



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

October 2020

Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-750-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielmmm@gmail.com

2439 S. Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

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

Office Hours*:

Monday 10:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm

Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

*or by appointment

**“How can we turn the tra-
ditions of this holiday into
something that is Holy and
Honored by God? “**



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH



Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-720-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielstmm@gmail.com

2439 S. Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

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

MONTHLY BULLETIN OCTOBER 2020

Important Dates to Remember:

Inside this issue:

Book of the Month	4
Birthday/Anniversary	5
Prayer List	6
Monthly Forecast	9
Parish Youth	14
Community Outreach	17
Group Assignments	19



- ✙ 10/1—Divine Liturgy for the Protection of the Theotokos 10am
- ✙ 10/1— Baptism of Ruth Torrey 5pm
- ✙ 10/5 & 10/19 Inter-Christian Basketball
- ✙ 10/11— Baptismal Liturgy for Nicodemus Auxier
- ✙ 10/13— Parish Council Meeting
- ✙ 10-17— Fall Orchard Outing
- ✙ 10/29—Book of the Month Club
- ✙ THURSDAYS—Divine Liturgies 10am

Taking on Halloween

A message from Fr. Gabriel

Later on this month, as the secular holiday of Halloween comes closer and closer, you will see lots of houses decorated with scary pumpkins, spider webs, and ghosts hanging from the trees.

This is also the time of the year when Priests get bombarded with opinions and questions about how much we as Orthodox Christians should get involved in the secular feast of Halloween. So as we prepare ourselves for what is coming, allow me to offer some insight from the Church Fathers on how to navigate this slippery slope that society puts before us every October 31st.

The observance of Halloween is actually much older than Christendom itself! It began as a pagan holiday for the Celtic people who live in what is now the United Kingdom, Ireland, and even some areas in northern France. These pagans believed that right around this time of year, as winter months were coming closer and the crops were dying, that the worlds of both the living and the dead became blurred. So on the last day of their year, which was October 31st, the Celtic people would celebrate a festival dedicated to Samhain (Sah-Win), who was their lord of death.

By the time Orthodoxy reached the British Isles, this festival of Samhain had already become a very time-honored tradition. The holiday was engrained into the culture itself, with small traditions that had been passed down for generations! The Church Fathers and Mothers of that time were faced with an incredible dilemma...what do we do with this?!



The response was actually quite brilliant, and it was something that you see often throughout Church History when the faith came up against a negative aspect of the culture it found itself in. Rather than decreeing that this festival was evil and that everyone should stop these pagan practices immediately, they asked for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and found a way to turn something evil...into something Holy.

The Fathers of the British church, for the sake and salvation of the pagan people, decided to move the Great Feast of All Saints (which we celebrate the week after Pentecost), to November 1st. This meant that on ever October 31st, rather than participating in the Sah Win Festival, the faithful would gather together for the All Night Vigil Service, before meeting again the next morning to celebrate the Divine Liturgy together! This is where we get the term Halloween from...All Hallows, or All Saints, Eve!

Of course, the devil never ceases to try and take things to the next level. There were those whom he had in his grasp, who rejected the Holy Work of the British Saints, and led groups of pagans to rebel against the newly established Feast Day. On the Eve of All Saints, they introduced new rituals into their Sah Win celebrations, aimed at promoting witchcraft, demons, and other occult practices.

They also went to great lengths to try and desecrate Christian Beliefs and Traditions. I was shocked to learn that one of those traditions was to dress up as skeletons in order to mock the Christian Veneration of Holy Relics...the veneration of the bones of Saints!



So with this little background on Halloween, and now knowing what we know, we are left with the question that we started in the beginning. How do we as Orthodox Christians approach the holiday of Halloween? What do we do whenever we are faced with difficult questions on the spiritual life? We follow the example of Christ, and subsequently, follow the examples of His Saints!

In His earthly ministry, how many times did we see our Lord confront something evil and turn it into something good? When Jesus was faced with the Demoniac, He cured the evil within him, and the young man went back to the city to proclaim the miracles of God. Our Lord raised Jairus's daughter from the dead...and on the way to doing that, he stopped the bleeding of a woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years. Scripture is full of these kinds of examples, where Christ would confront the work of the devil...and turn it into something positive...something that would grow the faith of others!

And what about the example of the Saints? What did the Western Christians do, when confronted the festival of Sah Win? They took the negative aspects of an evil feast day and turned it into something that was Holy...something that honored God, and His Love. This is the same spirit that we need when we confront various traditions in our culture that were meant for evil, and Halloween is one of them!

How can we turn the traditions of this holiday into something that is Holy and Honored by God?

Perhaps a good start would be to implement a tradition where every October 31st, we turn off all of the technology in our house and have an increasingly rare "fall themed" dinner with our family and friends. Start the evening with a prayer. Eat and be with each other. Talk about Life. Finish the meal with a prayer of thanksgiving!

If you have young children that want to go out, dress up as their favorite cartoon, and get candy, use it as an opportunity to teach them both the virtue of thanksgiving and generosity! Make it a point for them to give thanks to their neighbors that give them treats in their baskets.

When they get back to the house, have them take a portion of their "haul" into the basket that is by the doorstep for other children, or send some of it to the programs that send it over-seas to the troops. Candy is to children as money is to adults! Teach them now to give back a portion of what they have received to others!

Now that you know a little background about Halloween, be sure to protect your family and children from the negative images of Halloween, like demons, ghouls, ghosts, and especially skeletons! If you are going to cut pumpkins, don't shape them like ghouls or demons, but rather give them a goofy smile, or shape them after your favorite cartoon character. We have it within our power to **re-claim** Halloween as an opportunity to give glory to God...to take something that was meant for evil, and by the sheer influence of our own Christianity, make it for good!

Month in Review

September was a whirlwind month, which saw the finishing of our Metanoia Semester, our 4th annual Pet Blessing with Fenton Adopt a Pet, a visitation of our Archbishop Alexander, our meeting with our parish architects, and our first Outdoor Liturgy since Fr. Gabriel has been with us.

For all these things and more, we give glory to God!

Book of the Month Club

Beginning this month, for anyone who would like to join, we will come together on Thursday, October 29th at 6:00pm to discuss the book of the month (below). This month we will meet in the Education Center with the goal to eventually move from home to home for a more intimate setting. As you read try to bring 1-3 things that really struck you or warmed your heart, and want to share with everyone who attends!



This Month's Sunday Scripture Readings

October 4th:

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Luke 6:31-36

October 11th:

Hebrews 13:7-16

John 17:1-13

October 18th:

Colossians 4:5-9,14,18

Luke 10:16-21

October 25th:

Galatians 1:11-19

Luke 16:19-31



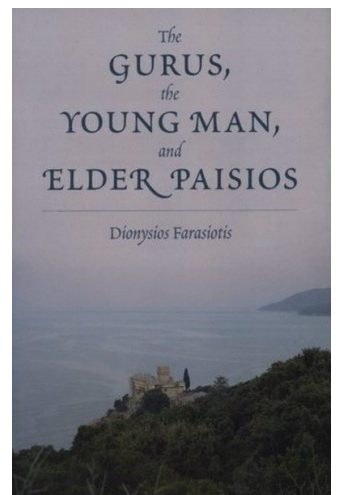
Recommended Book of the Month

The Gurus, the Young Man, and Elder Paisios

By Dionysius Farasiotis

This powerful memoir tells the story of a Greek youth who, out of a desire to know the truth empirically, began to experiment in yoga, hypnotism, and various occult techniques. Eventually drawn back to the Faith of his forefathers—Orthodox Christianity—he visited the ancient monastic republic of Mount Athos in his native Greece, where he was brought to a knowledge of the Truth of Jesus Christ by the saintly Elder Paisios (1924–1994). Nevertheless, believing he had only found “part of the truth” on the Holy Mountain, he chose to give the “same opportunity” to Hindu yogis that he had given to Elder Paisios and other Orthodox monks. Thus, at the age of twenty-five, he embarked on a trip to India, where he undertook his search in the ashrams of three famous gurus, one of whom was worshipped as a god. His experiences in India, along with his subsequent encounters with Elder Paisios on Mount Athos, are recounted in the present book in vivid detail.

Popular in Greece since its first publication there in 2001, *The Gurus, the Young Man, and Elder Paisios* is a page-turning narrative of both outward adventures and inward struggles. What stands out most in this book, however, is the radiant image of Elder Paisios, possessed of divine gifts, laboring in prayer for his fellow man, and overflowing with unconditional love. Through this, one sees the uncreated Source of the elder’s love and of the author’s spiritual transformation: the true God-man Jesus Christ, Who honors man’s personal freedom while drawing him, through love, into everlasting union with Himself.



WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- † 1– Paisios Hamann
- † 2– Grayson Welch
- † 3– Rdr. Gregory Jannakos, Terri Oginsky
- † 4– Lauren Conover
- † 5– Brenda Banwell
- † 6– Joseph Yonan
- † 7– Conne Terova
- † 8– Lori Drummond
- † 10– Doug Auxier
- † 14– Marisa Baily, Isabella Otis, Tea Jonascu
- † 15– Irelynd Otis, Riley Wilkinson, Alexander Earl
- † 16– Joyce Ballnik, Keith Bieganski
- † 17– Kristen Jakubus
- † 18– Alexandra Kekel, John Walton
- † 19– Oliver Senter, Seth Hillacker
- † 20– Asher Wolf, Abigail Arnes
- † 22– Jim Oginsky
- † 23– Hunter Dollins
- † 24– Rilynn Jannakos
- † 27– Jacob Serafimovski
- † 29– Brady Damic

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- † 6– Chris & Rachel Burtka
- † 6– Jeremy & Taylor Blohm
- † 9– Steven & Elizabeth Kekel
- † 9– Thomas & Stacey Yonan
- † 10– John & Brianna Walton
- † 12– Theophan & Michelle Forsyth
- † 16– Christopher & Robyn Ballnik
- † 22– Ten & Inna Walls
- † 26– Kurt & Ann Schutt

INTER-CHRISTIAN

6:30PM

10/5

10/19

BASKETBALL



Calling all Mothers!

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

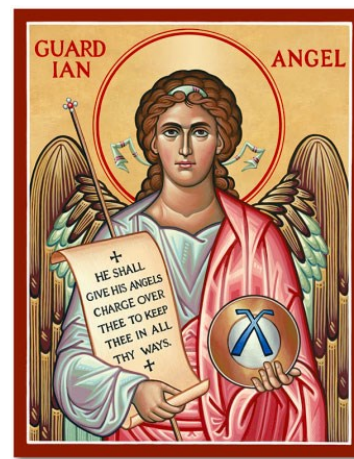
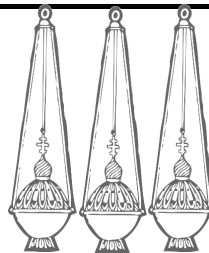
Office Hours

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

Prayer Life

Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and sisters

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



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

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

Catechumens
Alyssa William Anthony James Anastasia
Recently Departed
Joyce John Mark Robert

Mother's With Child
Robyn Amanda Christina Anna
Seminarian Family
Alexander & Danielle Earl
Anniversary of Parish Member's Repose
18– Veronica Stepanko 18– Andrew Joseph

Parish Greeters

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Epistle Readers

Primary

Back-up

October 4th:
Seth & Mia Hillaker

October 11th:
Pat Smith

October 18th:
George & Julie Jonascu

October 25th:
Steve & Sue Walton

October 4th:
Katherine Senter

October 11th:
Steve & Sue Walton

October 18th:
Chris & Rachel Burtka

October 25th:
Sbdn. Andrew & Meghan
Durand

October 4th:
Rdr. John Auxier

October 11th:
Sbdn. Andrew Durand

October 18th:
Rdr. Nathan Auxier

October 25th:
Jenni Otis

October 4th:
Rdr. David Schutt

October 11th:
Janet Wiese

October 18th:
Rdr. John Auxier

October 25th:
Sbdn. Andrew Durand

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Annual Meeting

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

Prayers for the Servant of God Seraphim for his Deployment

Seraphim Lazar-Watson will be deployed to Djibouti, Africa at the end of September/ beginning of October as a Senior Airman, USAF as a base guard.



Through the intercessions of the Great Holy Martyr and Trophy Bearer George, St. Mary Magdalene Equal to the Apostles, The Theotokos and All the Saints pray for the well being and safety of Seraphim

Troparion of St George, patron saint of soldiers: (Tone 4): As the deliverer of captives and the protector of the poor, as the physician of the feeble and combatant of kings, holy champion and great martyr **George**, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Orthodox Prayer for Protection of Soldiers during War

O Holy Master, Almighty Father and Pre-Eternal God, Who alone made and directed all things; Who rises up quickly against the evil of the impious ones; Who, by Providence, teaches Thy people preservation of Justice and the obliteration of the sword on earth; Who condescend to raise up military columns to help the people: O God, Who commanded the Forerunner John to say to the soldiers coming to him in the desert, "Do not intimidate anyone ... and be content with your wages:"

We entreat Thee with compunction, that Thou gave Thy child David the power to defeat Goliath, and as Thou condescended, through Judas Maccabeus, to seize victory from the arrogant pagans who would not call on Thy Name; so too, grant protection in righteousness and truth to these Thy servants against the enemies rising against them, and by Thy heavenly loving-kindness, strength and might for the preservation of faith and truth.

Condescend, out of Thy mercy, O Master, to grant them the fear of Thee, together with humility, obedience and good endurance; that they kill no one unrighteously, but rather preserve all righteousness and truth; that they may fear Thee and honor Justice; that they run in friendship to those who are scattered, extending thy love to those near them, serving the elderly with justice; and that their ranks fulfill all things righteously;

For thou art our God, and to Thee do we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



Monthly Forecast

Protection of the Theotokos

Our First Thursday Divine Liturgy of the month will be on the feast of the Protection of the Theotokos, October 1st, beginning at 10:00 AM. The service, as are all of our weekday services, are open to all!

Baptisms This Month

By the Grace of God, we will be welcoming two new warriors for Christ to our ranks this month, starting with the baptism of Ruth (daughter of Jared Torrey) on Thursday, October 1st, at 5:00 PM. The Baptism of Nicodemus Auxier will be on Sunday, October 11th, at 9:50 AM with a Baptismal Divine Liturgy.

St. Photini Blanket Making

Starting in the first part of October, we will have blanket making kits for our families to take home and to make. We are hoping to have 25 blankets made, and they will be going to those in need after we are finished! If you would like to make a blanket but are unable to do so at home, you can always stop here at the Church during office hours to have a quiet spot to work! Don't forget to keep an eye out for the kits!

Fall Outing at Spicer's Orchard

This year, we will be having our Fall Outing at Spicer's Orchard on Saturday, October 17th. Please note that Great Vespers will begin early on that day, starting at 1:00 PM. We will then gather together at Spicer's Orchard (10411 Clyde Rd. Fenton, MI) after Vespers for a picnic lunch and a hayride for all those that attend! Handmade Doughnuts, Cider, and the hayride will be provided, but if you want to bring something else for your family, do not hesitate to do so!

Trunk or Treat Dates Announced

This year, we will be having our parish Trunk or Treat on Sunday, November 1st following the Divine Liturgy. Participants are asked to bring special treats for all of the children, who are able to dress up in their favorite (appropriate) costumes and go to the various cars for a treat! Please do not allow the children to come to Church in their outfits! There will be plenty of time to change after the Divine Services!

Second Follow Up With Architect

Last month, the parish community had a wonderful meeting with the Architect in order to plan for the future of our little church in the woods. This month, there is another meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 15th, where we will have some further development of the plans that were discussed in September. Keep an eye out for the zoom links!

Book Club Meeting

This month's book club will be meeting on Thursday, October 29th at 6:00 PM, to continue their discussion on "The Young Man, the Gurus and Elder Paisios". If you have not already joined us for a meeting, consider visiting this month for some great spiritual discussion!

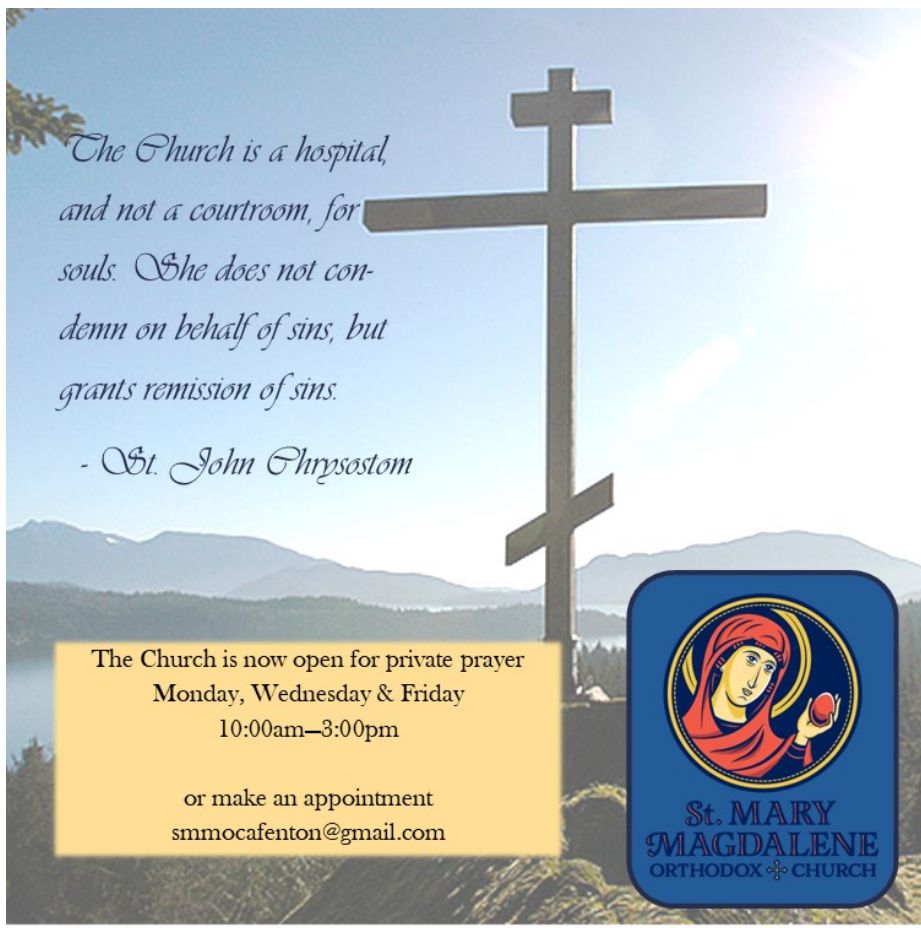
Group Changes (A-L) (M-Z)

There will be some group changes for the next few months in regards to the Divine Liturgy. Beginning in October, we will be going from 3 to 2 groups. The First Group will be the last names beginning with (A-L) and the Second Group will be last names beginning with (M-Z). These groups are the ones that are given priority for upstairs seating...but again, anyone can attend the Divine Liturgy WEEKLY and receive the Eucharist. We will find a spot for you!

InterChristian Basketball

Open Gym on Monday, October 5th and Monday, October 19th at 6:30 PM at Hope Lutheran Church Gym (7355 Silver Lake Rd. Linden, MI)





*Branded Mugs coming
Mid-October*

\$8 each

Order your Nativity Gifts through the parish kiosk!

As you put together your Christmas gift list please considering ordering your Nativity gifts through the parish kiosk. Please see the attached flyer on how to order or contact the parish office with any questions.

PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

Don't forget while you are social distancing 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

Kiosk New Arrivals

- ✝ We have received new books to our parish kiosk.
- ✝ We also have several new children's books available.
- ✝ We have two copies of the book of the month available for \$17 each
- ✝ We have new icons in stock! Perfect additions to your home prayer corner
- ✝ If you would like to see anything specific in the kiosk please let us know!

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

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



For icons, books and gifts visit
these websites:

<https://uncutmountainsupply.com/>

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

<https://stmpress.com/>

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

<https://svspress.com/>

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

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

Orders Due November 1st

The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemorated on October 1st

From: oca.org

The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos: “Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of Saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and Bishops venerate Her, Apostles and prophets rejoice together, Since for our sake she prays to the Eternal God!”

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop’s Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed “more than the rays of the sun.” Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, “Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?” Epiphanius answered, “I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe.”

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, “O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard.”

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and “for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation.”

At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting Saint Andrew in contemplation of her.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan Russian fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867 or according to the Russian historian Vasiliev, on June 18, 860. Ironically, this Feast is considered important by the Slavic Churches but not by the Greeks.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor also notes the miraculous deliverance followed an all-night Vigil and the dipping of the garment of the Mother of God into the waters of the sea at the Blachernae church, but does not mention Saints Andrew and Epiphanius and their vision of the Mother of God at prayer. These latter elements, and the beginnings of the celebrating of the Feast of the Protection, seem to postdate Saint Nestor and the Chronicle. A further historical complication might be noted under (October 2) dating Saint Andrew's death to the year 936.

The year of death might not be quite reliable, or the assertion that he survived to a ripe old age after the vision of his youth, or that his vision involved some later pagan Russian raid which met with the same fate. The suggestion that Saint Andrew was a Slav (or a Scythian according to other sources, such as S. V. Bulgakov) is interesting, but not necessarily accurate. The extent of Slavic expansion and repopulation into Greece is the topic of scholarly disputes.

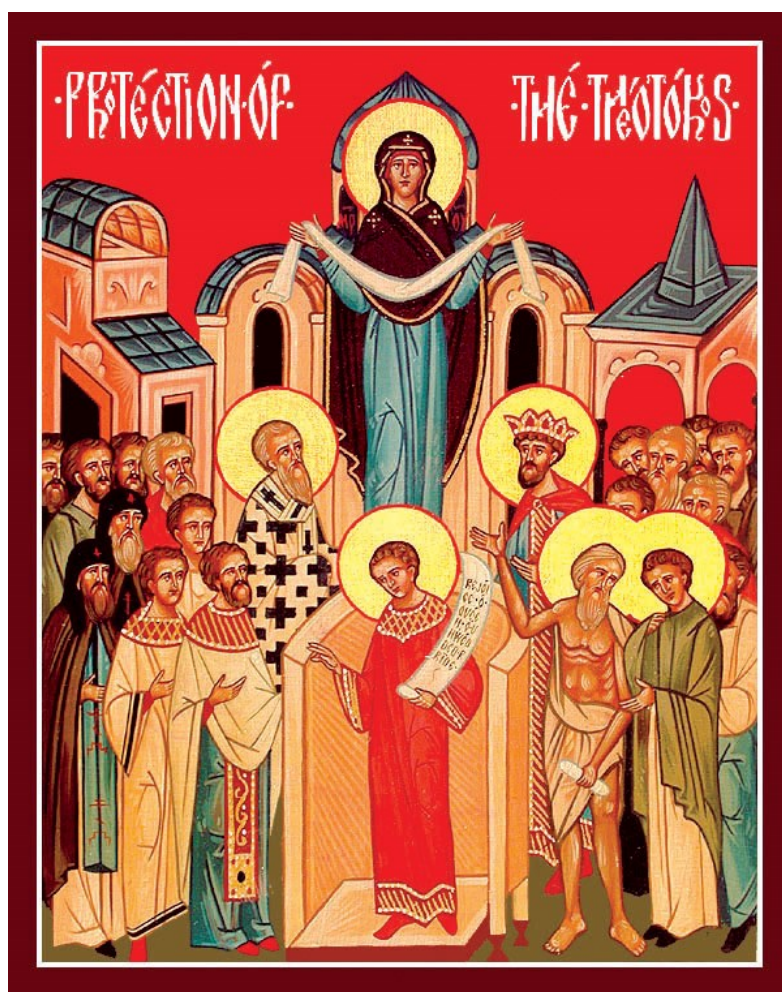
In the PROLOGUE, a Russian book of the twelfth century, a description of the establishment of the special Feast marking this event states, "For when we heard, we realized how wondrous and merciful was the vision... and it transpired that Your holy Protection should not remain without festal celebration, O Ever-Blessed One!"

Therefore, in the festal celebration of the Protection of the Mother of God, the Russian Church sings, "With the choirs of the Angels, O Sovereign Lady, with the venerable and glorious prophets, with the First-Ranked Apostles and with the Hieromartyrs and Hierarchs, pray for us sinners, glorifying the Feast of your Protection in the Russian Land." Moreover, it would seem that Saint Andrew, contemplating the miraculous vision was a Slav, was taken captive, and became the slave of the local inhabitant of Constantinople named Theognostus.

Churches in honor of the Protection of the Mother of God began to appear in Russia in the twelfth century. Widely known for its architectural merit is the temple of the Protection at Nerl, which was built in the year 1165 by holy Prince Andrew Bogoliubsky. The efforts of this holy prince also established in the Russian Church the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, about the year 1164.

At Novgorod in the twelfth century there was a monastery of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (the so-called Zverin monastery) In Moscow also under Tsar Ivan the Terrible the cathedral of the Protection of the Mother of God was built at the church of the Holy Trinity (known as the church of Saint Basil the Blessed).

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."





Our Parish Youth

October Church School Announcements

Be on the lookout for October's Church School weekly packets, they will be sent out in an email later this week and included in the weekly bulletin! We will also begin this month handing out a children's bulletin to accompany either the feast and/or the gospel lesson for the week.

Mark your calendars:

Saturday, October 17th: Parish Outing to Spicer's Orchard. We will have Great Vespers at 1pm and will head to the orchard following

Sunday, November 1st: We will have our parish Truck-or-Treat following Divine Liturgy. Please bring an appropriate costume for your kids to change into, perhaps their patron saint or favorite bible story. Do not wear costumes to Divine Liturgy.

-In Christ,
Matushka Laura





St. Mary Magdalene 2020 Fall Outing Trip to Spicer's Cider Mill

The Church School will once again be sponsoring a Parish Fall Outing to Spicer's Cider Mill & Orchard (10411 Clyde Rd. Fenton, MI) on **Saturday, October 17th**, following an early Great Vespers at the Church at 1pm! Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship

Doughnuts & Hayride will be provided!
Bring a picnic for your family!

Schedule for Saturday, October 17th

1:00pm Great Vespers (no confessions)

2:30pm Meet at Spicer's Cider Mill & Enjoy Fellowship

3:00pm Picnic, Snacks and Hayrides begin

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

Flint OCF:

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

Prayer of a Student

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

Prayers Before Study

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

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

Prayer After Study

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



Prayers for our college students:

Katherine Arnes

Sydney Wilkinson

David Schutt

Katerina Jonescu

Katherine Schutt

Katheryn Auxier

Oliver Lazar Senter

Alexandra Kekel

Elena Bucciarelli

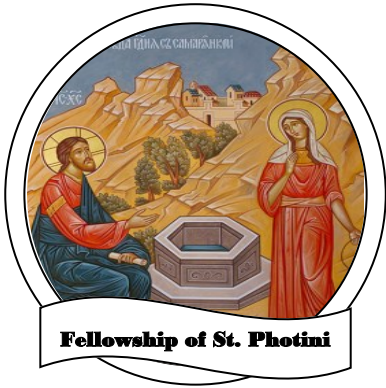
Lauren Serafimovski

Zachary Wilkinson

Abigail Arnes

Douglas Wilkinson

FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI

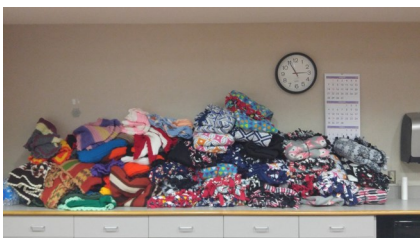


“An inclusive opportunity for community outreach led by the faithful of St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church”

For the month of October we will again, as a parish community, be making our Tie Blankets for those in need. Our goal this year is to make a total of 25 blankets! Together we can achieve this!

We ask that each family take one or two blankets kits home to make. Please make the blankets in a pet free/ smoke free environment due to the compromised immune systems of our beneficiaries. If you cannot provide a pet free or smoke free environment please arrange to use the Parish Education Center either during office hours or before or after Great Vespers for the month of October to make blankets with your church family! If you have any questions regarding this outreach ministry please contact the Chair Helen LaCascio or any member of the leadership team.

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

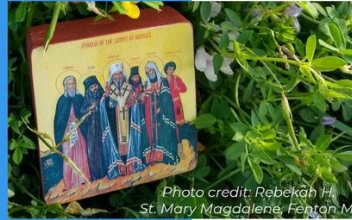


Trek Milestones!



Week 1: 961 miles

- ☑ 1,619m - Sts. Cyril & Methodius traveled
- ☑ 1,799m - St. Andrew traveled



Week 2: 3,000 miles

- ☑ 3,000m - St. Thomas Traveled
- ☑ 4,662m - St. Tikhon Traveled



Week 3: 5,917 miles

- ☑ 6,638m - Albania to Project Mexico
- ☑ 7,300m - St. Herman Traveled



Week 4: 8,295 miles

- ☑ 9,526m - OCMC to Alaska (and back)
- ☑ 10,189m - OCMC to Indonesia



Week 5: 11,237 miles

- ☑ 11,464m - Alaska to Guatemala to Sweden
- ☑ 15,028m - OCMC to Uganda (and back)



FINAL COUNT: 20,114 MILES!!!

- ☑ 18,494m - Alaska to Guatemala to Sweden to Albania to Kenya
- ☐ 24,901m - Circumference of Planet Earth



By the Grace of God the St. Mary Magdalene Trek Team was able to contribute 837 miles and raised \$2,465 for Trek4Missions!! Worldwide we just barely missed totaling the circumference of the entire Earth... let's aim to reach it next year! A special THANK YOU to Theophan Forsyth for leading the team! Our team did a remarkable job for our first year and we hope to expand next year. This years team included; Theophan Forsyth, Greg Auxier, John Auxier, Rebekah Humphreys, Tina Shephard, Brian Walton, Steve Walton & Sue Walton.



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHEDULE & GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, October 4th, Divine Liturgy 9:50am: Group 1 (Last Names A-L)

Sunday, October 11th, Divine Liturgy 9:50am: Group 2 (Last Names M-Z)

Sunday, October 18th, Divine Liturgy 9:50am: Group 1 (Last Names A-L)

Sunday, October 25th, Divine Liturgy 9:50am: Group 2 (Last Names M-Z)

PLEASE NOTE that ALL weekday Divine Liturgies and Saturday Vespers are open to all on a first come first serve basis!

✝ *This Schedule is subject to change*

Along with the ever changing civil directives, and in accordance with our diocesan directives, will be implementing the following changes to our procedures here at St. Mary Magdalene.

1.). "Restaurant Style" Mask Policy: Upon entering and exiting the Church, parishioners are still required to wear a mask. However, while at your seats and during the Liturgy, parishioners are able to take their masks off, provided that they remain in place. **The downstairs chapel will be a mask only space.**

2.). Group Consolidation: The parish will be going down to two groups. Beginning Sunday, October 4th, Group 1 will be Last Names A-L and Group 2 will be Last Names M-Z. As always, everyone is encouraged to come to Divine Liturgy every Sunday, and all in attendance will receive the Holy Eucharist. However, priority will be given to the assigned group for seating in the nave of the Church. We are currently permitted 20 households upstairs, and 20 households downstairs.

Church School Presents

Trunk or Treat



Sunday, November 1st



Following Divine Liturgy

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

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



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

Referral Program To Benefit The St. Mary Magdalene Church Expansion



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

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