



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

September
2021

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>

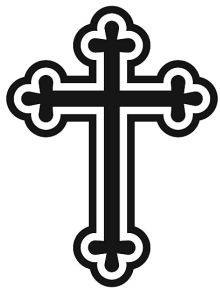
Office Hours*:

Monday 10:00am-3:00pm

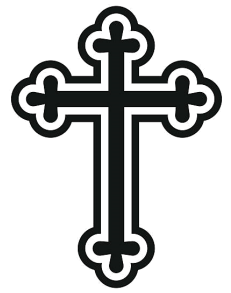
Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm

Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

*or by appointment



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH



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MONTHLY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2021

Important Dates

to Remember:

- ✝ 9/1 Liturgical New Year Liturgy, 9am
- ✝ 9/4 No Vespers
- ✝ 9/6 Parish Office closed for labor day
- ✝ 9/7 Vespers & Litija for the Nativity of the Theotokos, 6pm
- ✝ 9/8 Nativity of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy, 9am
- ✝ 9/9 Community Pet Blessing, 6:30pm
- ✝ 9/11 SMMOY Bonfire
- ✝ 9/12 Church School Kick-off
- ✝ 9/13 Vespersal Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Cross, 6pm
- ✝ 9/14 Parish Council, 7pm
- ✝ 9/15 Metanoia Begins
- ✝ 9/18 Lamb Cookers Workshop
- ✝ 9/24-26 Diocesan Conference
- ✝ 9/26 Annual Chili Cookoff

Inside this issue:

Birthday/Anniversary

Prayer List

Monthly Forecast

Dormition Pilgrimage

Parish Youth

Adult Education

Community Outreach



5 Steps to Gain Invincibility from the World

A message from Fr. Gabriel

The coming of the New Year in the Liturgical Calendar typically brings about articles written by priests about various "New Year's Resolutions" that we can implement in our spiritual lives in order to draw near to Christ. As we have been reading through Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians these past few weeks in Church, I thought it would be appropriate to focus on his parting words of wisdom to them, which were made not only for the Christians at that time, but for all of us centuries later!

We have been dealing with a lot this past year, ranging from a worldwide pandemic, to political infighting, to other bad pieces of news that have been cropping upon a weekly basis. I would argue, that if we kept St. Paul's 5 directives in our hearts, in our minds, and at the for-front of **EVERYTHING** that we do this year, we would become (and I love this word because it carries a powerful connotation with it) **INVINCIBLE** to the World. No Life Stress would bring us down. No disease would cause us panic. No bad news would affect us. No persecution would destroy our faith. No natural or manmade disaster could shake us. No Government could topple us. Literally **NOTHING** could destroy us, if we keep the following resolutions.

1.) St. Paul tells us to be watchful.

We want to become invincible? The first step is to be watchful of what kinds of poison we let seep into our souls, our hearts, and our minds.

There is a beautiful quote from St. Hesychius of Jerusalem who says: *“Just as it is impossible to live this life without eating or drinking, so it is impossible for the soul to achieve anything spiritual and in accordance with God’s will, without guarding the intellect and purity of heart...”*

St. Paul, St. Hesychius, and so many others who have succeeded in conquering the world by becoming invincible to it, have all said the same thing. We have to be on guard and watchful of the poisons that we allow to seep into our heart. Bad news, political infighting, inappropriate television shows and movies, situations that lead to arguments, whatever it is that leads the passions to become enflamed within us...now is the time to walk away.

2.) St. Paul says to Stand Firm in our Faith.

We put our faith and trust in a lot of things these days. This past week, I made a deposit at my bank, putting my trust in them that the money would still be there when I need it. None of us probably woke up today worried that our cell phones wouldn’t work, because we put our faith in the fact that the towers will all be working. We put our faith in the electric companies this morning, knowing that they will provide electricity so we can take a hot shower and get ready to start the day (although as I write this, there are currently 600,000 people in the area without power due to a storm...but that is another issue!)

What happens when these things that we put our unyielding faith in fail? When we lose power...we panic. When we lose or drop calls...we feel uneasy. When there is a run on the bank...the world is thrown into chaos. Why is it, that we put **our unyielding trust** and faith in man made things that fail, and can’t put that same kind of faith in Christ?

True Faith in God is something that can **never** fail us. There are those who don’t put their faith in things they cannot see...and to those people, the Church says: *“Open Your Eyes dear ones!”*.

Look at the results of His works in our lives! Even this very moment, you are reading an article written by a simple village priest about the spiritual life. Do you realize how many millions or tiny miracles that are happening for you to be able to do that?

God has a better track record than the electric companies. He is more reliable than our cell phone service. He is far and away beyond the scientific community, who has been and always will be unable to comprehend His magnificence and His hands in the world. No matter what happens in life, we have to stand firm in our Faith...and make it as natural as trusting that the lights will go on in our homes.

3 and 4.) St. Paul Says to be Courageous and be Strong.

I put these two together, because there are times when it takes courage to have faith, especially living in a society where faith in God has been replaced by so many other, less reliable things. We have to have the **courage** to put our faith and our lives completely into the hands of God, and it takes **God Given strength** to navigate a difficult situation and say *“Thy Will be Done”* (especially living in a country that often pushes *“My Will Be Done.”*)


5.) St. Paul says “Let All You Do Be Done in Love”.

EVERYTHING that we do needs to be done in Love for God FIRST and then love for one another second. We show love for God, by making commitments to ourselves to not put him second in our lives as we are so often tempted to do. A wonderful example of this is the 12 major feast days of the Church, coupled with the Major Feast Day, the Mini Pascha that occurs every Sunday morning. Given that some of those feasts fall on a Sunday, that is around 60 opportunities this coming year to put Him **FIRST**...to put the Mystical Supper with God **FIRST**...

to schedule our vacations and our fun activities around our unyielding Love for **HIM** (That also, by the way, takes courage and strength)!

Second, we show **love for one another** in everything we do. One real example is that if we want to discuss politics or the mask/no mask/vaccine/no vaccine debate, make those conversations with people planted in Love for them. If we get angry when we see things on facebook or upset when we hear about politics in the news, that is probably not a good sign that we can (in that moment) come up with a response planted in love. If we can't have conversations that are rooted in love for the person we are talking to, and I mean truly rooted not just with words, but from our hearts, then it is best not to poison our souls, or theirs, with our words.

Watchfulness, firmness in faith, courage, strength, and love. These are the five directives from St. Paul, that if we dedicate our entire lives to implementing them, we would truly be INVINCIBLE to the cunning attacks of the deceiv-



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

- St. John Chrysostom

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

or make an appointment
smmocafenton@gmail.com



Month in Review

August began with a wonderful collection that was made for the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry of \$617, all of which went to help spread the Gentle Presence of Christ to those who are incarcerated. We had several feast days as well, including Holy Transfiguration and Holy Dormition! William and Alyssa (future son in law and daughter of Tonya and James Rice) and David Brcic were brought into the Orthodox Church through Baptism and Chrismation. Construction also began on the creation of our new multi-purpose space, with a scheduled completion of the end of November! Glory to God for all things!!!!

Recommended Reading (Available in the Kiosk for \$25 each)

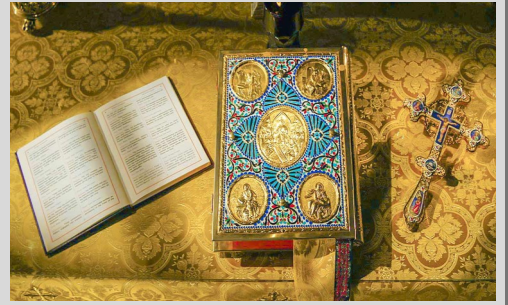
“Elder Barsanuphius of Optina”

by Victor Afanasiev

Elder Barsanuphius (1845-1913), a disciple of Elder Anatole (Zertsalov) and Elder Nektary, was a highly cultured man and a successful colonel before entering the monastic life at a relatively late age. Due to his purity of heart and spiritual sobriety, he was transformed by God into a grace-filled Elder virtually overnight. The period before the first World War and the Russian Revolution was a complex one. The world was seething in unprecedented passions, and one could clearly sense the approach of darkness. With a sympathetic soul Elder Barsanuphius attended to the world, and the Lord parted a curtain before him, showing him the horrors of the future.

People from the world, thirsting for consolation in their sorrows, streamed to Optina. Elder Barsanuphius, in frail health but strengthened by the power of the Lord, received them, conversed with them, confessed them, and directed them to the only true path. He was a man of extraordinary spiritual vision, and could see clearly into the hearts of those who came to him.

Presented here, for the first time in English, is a complete biography of this great Elder, including his talks on a variety of subjects, excerpts from the journal of his cell-attendant (the future Elder Nikon, himself a great Optina Elder and a subsequent victim of the communist terror), and selections from his spiritual poetry.



This Month's Sunday Scripture Readings

September 5th:

1 Corinthians 9:2-12
Matthew 18: 23-35

September 12th:

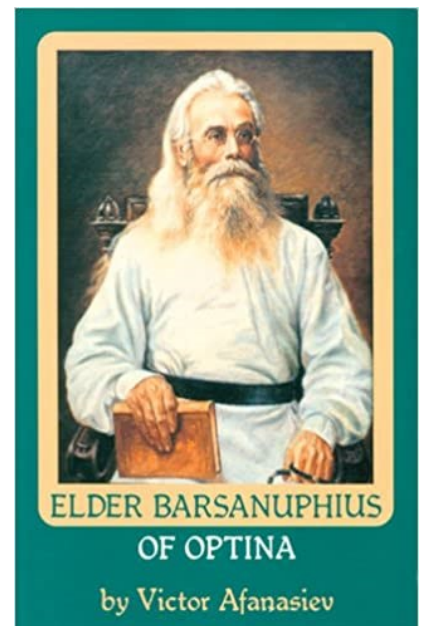
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Matthew 19:16-26

September 19th

1 Corinthians 16:13-24
Matthew 21:33-42

September 26th:

2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4
Luke 5:1-11



WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- † 6– Cindy Chiatas
- † 3– Nicodemus Auxier
- † 10– Harriet Raphael
- † 11– Alexandra Cooley
- † 11– Emma Khoury
- † 13– Margaret Shipley
- † 19– Jerimiah Becklehamer
- † 20– Trisha Shephard
- † 20– Abigail Arnes
- † 30– Robyn Ryden

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- † 6– Fr. Dn Michael & Deaconitza Susan Schlaack
- † 6– Joe & Jenni Otis
- † 13– Ryan & Krystyna Shipley
- † 14– David & Solome Daugherty
- † 25– Bruce Watson & Rebecca Lazar
- † 26– George & Julie Jonascu
- † 28– John & Pat Matts



Wishing many blessed years to the newly baptized handmaiden of God Sophia, her parents Christine & Joe and her Godparents Reader Nathaniel & Amanda. My God bless and guide her journey always!

PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

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

The Library covers the following topics and MORE!

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

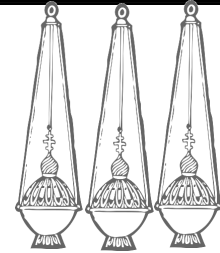
Office Hours

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

Prayer Life

Pray for our sick and suffering brothers and sisters

Metropolitan Herman	Eric
Vinnie	Terry
Elaine	Tracy
Peter	Maurice
David	Anthony
Michael	Alisha
Mason	Janet
Pat	Ivanka
Joseph	Theresa
Linda	Gus
Arminda	Jeff
Dimitri	Jennifer
Damian	Melissa
Thom	Dawn
Linda	Michelle
Irene	Harry
Nancy	Jeanette
Rachael	Terry
Dawn	



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
 Stephen Bondaria— Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander
 Sarah Tyler—U.S. Air Force

Catechumens

Anastasia
 Emily
 Vince
 Carol
 Jacob
 Mary Ellen
 Timothy

Anniversary of Parish Member's Repose

10— Thomas Naum

Mother's With Child

Matushka Laura
 Inna
 Natania

Seminarian Family

Alexander & Danielle Earl

Recently Departed

Parish Greeters

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Epistle Readers

Bell Ringers

September 5th:
Julie & George Jonascu

September 12th:
Seth & Mia Hillaker

September 19th:
Scott & Tina Shephard

September 26th:
Steve & Sue Walton

September 5th:
David & Cindy Welch

September 12th:
Brian & Tammy Arnes

September 19th:
Steve & Sue Walton

September 26th:
Chili Cook-off
Terri & Freida Owens

September 5th:
Reader Brian Walton
Sue Walton

September 12th:
Reader Chris Ballnik
Subdeacon Andrew Durand

September 19th:
Reader David Schutt
Reader Brian Walton

September 26th:
Janet Wiese
Reader Chris Ballnik

September 5th:
Renea Becklehamer

September 12th:
Tonya Rice

September 19th:
Vivian Capatina

September 26th:
Cindy Welch



Wishing many more blessed years in His service to our new Altar Server class who served their first Divine Liturgy on the feast of Holy Dormition.
Left to Right
Richard, Noah, Samuel & Benjamin

Monthly Forecast

Weekday Divine Liturgy Schedule Change

One of the true blessings that we have at this parish is the ability to have a weekday Liturgy to help propel us forward towards the Kingdom. The Weekday Liturgy will be changing for the foreseeable future, and will now be held on Wednesday Mornings at 9:00 AM. This schedule is subject to change if there are some major feasts or saints being celebrated during a particular week.

SMMOY Gathering

SMMOY will be getting together on September 11th to finish the teen lounge, have a bonfire (weather permitting), and plan out the rest of their events for this calendar year. Please bring/send in photos of their patron saints to hang up in the room at this time. Icons of the patron saints can be sent to Mia Hillaker at miahillaker@gmail.com

Metanoia Begins Again

Our adult education courses are beginning again this month, with a semester of Metanoia that will be talking about the Holy Mysteries of the Ancient Christian Church. This class is open to all those who are either studying to become Orthodox, or are wanting to learn how to dive deeper into their faith. If you have taken the classes before, while the topics are the same, the quotes, stories, and discussions with each other are ever changing...so don't hesitate to join us again! Please email the office or Fr. Gabriel if you or any one that you know would like to take the class. It will be offered both in person and virtually!

The Nativity (Birthday) of Our Blessed Mother

The Pan Orthodox Celebration for the Birth of our Blessed Mother will provide 2 opportunities for you to come celebrate with your parish family. The first is for Great Vespers and Lijtia on Tuesday, September 7th, beginning at 6:00 PM. The second is for our regular weekday Liturgy on Wednesday, September 8th, at 9:00 AM.

Annual Molebin to St. Mammias and Pet Blessing

This year's Pet Blessing will take place at Fenton's Adopt-a-Pet at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, September 9th. Don't forget to bring your leashed or crated pets to the Adopt-A-Pet property, so that we can join together with the community to sing a molebin to St. Mammias (patron saint of animals), and to give thanks to God for the pets that he puts in our lives.

Church School Begins!

Church school will begin with a special kick off on Sunday, September 12th! We will be blessing the children as they begin their studies for the new Church School Year! Be sure to have your child registered with the office for this year's

school. Church School takes place every Sunday after the children receive the Holy Eucharist!

Exaltation of the Precious Cross

The Pan Orthodox Celebration of the Elevation of the Cross will take place on Monday, September 13th at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Burton, beginning at 6:00 PM! Be sure to join us all for the feast!

Lamb Roaster's Workshop

CALLING ALL WHO WANT TO LEARN THE ART OF LAMB ROASTING! We will have a lamb cookers workshop on Saturday, September 18th beginning at 10:30am. This is an all day commitment. The lamb will be served following Vespers at 5pm. This gives anyone in the parish the opportunity to learn how to tie and roast the lamb on our wood burning BBQ not in the early morning and cold hours of Theophany. We need people to learn this craft so we can continue to pass it along to all future generations.

Chili Cook-off

This year's Chili-Cookoff will take place on Sunday, September 26th at the parish hall! Be sure to sign up if you are bringing a special chili, and we will be voting as a parish family on the winner, who will receive either choice of an Icon of St. Euphrosynus the Cook for their kitchen or an Icon of the life of St. Mary of Egypt.

Wood Cutting Day

We need a group of abled bodied individuals to stay after the chili cook-off on September 26th for a second wood cutting day. We have several more large logs that need to be cut, split, and stacked. Bring a change of clothes, safety gear and equipment.



SMMOY KICK-OFF meeting on 8/15

Lamb Cookers workshop

September 18th

10:30am -5:00pm

Meal served after Vespers



If you are interested in learning how to clean, tie and rotisserie a lamb on our amazing lamb wood burning roaster then this workshop is for you!

Reach out to Rebekah Humphreys for more information!

Church New Year

Commemorated on September 1 from oca.org

The first day of the Church New Year is also called the beginning of the Indiction. The term Indiction comes from a Latin word meaning, "to impose." It was originally applied to the imposition of taxes in Egypt. The first worldwide Indiction was in 312 when the Emperor Constantine (May 21) saw a miraculous vision of the Cross in the sky. Before the introduction of the Julian calendar, Rome began the New Year on September 1.

According to Holy Tradition, Christ entered the synagogue on September 1 to announce His mission to mankind (Luke 4:16-22). Quoting Isaiah 61:1-2, the Savior proclaimed, "The spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..." This scene is depicted in a Vatican manuscript (Vatican, Biblioteca. Cod. Gr. 1613, p.1).

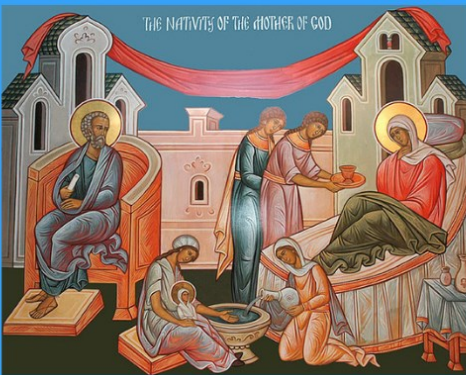
Tradition says that the Hebrews entered the Promised Land in September.





THE PAN-ORTHODOX CHURCHES
OF GENESEE COUNTY

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS



VESPERS & LITIA
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH
6:00PM

DIVINE LITURGY
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH
9:00AM



PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES HOSTED BY
ST. MARY MAGDALENE
2439 S. LONG LAKE RD
FENTON, MI 48430

THE PAN ORTHODOX CHURCHES
OF GENESE COUNTY



• Vespereal Liturgy, 6:00pm •

MONDAY



SEPTEMBER 13

HOSTED BY
ST. NICHOLAS

2143 S CENTER RD,
BURTON, MI 48519

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

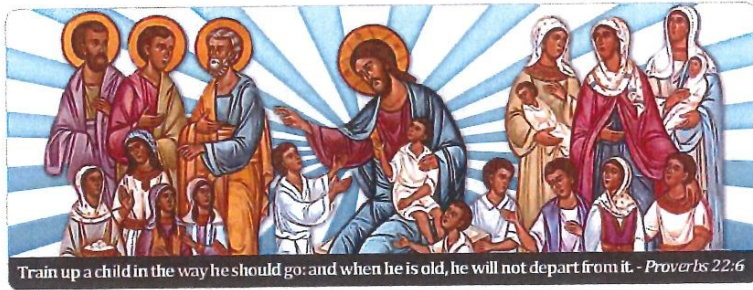
CHURCH SCHOOL KICK-OFF

We will resume Church School on
Sunday, September 12th

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN!

If you have any questions please reach out to
Terri Oginsky, Church School Coordinator or Fr. Gabriel





ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2021-2022

NAME: _____

AGE: _____ DOB: _____ GRADE: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

PARENTS: _____

PHONE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

MEDICAL

ALLERGIES: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS/ THINGS WE SHOULD KNOW:

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL!

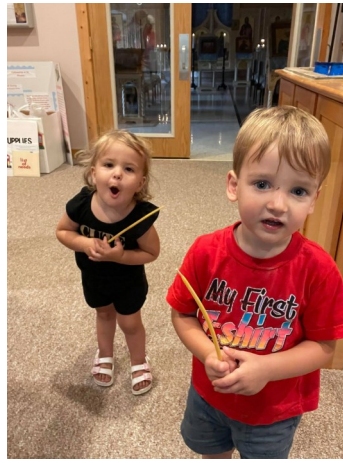


**THANK YOU
PARENTS & VOLUNTEERS!**





To view
more photos
follow us on
facebook

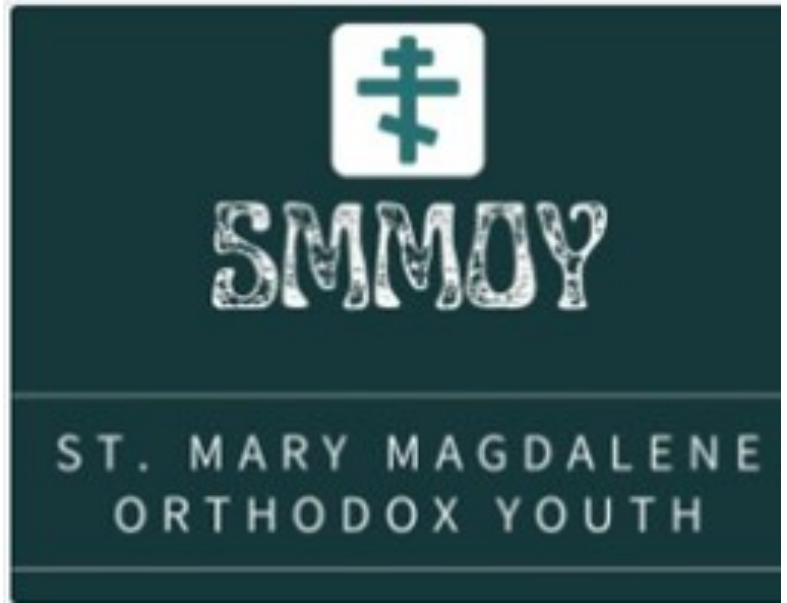


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First Youth Meeting

Saturday, September 11th following
Vespers with a bonfire, weather
permitting. Bring an icon of your
patron saint to adorn the teen
lounge.



COLLEGE CORNER

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



Prayers for our college students:

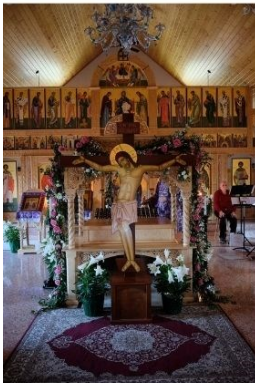
Katherine Arnes	Katheryn Auxier
Oliver Lazar Senter	Alexandra Kekel
Elena Bucciarelli	Lauren Serafimovski
Zachary Wilkinson	Abigail Arnes
Douglas Wilkinson	Tea Jonascu
Sydney Wilkinson	Ethan Durand
Katerina Jonescu	Justin Auxier

ADULT EDUCATION



"METANOIA"

LEARNING TO CHANGE ONE'S HEART FOR GOD



In a Christian World now littered with various denominations, each teaching a different version of the same Gospel, have you ever wondered or thought what about what the earliest Christians taught? How did they worship? What did they believe? Now is your opportunity to come, discuss and learn about the fullness of what the Ancient Christian Faith is all about!

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

Fall Semester 2021- All classes begin at 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 15th:
Wednesday, September 22nd:
Wednesday, September 29th:
Wednesday, October 6th:
Wednesday, October 13th:
Wednesday, October 20th:
Wednesday, October 27th:

Intro. to the Holy Mysteries of Baptism & Chrismation
The Early Church's Understanding of the Eucharist
Repentance and the Mystery of Confession
The Church and the Mystery of Holy Orders & Priesthood
Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? Holy Unction
The Eternality of Marriage
Death and the Funeral Service



5TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY PET BLESSING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH AT 6:30PM

ADOPT-A-PET FENTON

(13575 N FENTON RD. FENTON, MI)

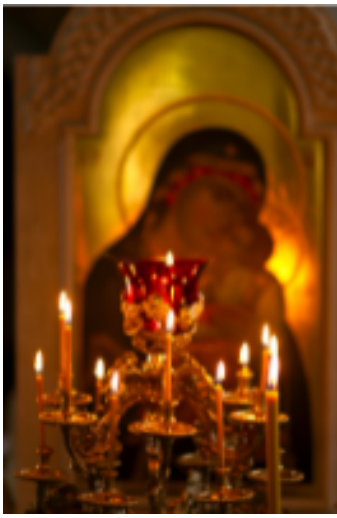
In the ups and downs of life, one of the greatest blessings that our Lord bestows upon mankind are our pets! Come join us for the 5th Annual Community Pet Blessing where we will gather together to offer thanks to God for our furry friends, and to bless them so that they can, in good health, continue to assist us throughout our journey in life!

All leashed or crated pets are welcome!

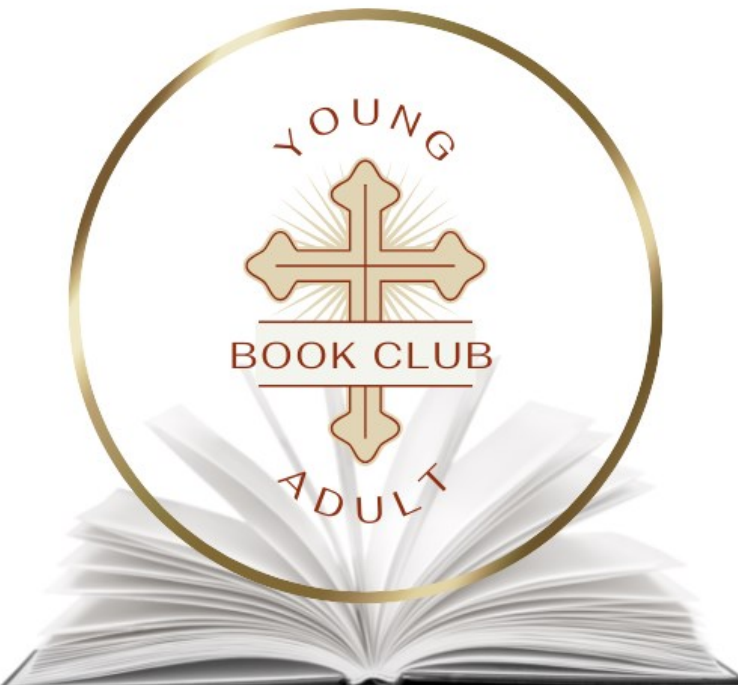
For more information contact St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church 810-750-1401
or Adopt-A-Pet Fenton 810-629-0723

st-marymagdalene.org/upcoming-events or adoptapetfenton.com

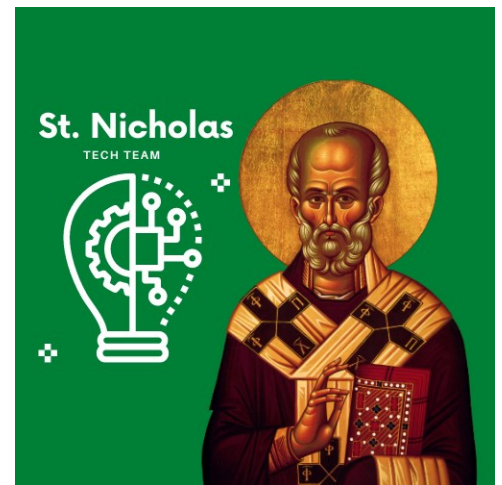




PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS



ST. MARY MAGDALENE
Men's Group



⚡ ST. MARY MAGDALENE ⚡

CHILI

COOK-OFF

BRING THE HEAT!

09.26.2021

Icon presented for the best chili!

Following the Divine Liturgy

All are encouraged to taste test & vote!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

FOLLOWING THE CHILI COOK-OFF



We are looking for a strong group to help cut, split and stack some logs that are down on the property.

Please bring a change of clothes, chainsaws, axes and safety equipment.





ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Annual Soup Sale

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH
11AM UNTIL WE SELL OUT!**

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

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE MISSION WORK OF
F.A.R.R. NETWORK**



Soups Available:

Chicken Noodle

Spinach Orzo

Butternut Squash

Minestrone

Tomato Bisque

White Bean Chicken with Leek

Pints \$5

Quarts \$10

KEEPING THE FAITH IN A NOISY WORLD: A CHRISTIAN APPROACH

The course will focus on the noise of our world that causes stress and anxiety, and what we can do as Christians to deal with it. Deacon Michael Schlaack will be using scripture and the teachings of the saints to see how they handled the stress and anxiety in their worlds.

Classes will be held on Wednesdays at 6:00pm

November 3rd
November 10th
December 1st
December 8th
December 15th

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

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!