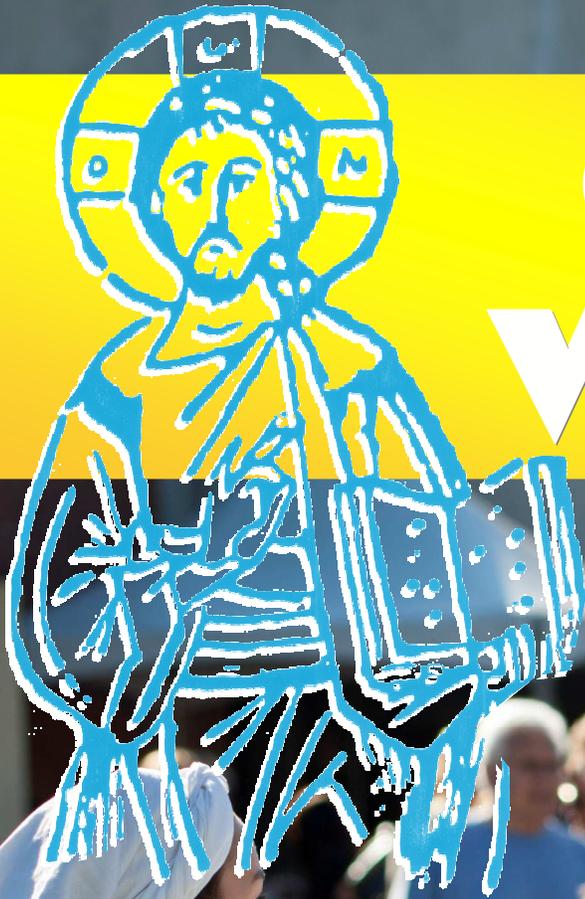


GOOD WORKS

Bi-monthly Publication of
The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches
of Metropolitan Detroit



FESTIVALS & FAITH!

Make the Church a
priority this Summer!



MAY-JUNE 2017

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Recently, in my own parish, we experienced the passing of a number of individuals who were young adults or relatively young. It caused me to reflect on the fact that we think we have all the time in the world to take care of spiritual things. One of the things we tell ourselves, is that we still have time to find our way back to our parish life. Our self-talk goes something like this, "When I get things organized at work, with my kids, at home, I'll find time for Church." Once we're on that cycle, we then realize it's been quite a while since we have touched base with our faith community. We then begin to worry about how to come back, how do we cross that threshold? It's really a matter of just showing up – it might be awkward for a bit, but that will pass. Your parish home is waiting for you and the Church needs you.

There's lots to do this summer, events that can enrich and reaffirm our faith. Take advantage of the Orthodox camping programs which we will be featuring on DOOR radio. FOCUS Detroit has expanded its Summer Feeding program from 500 children being fed in the area in 2016 to an anticipated 10,000 this year. They have created an easy way for us to sign up to volunteer (see details in this issue). The Orthodox Detroit Outreach ministry has organized another Mission Weekend for May 20-21 to help

fix local homes, their community garden and other projects around Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Southwest Detroit. The Orthodox Christian Women (OCW) are sponsoring their annual retreat on July 15 at Holy Dormition Monastery and will feature a guest speaker. Don't forget there are a lot of festivals to be enjoyed throughout the area – take a look at how other parishes organize their activities and be inspired.

This year, we are making preparations to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit. You'll find our mission statement printed to the right of this article. We will be sharing upcoming events in this publication, via COCCdetroit.org and through our weekly radio program DOOR. Direct correspondence to each parish will continue as well.

On a personal note, my family and I would like to thank you all for your sincere prayers, your comfort and condolences expressed at the repose of our beloved mother, Ellen. In a time of need, you realize how blessed you are to be surrounded and supported by a strong network formed not only in one's parish but the extended Orthodox Christian community.

Olga Liskivskyi

COCC President



OUR MISSION

"Go forth and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and Lo, I AM with you always, even unto the end of time." (Matthew 28:19-20)

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit is a cooperative organization of clergy and laity established in 1957. Our mission is to promote the Faith through worship, fellowship, charity, education, and outreach.

The devotion of all who serve and support us allows our witness of faith in Detroit to continue into the future.

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ON THE COVER: *Dancers share their cultural heritage at the Ya'ssoo Greek Festival of St George Church, Bloomfield Hills*

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MEMORY ETERNAL!

The Council of Orthodox Churches of Metropolitan Detroit announces with sadness that Ellen (Olena) Liss, mother of COCC President Olga Liss (Liskiivskyi), has fallen asleep in the Lord after a recent illness. She was a long-time, active member of St Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral (Southfield). May God rest her soul in peace, bringing us all hope through His Resurrection. ВІЧНАЯ ПАМ’ЯТЬ!

Matushka Barbara A. Frenchek, 69, wife of the late Deacon Basil Frenchek, fell asleep in the Lord on March 23, 2017. Deacon Basil and Matushka Barbara were faithful worshippers and workers at St Paul Cathedral, Dearborn Heights. May Matushka Barbara’s memory be eternal!

+ FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Beloved Faithful,

Ah, the ‘lazy, hazy days of summer’ are about to come upon us. That means, at least for some, parish members who spend time in Florida will have made their way back North. Others, maybe mostly with children will be hitting the road for some vacation spot or another, maybe Disneyland or some other entertainment park, maybe somewhere in Northern Michigan, or Niagara Falls, etc. Others, will just enjoy the warm breezes wafting through their windows at home, or the splashing waters of the swimming pool in the back yard, or the sunshine at the local park. So many options.



I know that when I came to our parish (26 years ago!) the summer months meant Sunday mornings in a miserably hot church. Because of that, I often didn’t blame people for being in town but not coming to church. It was a poor excuse, but... I know I myself was uncomfortable. (Now with the comfort of A/C in the church, we’ve eliminated that excuse.) In any case, and here comes the voice of the priest in me, summer isn’t time for vacation from God. I bet you’ve never heard that before!

Let’s be honest, vacations are wonderful. They’re good for us. They give us a break from our usual, often hectic work schedules. We can relax, turn off the cell phone and internet (what a novel idea!) and spend time with our families, recharge our batteries. *That’s why God created vacations, you know.* Why do you think He created the “Off” switch on all

our wonderful modern devices? He wants us to pause, to stop and *look around*, to take advantage of the free time He gives us, to enjoy His beautiful weather, and marvel at His gorgeous landscapes, etc. He doesn’t, however, want us to “disconnect”

He wants us to pause, to stop and look around, to take advantage of the free time He gives us (...), He doesn’t, however, want us to “disconnect” ourselves from Him.

ourselves from Him. And so His holy Orthodox church – that can be found just about everywhere, will still be open Saturday evenings for Vespers, Sunday morning and feast days for Divine Liturgies, etc. (Oh, and incidentally, regardless of what you spend on your vacation the bills of His Church, your parish, will still need to be paid.) All will be the same and our responsibilities toward Him will be the same, because life will always be the same – the amazing gift to us from the One who is the same yesterday, today and forever. So whatever you do this summer at home or away, take Him with you, seek Him out, and thank Him for ‘the lazy, hazy days of summer’.

With Love in Christ,

Fr Laurence Lazar

President of the Detroit Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood
Spiritual Advisor to the COCC

MONDAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Second day after Pentecost)

The Vespers service of Pentecost (in some Churches, done immediately after Liturgy) is called the “Vespers of the Kneeling”. During this Vespers, the faithful kneel three times and pray for the Holy Spirit to illumine them and guide them as the period of the Pentecostarion comes to a close. Both this Vespers and the next day is dedicated to the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit came as “tongues of fire” upon the heads of the Apostles on Pentecost and illumined them for their ministry. We know that the Holy Spirit is “the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets.” We know that the Holy Spirit is the “Comforter,” who guides us and illumines us at our baptism and chrismation, and throughout our lives if we choose to accept it. *(from Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto)*



COMMEMORATION OF ALL SAINTS (First Sunday after Pentecost)

The first Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives.

Honoring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honorable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the Apostle Paul, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if it did not require the shedding of blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we honor all the Saints, the friends of

God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Savior" (Sunday of All Saints, from Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor on this day, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

(from goarch.org)



Icon of All Saints (All Saints Church, Hartford CT)



The Sacrament of ORTHODOX MARRIAGE

Holy Matrimony (Marriage) is a Sacrament (Holy Mystery) of the Orthodox Church, in which a special union of a man and woman occurs and the two become one, as God transforms human love and desire for companionship into a union of body and spirit, of heart and mind. The beauty of the Marriage Divine Service reveals a vision of Marriage as an icon of the nature and life of God. It is God Himself, through His priest and His Church, Who unites the couple and maintains them in peace and oneness of mind. In contrast, in Roman Catholic and Protestant weddings, the bridal couple themselves marry each other by their mutual exchange of vows. However, in the Orthodox Marriage Divine Service, no vows are exchanged at all, because no human vow can possibly unite a man and woman together in the grace-filled and absolute way called for in a true Orthodox Christian and Christ-centered Marriage. The Service includes many prayers that, just as God blessed various holy people in the Biblical past, so He might also now bestow His blessings of peace, harmony, love, chastity, fair children and a holy life upon the bride and groom.

There are two parts to the Marriage Divine Service: the Service of Betrothal and the Service of Crowning.

The Service of Betrothal

In the past, the Betrothal was essentially the rite of what today we call becoming “engaged,” and was performed separately from the Marriage Crowning. Today, the Betrothal and Crowning are usually served together. The Betrothal customarily is done at the rear of the church. The central act of the Service of Betrothal is the giving and exchanging of rings, with the accompanying prayers. Because a circle symbolizes oneness and eternity, the exchanging of rings during the Betrothal signifies the consent and desire of the couple to be united by God in a permanent union. The exchange of rings is also a sign of their pledge to each other and to God to preserve their marital union, and to follow God's commandments. (The exchange of rings does not constitute the act of marriage itself, as it does for Protestants, Roman Catholics and in civil weddings: there are no vows, no “I do’s,” no “With this ring, I thee wed...”)

The giving of the rings to the couple by the priest represents the pledge of God’s blessings on their Marriage. The wedding rings are worn on the right (not left) hand by Orthodox people, because the grace and power of God’s activity is symbolized by God’s right hand and arm.

The Service of Crowning

After the Betrothal, (in the Slavic practice) the priest leads a procession to the front of the church. This symbolizes that the betrothed couple are approaching the Kingdom of Heaven as they are about to partake of the Mystery (Sacrament) that parallels the great Mystery of the union of Christ, as the Heavenly Groom, with His Bride, the Church. The priest then blesses the bride and groom with candles, and gives them to the couple (or sponsors), who hold them throughout the Service of Crowning. The candles symbolize the couple's desire to live holy lives in a true Orthodox Christian Marriage, which will be a light, example and witness to others of Christ's love. It is the priest who gives the candles to the couple, to represent that it is God Who gives the blessings of purity and holy life in their Marriage. Also, the lighted candles symbolize Christ as the Light of the World, and thus, here expresses the couple's desire to follow Christ as The Way, The Truth and The Life.

The Crowning is the central act of the Marriage Sacrament, the act by which the couple is married. The Crowning is a visible expression of the bestowing of the grace of the Holy Spirit, whereby the man and woman are united by God to each other. The crowns represent God's blessing of glory and honor upon His servants, as expressed in the Prokeimenon: "Thou hast set upon their heads crowns of precious stones; they asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest it to them" (Psalm 21:3-4). The crowns also symbolize the crowns of victory of the martyrs, who witness and die for Christ's sake, and thereby enter into the Kingdom of God. This is because in true Orthodox Christian Marriage the husband and wife must die to themselves and give up their own selfish desires, and live for God, for each other, and for the good of the children born of the holy union. The Marriage Crowning furthermore is a coronation of a king and queen, for the Orthodox Christian home is a little Kingdom of God, a little church, in which the husband and wife are king and queen. In the Epistle reading (Ephesians 5:20-33), St. Paul explains how the great Mystery of the union of Christ with His Bride, the Church, is the prototype of the mystery of the union of the husband and wife with each other. In the Gospel reading (John 2:1-12), we are made present at the Marriage in Cana, where Christ blessed Marriage by His Presence. As Christ then transformed ordinary water into fine wine, so likewise, Christ now transforms human love into a love pervaded and sanctified by divine grace.

The first act that the now newly married couple does is to drink three times from the Common Cup. This act expresses (1) their unity with each other in the Holy Trinity; (2) their common life in the Body of Christ - the Church; and (3) that in their Marriage they become as one person, complementary to each other,

sharing all things as one person - both joy and sorrow, blessings and tribulations. Drinking of the Common Cup is also a symbolic reference to receiving Holy Communion together, which is the first and primary act of the Christian life, and therefore, necessarily the first and primary act of the Orthodox Christian Marriage. In the Orthodox Church, receiving Holy Communion together is viewed as the visible expression and consummation of Holy Matrimony. Originally, Marriage was a part of the Divine Liturgy, and the Common Cup truly was the Holy Communion. (The Common Cup used here, however, does not contain the consecrated Blood of Christ.)

The second, act that the newly married couple performs in their Christian life together is to process three times, led by the priest, around the central table, upon which are placed the Holy Gospels and the Life-Giving Cross, while the, hymn, "O holy martyrs, who fought the good fight and have received your

The Marriage Crowning furthermore is a coronation of a king and queen, for the Orthodox Christian home is a little Kingdom of God...

crowns....." is being sung. This procession is similar to the triple procession in Baptism, because the new life as a married couple is similar to a new spiritual birth in Baptism. The meaning of the Marriage triple-procession is that the husband and wife are always to process through life in worship of the Holy Trinity, making God's Word and the Cross the center of their Marriage and home. For only when God indeed is the center, nourishing the roots of their Marriage, is the ground fertile enough to receive and cultivate the fruitful blessings of Orthodox Christian Marriage — the beauty of love, unity, peace and creation of new and holy life.

The husband and wife, now made one by God in the Crowning, must continually renew the spiritual roots of that unity, living as though the crowns were always on their heads, by faithfully re-enacting in their daily lives these first and second acts of their Orthodox Christian Marriage, and witness to the power of Divine Love present in the little church that is their home.

By,
Sister Ioanna
St Innocent Monastic Community, Redford



The DOOR is open... have you stopped in?!

Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio continues its work in providing quality programming each Sunday, thanks to the hard work of our volunteer staff, special guests, clergy contributions, and of course, listeners like you!

We are expanding subjects and special interviews that are entertaining and informative for the entire family. With God's help, the program will continue to evolve as an Inter-Orthodox effort for our parishes, faithful and the entire city!

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nesses, restaurants, banquet halls, and professionals is available! Program sponsorship is also available for your personal or parish special occasion! We also hope you will consider a gift (see form below) to support DOOR and keep us on the air!

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690AM
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The COUNCIL OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCHES of METROPOLITAN DETROIT

A cooperative organization of clergy and laity, established 1957

PRESS RELEASE

February 22, 2017

To the Hierarchs, Clergy, Parish Leaders and Faithful of our Community:

On February 21, 2017, at the regular meeting of the COCC, a motion was unanimously approved *that The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) with its ministry Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio (DOOR), regrettably suspends any involvement with Outreach Detroit Foundation (ODF).*

You may or may not be aware of this recently established entity (ODF), however we convey this action to alleviate any confusion that may exist regarding the two organizations. We reaffirm that DOOR is a working committee of the COCC's media ministry, and ask for your renewed physical, financial and spiritual support of the COCC and DOOR, with our prayers that we all may have a peaceful Lenten journey to Pascha.

Contact Olga Liss (248 252-8184), President of the COCC for more information.

www.COCCdetroit.org
www.DOORradio.org

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Statement above was published on COCCdetroit.org and mailed to all parishes on February 22, 2017. A follow-up was also transmitted to the St John Chrysostom Clergy Brotherhood. Several situations where confusion and concern have been caused among clergy and within parishes have arisen, so we felt it necessary to publish this Statement / Press Release here in Good Works.

The ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF MICHIGAN (OCW), is an organization of ethnically diverse Orthodox Christian Women from around the metro Detroit area, sharing our holy Orthodox faith through topics and presenters, charitable works and fellowship. Now, more than ever, come, we invite you to join us, as this is the best time for all of us Orthodox women to come together with what is happening in the world. Hope to see you soon. - Mary Ann Dadich, President

SPEAKER SERIES



MONDAY, JUNE 19 | 7PM

"MARRIAGE TO NON-ORTHODOX", Fr Radomir Obsenica
St Mary Protectress Ukrainian Cathedral, Southfield

SATURDAY, JULY 15 | 9AM

"UTILIZING MY SEMINARY EDUCATION", Christina Stavros
Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 7PM

"INCLUDING THE CHURCH IN DAILY LIFE", Fr Michael Manos
St Mark Church, Rochester Hills

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16 | 7PM

"ORTHODOX PARENTING", Panel Discussion
Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 | 10AM

"THE CHURCH IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE...", Fr Joseph Abud
St Mary Antiochian Church, Berkley

ALL WELCOME at these FREE,
Educational programs!

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF MICHIGAN

ANNUAL RETREAT

"A ROAD LESS TRAVELED:
WHY I WENT TO SEMINARY"

Presented by Christina Stavros Kidonakis

HOLY DORMITION MONASTERY
Saturday, July 15, 2017 | 9AM-3PM

Divine Liturgy and Lunch Included
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY JULY 8
Members \$15, Non-members \$20 (\$25 after July 8)

Checks payable to: OCW | Mail to: Loretta Gates,
37 Scottsdale Dr, Troy 48084 (248 689-9721)



Are you, or is someone in your family a college / university student? The Orthodox Christian Fellowship is a registered student group at over 200 colleges and universities.

Statistics show that a staggering 60% of students *may* not return to active church involvement once they leave for college. OCF is an avenue which can help change this!

In Michigan, there are currently ACTIVE groups at:

- The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Michigan State University, East Lansing
- Oakland University, Rochester
- Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids
- The University of Michigan, Dearborn

Groups are in the PLANNING stages at:

- Wayne State University, Detroit
- University of Detroit-Mercy, Detroit

Fr Joshua Genig has recently been appointed as the Liaison between the COCC and these respective OCF groups. Our intention is to offer greater support to the young people on college campuses and to better coordinate the activities already in place with the spiritual fathers and students! The immediate goal is to formally (re-) activate the group on Wayne State's campus. There are many Orthodox students that could benefit and have shown an interest, so please help us move this project forward! The faculty support and clergy advisers are already in place!

With your help we can make these groups happen! If YOU are a current or incoming student at any of these schools, or would like to help us, please simply drop an email via: www.coccdetroit.org in the "contact" section.

Grow in your Faith with new friends during the college years... you will be glad you did!

www.COCCdetroit.org
www.OCF.net

On May 31st, 2016, a group of missionary volunteers left from Newark airport in the evening hours for a long, but exciting trip to Ukraine to visit two orphanages. The destination of this team were the orphanages of Znamianka (Kirovohrad region, about 180 miles south of Kyiv) and Puhachiv (Zhytomyr region west of Kyiv) in Ukraine. Living in these two orphanages are about 220 children all with special needs. Over the past 18 years through the Hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA,



REFLECTIONS

College Mission to Ukrainian Orphanages

its ministries and faithful along with the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund the Church has been able to outfit Montessori programs and rehabilitation rooms, fund physical therapy and provide support for the Montessori teachers. Through the years, various teams have painted all the rooms and hallways in the orphanages, replaced water heaters, installed air conditioners in the hallways along with new windows, updated the

orphanage bakery, fixed elevators and built a chapel. A few years ago, a used 22 passenger minivan was purchased to provide transport for the children's doctor's visits and for field trips. All this major work was supplemented with regular donations of clothing, diapers, toys and school supplies.

When you first walk into either of the facilities, it can be overwhelming to see so many children with cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, severe paralysis, fetal alcohol syndrome, birth defects and developmental issues. But, the children's warm greetings and their need for hugs and simple human interaction make it easy to be with them. In preparation for the trip, extra luggage was packed containing medications, school supplies, toiletries and gifts from sponsors. With the funds raised for the trip, the team was able to hire a troupe of local actors to stage a children's play. The audience, the children of the orphanage, were dressed in their festive attire anxiously awaiting the performance. Afterwards, there was a performance staged by the very talented children who sang and recited poems they learned from memory.

In Puhachiv, there was an opportunity to attend services in the local chapel built on the property of the orphanage. Being able to walk with the children, hold their hands, enjoy an evening going to a local pizzeria, these were just a few of the daily events we enjoyed at both orphanages. We were able to help with physical rehabilitative activities, helped in the Montessori classes and played games with the children.

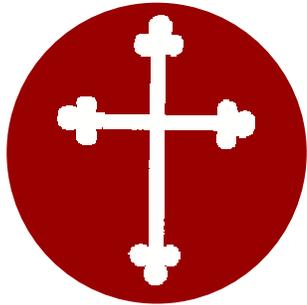
The team lead by His Grace Archbishop Daniel and Olga Coffey consisted of: V. Rev. Patrick Powalinsky (UOC Canada), Deacon Paul Cherkas (Holy Archangel Michael UOC – Woonsocket, RI), Subdeacon Volodymyr Yavorskyi (St. Sophia Seminary), Xrystuna Tyapko (Holy Archangel Michael UOC, San Francisco, CA), Julianna Wasyliuk (Holy Archangel Michael UOC – Baltimore, MD) and Andrew Powers (St. Mary the Protectress UOC – Southfield, MI).

Andy Powers commented that "As members of the team, our hearts and lives were transformed and our Faith was renewed." During their closing team meeting, His Grace Archbishop Daniel explained that "though the trip was ending, their mission had just begun. We were privileged and humbled to experience firsthand the daily lives and challenges faced by these children as they endure many hardships with a smile."

During their May monthly meeting (2017), Andy Powers prepared a brief presentation and expressed his gratitude to the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit. In addition, he is grateful to Fr. Teodor Petrutiu (Sts. Constantine & Helen GOC, Westland, MI), the school children and parents of Lesia Ukrainka School of Religion and Ukrainian Studies and the parish of St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Southfield, Michigan for their generous support of him financially which made his participation in this mission possible.

- Submitted to GW by a friend

IOCC 25 YEARS



INSPIRED BY FAITH.
DRIVEN BY PURPOSE.



[Baltimore MD] This year, Orthodox Christians in the United States will commemorate twenty-five years of global philanthropic outreach by International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), the official humanitarian agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.

IOCC was formed by the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), the predecessor to the modern-day Assembly, in 1992 along with lay leaders Mr. Charles R. Ajalat, Mr. Andrew A. Athens, and Mr. John G. Rangos, Sr. IOCC is also grateful for the faithful support of honorary board members Mr. George M. Marcus and the late Dr. George J. Farha, who both played essential roles in ensuring its growth and continued service over the last 25 years.

IOCC united the efforts of Orthodox Christians in response to the historic upheaval caused by the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the wars in the former Yugoslavia, which displaced 2.5 million people. Since then, IOCC has provided more than \$600 million in humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people in more than 60 countries.

Current programs include humanitarian aid to internally-displaced persons and refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria; relief for the people of Greece affected by

the prolonged economic crisis; and, education, health and water projects in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, and elsewhere around the world. IOCC maintains one of the largest humanitarian distribution networks in Syria, where its programs aim to provide clean water, food, medical supplies, psychosocial support and other assistance to millions of internally displaced and vulnerable Syrians and those seeking refuge in neighboring countries.

Throughout its history, IOCC has also responded to refugee crises in southern Ethiopia and Iraq; provided support and medical supplies to refugee families with disabled children in Jordan; and, offered courses in English and computers to refugees in Lebanon to support job placement. In the United States, IOCC's Front-line team of emergency response trained Orthodox clergy and lay volunteers stand ready to support relief efforts, having answered the call after Hurricane Katrina and countless tornadoes, floods, and other weather related disasters across the country.

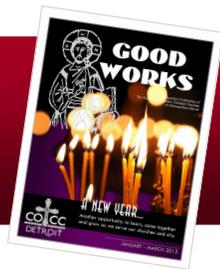
In addition to its emergency and refugee response efforts, IOCC also supports long-term economic development projects. In Greece, where an estimated one-third of the population now lives below the poverty line, IOCC provides essential food and school supplies to 5,000 struggling Greek families, and works to stimulate agricultural output in the north to

create sustainable employment for 2,000 farmers. In the Western Balkans, IOCC has assisted more than 1.5 million people through refugee return and assistance, agriculture and food production, community development, education and business development programs. IOCC's micro-credit program in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which began in 2002, has invested \$22 million into 13,000 loans for micro-businesses with an average monthly repayment rate of 99%.

Mark D. Stavropoulos is IOCC's Chairman of the Board, who leads a diverse group of philanthropists and community leaders, all of whom represent IOCC's pan-Orthodox constituencies. He commented on IOCC's silver anniversary: "It has been my deep privilege to serve alongside my fellow Board Members, IOCC's dedicated staff across the globe, our exceptional partners in the Orthodox Church, and our partner organizations to help those in need. We take care to select projects that are able to achieve the longest-possible impact amongst the highest-number of beneficiaries. And though our programs are meant to provide for others, our inspiring beneficiaries provide the entire IOCC team with immeasurable love, hope, and wisdom that keeps us humble in our work."

For more information, please visit www.iocc.org/25years.

YOU CAN HELP US!



Our “Good Works” Publication is an effort of love and joy which is intended to provide a FREE, bi-monthly resource of articles, photographs, educational material, announcements, and other information for Orthodox Christians, and the public here in Detroit. It is a labor intensive, yet integral part of the COCC’s Media Ministry and is becoming a stronger connecting mechanism for our parishes and faithful!

We grateful for the positive comments received, and welcome your submissions (and even constructive critiques).

If you find merit in “Good Works”, or other aspects of the COCC, we hope you will find it in your heart to support us with a donation. Your contribution enables us to expand our publication and the work of the COCC. Simply fill out and return the card below with your gift and proper postage. *Thank you and may God bless you!*



GOOD WORKS Subscription

- YES! Please send Good Works to me at home!**
I've enclosed \$20.00 for 1 year (6 issues)

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / CODE _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE (_____) _____

COCC + MINISTRIES Support

- YES! I'd like to support COCC's efforts!**

1) Please check any area that you may be interested in:

- Choir Poor & Needy Youth & Young Adults
 Outreach Food Pantry Other _____

2) Please accept my gift of: \$100 \$50 \$25

(payable to: COCC Detroit)

Comments regarding “Good Works” or the COCC are welcome:

THANK YOU!

Return this clipping with donation to:
COCC Good Works, c/o 18405 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield MI 48075

ATTENTION PARISH LEADERS !

If you have not yet done so, please complete the Contribution Request form that was sent to you and return it today! Help us keep good order and better serve the community. Call 248 252-8184 with any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the COCC and the ministries of our community!

2017 Parish Dues Received (to date)

- St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- St Innocent Church, Redford
- Assumption Greek Church, St Clair Shores
- Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Drbm Hts
- Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia
- Holy Trinity Church, Detroit
- St Mary Antiochian Basilica, Livonia
- St Thomas (Albanian) Church, Farmington Hills
- St Michael Russian Church, Redford
- St Mark Church, Rochester
- St Nicholas Greek Church, Troy

Parish DOOR Radio Support (to date)

- St George Romanian Cathedral (\$300)
- St George Cathedral Ladies Auxiliary (\$200)
- St Nicholas Daughters of Penelope (\$100)
- Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan (\$100)
- St Innocent Church (\$200)
- Assumption Greek Church (\$300)

SUBSCRIBE to Good Works!

“Many times I intended to write to congratulate you on the publication of ‘Good Works’. It is so well done, and thank you for sending it our way!”

- Mother Gabriella, Dormition Monastery

Now you can receive GOOD WORKS direct at your home! Simply complete and return the “Subscription” section on the form to the right, and we will happily mail you a year’s worth (6 issues) of our publication every other month. We appreciate your interest. Call Mary Ann (586 775-4799) with any questions, and thank you for welcoming us into your home!

EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY...

We are here to help you and your parish! If you would like to announce an event for the community, contact webeditor@coccdetroit.org! We are happy to help you. (There is no required fee, but a donation to Good Works is appreciated!)



ROMANIAN FESTIVAL
of GREATER DETROIT

9+10 SEPTEMBER
St George Cathedral
18405 W 9 Mile, Southfield

 [romfestdetroit](https://www.facebook.com/romfestdetroit)



TASTE OF GREECE FESTIVAL

AUGUST 25-27
Nativity of Mary Church
5 Mile at Haggerty, Plymouth
www.nativityfest.org



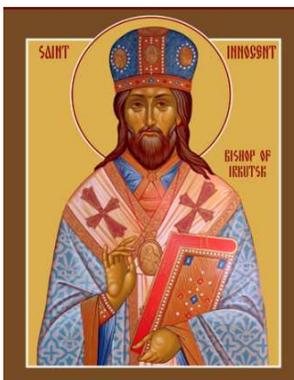
VOLUNTEER!

FOCUS Detroit is in need of volunteers to help prepare breakfast and lunch for 80+ kids at our Summer Feeding Location in Midtown at Edmonson Academy! **We especially need help Tuesday June 27 through Friday June 30.** Visit www.summerfeedingdetroit.org to sign up yourself, your family, or your group.

Thank You! Let's make a difference in these kids lives!

DINE OUT FOR FOCUS!

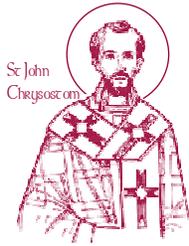
On TUESDAY, JUNE 22, go to California Pizza Kitchen at Somerset Mall in Troy or Laurel Park Mall in Livonia. Tell them you are there for FOCUS Detroit's fundraiser. Enjoy some great food and CPK will donate 20% of your bill to FOCUS!



ST INNOCENT Orthodox Study Group

Bearing the name of our Church Patron and through his prayers, this study group has been formed as a venue for ongoing, life-long formation in the faith and life of the Holy Orthodox Church. Following the example of St Innocent of Irkutsk, who devoted much of his life to theological education, we seek to promote continuing catechesis as a means for the faithful to grow, by God's mercy, from strength to strength. This is not only for Orthodox Christians, but to be evangelical, in the sense of sharing the beauty of our faith with friends, co-workers, families — who are literally dying to live. So, do come, and bring a friend or two!

WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 - 7:30pm | St Innocent Church (23300 W Chicago, Redford 48239)
Instructor: Fr Joshua Genig (M.Div., Ph.D.) | Contact: joshua.genig@gmail.com; 630 936-6386;
[Facebook.com/stinnocentredford](https://www.facebook.com/stinnocentredford)



CLERGY BROTHERHOOD

The COCC exists and works by the blessings of the Clergy Brotherhood. The "Saint John Chrysostom" Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood, gathers throughout the year to share pastoral experiences, learn, pray, and interact with one another on a unique level. All priests and deacons in canonical order are encouraged to take part. The president of the Clergy Brotherhood, also serves as Spiritual Advisor to the COCC and other affiliates. Contact **Fr Laurence Lazar, president** (248 569-4833 | frlazar@hotmail.com)

MINISTRIES

MEDIA MINISTRY

There are several branches to the Media Ministry, intended to expand our reach and provide educational and other resources to our Orthodox faithful and the public worldwide. These outlets include: *Good Works* publication, *COCCdetroit.org*, *DOORradio.org*, YouTube *COCCTelcom* channel, and *Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio (DOOR)* weekly program. Contact **Olga Liss** (248 252-8184 | olgaliss0910@gmail.com).



THE ORTHODOX CHOIR OF DETROIT

The Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit brings an essential aspect of our Faith to the region with beautiful music. The mixed voice (SATB) ensemble is composed of singers from parishes across the city, and is regarded nationally. This group rehearses more intensely for concerts and other events as needed. The Vespers Choir is more loosely organized, and leads responses at the annual Lenten series. The repertoire includes many composers and traditions. (Matushka) Victoria Kopistiansky is director. New singers always welcome! Contact **Elizabeth Star Hatfield** (734 306-1486 | starelizabeth70@gmail.com).

DETROIT METRO OCF

Orthodox Christian Fellowship is an organization with chapters at colleges across North America. Our local effort is a resource and support for students and campuses in the Detroit region. Contact **Fr Josh Genig** (630 936-6386 | joshua.genig@gmail.com).



ORTHODOX VISITATION MINISTRY

The Orthodox Visitation Ministry of Detroit helps parishes keep in contact with the elderly, shut-in, or others who cannot be physically active in their community. It is a simple, meaningful program that can be adopted by any parish wishing to benefit. Contact **Karen Todorov or Gail Razook** (248 345-9346 | orthodoxvisitationdetroit@gmail.com).

PARTNERS

ORTHODOX DETROIT OUTREACH



Since 2011, our mission is to provide a venue for Orthodox Christians to serve the poor within an Orthodox ethos. We serve them face to face, providing a hot meal every Sunday at 2pm in SW Detroit at Ss Peter & Paul community center. Men, women, and children are served with love, dignity, friendship, and respect. A small clothing bank and a food pantry, including a mini-pantry outside providing food during the week, are on site. All are welcome to come and serve. Contact **Matt McCroskery** (matt@orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org), or **Janet Damian Lapko** (janet@orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org).

FOCUS DETROIT



FOCUS is a Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve. They are a national 501c3 nonprofit with a local ministry to children in need. Live out your faith in Christ by serving the needs of neglected children in the city of Detroit. Volunteer opportunities at Detroit K-5 schools, area parishes and in their Midtown office. Visit FOCUSdetroit.org or facebook.com/focusdetroitcenter. Contact **Eric Shanburn** (DETROIT@focusna.org).

ZOE FOR LIFE! MICHIGAN



Zoe is a non-profit Christ-centered support organization with three major goals: to help women who need confidential emotional and spiritual support during crisis pregnancies; to assist Orthodox Christians seeking to adopt; and to provide an education for Pure Living and other resources. Zoe is becoming a presence in the Detroit community, open to ALL women in need. Contact **Sue Barna** (info@zoehousemi.org | zoehousemi.org); anonymous help-line: 855 ZOE-LIFE.

BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT MOSES

The Detroit Chapter of the Brotherhood of Saint Moses the Black exists primarily as an outreach to those seeking the Orthodox Church. As the Church finds deep roots in Africa, the BSMB strive to make it known America. Contact **Sharon Gomulka** (248 477-6411 | bsmb-detroit@att.net).

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN (OCW)

The OCW of Michigan has members from Orthodox churches across the Detroit region. Educational programs are presented monthly, and a summer retreat is held. Charitable work focuses primarily on collecting free-will financial and / non-perishable food items for distribution to qualified local ministries. Contact **Mary Ann Dadich** (586 775-4799 | mdadich811@gmail.com).

UPDATE: ZOE!

The Michigan chapter of ZOE for Life continues to grow, slowly but surely. We have formed a personal relationship with many of the moms that we have been ministering to for 18 months, still providing them with diapers, wipes and age-appropriate clothing. We look forward to seeing their infants/toddlers as they grow during our visits to Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church on the first Sunday of each month.

During the Nativity Fast season, we were incredibly blessed to receive a magnanimous financial contribution from an anonymous donor who attends St. Vladimir Orthodox Church in Ann Arbor (ROCOR). The only stipulation that the donor made was that it be used wherever and however ZOE deemed fit to help the moms we serve. Perhaps to pay a delinquent utility bill, a car repair, a down payment on rent, etc. We will be very judicious in how and where we spend these funds, keeping in mind ZOE's mission and the needs of the moms and children that we serve.

This windfall has and will allow us to expand our outreach beyond simply providing moms with diapers and layette items (not that those things aren't gratefully appreciated and needed!). For instance, the vehicle of one of our moms broke-down in early January and she could not afford to fix it. ZOE was able to pay for the repair, to include a much needed tune-up and a new set of tires. Without this generous donation, we would not have been able to assist her. She was so very thankful, because she is a single mom (as are all of the women we minister to), had a part-time job and was so fearful that she would lose her employment without reliable transportation.

On February 19, the car of another one of our moms was vandalized while she was attending the hot meal that Ss. Peter and Paul provides to the homeless and poor every Sunday. She was so distressed to walk out to her van, only to find that the windshield wipers had been torn off while she and her 2 young children were enjoying their dinner! Once again, "ZOE to the rescue" and we were able to pay for the replacement of her windshield wipers.

What would be a minor bump in the road for many of us is a huge financial burden to the poor and needy that we serve and can mean the difference between feeding their children or paying a bill. We are so grateful to work closely with ODO (Orthodox Detroit Outreach)...between their goods works and ZOE's ministry, we are able to heed God's call to feed the hungry and clothe the poor.

We appreciate your continued prayers and spiritual support. Any monetary donations you are able to provide will be accepted with great joy! Checks can be made payable to *ZOE for Life!-Livonia, MI* P.O. Box 258, Farmington, MI 48332.

With love in Christ,

ZOE for Life! – Michigan
Phone: 855-ZOE-LIFE (855-963-5433)
www.zoehousemi.org
info@zoehousemi.org



Our ZOE ministry here in metro Detroit is slowly growing. At the same time, our mission can be very difficult – the mothers we encounter are in dire financial and emotional straits and their needs are far beyond what we can provide.

We are very thankful for your continued prayers and spiritual support. Every bit helps! Any monetary donations you are able to provide will be accepted with great joy! Checks can be made payable to "ZOE for Life! Livonia" and mailed to PO Box 258, Farmington MI 48332.

www.zoehousemi.org



ZOE for LIFE! BOTTLES FOR BABIES Campaign



We want to send you a baby bottle and ask you to fill it with loose change. Simply empty your change into the bottle everyday. When it is full, take it to the bank and send the cash to ZOE. Reuse and repeat!

Please send me _____ baby bottles.

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

A ROMANIAN METROPOLIA IN AMERICA

On April 30, 2017, His Eminence Nicolae (Condrea) was enthroned as the first Metropolitan of the newly established Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas at Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral of Chicago. The Divine liturgy was served by Metropolitan Nifon of Targoviste and Patriarchal Exarch along with three Hierarchs of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Church and other six hierarchs from other Orthodox Churches in the US. Besides of the hierarchs, priests and parish delegates from the Archdiocese of the US participated together with diplomatic representatives of Romania to the USA. The sermon was offered by His Eminence Nicholas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit.

After Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Nifon, delegate of Patriarch Daniel, read the Tomos of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church proclaiming the establishment of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas and the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada. After the Tomos, was read the Patriarchal Gramata proclaiming the elevation to the Metropolitan of His Eminence Nicolae. According with Church tradition presentation of the Symbols of a Metropolitan followed. V. Rev. Fr. Vicar Nicholas Apostola addressed a word on behalf of the clergy and laity. Metropolitan Nicolae talked about the history and development of the Romanian Orthodox community in North America, as well as the mission of the new Metropolia and hopes for the future.

The elevation of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas to the rank of Metropolia was decided at the meeting of the Holy Synod of October 28, 2016. A similar event will take place on May 7, 2017 in Montreal, where His Grace Bishop Ioan Casian will be enthroned as the first Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Canada.



In the Detroit area, where the new Metropolia had its beginning, 4 parishes are within its jurisdiction: Holy Trinity, Troy, St Simion, Westland, St George Cathedral, Windsor, and Descent of the Holy Ghost, Windsor.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN METROPOLITAN DETROIT



Sts Peter & Paul (Russian) Orthodox Cathedral

Founded 1907

www.sppdetroit.org

3810 Gilbert St, Detroit

V Rev Fr Paul Albert

OCA Diocese of the Midwest



Antiochian Basilica of St Mary Orthodox Church

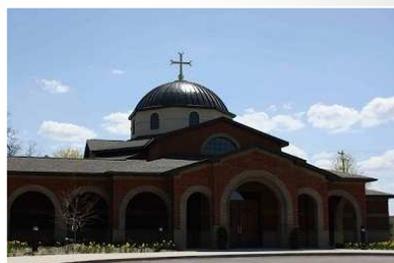
Founded 1975

18100 Merriman Rd, Livonia

V Rev Fr George Shalhoub

Rev Fr James King

Antiochian Diocese of Toledo & the Midwest



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

Founded 1920

www.flintorthodox.com

2245 Baldwin Rd, Grand Blanc

Rev Fr Angelo Maggos

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio Program airs each Sunday (4-5pm) on 690AM and live-streamed / archived shows at DOORradio.org.

Lunch for the Hungry is served Sundays at 2pm, Sts Peter & Paul Hall (3810 Gilbert St, Detroit). Contact Orthodox Detroit Outreach to help.

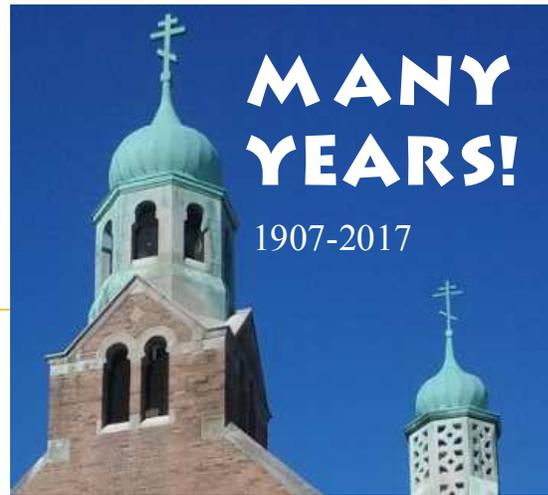
JUNE

- 4 +Descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost)
- 5 +Holy Trinity
- 10 Romanian-American Heritage Festival
2pm-12am: Sts Peter & Paul Church, Dearborn Hts
- 12-28 Apostles Lent
- 13 COCC Monthly Meeting,
7pm: St Mary Ukrainian Cathedral, Southfield
- 19 OCW Speaker Series Presentation
7pm: St Mary Protectress Ukrainian Cathedral, Sfld
- 21-25 Antiochian Mid-west Diocese Convention
Chicago (Cicero) IL
- 22 Dine Out for Focus! (see page 13)
- 23-25 OpaFest!
St Nicholas Greek Church, Troy
- 24 +Nativity of St John the Baptist
- 25 Patronal Feast Banquet
1pm: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Drbn Hts
- 27 COCC Executive Board
- 29 +Holy Apostles Peter & Paul
Patronal Feast Liturgy
10:30am: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Drbn Hts

JULY

- 1 Canada Day
August-September Good Works Submission deadline
- 4 Independence Day, USA
- 5 COCC Executive Board
- 11 COCC Monthly Meeting
7pm: Nativity of Mary Greek Church, Plymouth
- 13 Annual Clergy & Wives Appreciation Dinner
- 15 OCW Speaker Series Presentation / Retreat
9am-3pm: Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction
- 16 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit
Clergy Synodesmos Meeting, Toledo OH
- 20 +Holy Prophet Elijah
Orthodox Choir of Detroit (Concert Rehearsal)
7pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 27-30 Antiochian Archdiocese National Convention
Miami FL
- 30 Annual Family Picnic
12pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield

Unless otherwise noted, Saints listed are based on New Calendar
OCW - Orthodox Christian Women sponsored event
Parishes are encouraged to submit calendars to us!



The COCC offers prayers and best wishes on behalf of the entire community to Saints Peter and Paul (Russian) Cathedral, as this year marks their 110th Anniversary!

We pray that Our Lord will continue to watch over this, the oldest Orthodox parish in Detroit, and that it stand firm for many years to come as a symbol of Faith in our city and a home to all who enter through its doors.

ATTENTION!

OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS

The Council of Orthodox Churches
of Metropolitan Detroit
c/o 18405 W Nine Mile Rd
Southfield MI 48075-4033

GOOD WORKS

MAY-JUN 2017



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