

# September 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  
frgabrielmmm@gmail.com

<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, 5:00pm

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

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(810) 150-1401  
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[wwwst-marymagdalene.org](http://wwwst-marymagdalene.org)

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# MONTHLY FORECAST

## **Confession Schedule:**

Fr. Gabriel will be out of town until September 9th. Until his return. Fr. Matthew is available at St. Nicholas in Burton for regular confessions during the first part of September. Vesper at St. Nicholas begin at 5:00pm.

## **Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos:**

Pan Orthodox Divine Liturgy is scheduled for Friday, September 8th at Holy Assumption, beginning at 10:00 AM. This is the birthday of the Mother of God, so please make every effort to attend!

## **Exaltation of the Cross:**

The second of the two major feast day of the Liturgical Year is the Exaltation of the Cross, which will be celebrated at St. George in Flint beginning at 6:00 PM.

The cross will be out for veneration at St. Mary Magdalene on Sunday, September 17th for the Divine Liturgy.

## **Monthly Prayer Service for the Sick and the Suffering:**

Our regular service for the sick and the suffering will be on Tuesday, September 12th at 6:00 PM. If you would like to add any names to the list that are in need of prayer, please contact the parish office.

## **Men's Group Gathering**

Sunday, August 17th, 5:00pm at the Ballnik Home. Reach out Reader Chris with any questions.

## **Akathist to St. Iakavos of Evia:**

Our monthly akathist will be celebrated for St. Iakavos of Evia on Thursday, September 21st at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend!

## **End of Summer Fellowship Backyard Campout**

The Humphreys will be hosting people at their home for a backyard campout on September 15-16. **ALL** parish members are welcome to come set up a tent or camper for this overnight end of summer fellowship. RSVP to Rebekah.

## **Wednesday Divine Liturgies:**

Due to travel and feast days, the regular Wednesday Divine Liturgies in September are on Wednesday September 20th and September 27th this month!

## **Metanoia Begins!**

Our bi-annual Metanoia class starts back up in in September! For all newcomers, inquirers, and catechumens, classes begin on Thursday, September 14th at 6:30 PM. Regular sessions for Metanoia begin on Wednesday, September 20th. Please register with the parish office or online on our website if you are able to join us (either in person or virtually).

[st-marymagdlaene.org/adult-educaton](http://st-marymagdlaene.org/adult-educaton)

## **Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos:**

On Saturday, September 30th, we will have Great Vespers and Lijtia for the feast of the Protection of the Theotokos. Divine Liturgy for the feast will be on Sunday, October 1st. Mark your calendars!

# "BECOMING COFFEE DRINKING CHRISTIANS"

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GABRIEL



Imagine that you have a long-lost uncle who is wildly successful as a coffee merchant. You know almost nothing about this uncle, until he dies, and his lawyers contact you and invite you to a reading of his will. In his will, you find out that he has left you his entire coffee empire, which is worth tens of millions of dollars! There is a catch however! You cannot receive the inheritance unless you can honestly claim that you LOVE coffee. The lawyers are going to give you a lie detector test where you must say out loud: *"I love coffee. Coffee is delicious, and I deeply enjoy drinking it"* without setting off the lie detector test, which voids the entire thing.

The problem is that you hate coffee! From the very first time your parents gave you a sip of it as a young child up until this very moment! The lawyer continues the reading of the will which says, *"If you cannot proclaim that you love coffee today, you may return in exactly one year and take the lie detector test again."*

You have one year to learn to love coffee to receive this incredible inheritance that will change your life. How do you go about doing it?

1. We would start by drinking a small amount of coffee every single day. When I started to drink coffee, Matushka had to pour 10 teaspoons of flavored creamer and dump in half a bottle of Hershey syrup for me to swallow it. Eventually, I decreased the amount of sugar and creamer slowly, to where today, people who see me drink coffee would say that I now put in the "normal amount"
2. We would begin to learn all there is to know about coffee! Where is it grown? Who grows it? What kinds of coffee are there? There are coffees from all over the world. We would learn about iced coffees, French pressed, pour overs, etc.
3. We would surround ourselves with people who love coffee, because that makes it easier to begin to like and tolerate something. We would go to cafes and coffee shops, talking to people about why they like coffee and what kinds of coffee do they prefer.

All these things and more would help us to develop a tolerance for something that we did not like. Eventually, we get to a begrudging appreciation, a few moments of pleasure here and there, and then towards the end, a real deep appreciation for the drink that is going to change our lives forever.

I heard this image on "The Arena" podcast by Fr. Josiah Trenham last week, and could not wait to share it with all of you this month, especially when we consider the Gospel account that was just read for us.



# "BECOMING COFFEE DRINKING CHRISTIANS"

## CONTINUED

A young man approaches Jesus and asks Him, "*Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life.*" Our Lord responds by telling this man to keep the commandments, to which he responds: "*I have done all these things from my youth. What do I still lack?*" Jesus said to him, "*If you want to be perfect, go and sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.*" Our Lord reminds us in the Gospel today how much are treasures and possessions keep us from the perfection that is found in the building up of virtues. So, he tells the Rich young man, and all of us living in the wealthiest country in the world, "*sell all that you have, give to the poor, and come follow me.*"

It is said that when St. Anthony the Great heard this incredible text, his heart was pierced to such an extent that he immediately walked out of the Church, sold everything he had, settled his affairs, and went immediately into the desert to follow after Christ. As an incredible of an example as that is, I wonder how many God-fearing Christians that have heard this Gospel Lesson read to them year after year, have followed suit?

Who among us today is read to go home today, list our homes to sell them, clear out our bank accounts, and enter into a monastery? If we are honest with ourselves, we often leave these Gospel lessons in the same manner as the rich young ruler...a little bit dejected because this too bitter of a pill for us to swallow.

How many other bitter medicines does our Lord offer us throughout the Gospels?

Jesus says, *love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.* Why would I want to begin to love someone who has caused me pain?

Our Lord and the Apostles constantly talked about prayer, calling us even to "*pray without ceasing*". How am I supposed to do that with all of the other things I have going on in my life? Father wants me to come to Liturgy on a Wednesday evening and Thursday morning this week for a feast day? Is he crazy? Does he know what I have going on?

Our Lord, and through Him His Church tells us to fast from meat and dairy at certain times during the year. Jesus obviously never lived next to my neighbor who likes to slow cook ribs outside on Good Friday!

How do we learn to love the Christian Life dear ones, especially the things that our Lord teaches us that we simply do not want to hear?

How did we learn to like coffee today?

Just as we started with small cups of coffee every single day, so it is a good practice to start small in the Christian life. Have we never had a regular prayer rule? Offer up **one prayer** in the morning and in the evening. Have we never read scripture? Read **one chapter** of the Gospels every single day. Do we not offer up 10% of our income for the Church and the poor? Tithe a percent of everything received to the Church, and another percent to a favorite charity...increasing by 1% every single year. Start small and stick with it.

Just as we learned all there was to know about coffee through study, so too should we study our Holy Orthodox Faith! When we want to learn to embrace something of great value, our desire should be to study and learn as much as we can about it! Most parishes offer educational courses and studies, and with the increased popularity of "Zoom", there are changes to learn from classes all around the country! Find one and dedicate yourself to it!

# "BECOMING COFFEE DRINKING CHRISTIANS" CONTINUED

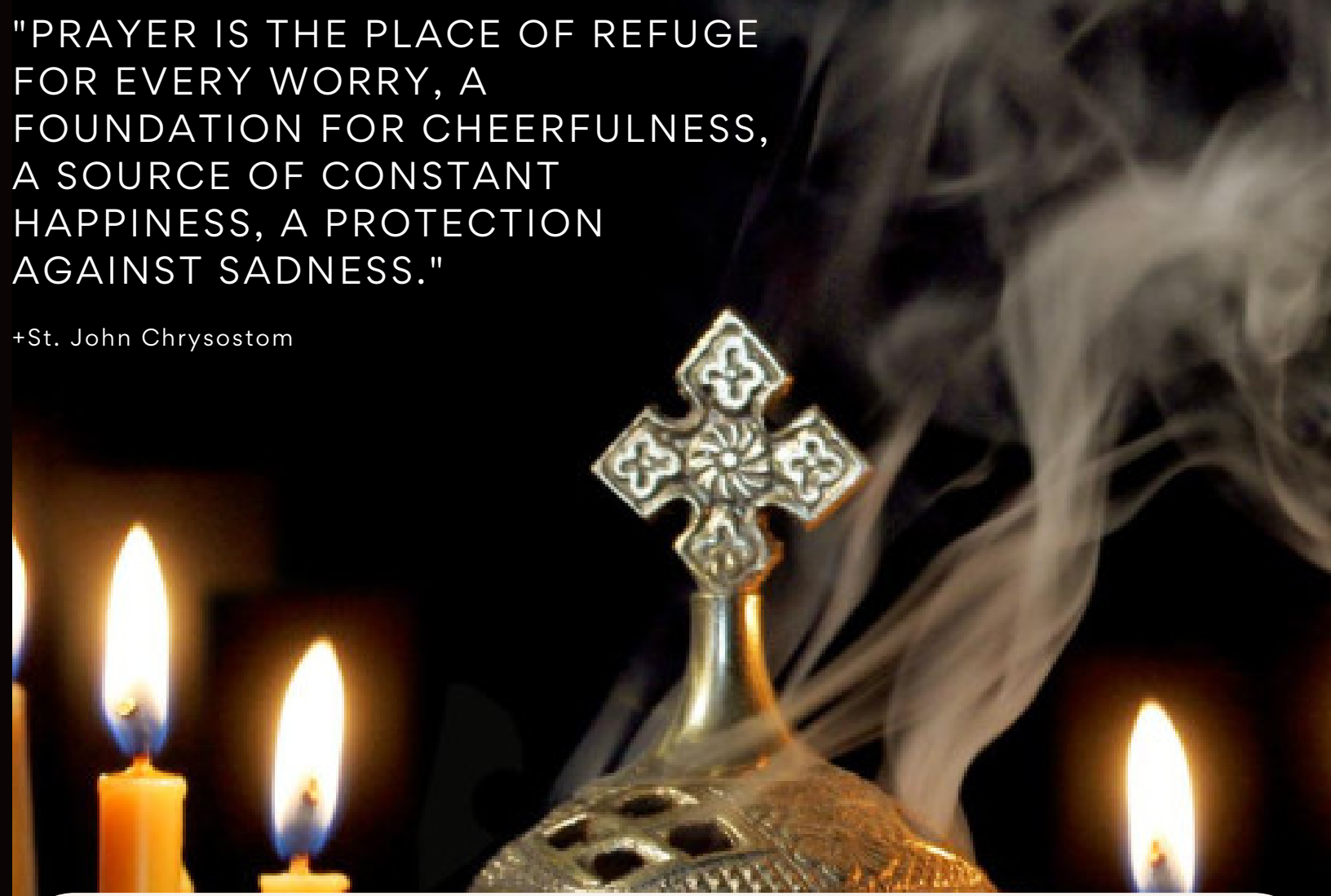
Finally, we surround ourselves with people who love the Church just as much as we do. When we go to Church and leave immediately after the Dismissal, we do ourselves a tremendous disservice by not talking to one another afterwards. Always plan on staying after to have coffee and a small breakfast with one another! Learn about who others in the community are and what they are about. How did they find their way to the Church? How are they managing in their journey towards Christ? We have an incredible opportunity to do that in the parish community we are in, where there are no cliques or agendas...just people who are all trying to draw near towards Christ. This is an incredible gift...let us not waste it dear ones!

We just began this week the new Liturgical Year on September 1st. Like the example of the coffee inheritance, what will we do with this New Year that God has granted each one of us... these precious days that have been given to us for Metanoia (Repentance)? May God Grant us all the Wisdom to begin this year by increasing our Love for Him through the teachings that He preached to a world, that was destined for an inheritance that goes beyond imagination.



"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\***

Archpriest Polycarp	Rosealie
Dn. Peter Vinne	Connie
Elaine David	Kendall
Pat	David
Michael	Edward
Lauren	Jim
Mason	Carly
Theresa	Vicki
Robert	Child Hudson
Linda	Lee Jay
Arminda	Theresa
Martin	Doug
Shirley	Conne
Nadia	Sumner
James	Marilee
Bryan	Natania
	Rene

### **Mother's With Child**

Anna  
Dania  
Inna  
Anna  
Catherine

### **Catechumenate**

Sarah  
Jeannie  
Monica  
Eric  
Jerry  
Landen

### **Seminarian Families**

Reader Paisios,  
Anna, John &  
Theodore Hamann

### **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**

10- Thomas Naum  
27- Eleftheria Risen

### **Recently Departed**

Vladimir Pyatenko

*\*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



*Recent & Upcoming  
Baptism & Chrismations*  
None this month.

### *Engagements*

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

### *Confession Schedule*

Father Gabriel will hear confessions on the following days or by appointment  
Saturday Evenings following Great Vespers  
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 first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm. Please contact the parish office to add any names to the prayer list.

### *Birthdays*

3-Nicodemus Auxier  
6-Cindy Chiatlas  
9-Mark Foster  
10-Harriet Raphael  
11-Alexandra Cooley  
13-Margaret Shipley  
19-Jerimiah Becklehamer  
20-Abigail Arnes  
20-Elijah Bilas  
30-Robyn Ballnik

### *Anniversaries*

6-Fr. Dn. Mike & Susan Schlaack  
6-Joe & Jenni Otis  
12-David & Katheryn Brcic  
14-David & Jaclyn Daugherty  
25- Bruce Watson & Rebecca Lazar  
26- George & Julie Jonascu

### *Weddings*

September: John Peters & Jaclyn Selewski

### *Recent Funerals*

Vladimir Pyatenko

### *New Catechumens*

Ethan, Allison, Stella, Vera  
Kane, Stephanie  
Matthew  
Derek, Alexis, Maverick, Kamden



# PARISH LIFE

THIS MONTH

**Father Traveling:** August 29- September 9

**September 4:** Office Closed for Labor Day

**September 8:** Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy,  
10:00am at Holy Assumption

**September 12:**  
6:00pm Prayer Service for Sick & Suffering  
7:00pm Parish Council

**September 13:** Pan-Orthodox Vesperal  
Liturgy for Exaltation of the Cross, 6:00pm  
at St. George

**September 14:** Metanoia Classes Begin,  
6:30pm

**September 15-16:** End of Summer Backyard  
Fellowship Campout

**September 21:** Akathist to St. Iakavos of  
Evia, 6:00pm

**September 22:** Office Closes at noon

**September 30:** SMMOY Lecture with Fr.  
Gabriel

## **Wednesday Divine Liturgies:**

September 20th, 10:00am

September 27th, 10:00am

## **St. Sophia Tot Time**

Wednesdays, 11:00am



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL 2023

## **PARISH GREETERS**

**September 3:** Scott & Tina Shephard

**September 10:** George & Julie Jonascu

**September 17:** Seth & Mia Hillaker

**September 24:** Freida Owens

## **BELL RINGERS**

**September 3:** Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

**September 10:** Vivian Capatine & Tonya Rice

**September 17:** Cindy Welch & Ruth Karabina

**September 24:** Vivian Capatine & Tonya Rice

## **COFFEE HOUR**

**September 3:** Vince & Carol Lizzio

**September 10:** Chris & Rachel Burtka

**September 17:** Doug & Melissa Auxier

**September 24:** Tim Kruger & Jessica Wells

## **EPISTLE READERS**

**September 3:** John Wolf & Ruth Karabina

**September 10:** Jennifer Otis & Seraphim  
Pardee

**September 17:** Sue Walton & Rdr. Nathaniel  
Auxier

**September 24:** Rdr. Brian-Philip Walton &  
Sue Walton

# A RECTOR'S REFLECTION OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE PARISH

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

**Worship:** Despite the busy travel season, we have been blessed to maintain our regular scheduled worship services during the week and weekends. I want to thank Fr. Robert Royer for covering for me while I was in the United Kingdom for the Cleis wedding, as well as the choir who has continued to be strong this summer!

As a special shout out this past month, I want to thank both Pat Matts and Brianna Walton for stepping in to clean our Lord's home, as well as Brianna arranging the flowers for feast days for us. We give thanks to God for their willingness, as well as the willingness of all of our volunteers, to step up.

**Community:** We continue to be blessed by many visitors and inquirers to Holy Orthodoxy. If you see anyone new in the Church, be sure to offer them a service book and invite them for coffee after the services.

Also, as mentioned above, I traveled to Great Walshingham, England to celebrate the wedding of Christian and Chloe Cleis. It was a wonderful trip that was full of many blessings, including serving with His Grace Bishop Raphael of Scotland. This month, I will be in Greece to celebrate the wedding of John and Jaclyn (Sophia) Peters! May God grant both of these couples many blessed years!

**Education:** We have opened up registration for our Fall Metanoia classes, that will begin in the middle of September. This class is open to not only inquirers and catechumens, but to all of our faithful who want to learn more about their faith. After the conclusion of the Metanoia class, we will be having our second mini series on the Hidden Prayers of the Liturgy during the Advent Fast.

Church School will be taking a small hiatus as we begin to transition back to our main Church. This will be revisited in the next few months if we begin to experience long delays in the timeline of returning next door.

**Stewardship:** My thanks to Dcn. Michael and Rebekah Humphreys for presenting Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Sunday. We were able to collect and send over \$300 to continue the work of this important ministry outlined by our Lord in Matthew 25.



# St. Mary Magdalene

## Parish Council

### Upcoming Meetings:

All Meetings begin at 7:00pm

September 12th  
October 10th  
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.

## August Highlights:

- The center of the roof was completed under the dome.
- The east end was excavated and footings have been poured
- The dome interior incert has been completed and is moved onsite.



### TOTAL MONEY SPENT

JANUARY 1, 2022-

AUGUST 28, 2023

\$1,267,694.36

### DONATION FROM PRIVATE DONOR

\$509,925

### REMAINING FUNDS IN FLAGSTAR RESTRICTED

AS OF AUGUST 28 ,2023

\$739.56

### TOTAL FINANCED BY OCCIF FOR PROJECT

COMPLETION

\$550,000

### REMAINING OCCIF BALANCE AS OF

AUGUST 28, 2023

\$544,361.16

### AVERAGE MONTHLY

OCCIF PAYMENT

\$3,554.23

### TOTAL BUILDING FUND DONATIONS SINCE

JANUARY 1, 2023

\$10,504.00



## 8/28/23 Construction Report

Brothers & Sisters,

This past month we've continued to make progress on the church construction. What I will say is that we're just about out of the weeds and back on track to keep the building progress moving forward in a timely manner.

We have passed our rough electrical inspection with our rough plumbing inspection scheduled for this week. Our HVAC contractor is meeting with the inspector this week as well to discuss a few items that were left out of the original work that was completed. We're expecting to have this work finished with their inspection called in in the next 2-3 weeks.

Our rough framing inspection is called in for tomorrow morning, once this is approved we can insulate the area above the interior dome. The dome itself is being paint primed as we speak and will be delivered later this week. We will install the dome as soon as we can insulate which is estimated to be later this week to early next week.

The floating scaffolding is scheduled to be installed tomorrow. We will need this to complete the dome erection, insulation, drywall, and iconography.

The metal portion of the roof is on schedule to be installed this week.

We are working to have the foundation water-proofed this week as well to stop further water from entering through the openings previously left.

We have poured the footings for the east end addition & passed our inspection. Unfortunately, the gas & electric utility lines that were previously moved were not relocated to the proper locations. We are unable to pour the short-walls needed for framing until this is completed. As of now, Consumers is finishing up their relocation design and should have the lines moved in the next two weeks.

I have an engineer coming out tomorrow to inspect the trusses that have been sitting in the parking lot for the east addition. The building official has required that we have an engineer sign-off before we can install them.

After having the mold tested in the basement from the water lines that burst last winter, it was found that the mold & moisture content is much worse than we originally anticipated. We will continue mold mitigation this week through next. We're in contact with the church's insurance company to file a claim for these damages.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have relating to construction.

For urgent matters while I'm away from 8/31 - 9/18, please contact my Project Manager Mike Davis at 586-242-0139.

God Bless,  
John

# FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTINI

By the Grace of God we were able to donate close to \$400 worth of school supplies to Torrey-Hill Intermediate School right here in our own backyard! Thank you to everyone who donated supplies and money toward this project and thank you to Terri for taking the time to shop for the remaining items. The items will be distributed to students upon their return to the classrooms!

## UPCOMING



October - Blanket Making Project

November- December : Seminarian Angel Tree

*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”



# 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!**



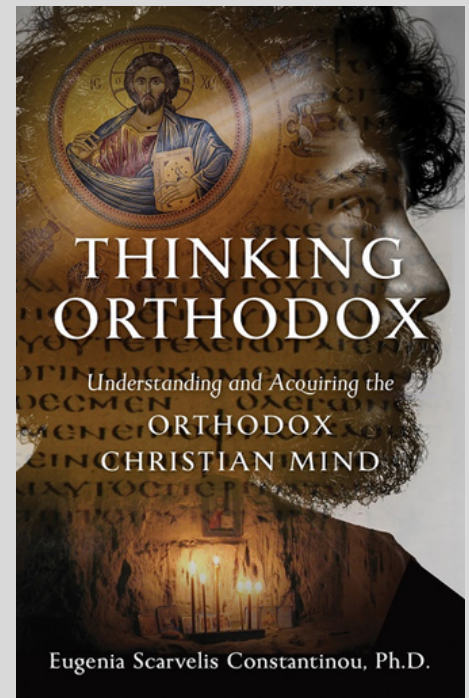
## PARISH KIOSK



The parish kiosk is still up and running. There will be new home prayer corner items arriving shortly. If you are looking for something and do not see it please reach out to the parish office so we can order it for you!

## THINKING ORTHODOX DR. EUGENIA SCARVELIS CONSTANTINO

What does it mean to "think Orthodox"? What are the unspoken and unexplored premises and presumptions underlying what Christians believe? Orthodox Christianity is based on preserving the mind of the early Church, its phronema. Dr. Jeannie Constantinou brings her more than forty years' experience as a professor, Bible teacher, and speaker to bear in explaining what the Orthodox phronema is, how it can be acquired, and how that phronema is expressed in true Orthodox theology - as practiced by those who are properly qualified by both training and a deep relationship with Christ.



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.



# MUSIC MINISTRIES

PARISH BELL RINGERS AND CHOIR



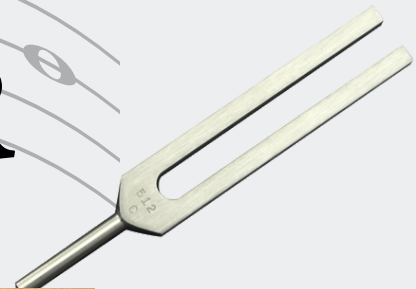
## Regular Bell Ringing Rehearsals

1st Tuesday of the Month, 10:30am

1st Sunday of the Month following Divine Liturgy

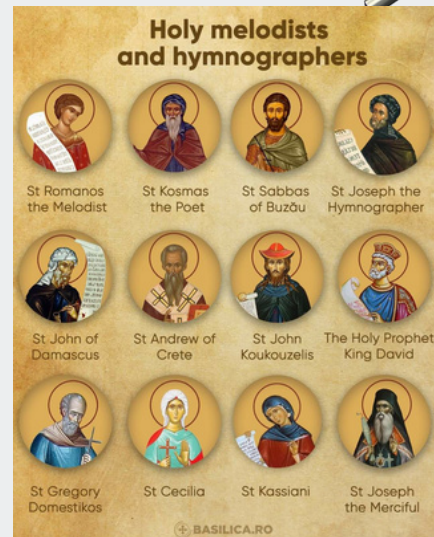
Contact Cindy Welch if you are interested in joining this ministry!

# PARISH CHOIR



There will be no regular choir rehearsals in the month of September.

If you are interested in joining the choir reach out to Reader Gregory Jannakos or Elena Schutt.



“  
*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!

**THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL TURN OUT AT**

### **THIS YEAR'S VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL!**

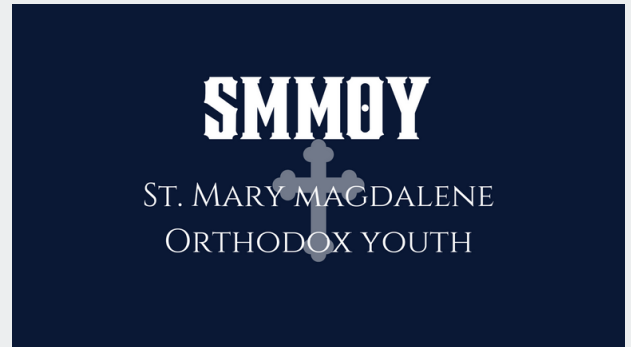
Hello Everyone!! Summer is quickly drawing to a close and I am sure you are all wondering about the new Church School year. After several discussions with Father Gabriel as well as with some of the teachers, it seems like the best way to go forward this year is to wait to begin church school officially once the expansion is complete and we have access to all the areas of the Education Center. I think we did well last year considering all that happened in this space. However, last year, the high school class did not meet because of a lack of space. This year, we will need to add another class due to the size of our 4 to 6 year old class. Thank you Lord for the continuing growth of our parish. But, this means there is a definite lack of meeting space on Sunday.

With that in mind, the hope is that the high school class will meet this year on Sunday after Divine Liturgy. As soon as the expansion is completed and we are worshiping in the "big" church, we will begin classes for all children ages 4-18. We have sent out a digital church school registration form as well as distributing paper registration forms on Sunday, August 27. Please complete either form as soon as possible. This will enable us to be prepared to begin class as soon as the expansion is completed and the Education Center has been converted back to learning spaces.

You can look forward to a weekly opportunity to engage with your children in their ongoing religious education. We will have available on Sundays, beginning in mid-September, a handout with some information and some follow-up questions for you to share with them.

Looking forward, we are brainstorming some ideas for fun family activities to keep our children and their families engaged with each other and church. Your ideas are encouraged and more than welcome.

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



**S.M.M.O.Y WILL MEET ON  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER  
30TH FOR A DISCUSSION  
WITH FR. GABRIEL**

### **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**

# YOUNG ADULTS

## BOOK CLUB AND FELLOWSHIP

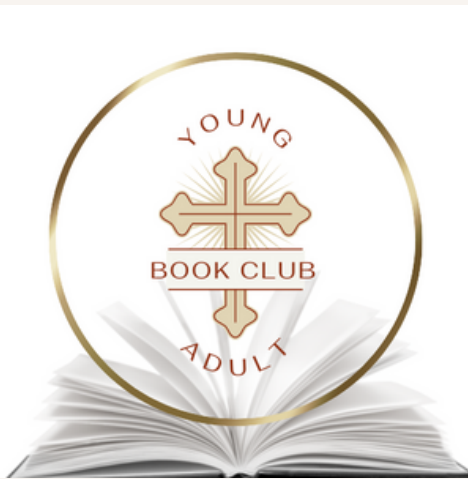
Our Young adult group is for anyone ages 21-45 who wish to join in fellowship and faith.

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

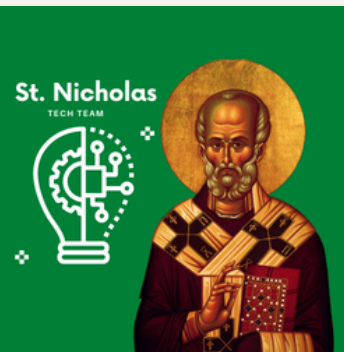
## Monthly Akathist 2023 SCHEDULE

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 Repentance
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>	TBD
NOVEMBER	6:00PM
<b>9</b>	TBD
DECEMBER	6:00PM
<b>14</b>	TBD

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

# 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 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

**SEPTEMBER 8:**

DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

10:00AM

HOLY ASSUMPTION

2245 E. BALDWIN RD

GRAND BLANC, 48439

**SEPTEMBER 13:**

VESPERAL LITURGY FOR THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS LIFE-GIVING CROSS

6:00PM

ST. GEORGE

5191 LENNON RD

FLINT, MI 48507

**St. George Orthodox Church**  
5191 Lennon Road • Flint, MI  
(Behind Kohl's) Between Linden and Dye Roads

# MIDDLE EASTERN LUNCH & BAKE SALE

**DINE IN** our **NEWLY Renovated Banquet Center!**

**Thursday, September 21, 2023**

**11am-2pm**

**Cost is \$17 per meal and Lunch includes:**

Cooked Kibbee, Green Bean Stew (*Yahnee*), Rice, Hummus,  
Salad, Pita Bread, Dessert, and a Bottled Water

**\*Vegetarian Plates available\***

**Free Delivery with eight (8) or more lunches!**

~~~ for more information and/or free deliveries ~~~

**call: St. George at 810-732-0720**

**DEADLINE for orders is September 7<sup>th</sup>!**

| Item                         | Number of Dozens | Price (\$20 per dozen) |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Kibbee                       |                  |                        |
| Meat Pies                    |                  |                        |
| Spinach Pies                 |                  |                        |
| Date Cookies ( <i>Kaak</i> ) |                  |                        |
| Baklava                      |                  |                        |
| Gharabeh                     |                  |                        |
|                              |                  | Price (\$17 per Lunch) |
| Lunch (as above)             |                  |                        |
| Lunch (Vegetarian)           |                  |                        |
| TOTAL                        |                  |                        |

~~~ **Lunch and items above** ~~~ **Pickups Available** ~~~

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Pick-up Time \_\_\_\_\_

Orthodox Christian Women (OCW) Presents

*Orthodoxy:  
Then and Now*

*V. Rev. Stavrophor  
Radisa Ninkovic*

Monday, September 18, 2023  
7:00 PM

Assumption of the Theotokos  
Greek Orthodox Church

21800 Marter Rd. St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Any questions? Contact us at [OCWMichigan@gmail.com](mailto:OCWMichigan@gmail.com)





*Become a St. Tikhon's  
Seminary*  
**SUS·TAI·NER**  
*Today*

◆ What is a Sustainer and Why do we need them?

Sustainers provide regular donations to the Seminary monthly, through an automatic deduction on their credit card.

◆ Adding 85 sustainers with an average gift of \$50/month = \$51,000 in additional annual income=tuition for 5 seminarians!

◆ How do you become a Sustainer?

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OR



Visit our website: [www.stots.edu/donate](http://www.stots.edu/donate)

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- ◆ Select the gift start date.
- ◆ Follow the prompts to fill in your personal and credit card information. Subsequent giving will happen automatically unless you change it.

*Help us celebrate 85 years by adding 85 Sustainers*

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ORTHODOX CHURCH



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TO  
810-750-1401

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about parish happenings!

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# save the date

## October

7-8 Diocesan Conference

17-20 Clergy Conference in Chicago

## November

12- Veteran's Memorial Day

15-Nativity Fast Begins

21- Liturgy for the Entrance

22-Molebin of Thanksgiving

29-Mini Lecture Series begins

## December

3- Annual Meeting

10-St. Nicholas Day Celebration

27-30 OCF retreat at Antiochian Village