! King Ptolemy ignored the cries of the priests and continued to walk towards the Holy Place, before he went into severe seizures, being shaken so much he couldn't even cry out. His servants had to come drag him out of the temple, which set up the rest of what happened in that book. *(Spoiler alert: It involves God delivering His people from drunken elephants in the arena!)*

We saw and learned for centuries in the Old Testament of what happened to unworthy people who tried to approach the presence of God, and here Zacharias is watching as the Holy Spirit is leading this little girl into the Holy of Holies, 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 of the men in history who had disregarded the Power of God in their lives?

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



# “THE DEFINITION OF HOLINESS”

## CONTINUED

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 today (especially in this 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 thanks 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 Sunday, 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...in a very real sense, we approach the Holy of Holies.

Do we exude holiness like the Theotokos today? 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.”*

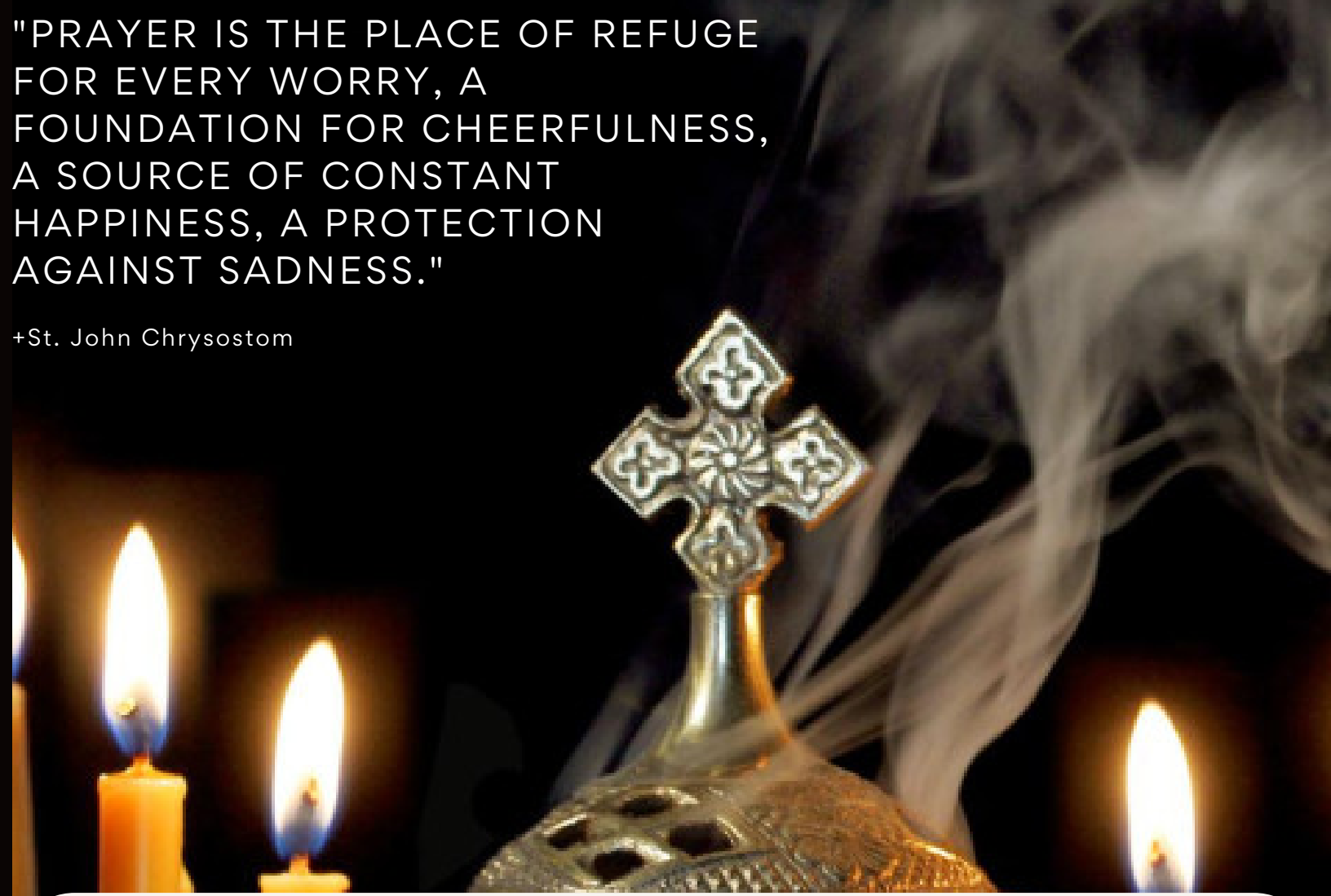
————— ” —

Holiness...Purity...and an “awe” of God. This feast shows us all why these things are important and offers us the pathway which we are called to follow so that our Lord to descend down from heaven above, and to find a place to lay his head in our hearts, while lifting us all up into His presence...Amen



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

+St. John Chrysostom



### Sick and the Suffering\*

Vinne	Marilee
Elaine	David
David	Jamie
Pat	George
Michael	Tom
Lauren	Ryan
Mason	Sonya
Theresa	Malanie
Robert	Elizabeth
Linda	Richard
Arminda	Josiah
Martin	Geanette
Shirley	Paul
Nadia	Ophelia
Vicki	Mike
Child	John
Hudson	Brianna
Lee Jay	Joanne
Theresa	Jeanette
Conne	
Sumner	

### Seminarian Family

Reader Paisios,  
Anna, John,  
Theodore & Baby  
Hamann

### Mother's With Child

Anna	Chloe
Dania	Allison
Inna	
Anna	
Catherine	
Sydney	

### Catechumenate

Sarah	Derek
Jeannie	Alexis
Monica	Maverick
Eric	Kamden
Jerry	Ryan
Landen	Morgan
Ethan	Milo
Allison	Gavin
Stella	Nathan
Vera	
Kane	
Stephanie	
Matthew	

### Armed Forces

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

### Anniversary of Repose

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

### Recently Departed

Alexis  
Ann  
Laura  
Bryan  
John

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



# MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH



### *Birthdays*

4-Derek Gross	22-Rdr Christopher Ballnik
6-Gregory Auxier	22-Renea Becklehamer
7-Sbdn Paul Hildreth	23-Daniel Lanterman
7-Kane Hughes	24-Jaclyn Peters
8-Nathan Folkmier	26-John Hmann
11-Brian Walton	29-Julia Auxier
12-Susan Walton	30-Emily Biegansky
15-Justin Auxier	
16-Jarrold Torrey	
16-John Peters	
19-Pam Grubaugh	

### *Anniversaries*

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

### *Recent & Upcoming Baptism & Chrismations*

None this month.

### *Weddings*

None this month

### *Engagements*

Mark Foster & Katerina Jonascu  
Nick Swartz & Sarah Miller  
William Keegan & Lauren Peters  
Jeff Schalk & Julia Zayan  
Jared Torrey & Ruthanne Yelland

### *New Catechumens*

Gavin  
Nathan

### *Recent Funerals*

None this Month

### *Confession Schedule*

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

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

### *For the Sick and the Suffering*

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



# PARISH LIFE

## THIS MONTH

### **Fellowship of St. Photini November Outreach Ministry:**

Seminarian Gift Tree- November 12th through December 3rd

**Metanoia:** Final Class Wednesdays  
November 1st, 6:30pm

### **Saturday Service Schedule:**

Startin on November 4th all Vespers and Vigils will move to 4:00pm until after Pascha.

**Sunday, November, 5:** SMMOY Pop Can Drive

**Wednesday, November 8:** Pilgrimage to Holy Dormition Monastery

**Thursday, November 9:** Akathist to the Archangel Michael, 6:00pm

**Friday, November 10:** Decorate Seminarian Gift Tree

**Saturday, November 11:** Church School Movie Nigh & SMMOY Gathering

**Sunday, November 12:** Veteran's Day Celebration

**Monday, November 13- Thursday November 16th:** Office Hours by Appontment Only

**Sunday, November 19:** To-Go Soup Sale

**Tuesday, November 21:** Divine Liturgy 10:00am for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

**Wednesday, November 22:** Molebin of Thanksgiving, 6:00pm

**Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24:** Office Closed for Thanksgiving.

**Sunday, November 26:** Parastasis for Sarah Heikkila

**Wedesday, November 29:** Mini Lecture Series Adult Education Begins

### **PARISH GREETERS**

**November 5:** Steve & Sue Walton

**November 12:** Scott & Tina Shephard

**November 19:** George & Julie Jonascu

**November 26:** Seth & Mia Hillaker

### **BELL RINGERS**

**November 5:** Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

**November 12:** Jeannie Azor & Tonya Rice

**November 19** Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

**November 26:** Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

### **COFFEE HOUR**

**November 5:** Steve & Sue Walton

**November 12:** Brion & Theresa Cooley

**November 19:** Brian and Tammy Arnes

**November 26:** Nick & Michelle Newmerzyckyj

### **EPISTLE READERS**

**November 5:** Rdr Nathaniel Auxier & Rdr David Schutt

**November 12:** John Wolf & Ruth Karabina

**November 19:** Jennifer Otis & Seraphim Pardee

**November 26:** Sue Walton & Rdr Nathaniel Auxier

# A RECTOR'S PASTORAL REPORT ST. MARY MAGDALENE PARISH


*"UNLESS THE LORD BUILD'S THE HOUSE, THOSE WHO BUILD IT LABOR IN VAIN"*

Recently, one of our council members was commenting to me how, despite all of the obstacles we have faced at the Church, it is easy to see God moving to conquer the difficulties! I was asked to begin to make a list of all of the miraculous things that have happened since the beginning of this building project, to which I responded with a quote from the end of the Gospel of John: "There are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written..."

The financial support when it is needed the most, from inside and outside of the parish, has been incredible to witness for a parish of our size. The sacrifices of time and talents that have occurred since the project began has also been a blessing to witness. This parish has taken it's identity of "stewards of Christ's Church" seriously...and for that, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you.

May our Lord continue to guide our growing parish community towards His Heavenly Kingdom!

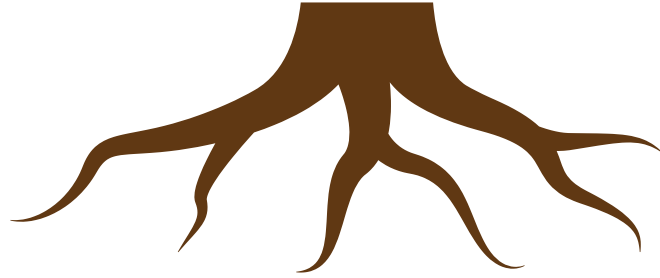
Your Servant in Christ,  
Fr. Gabriel



“Look down from Heaven  
of God and Behold, and  
Visit this Vineyard  
which You have planted  
with Your right hand, and  
establish it!”



# THIS MONTH'S QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



## **Q: What is the Orthodox Christian Stance on Prayers with the Non-Orthodox?**

A: This is a great question that has been met with a lot of "scandal" for those that subscribe solely to "Internet Orthodoxy" and not to the care of a spiritual father. While I could write an entire article on the dangers of Internet Orthodoxy, I will just try to examine this particular question.

According to the canons of the Church, Orthodox Christians are not permitted to pray with the non-orthodox. Before everyone overreacts to the canon, especially living in a diverse culture here in the U.S. where we are surrounded by a multitude of religious entities, let us examine what a canon is first and foremost! The Great and Holy Canons are not the laws of the Church. They are rather the principles that should guide us regarding delicate Christian matters. In fact, the book that the canons are compiled in is appropriately called "The Rudder", as it is the canons that "guide the ship" of the Church from dangers or diminution (being watered down). They were not written during a time when there were 33,000 protestant denominations, but rather when the Church was surrounded by pagans, jews, and early Christian heresies.

There are those out there, especially amongst internet Orthodoxy, who quote the canons regarding prayers with non-orthodox, not because they want to safeguard and protect the Church's teachings from being watered down (the true purpose of that canon), but rather because of their great disdain and hatred for all of those who are non Orthodox. These are the people that argue that we should not sit at the same table with non-Orthodox people when we eat, lest we might catch wind of a prayer offered by a non-orthodox at the end of the table, thus causing us to "technically pray with them." This is irrational rubbish, and not at the heart of the canon. May our Lord have mercy on those that act this way!

That being said, one must be cautious, but not disrespectful when put into a situation where we are praying with Non-Orthodox Christians. When at a public gathering where a prayer is being offered, shut your eyes, cross yourself, and say an appropriate Orthodox prayer silently. Make the sign of the cross before and after the prayer. If you are put into a situation where you are asked to lead a prayer for a public event, or you know of a certain situation that will arise that you are unsure about,

**GO SPEAK TO YOUR PARISH PRIEST and don't post your question on facebook /reddit/ twitter/ instagram!**



# St. Mary Magdalene

Parish Council

## Upcoming Meetings:

All Meetings begin at 7:00pm

November 14th  
December 12th

Annual Meeting  
December 3, 2023

## Parish Council Members

John Wolf, Chair

George Jonascu, Vice Chair

Ann Schutt, Treasurer

Rachel Burtka, Secretary

Subdeacon Andrew Durand

Terri Oginsky

Jay Rice

Subdeacon John Auxier

Alternate: Pat Matts

# Building Project Update:



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

## October Highlights:

- Drywall was completed
- Stainglass Windows were installed
- Iconographers have begun their work on the dome
- A private donor offered to match dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 for the month of October.
- East end framing complete & inspected
- New kitchen framed and drywalled



## TOTAL MONEY SPENT

JANUARY 1, 2022-

OCTOBER 23, 2023

\$1,568,026.24

## DONATION FROM PRIVATE DONOR

\$807,781.60

## MATCHING DONATION FROM PRIVATE DONOR

FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

(TO BE PAID IN NOVEMBER)

\$25,000

## REMAINING FUNDS IN FLAGSTAR RESTRICTED

AS OF OCTOBER 23, 2023

\$92,485.84

## TOTAL FINANCED BY OCCIF FOR PROJECT

COMPLETION

\$550,000

## REMAINING OCCIF BALANCE AS OF

OCTOBER 23, 2023

541,556.68

## AVERAGE MONTHLY

OCCIF PAYMENT

\$3,554.23

## TOTAL BUILDING FUND DONATIONS SINCE

JANUARY 1, 2023

\$53,684.00

**ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH**

# ***Annual Soup Sale***

**Let us cook for you the week of Thanksgiving!**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH  
TO- GO**

**2439 S. LONG LAKE RD.  
FENTON, MI 48430**

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE TEMPLE EXPANSION PROJECT**

**Lenten Soups Available:**

**Chunky Vegetable**

**Potato Broccoli**

**Vegan Chili**

**Quarts \$10**

**Pints \$5**

**Pints of Rice or noodles available for an  
additional \$2 each**

# FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI

Thank you to everyone who made our Blanket Making Ministry a success this year we were able to donate over 25 handmade blankets to patients at the memory care facility.

In the Month of November (starting on the 12th) we will have our Seminarian Angel Tree available. Please select a card off of the tree and bring back a cooresponding gift card by Sunday, December 3rd. Please do not take the angel just the card they are holding.

If you would like to help put up the tree and decorate for the Nativity Season we will be doing so on Friday, November 10th beginning at 10am all are welcome to join. If you have any questions please reach out to Bree Walton.

## UPCOMING



November- December : Seminarian Angel Tree

December- Cards for our shut ins and Christmas Day Caroling

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

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



NOVEMBER 12- DECEMBER 3

# 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 12TH (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 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 5th**. 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 12th!**

ADDRESS:

2439 S. Long Lake Rd  
Fenton, MI 48430

WEB:

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



# PARISH EXTRAS

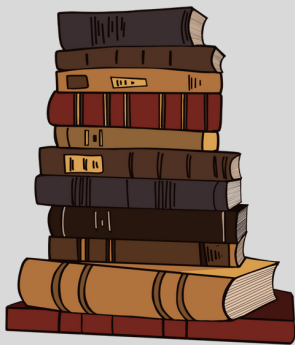
## PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

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

You can find reading on the following topics;

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

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



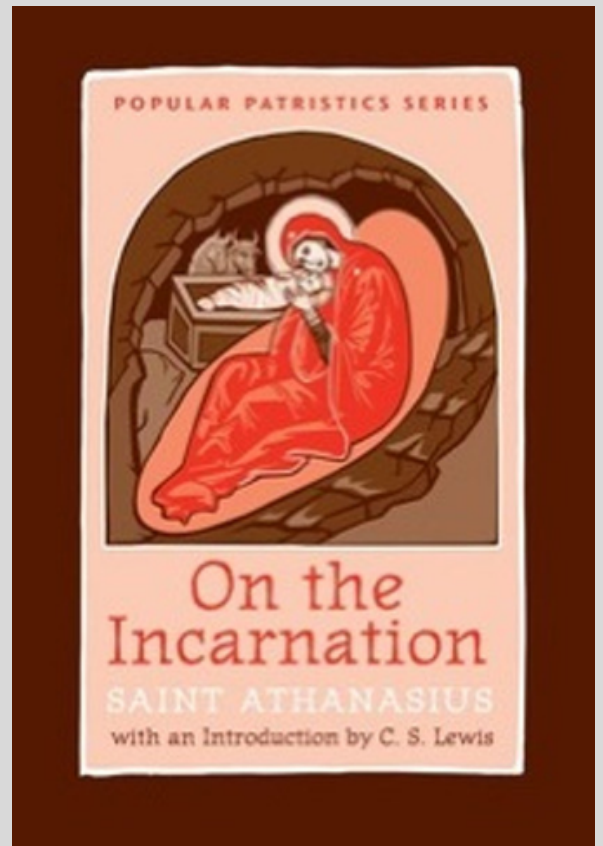
## PARISH KIOSK



Our annual Nativity Store will open on Sunday, November 12th in the Library. If you wish to make a pre-order please get those to the parish office by November 5th. Details in the flyer below!

## 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.



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.

# NATIVITY GIFTS -KIOSK PRE-ORDER!

EASY ORDERING WHILE YOU SUPPORT THE CHURCH WITH A SMALL PORTION OF YOUR PURCHASE. SO SPREAD YOUR FAITH THROUGH YOUR GIFTS AND LET US PAY FOR DELIVERY!

**FREE DELIVERY**



## USE THESE VENDORS

STORE.ANCIENTFAITH.COM  
JORDANVILLE.ORG  
STMPRESS.COM  
SVSPRESS.COM  
HOLYCROSS.ORG  
LEGACYICONS.COM

+VISIT THE WEBSITES LISTED, ADD ITEMS TO THE CART LIKE YOU NORMALLY WOULD AND THEN EITHER SEND YOUR CART VIA PDF TO [SMMOCAFENTON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SMMOCAFENTON@GMAIL.COM) OR PRINT OUT THE CART AND GIVE IT TO REBEKAH HUMPHREYS.

+WE WILL ACCEPT ORDERS FROM OCTOBER 20TH THROUGH NOVEMBER 5TH. ALL ORDERS WILL BE PLACED ON NOVEMBER 6TH TO ENSURE DELIVERY BY CHRISTMAS.

+YOU MAY PAY THE BALANCE OF YOUR ORDER UP FRONT OR WHEN THE ITEMS ARRIVE. YOU MAY PAY WITH CASH, A CHECK WRITTEN OUT TO ST. MARY MAGDALENE WITH KIOSK IN THE MEMO LINE OR BY MAJOR CREDIT CARD.

## ORDERS DUE NOVEMBER 5TH!



# MUSIC MINISTRIES

PARISH BELL RINGERS AND CHOIR



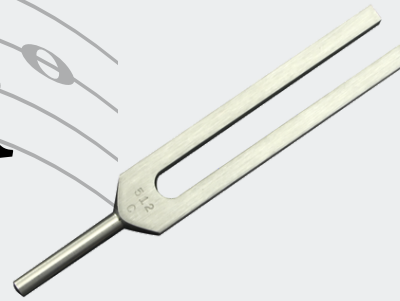
## Regular Bell Ringing Rehearsals

1st Tuesday of the Month, 10:30am

1st Sunday of the Month following Divine Liturgy

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

# PARISH CHOIR



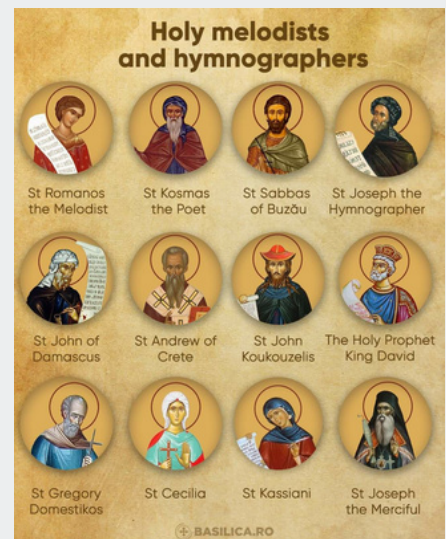
## UPCOMING REHEARSALS: ALL REHEARSALS ARE FROM 2:30PM-3:30PM

Saturday, November 25: **Men's Sectional**

## NATIVITY SERVICES REHEARSALS:

Saturday, November 18- Full Choir 2:30-3:30pm

Saturday, December 16-Full Choir 2:30-3:30pm



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

*-Psalm 98:1*



# EDUCATION

## LIVE AND LEARN THE FAITH!



Our  
Parish  
Youth!

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 29TH

Hope all is well with all of you.

The 8th through 12th grade students continue to meet with Subdeacon Andrew and Meghan Durand, Subdeacon John Auxier and Reader David Schutt. Father Gabriel has also been checking in with them. All of the children should continue to look for their "homework" in the container by the office door. Father looks forward to finding out what they have learned.

Thank you to all the volunteers for Harvest Fest. It was fun for everyone who participated. The next opportunity for the children to gather will be Saturday, November 11 following Vespers for movie night at church. Once again, mark your calendars.

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

Yours in Christ,

Terri Oginsky

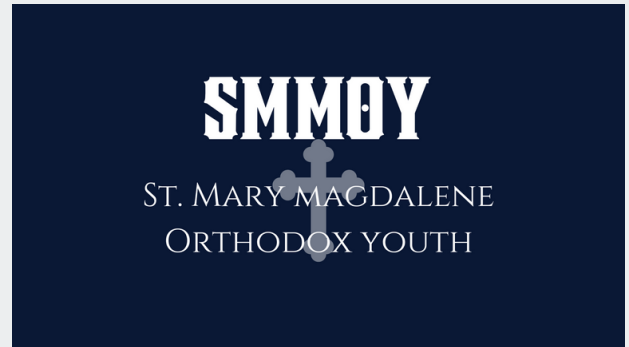
Church School Coordinator

989-906-0135 toginsky@gmail.com

### PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Katheryn Brcic  
David Brcic  
Alexandra Kekel  
Abigail Arnes  
Tea Jonascu  
Ethan Durand  
Justin Auxier  
Ava Arnes  
Francis Senter  
Eliot Senter



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

SMMOY SERVICE EVENT

## SMMOY STORMS THE STORE!

*For the Fenton Center  
of Hope Food Pantry*

NOV. 11, 2023 @ 6PM

Teams compete to gather  
non-perishables for the food  
pantry

WINNERS GET PRIZES!

Please consider donating  
returnables for the  
purchasing of items

PLEASE R.S.V.P.  
IN THE BAND APP  
IN THE COMING DAYS!

# Church School Movie Night



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**SATURDAY**

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Join us for Movie Night following Great Vespers. We will have hot dogs and popcorn!

November 11, 2023  
Education center

St. Mary Magdalene Church  
2439 S. Long Lake Rd | Fenton, MI  
810-750-1401  
st-marymagdalene.org



# *Nativity* **TOY DRIVE**

*Toys will be distributed to the  
Foster Closet of Mid-Michigan*

**DROP OFF SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 10, 2023**

*Toys will be collected by St. Nicholas  
during his visit for him to pass along  
to the children in need.*

*Please bring a new and unwrapped  
toy. One toy per family!*

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

# St. Nicholas Visit

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023**

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 10th. Traditionally this is the day gifts are exchanged in honor of the life of St. Nicholas and his benevolence. Please bring a new and unwrapped gift to share with children in need.

Be sure your children, Godchildren and grandchildren are present to hear about the life of St. Nicholas and his giving soul.





St. Mary Magdalene  
Church School



WINTER  
Festival

Games | Trivia  
Crafts | Snacks

December 10, 2023

Following Divine Liturgy

2439 S. Long Lake Rd.  
Fenton, MI 48430  
[st-marymagdalene.org](http://st-marymagdalene.org)  
810-750-1401  
[smmocafenton@gmail.com](mailto:smmocafenton@gmail.com)

# YOUNG ADULTS

## BOOK CLUB AND FELLOWSHIP

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

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

YOUNG  
ADULT  
GROUP



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



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

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

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

## Monthly Akathist 2023 SCHEDULE

HOSTED BY THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP

JANUARY	6:00PM
<b>12</b>	St. Seraphim of Sarov
FEBRUARY	6:00PM
<b>9</b>	St. Innocent of Irkutsk
MARCH	6:00PM
<b>9</b>	Canon of St. Mary of Egypt
APRIL	6:00PM
<b>6</b>	Canon of St. Mary of Egypt
MAY	6:00PM
<b>11</b>	Martyr Varus
JUNE	6:00PM
<b>8</b>	Inexhaustable Cup
JULY	6:00PM
<b>13</b>	St. Mary Magdalene
AUGUST	6:00PM
<b>10</b>	St. Joseph the Hesychast
SEPTEMBER	6:00PM
<b>21</b>	St. Iakovos of Evia
OCTOBER	6:00PM
<b>12</b>	12 Holy Apostles
NOVEMBER	6:00PM
<b>9</b>	Archangel Michael
DECEMBER	6:00PM
<b>14</b>	King David

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

# "The Hidden Prayers of the Liturgy"

with Fr. Gabriel Bilas

While much of the Divine Liturgy is chanted out loud for all to hear, there are many ancient prayers and actions that are done silently by the Bishop or the Priest. In this Advent Mini-Series, we will be uncovering the "Hidden Liturgy" found in these powerful prayers and actions, which coincide with the invisible Heavenly Liturgy that simultaneously takes place.



scan the QR or  
register at

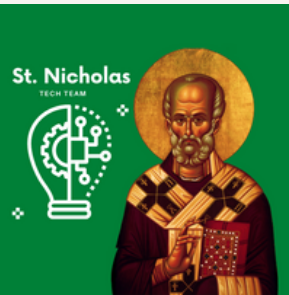
[st-marymagdalene.org/adult-education](https://st-marymagdalene.org/adult-education)

**Adult Education Mini Lecture Series**  
Wednesday, November 29 | 6:00PM  
Wednesday, December 6 | 6:00PM  
Wednesday, December 13 | 6:00PM

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church  
2439 S. Long Lake Rd | Fenton, MI  
810-750-1401

# PARISH

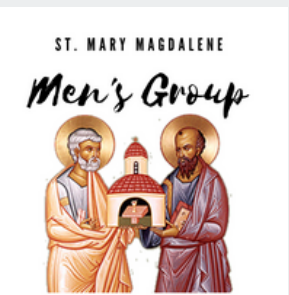
## MINISTRIES & GROUPS



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



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



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



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



*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)



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

UPCOMING PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES

**PAN-ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB**

**LEAD BY FR. MICHAEL BASSETT**

BOOK: "CHRIST IN THE PSALMS" BY FR. PATRICK HENRY REARDON

TENTATIVE MEETING DATE: TBD

WE HAVE THIS BOOK AVAILABLE IN OUR PARISH LENDING LIBRARY. IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN OUR PARISH KIOSK FOR \$20 A COPY.

TO JOIN THIS BOOK CLUB AND BE NOTIFIED OF ANY COMMUNICATIONS PLEASE REACH OUT TO FR. MICHAEL BASSETT [FRDNMIKE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FRDNMIKE@GMAIL.COM)

**ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20: PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERAL LITURGY, 6:00PM AT HOLY ASSUMPTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21: DIVIEN LITURGY, 10:00AM AT ST. MARY MAGDALENE

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY ONLY COMMUNE AT ONE OF THESE SERVICES BUT NOT BOTH. SEE FATHER GABRIEL WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

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  
LET'S GET CONNECTED!



Follow us!



@StMaryMagdaleneOrthodoxChurch



@ocasmm



@ocasmm



youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene

Subscribe



save the date

December  
3- Annual Meeting  
10-St. Nicholas Day Celebration  
17- Cookie Walk  
27-30 OCF retreat at Antiochian Village

# St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

2439 S. LONG LAKE RD  
FENTON, MI 48430

ST-MARYMAGDALENE.ORG



## NATIVITY SCHEDULE

12/22 Royal Hours | 6:00pm  
12/23 Vigil | 4:00pm  
12/24 Hours & Divine Liturgy | 9:40am  
12/24 Nativity Vigil | 7:00pm  
12/25 Nativity Hours & Divine Liturgy | 9:40am  
12/26 Divine Liturgy for the Theotokos | 10:00am

## THEOPHANY SCHEDULE

1/5 Compline, Litija and Blessing of the Waters |  
6:00pm  
1/6 Theophany Hours & Divine Liturgy | 9:40am  
1/7 Hours, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the River |  
9:40am

