

September 2022

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church



Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Rector

Office: 810-750-1401

Church Email: SMMOCAFenton@gmail.com

Father's Email: frgabrielstmm@gmail.com

2439 S. Long Lake Rd, Fenton, MI 48430

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

Office Hours*:

Monday 10:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm

Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

***or by appointment**

Monthly e-Newsletter

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parent's Love for Their Children

From the Desk of Fr. Gabriel

Children, whether they are given to us as parents, or spiritually adopted as God parents, are without a doubt a tremendous gift from God. And just like all of the gifts that we are given from above, whether it is a family, a home, a gift of love, or even the gift of a new day (which all of us here have been given today), the most important thing for us to remember is what to do with these gifts we have been given. As parents and Godparents, the answer is given to us. We are called to take the gift of children and to show, by the way we live our own lives, what the Love of God looks like. What better way to learn how to do that than by recalling the life of *"the disciple whom Jesus loved"*, and who's falling asleep we remember on September 26th, St. John the Theologian.

St. John is often called the Disciple of Love, not only because of his preaching, but also because of the role models that he had to learn from! Who better to learn what love is than from Jesus Christ Himself! John was an eyewitness to the greatest act of Love the universe had ever known, when he stood at the foot of the cross!

Not to be outdone by Christ, St. John was then given another Mother at the cross, when Christ told him to take Mary the Theotokos into his home. Imagine having gone from learning about love, first from God Himself, and second from Our Lord's Mother who spent her own life radiating the Love of her Son to the world!

There is a story in St. John's life after he returned from Patmos, that speaks to our role in the Church as it relates to our love of children. St. John was visiting one of the Churches in Smyrna, when he noticed this young boy who seemed to have a very natural love for God. He turned to the local bishop at the time and said: *"I am entrusting you with this boy, in the presence of this entire Church, Christ is my witness!"*

The bishop did what he was told, and looked after the boy, instructing him in the Church and eventually baptizing him in the faith. But as so often and sadly happens in our own day and age, this is where the bishop's involvement in the child's spiritual life ended. He eventually lost track of the boy, who met up with the wrong crowd, and eventually became the leader of a desert gang who was responsible for various raids, theft, and murder throughout the region.

After some time had passed, St. John returned to Smyrna, only to find out the fate of this young man. What do you think his reaction was? St. John was in his 90s at the time, nearing the end of his life, and here was this youth who he had barely known! What did he owe this child?

St. John, the disciple of Love, understood that we as parents, Godparents, and as a community, have a God given responsibility to protect the gift of Children that we have been given. So, after learning where this gang typically settled, this 90 year old disciple got on a horse and went out into the desert. St. John was captured by the lookouts and he asked them to take him to their leader.

UPCOMING THIS MONTH

7- Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos Vespers & Litija
7-Metanoia Begins!

8- Nativity of the Theotokos Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy, 10am @ SMM

8- Community Pet Blessing, 6:30pm

10-Altar Server Class, 3:00pm

13-Pan-Orthodox Vespereal Liturgy, 6:00pm @ St. Nicholas

17-Tatum Jannakos' Baptism, 3:00pm

18-40 days for Taisa Czubenko
18- Agape Meal

20-Parish Council, 7:00pm

24- Elijah's 1st Birthday
24-Aktathist to St. Silouan following Vespers

25-Church School Kick-off

25-Men's Group Gathering, 6pm



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Prayers for our Sick and our Suffering
His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman
Archbishop Damaskinos

- | | | |
|----------|---------|--------------|
| Vinne | Ivanka | Samantha |
| Elaine | Dawn | Douglas |
| David | Jeff | Janice |
| Pat | Terry | Bryan |
| Michael | Mike | Wayne |
| Jim | Rich | Pat |
| Elaine | Harry | Alexandra |
| Mason | Judy | Janet |
| Theresa | Anthony | Eva |
| Robert | Dorothy | Chrissy |
| Linda | Vicky | Greg |
| Hudson | Megan | Ava |
| Armindia | Shirley | Kristen |
| Mircea | Tinna | Cameron |
| Allison | Susan | Draxie |
| Steve | Brian | Kathy |
| Dimitri | Gloria | Mary Valarie |
| Damian | Sophia | |
| Martin | Sharon | |

Mother's With Child

- Michelle
 Matushka Danielle
 Elizabeth
 Tricia
 Renee
 Rachel
 Ruthanne
 Taylor
 Matushka Sara

Catechumenate

- Collin Jacqueline
 Jaclyn William
 Christopher Dimitry
 Sarah Nicholas

Seminarian Families

- Deacon Alexander &
 Matushka Danielle Earl
- Reader Paisios, Anna,
 John & Theodore
 Hamann

Anniversary of Parish Members Departed

10-Thomas Naum

Recently Departed

- Metropolitan Killistos Ware
 Matushka Patricia
 Matushka Anna
 Taisa Czubenko
 Mary Kosman

A Parent's Love for Their Children Cont.

When he was brought into the presence of the youth, the young man recognized the Saint immediately. The love St. John had shown him as a youth immediately penetrated all of the years of darkness that he had been living in. The young man turned around, and ran away in shame, but St. John ran after him saying:

"My son...why are you running away from your father? I am old and unarmed...have pity on my son and do not fear me! You can still hope in salvation...I would willingly die for you, just as Christ had died for us. I would give my soul for you!"

The young man stopped, hung his head, threw aside his weapon, and with tears, he threw himself into the Apostles embrace. Trembling with emotion, he repented and asked forgiveness. That day, the young man received a second baptism with his own tears.

This is an incredible story from the life of St. John, that gives us two important lessons to remember when it comes to our children.

1.) The way to show love and honor to the gift of children that we have been given by God Himself, is by having them grow up and instructed by God Himself in the Church. It is here where they learn what **Love** is...what **Truth** is...and what **Community** looks like. If we ignore this calling and don't bring up our children in the Church, it is the world that will teach them. When they eventually fall away, how much more difficult it will be for them to come back?

2.) If and when the faith of our children waivers by the temptations of the world...chase after them dear ones. We show our love for them, even when they are running away from us, to remind them of the love that they once had in the embrace of Christ and His Church.

Through the prayers of St. John, the Disciple of Love, may our Lord save and protect us and our children!



Prayers for our Armed Forces

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

*Jason Wilburn - Army Rangers
Alex Suriano - Air National Guard*

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

PARISH GREETERS

September 4

George & Julie Jonascu

September 11

Freida Owens

September 18

Seth & Mia Hillaker

September 25

Scott & Tina Shephard

COFFEE HOUR

September 4

Rdr. Tom & Cindy Chiatlas

September 11

John & Kristin Wolf

September 18

Rdr. Nathaniel & Amanda Auxier
agape meal -bring a dish to pass

September 25

Terri Oginsky

BELL RINGERS

September 4

Cindy Welch

September 11

Vivian Capatina

September 18

Cindy Welch

September 25

Vivian Capatina

WISHING YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!

BIRTHDAYS

3-NICODEMUS AUXIER

6- CINDY CHIATALAS

10-HARRIET RAPHAEL

11-ALEXANDRA COOLEY

13-MARGARET SHIPLEY

19-JERIMIAH BECKLEHAMER

20-ABIGAIL ARNES, TRICIA LEVEILLE & ELIJAH BILAS

30-ROBYN BALLNIK

ANNIVERSARIES

4-DAN & LEEANN BARNHART

6-FR. DN. MIKE & MAT. SUSAN SCHLAACK

6-JOE & JENI OTIS

13-RYAN & KRISTINA SHIPLEY

14-DAVID & JACLYN DAUGHERTY

25-BRUCE WATSON & REBECCA LAZAR

26-GEORGE & JULIE JONASCU

28-JOHN & PAT MATTS

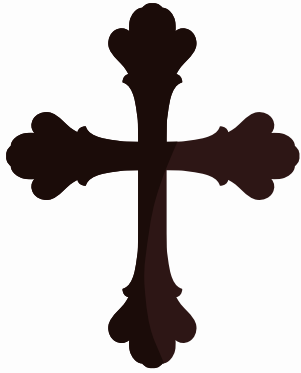
EPISTLE READERS

September 4
Rdr. Nathaniel Auxier
Rdr David Schutt

September 11
John Wolf
Theophan Forsyth

September 18
Jennifer Otis
Sbdn. John Auxier

September 25
Sue Walton
Rdr. Nathaniel Auxier



SCRIPTURE READINGS

September 4
1 Cor. 15:1-11
Matt. 19:16-26

September 11
1 Cor. 16:13-24
Matt. 21:33-42

September 18
2 Cor. 1:21-2:4
Matt. 22:1-14

September 25
2 Cor. 4:6-15
Luke 5:1-11



FIRST TRIP
around the sun

ELIJAH BILAS IS TURNING 1!

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

SEPTEMBER 24 1:40 PM

Elijah's House 4260 Neal Ct. Linden
Please RSVP to Mat. Laura by 9/20
440.334.7544

The Church is opened for
private prayer
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
10am -3pm
or by appointment



"The Church is a hospital, and not a
courtroom, for souls. She does not
condemn on behalf of sins but grants
remission of sins."
+St. John Chrysostom

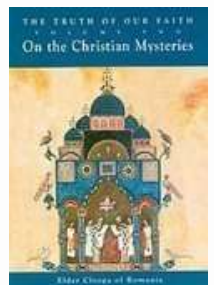
RECOMMENDED READING

THE TRUTH OF OUR FAITH VOL. 2
ON THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERIES

BY ELDER CLEOPA OF ROMANIA

The inner life of the Church, where man becomes "god by grace" (St. Athanasios the Great) through the reception of the Divine Energies or Grace of God, is centered on the Holy Mysteries. In this volume, Elder Cleopa explains the origins, meaning and purpose of the Holy Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation, Communion, Confession, the Priesthood, Marriage, and Holy Unction, while also deconstructing the errors of those who misunderstand or reject this life in Christ. Squarely based, as always, on Holy Scripture and its interpretation by the Holy Fathers of every age, Elder Cleopa brings to light neglected knowledge and rejected counsel stored up for so many centuries in the Orthodox Church - insights that could have helped avoid the disintegration of the Western church, and which may still aid in its restoration even today.

This book will be used for
this Semester of Metanoia
and is available in the Kiosk
for \$10.00 each
There are a limited number
of copies in the Library



MONTHLY FORECAST

Feast of the Nativity (Birthday) of the Theotokos:

In what is the first of the 12 major feasts of the Liturgical Year, we will celebrate Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos! Great Vespers will be on Wednesday, September 7th , at 5:30 PM. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Thursday September 8th at 10:00 AM. It is important for all of our faithful to celebrate these feasts together as a parish family, so please plan on making it to one of those two services!

6th Annual Pet Blessing, Sponsored by St. Mary Magdalene, Adopt-a-pet, and Uncle Ray's Dairyland

On Thursday, September 8th , we will have our 6th annual pet blessing at the Fenton Adopt-A-Pet beginning at 6:30 PM. This year, Uncle Ray's Dairyland will be providing an ice cream cart for all of the pets in attendance. Special coupons will be given to the pet owners to also go next door to the Ice Cream stand for a summer treat! Pass the word along to any and all pet owners!

Altar Server Class

A special altar servers workshop will be taking place on Saturday, September 10th at 3:00 PM. All altar servers should be in attendance for this important workshop to discuss their ministry in the Church! Parents please make every effort to bring your sons!

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

The second major Liturgical Feast of the Year is the Exaltation of the Cross, where we remember the finding of the Precious Cross of our Lord by Sts. Constantine and Helen! This year, we will be celebrating this Feast with our Brothers and Sisters in the Pan Orthodox Community on Tuesday, September 13th , at 6:00 PM at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Burton. (2143 S. Center Rd) Students that participated in VCS are asked to bring their basil plants to be blessed.

Agape Meal

We will have our last Agape Meal of the year on Sunday, September 18th after Divine Liturgy. Please plan on bringing a dish to pass. You are responsible for keeping your dish warm or cold and providing a serving utensil.

Metanoia Begins

After a long summer hiatus, our weekly Metanoia classes are set to begin once again! This year's metanoia classes have been completely re-done, and will take on a more apologetical approach by using the works of Elder Cleopa of Romania to help explain not only the tenants of our Orthodox Christian Faith, but also how we practice LIVING the faith rather than just learning about it. The first class (for catechumens and inquirers only) will be held on Wednesday, September 7th (after Great Vespers), beginning at 6:30 PM. Regular classes will begin the following Wednesday (September 14th) at 6:30 PM and go until November. Register for the class by reaching out to the parish office or signing up on our website!

Akathist to St. Silouan of Mt. Athos

This past summer, we received the relics of St. Silouan of Mt. Athos, who's feast is celebrated on Saturday, September 24th . After Great Vespers, there will be a special Akathist to this incredible saint!

Monthly Prayer Services for the Sick and Suffering

Beginning on the first Tuesday in October, our parish will be holding a monthly prayer service for the sick and the suffering, especially for those suffering from cancer. We will be praying the Akathist to the Mother of God "Pantanassa" (Queen of Heaven), and anointing the sick and all those present. Faithful are encouraged to visit our website for more information, and to submit names of those in need of prayers.

Church School Registration and Beginning

Be sure to check out the parish youth page for all of the details!

Men's Group Gathering

The men's group will come together on Sunday, September 25th at 6:00pm for a Bonfire hosted at Fr. Gabriel's Home.

BUILDING THE LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WOODS

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS ON THE FOUR PILLARS OF CHURCH GROWTH

What is Happening in the Pillar of Worship?

The past few weeks, we have had a whirlwind of activity at the Church. Rdr. Gregory and I attended the All American Council in Baltimore, where we were able to participate in daily Liturgies with Bishops, Priests, and Laity. Leaving Baltimore, although exhausted, I felt a bit recharged in terms of the future of our Orthodox Church in America, and in specific, our little parish in the woods.

We received relics of the vestments of St. Seraphim of Sarov, as well as relics of St. Silouan of Mt. Athos, and small relics of St. Innocent of Irkursk. When we have some financing, it would be nice to get some reliquaries or some icons for these relics.

August was also extremely busy in terms of special feast days. We celebrated together the Great Feast of Holy Transfiguration, as well as had a large gathering of our faithful at the Monastery of the Holy Dormition in Rives Junction, MI. Celebrating the feast at the monastery was a tremendous blessing, and it was extremely encouraging to see so many of our faithful parishioners take part in the festivities!

What is Happening in the Pillar of Community?

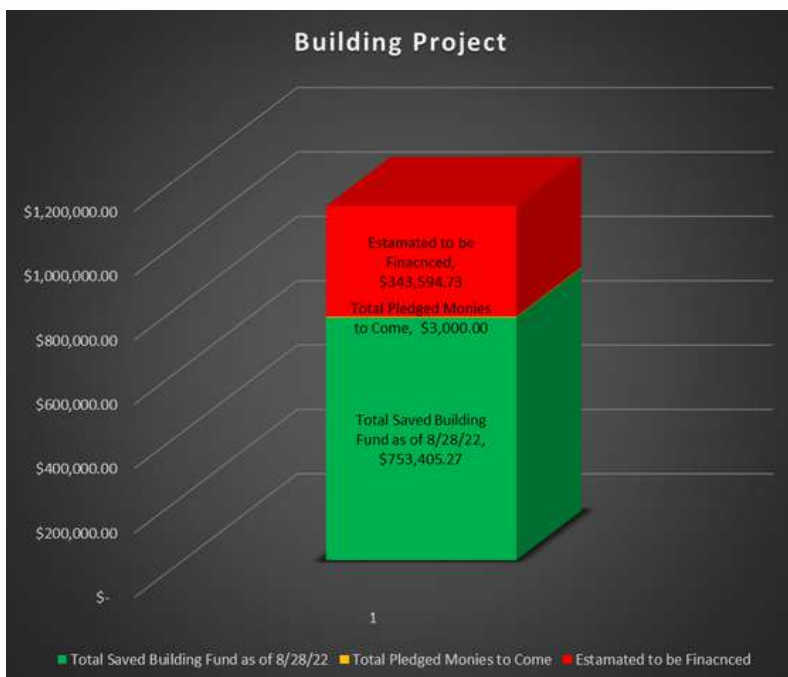
This past month, our parish family said goodbye to The Hamann family as they began their studies at St. Tikhon's Seminary for the next 3 years. We also lost a dear parishioner in Taisa Cuzbenko, who's funeral services were held in Fowlerville. On a bright note, we do have several inquirers, a few of which would like to be added to the catechumenate in the coming weeks. We brought back our parish family campout this last month with great success as we were able to fill 16 campsites with over 45 people!

What is Happening in the Pillar of Education?

By the grace of God, we completed our Vacation Church School One day program at the campgrounds! The theme was "Through the Cross", where our children learned all about the Feast of the Exaltation, and what the Cross offers us in our everyday lives. My thanks and congratulations goes out to all who helped to organize, and to all of our families who participated! This month, our Metanoia classes begin again after a long summer hiatus. This year, we will be using the works of Elder Cleopa of Romania to better understand the ins and outs of our faith.

What is Happening in the Pillar of Stewardship?

The Church was able to start the Hamann Family off with a collection on their last Sunday that should help significantly with moving expenses and to get them started up there while they settle in. We also thank all those who donated school supplies for our back to school drive!



Total Collected 7/28 -8/28
\$3,130



St. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

7/23/2022

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

The church building project is underway with the foundation for the addition coming along nicely. Soon, we will be able to see the expanded footprint for our beautiful church in the woods!

The Parish Council is requesting your continued support and is providing a status update on construction costs and funds. Here is our current situation:

+Currently we have \$503k in cash that should last us through the end of September at the current progress of construction. We have spent \$158k so far towards the main building.

+We have been approved for a \$350k loan through the Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund. This puts our total buying power at \$1,011,000.

+The estimated cost for the entire project is about \$1,100,000. Estimated costs almost always change in projects like this. Once framing has begun this fall, many planning contingencies will be resolved, and it will be easier to estimate remaining costs with more precision. We will update the estimated cost in October.

Based on the newest figures, the Parish Council is asking you to consider making additional contributions to the Church Building Fund so that we can meet the following goals. If we can raise an additional \$90,000, we will be in a better position to proceed without making changes to plans or schedule. If we raise more than this, we could potentially reduce the size of the loan, which would reduce the loan payment, expected to be about \$2,260 per month.

We will re-evaluate this plan in October when we have more precise information. At that point we can adjust as needed (e.g., delay some items, cut some finishes, or seek other funding sources). Any contributions to the Building Fund made before October will greatly assist our long term financial health and will help our construction planning as we expand our beautiful church in the woods!

In Christ,

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church Parish Council

DEACON ALEXANDER & MATUSHKA DANIELLE EARL

ST VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

To our parish family at St Mary Magdalene,

As we enter our final year of seminary, we would like to provide an update on our journey and express our gratitude for your continued support. I have had the privilege of serving as a deacon these past summer months at St. John of the Ladder Orthodox Church in Greenville, SC. Under the mentorship of Fr. Marcus Burch, I was privileged to not just serve in St. John's plentiful and beautiful liturgical life, but to spend time with many folks in various pastoral settings, be it from your typical coffee hour to visiting the sick and shut ins. I was able to offer a summer course on beauty, hang out with our youth and young adults, attend the All-American Council, host an educational forum on political philosophy at a local brewery, serve at the reception of several converts, and have many rewarding encounters along the way. I am now back in New York (much to my chagrin after the lovely stay in SC!) preparing for the final year of seminary.

But perhaps the biggest news is what, or who, comes in a few weeks. As of now, Mat. Danielle and I's first child, our daughter Cordelia, is expected no later than September 15th! We are both eager for her arrival and the blessings (and, let's be honest, challenges) she will bring. To welcome her into the world we have also been blessed to get an upgrade in our living situation: we have moved into a new and larger apartment at the seminary. So we can at least now say that Cordelia has a proper nursery. That was a fun room to set up, by the way, and by the grace of God my parents were able to travel to NY to help us get situated and moved in.

Lastly, God-willing, I will begin the process of petitioning for ordination to the priesthood this semester. I fervently ask your prayers and petitions during these coming months. Between physical fatherhood and spiritual fatherhood, I expect I will need as much grace as my soul can receive. Moreover, through your prayers and support we have taken on zero debt while in seminary. We genuinely cannot express our gratitude, and we continue to rely on your generosity as we wrap up this final year. Through your support, we are confident we will be in the best position to go obediently where the Church needs us to serve. We hope to see you all in the near future, and we continue to pray for you all as you make progress with the expanded temple.

By your prayers,

Dn. Alexander & Mat. Danielle Earl



READER PAISIOS, ANNA, JOHN & THEODORE HAMANN

ST TIKHON'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dear Parish Community,

We cannot thank you enough for your generosity to our family as we begin our seminary journey. The money raised for us covered much more than moving expenses, and we were both moved to tears by the thoughtfulness and love your generous gifts demonstrated to us.

Our family is doing very well! We had a bumpy transition as our first rental did not work out, but the seminary decided to quickly fix-up an on-campus, 3-bedroom homestead farmhouse for us, and we were able to move in after a week! It is such a blessing and we love living here. It feels surreal to have constant access to the monastery and to live in such a peaceful, beautiful mountain environment.

If we can ask more of you, please pray for us. Thank you for the constant love and support you have all shown us in countless ways over the past 3 years. We have been given so much, and so much of it through you.

You are all in our prayers.

Love,
The Hamanns





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

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

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

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

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



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

PARISH LENDING LIBRARY



The parish lending has recently gone through a reorganization and added several new titles. The list of current titles will be available digitally in the coming month. Use the sign-out sheet on the white board to check out a book. Make the most of your summer!

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



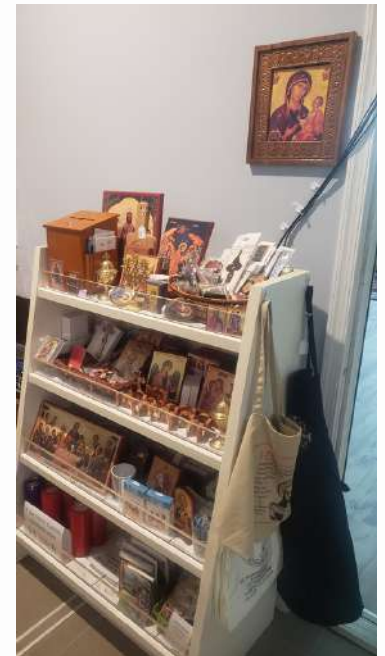
We are still here!!!!

P
A K
R I
I O
S S
H K

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

If you are looking for something specific please reach out to the parish office and we can order it from our suppliers. Your order helps support the parish.

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



PARISH CHOIR



There are NO rehearsals this month. Reach out to Rdr Gregory with any questions.



Welcome to Church School 2022-2023!! Can the summer really be almost over? We are looking forward to welcoming our children back to church school this fall. We will be registering new students and updating registrations for returning students during the month of September. If you have a child who is not already registered from last year, please see Terri Oginsky for a registration form.

The children and their teachers will gather on September 25 for a brief meet and greet. Parents, as always, are welcome to drop by. Classes will officially begin October 2 and run for 8 weeks through November 20. A second semester of classes will begin in the new year following our celebration of Theophany.

Children preschool age (4 years old) through 8th grade will attend class following Holy Communion. Because many things are happening in and around the education center at this time, the preschool will meet for about 15 minutes for a brief lesson while the other classes will meet for about 30 minutes. Because of these abbreviated times, there will be no snacks served during class.

Subdeacon Andrew and Meghan Durand will be making arrangements for meeting with the high school students.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

Terri Oginsky
Church School Coordinator
989-906-0135
toginsky@gmail.com

Saturday

SEPTEMBER 10TH

Altar Servers Class 3:00pm

Who can join?

- Altar Servers Workshop: Males who have received or are about to receive their first confession that would like to serve in the Altar.
- If you would like your son to serve in the Altar but they have not yet done so, please reach out to Fr. Gabriel.
- We ask that as many Altar servers as possible attend this class if they plan to continue serving. There will be a make-up class held on September 24th, but please make every effort to attend the initial class on the 10th!





SMMOY

ST. MARY MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX YOUTH

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

UPCOMING GATHERING

TBD, AS SETH AND MIA TRANSITION TO PARENTHOOD

COLLEGE CORNER

PRAYERS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Oliver Senter

Katerina Jonescu

Katheryn Brcic

Alexandra Kekel

Abigail Arnes

Tea Jonascu

Ethan Durand

Justin Auxier

Ava Arnes

Francis Lazar Senter





"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 2022- All classes begin at 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 7th:	Introductory Class for Seekers and Catechumens
Wednesday, September 14th:	Intro. to the Holy Mysteries of Baptism & Chrismation
Wednesday, September 21st:	The Early Church's Understanding of the Eucharist
Wednesday, September 28th:	Repentance and the Mystery of Confession
Wednesday, October 5th:	The Church and the Mystery of Holy Orders & Priesthood
Wednesday, October 12th:	Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? Holy Unction
Wednesday, October 19th:	The Eternality of Marriage
Wednesday, October 26th:	Death and the Funeral Service



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

THERE ARE NO CHARITY EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OUR BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY
DRIVE. THE TEACHERS AT TORREY-HILL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL WERE
BEYOND EXCITED AND APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR GENEROSITY.**

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

*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



6TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY PET BLESSING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH 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 6th 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

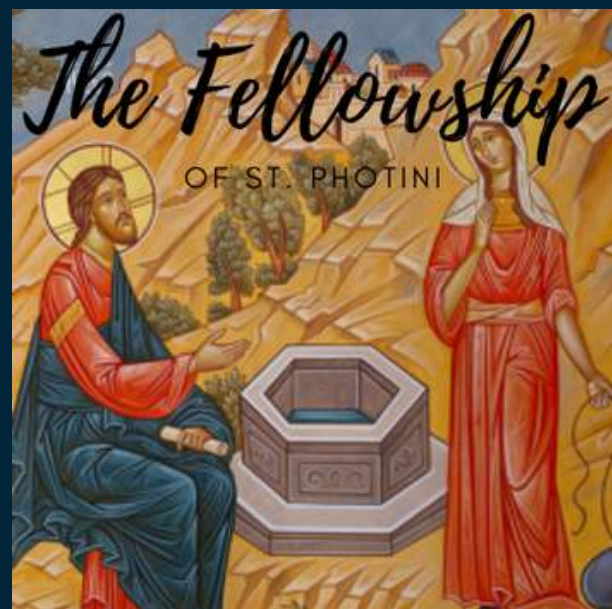
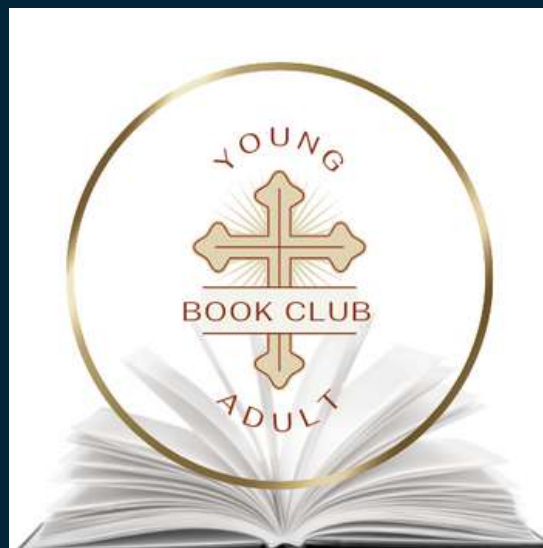
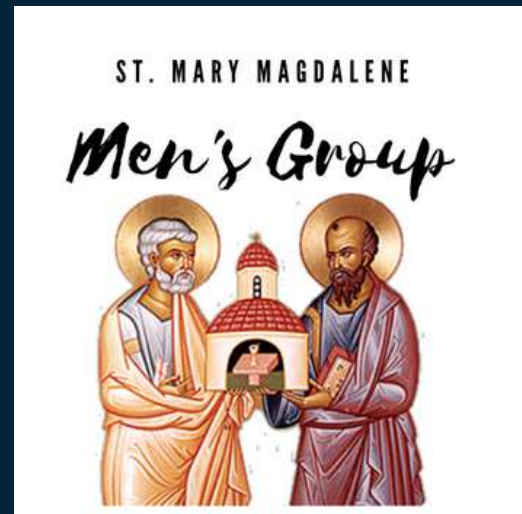
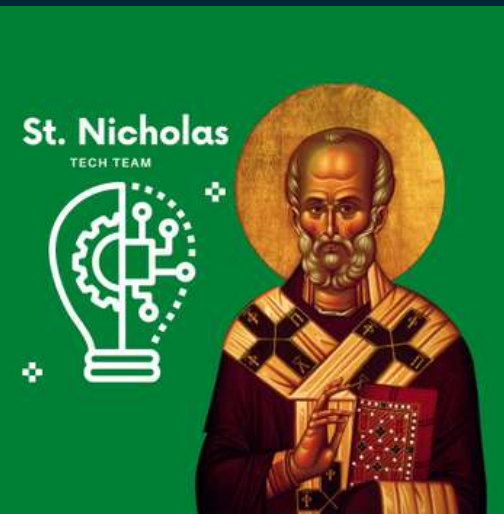


This year Uncle Ray's Dairyland will be sponsoring free treats for your pets from their dairy cart, while supplies last.





PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS





St. Mary Magdalene

Parish Council

Upcoming Meetings:

September 20th, 7:00pm

October, 11th, 7:00pm

Parish Council Members

Joe Otis, Chair

Reader Chris Ballnik, Secretary

Ann Schutt, Treasurer

David Welch

Tina Shepherd

Subdeacon Andrew Durand

Rachel Burtka

Terri Oginsky

Alternate: Jay Rice



FELLOWSHIP AGAPE MEALS

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

Sobornost: Divine-Human Oneness

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

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

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

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

-"The Morning Offering" Abbot Tryphon November 16th

2022 AGAPE

MEAL SCHEDULE

September 18th: Agape Meal, bring a dish to pass

There are no more agape meals scheduled for after September until the new year.

save the date

OCTOBER

- 2ND - CHURCH SCHOOL ORCHARD TRIP
- 4TH- AKATHISTS FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING BEGIN
- 29TH- HISTORICAL CEMETERY BLESSING
- 30TH- TRUNK OR TREAT

NOVEMBER

- 1ST- AKATHIST FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING
- 13TH- VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION
- 20TH- END OF THIS SEMESTER OF CHURCH SCHOOL
- 23RD- THANKSGIVING MOLEBIN
- 27TH- CRAFT SALE

DECEMBER

- 4TH- ANNUAL MEETING & CRAFT SALE
- 6TH- AKATHIST FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING
- 11TH- ST. NICHOLAS VISIT
- 18TH- BAKE SALE
- 24TH- ROYAL HOURS & VIGIL
- 25TH- CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT THE NURSING HOME FOLLOWING LITURGY



THE PAN-ORTHODOX CHURCHES
OF GENESEE COUNTY

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS



VESPERS & LITIJA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH
5:30PM

DIVINE LITURGY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH
10:00AM



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 •

TUESDAY



SEPTEMBER 13

HOSTED BY
ST. NICHOLAS

2143 S CENTER RD,
BURTON, MI 48519

CHILDREN WHO PARTICIPATED IN V.C.S. PLEASE BRING YOUR BASIL PLANT TO BE BLESSED

PAN-ORTHODOX GOINGS ON

The Pan-Orthodox Churches of Genesee County

Holy Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church

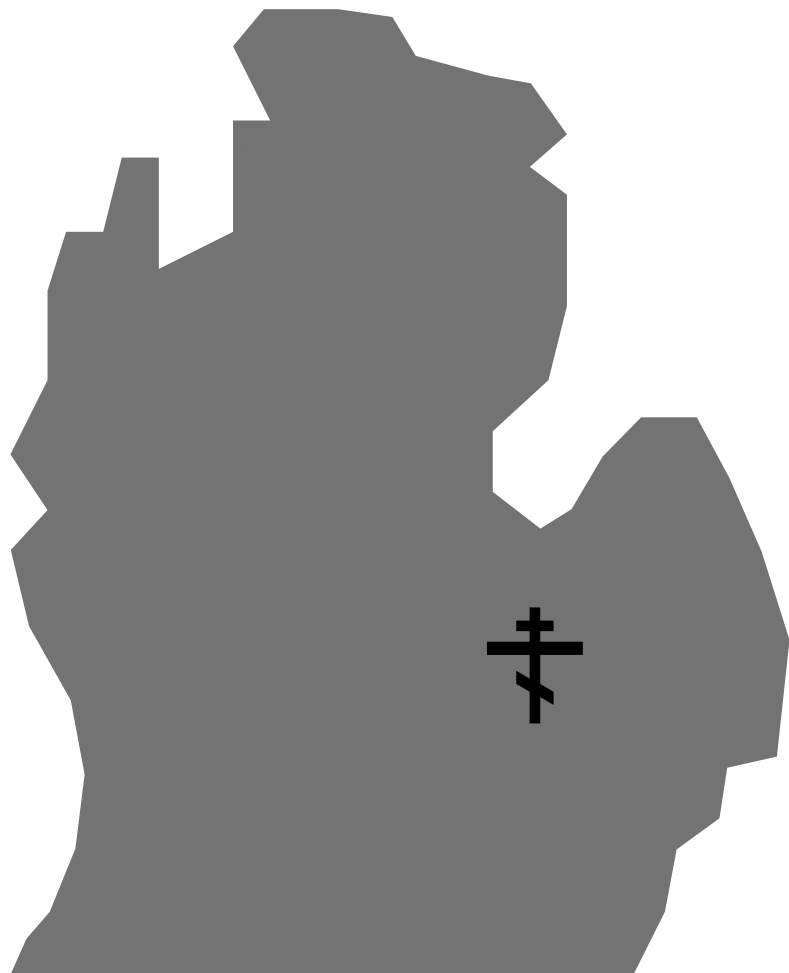
(2245 E. Baldwin Rd Grand Blanc, MI)

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

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox
Church

(2439 S. Long Lake Rd Fenton, MI)

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

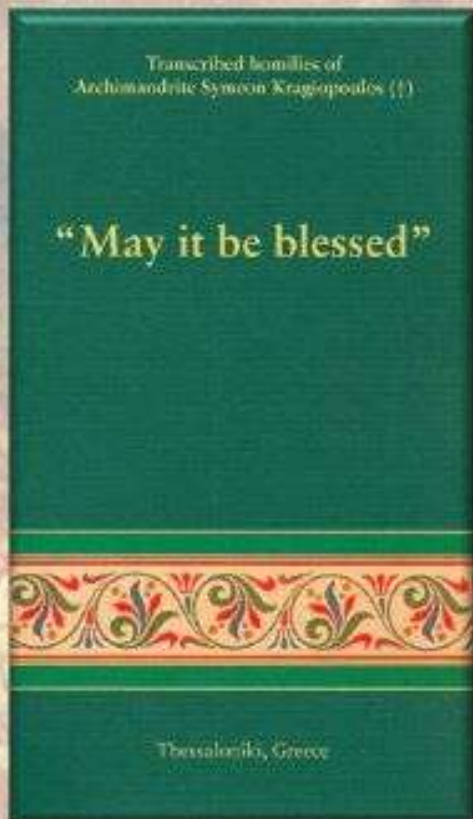


Orthodox Book Club Re-Boot!

It is time to re-boot our reading group and all are invited to join!

How does it work? 1) Get your book at the beginning of the month, 2) read and 3) at the end of the month gather together for fellowship and discussion!

Our first book, "May It Be Blessed" by Archimandrite Symeon Kragiopoulos (†), is a short (70 pp) and easy read yet profound in its teaching:



"... learn to say "May it be blessed" ... I believe that any Christian who not only understands the deeper meaning of this expression ... but will also learn, will continue to say it habitually, for him everything is settled, because this phrase contains everything. He will find his way and problems will be solved and his soul will be more and more free and the joy of God will spread through such a soul."

- Books are available NOW at St. George Church (\$8.00) - Make checks out to St. George Church Bookstore
- Sign up by 9/12 with Fr. Mike Bassett (frdnmike@gmail.com / 989.627.9580)
- Local (live) and remote (Zoom) discussions will be available - details to be coordinated by mid-September

St. George Orthodox Church



17th Annual Golf Classic

Flushing Valley Golf Club
1124 E Main Street
Flushing, MI 48433

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Saturday, September 24, 2022

- 10am SHOTGUN START
- HOT DOG LUNCH AT TURN
- DINNER/AWARDS AT FINISH
- RAFFLES
- GIVE AWAYS
- ALL ARE WELCOME

\$150 – Individual Hole Sponsor

Sponsorship tee sign

\$600 – Foursome/Hole Sponsor

Four golfers plus a sponsorship tee sign

\$1,000 – Beverage Cart Sponsor

Sponsorship banner, tee sign, and a 'Thank You' plaque

\$1,250 – Dinner Sponsor

Four golfers, sponsorship tee sign & banner

\$2,000 – Silver Sponsor

Four golfers, sponsorship tee sign & banner, and a 3-month 1/2 page advertisement in The VOICE of St. George monthly newsletter

\$3,000 – Gold Sponsor

Four golfers, two sponsorship tee signs, table cards, sponsorship banner, and a 6-month full-page advertisement in The VOICE of St. George monthly newsletter

\$5,000 – Benefactor & Friends

2 Foursomes, two sponsorship tee signs, sponsorship banner, 1-year full page advertisement in The VOICE of St. George monthly newsletter, and a sponsorship plaque displayed at St. George

Please make all checks payable to: St. George Orthodox Church (memo: *Golf Classic*)

Mail to: 5191 Lennon Road * Flint, MI 48507

For more information on the Classic, sponsorships, and/or reserving a spot, please contact:



Scan to
Pay!

Tony Daoud: 810-730-1011 or Church Office: 810-732-0720

email: SaintGeorgeGolfClassic@gmail.com

Please submit all entries by September 12, 2022



Scan to
register
online

Golf Team Information - *\$125 per golfer*

Golfer #1 (Captain's name):

Address:

Phone #:

e-mail:

Golfer #2 (name):

e-mail:

Golfer #3 (name):

e-mail:

Golfer #4 (name):

e-mail:

Division (circle one):

Men

MIXED- Any combination of men/women/or 4 women

Total Enclosed - \$ _____

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

MIDDLE EASTERN TAKE-OUT LUNCH & BAKE SALE

Thursday, September 22, 2022

11am-2pm

Lunch includes:

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

Vegetarian Plate available

Cost is \$15 per meal

Free Delivery with eight (8) or more lunches!

Use the QR Code to place your lunch or bake sale order or go to
<https://stgeorgeladies.square.site/> ~- for more information, & free
deliveries call: St. George at 810-732-0720



DEADLINE for orders is September 8th!

Item	Number of Dozens	Price (\$20 per dozen)
Kibbee		
Meat Pies		
Spinach Pies		
Date Cookies (<i>Kaak</i>)		
		Price (\$18 per dozen)
Baklava		
Gharabeh		
		Price (\$15 per Lunch)
Lunch (as above)		
Lunch (Vegetarian)		
TOTAL		

Name _____

Phone Number _____ Pick-up Time _____

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF MICHIGAN
(OCW) PRESENTS

"Big T" vs. "little t"
Traditions

Fr. Rade Obsenica

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
20500 Anglin Street
(Enter off Harned, south of Eight Mile)
Detroit, MI 48234

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

ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

LET'S GET CONNECTED!

Follow us!



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@ocasmmm



@ocasmmm



youtube.com/c/SaintMaryMagdalene

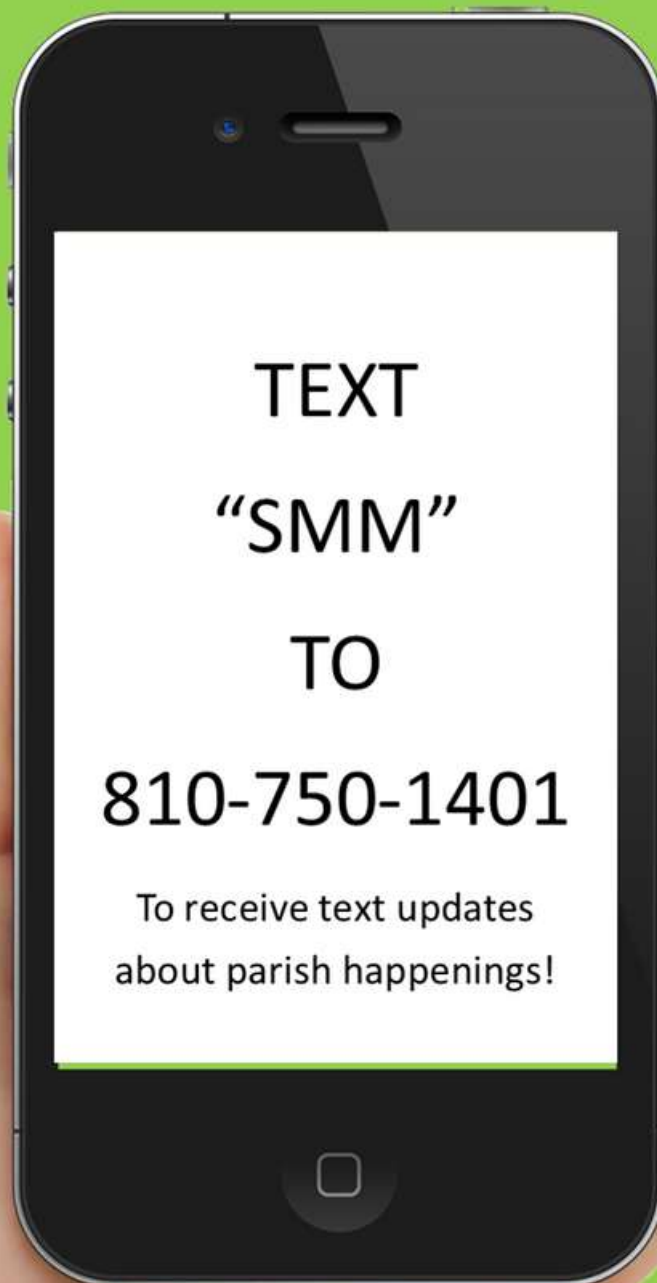
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St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH



TEXT

"SMM"

TO

810-750-1401

To receive text updates
about parish happenings!



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Call: 248-318-7342

Donation of

\$500.00

REFERRAL PROGRAM

To benefit the Building Expansion Project

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

Conne Terova
Real Estate One

Cell: 248-318-7342
cterova@gmail.com
teamterova.com

