

# GOOD WORKS

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

*Summer...*

Graduations, Vacations,  
and CHURCH too!



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JULY - AUGUST 2015



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*"Only in this life can you do good. What is awaiting you in the future life is not the opportunity of doing good but the reward of having done it."*  
St Augustine of Hippo

We at the council wish you and your family a happy and safe summer filled with barbeques and good times with friends. We hope your children are enjoying little league baseball, soccer, swimming and bicycling with family and friends.

Your council is hard at work organizing an Orthodox directory for businesses and professionals, which will be out as soon as July. We look forward to providing the faithful from our members parishes with a copy to keep in each of your homes. This is a wonderful reference offering you an opportunity to support our Orthodox friends first, wherever possible.

I hope you had an opportunity to listen to our renewed radio program, Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio (DOOR). We broadcast from WNZK 690AM on Sundays between 5:00 and 6:00 pm. We would like to hear from you and let us know what you think. Opportunities to purchase airtime will also be available. Individuals and / or parishes can become sponsors to open and close each program. There will also be opportunities to advertise special events, festivals or anniversaries.

We are working hard to make this both an educational and entertaining program. We hope you will participate with questions sponsorships and advertisements. Become a part of the program and make this yours. There are a host of areas where we could use your support: Orthodox views on current issues, Book of the month,

Exploring the Bible, Church music, Entertainment. I hope you will give serious thought to helping us make this program exciting. Please contact me at 248-345-9346 or email me at [president@coccdetroit.org](mailto:president@coccdetroit.org).

We are getting closer to having our teachers' workshop presented by our Church School Ministry. It promises to be very informative. All teachers will want to attend, so watch for more information that will be forth coming.

Soon we will be involved with the IOCC for the second year distributing supplemental textbooks to local parochial schools. Last year we successfully distributed 3,000 books. This year our goal is to reach over 5,000.

The COCC has meetings once a month at different Orthodox parishes. The meetings are held at 7:00PM, usually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Priests and two delegates from each member parish are encouraged to participate. We are always happy to welcome new parish representatives and members. If your parish is not already an active member, please encourage your priest and parish council to participate.

There is so much to do and we can use your talents. If you read something that you are interested in, please contact me, Richard Shebib (248 345-9346 or [president@coccdetroit.org](mailto:president@coccdetroit.org)). I look forward to hearing from you.

*Richard J Shebib*

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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**V REV FR LAURENCE LAZAR, Spiritual Advisor**

St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral  
phone 248 569-4833 | [flazar@hotmail.com](mailto:flazar@hotmail.com)

**JOHN E LAZAR, Past President / Publications**

St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral  
phone 734 646-6420 | [detroitROjel@yahoo.com](mailto:detroitROjel@yahoo.com)

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*"The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on this day of the Transfiguration is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God's unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord."*

(Volume II - Worship, The Church Year by Fr Thomas Hopko)



## + FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

It's time for me to submit the Spiritual Advisor's message for "Good Works", (the issue you're reading right now), *but I'm not sure of what to say.* Probably everyone (especially those who live here in Michigan), is happy that summer has finally arrived. It's sunny and warm. The trees are full of green leaves again. The flower beds are in full bloom. The world is full of God's beauty and warmth. Again. On the other hand, some may say it's too hot. Sure,



flowers are pretty but now the weeds have to be pulled and the grass needs to be mowed. Etc. They might say, "I like it better the other way." What? Cold and dark?

Life is like that for many people. They wait and look for better times and greener grass, and when it comes, they want even better times, etc. And there's nothing wrong with that except that even in the darkest times we should be able to find joy and peace and satisfaction.

God is always with us. He always provides what we need. It may not come to us when or in the way we ask for it, and it may not be all that we want, but everything that is good, everything that is needed for our salvation comes from Him and so it should bring us joy. Of course, if we're not concentrating on salvation, on saving our eternal souls, if we're not seeking first the Kingdom (knowing that all else will be given to us, as He told us) then we'll probably spend our days asking for more and more and never be satisfied. We'll see the trees and birds, and it will mean little. We'll hear the pure laughter of babies and babbling brooks, and want the noise to stop. We'll feel the warmth of the sun and say it's too hot! We'll never be at peace.

Beloved, regardless of the changing of seasons from Fall to Winter to Spring to Summer, God is present. His love is everlasting. His arms are open to us. His forgiveness is undeserved but forever offered. The beauty of life, often disguised as sleeping under the snow and ice, is still present. Even in times of sickness, poverty, confusion, and yes, even tragedy and evil! Think of the years of atheistic communism, the insanity of Nazism, the attack of "9-11", the barbarism of ISIS, the unthinkable murders of little children at Sandy Hook and now, in a Charleston church. Yet, by God's mercy life, joy and peace are still present for 'those who have eyes to see and ears to hear'. The blessed gift of life exists at all times and circumstances because God exists and He loves us; and for that reason we must rejoice at all times. Did not the Lord tell us to consider how He provides for "the birds of the air", and to realize how much more he must love us than the most beautiful, fragrant, precious flowers, the "lilies of the field"? (Mathew 6)

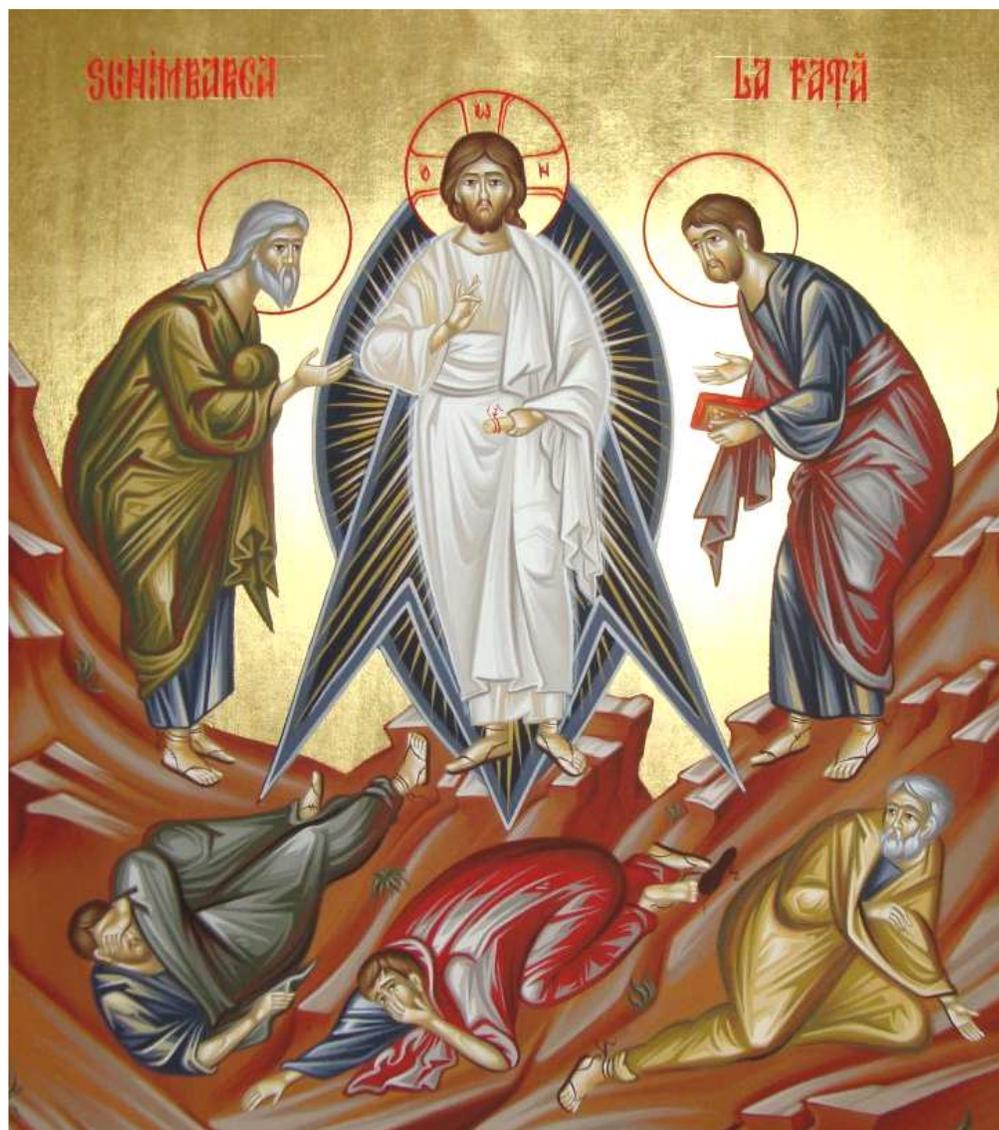
Yes, it's Summer. It's time perhaps and if possible to "get away", to take a little vacation. That's good and important. But let these summer months also be a time of thanksgiving, of personal physical and spiritual renewal, of dedication to rejoicing in the beauty of God's creation, of seeking the kingdom every day of the year, of gathering as the Lord's family in church every Sunday and feast, of giving thanks to Him for being so patient and loving and understanding of us... *so much so that He would even forgive a priest for wondering what spiritual advice he could write today.*

*Fr Laurence Lazar*

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

*"You were  
transfigured on the  
mount O Christ Our  
God, revealing Your  
Glory to Your  
disciples as much  
as they were able  
to bear..."*

-Transfiguration Tropar



## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS CHRIST

The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on August 6. The feast commemorates the transfiguration or metamorphosis of Christ on Mount Tabor, when our Lord appeared in His divine glory before the Apostles Peter, James, and John.

The event of the Transfiguration is recorded in three of the four Gospels: Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. Jesus took the Apostles Peter, James, and John with Him up upon a mountain, and while they were on the mountain Jesus was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became glistening white — so much so that they could not look directly at Him and had to cover their eyes as they fell to the ground.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ, talking to Him. Peter declared how good it was for them to be there and expressed the

desire to build three booths for Moses, Elijah, and Christ. This reference to the booths could imply that this occurred during the time of the Feast of Tabernacles when the Jews would be camping out in the fields for the grape harvest; for this Feast had acquired other associations in the course of its history, including the memory of the wanderings in the wilderness recorded in the Old Testament book of Exodus.

While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." When the disciples heard this they fell on their faces filled with awe. Jesus came to them and told them to not be afraid. When the three looked up they saw only Jesus. As Jesus and His disciples came down the mountain, He told them not to speak of what they had seen until He had risen from the dead.

*(adapted from [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org))*

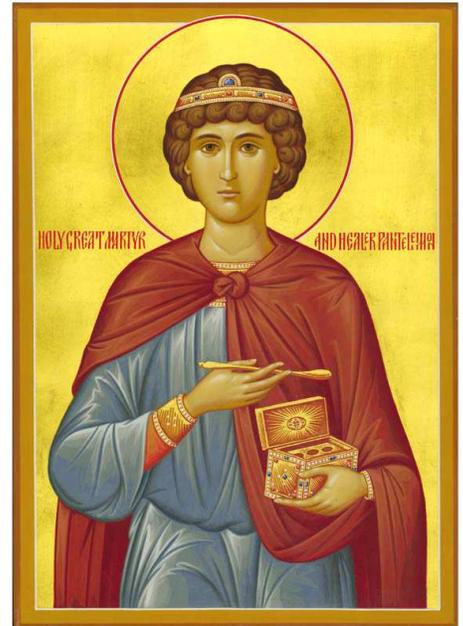
## GREAT MARTYR & HEALER PANTELEIMON | July 27

This Saint, who had Nicomedia as his homeland, was the son of Eustorgius and Eubula. His father was an idolater, but his mother was a Christian from her ancestors. It was through her that he was instructed in piety, and still later, he was catechized in the Faith of Christ by Saint Hermolaus (see July 26) and baptized by him. Being proficient in the physician's vocation, he practiced it in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. Thus, although his parents had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), because of the compassion he showed for the souls and bodies of all, he was worthily renamed Panteleimon, meaning "all-merciful."

On one occasion, when he restored the sight of a certain blind man by calling on

the Divine Name, he enlightened also the eyes of this man's soul to the knowledge of the truth. This also became the cause for the martyrdom of him who had been blind, since when he was asked by whom and in what manner his eyes had been opened, in imitation of that blind man of the Gospel he confessed with boldness both who the physician was and the manner of his healing. For this he was put to death immediately. Panteleimon was arrested also, and having endured many wounds, he was finally beheaded in the year 305, during the reign of Maximian.

Saint Panteleimon is one of the Holy Unmercenarys, and is held in special honor among them, even as Saint George is among the Martyrs. The Church of Rome honors him as a saint under his first given name of "Pantoleon".



## ST NIPHON, Patriarch of Constantinople | August 11

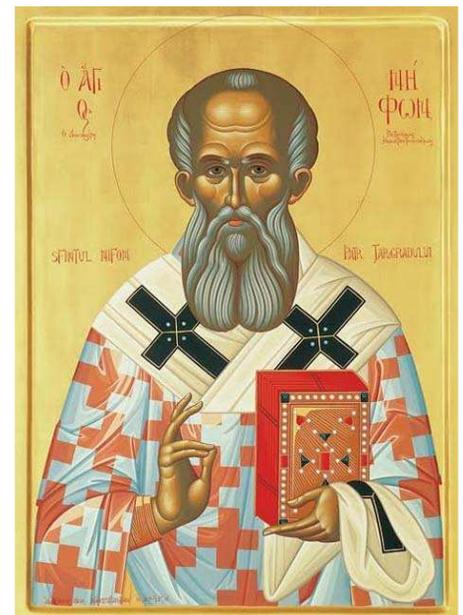
Saint Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople, was a native of Greece, and accepted monasticism at Epidauros. He was later chosen Metropolitan of Thessalonica, and still later occupied the Patriarchal throne in Constantinople and primate of Valachia.

Banished under accusation, Niphon went to Athos, at first to Vaptopedi monastery, and then to the monastery of St John the Forerunner. By God's providence, his rank was revealed to the brethren of the monastery, and once, upon returning from the forest where he had gone for firewood, all the brethren went out towards him on the way and solemnly greeted him as Patriarch. But even after this, he shared various tasks with them. He died on August 11, 1460 at 90 years of age.

From the life of St. Niphon, we learn that just as light does not dwell with darkness, or virtue with vice, so holiness cannot make its home with sin. St. Niphon lived according to the teaching of the Scriptures, and listened and followed the holy men whom he encountered. After returning to Dionysiou Monastery, it was only

by means of divine revelation that the community discovered that he was not an ordinary monk but a man who once sat on the patriarchal throne in Constantinople.

The year of his canonization is also the year when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses, written in Latin against the Roman Church, on the door of the cathedral at Wittenberg. Perhaps in God's providence the two events were not a coincidence. On one hand, we have the history of a small Church under the Turkish yoke, recognizing the holiness of a meek and humble ex-patriarch. On the other hand we have the story of a Western Church that decided to grow individualistically, protesting the abuses of Roman Curia, yet disdaining the tradition of the One and Apostolic Church. It was within this church in 1517 that there was a great division that further confused those who called themselves Christians. We learn from these two events that holiness is the result of faith lived according to the teachings of Scripture and of the fathers. In contrast, the Western churches following the schism of 1054 did not stop division, but rather multiplied it.





of every icon of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the “I AM” Who spoke to Moses from the burning bush. “I AM” is the literal translation of the Hebrew word, “Yahweh.” One of the reasons that the Jews sought to kill Jesus was, in fact, because He said that He is the I AM. “‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’ So they took up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple” (St. John 5:58-59). The Orthodox Church makes it very clear to all that we believe Jesus Christ to be more than simply a “good man,” an “inspired teacher,” (a “rabbi”), or “a prophet”—He is the Son of God Who became a man to die on a cross and to rise again for our salvation.

The Son of God relates to God the Father by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father (cf. John 15:26) and eternally radiates from the Son, enabling the Son’s eternal relationship with the Father. This same Holy Spirit has been sent to us so that we may also have the same type of relationship with the Father as does the Son. The Son’s relationship with the Father, however, is by nature, and our relationship with the Father is by grace (God’s power). Before His Ascension into heaven, Jesus said, “you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit’s mission in us is to empower us, to enlighten us, and to inspire in us a relationship with the Father through the Son. The words of St. Paul confirm what Jesus promised, “If the Spirit of Him [God the Father]

# Understanding THE HOLY TRINITY

By ROBERT LATSKO (PART II of II)

*This essay on the Holy Trinity by the author is based on seminary study with Fr. Thomas Hopko. Pentecost / Trinity Sunday is dedicated to the Feast of the Holy Trinity (called “Troitse” in Russian and Ukrainian) and the second day, Spirit Monday, celebrates the Descent of the Holy Spirit. This is Part 2 of 2.*

We often refer to Jesus Christ as “Lord.” We hear in the Liturgy, “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.” “Lord” is a term that was used in the Old Testament to refer to God. We can also refer to the Holy Spirit as “Lord,” because the Holy Spirit is also “God” in a generic sense (“And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life”: Nicene Creed).

St. Paul also refers to Jesus Christ as “the Rock” (“and the Rock was Christ: 1 Corinthians 10:4) knowing that the Rock of Israel, according to the Old Testament, was Yahweh. St. Paul, therefore, identifies the pre-existent Christ with Yahweh—with God. It is for this reason that the words “I AM” are written in the halo

Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through the Spirit which dwells in you” (Romans 8:11). The understanding that we are to have a relationship with the Father is shown clearly by the fact that the ‘prayer of all prayers,’ which Jesus Christ, the Son of God incarnate, has given us is “Our Father Who art in heaven....”

There is only one uncreated Son of God (“Begotten of the Father before all ages”: Nicene Creed), but as a result of the action of the Persons of the Holy Trinity toward man, there is now a possibility that there can be many created sons of God. We all have the opportunity to be sons of God by adoption. “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (Romans 8:14) ... “and because you are sons, God [referring to the Father] has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, Abba! Father! (Galatians 4:6) We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at the time of our baptism (cf. Luke 3-16, Romans 6:3). Baptism with the Holy Spirit (“... you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit”—Acts 1:5) is the way we unite ourselves to Christ and the way

we become members of His Body, the Church. “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13). It is the one and same Holy Spirit who sanctifies and illumines all people of all times and places. The ultimate source of the Holy Spirit’s actions is God the Father. “He [God the Father] is the source of your life in Christ Jesus” (1 Corinthians 1:30).

## THE HOLY TRINITY IS A COMMUNION OF DIVINE PERSONS IN LOVE, AND THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WANT US TO SHARE THIS LOVE.

Without the Holy Spirit dwelling in us (“... your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God”: 1 Corinthians 6:19) we could not call God “our Father” and we could not say “Jesus is Lord.” No one can say “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3). The way to divine knowledge ascends from the one Spirit, through the one Son, to the one Father, which conceptualizes how God communicates to man and how man communicates with God. It is for this reason that St. Basil the Great, a great theologian of the Church, approves of the doxology, “Glory to the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit,” as well as the more common, “Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.”

We say “Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,” and not “Glory to the Son and the Holy Spirit and to the Father,” or Glory to the Holy Spirit and to the Father and to the Son” (or any other order) because there is a hierarchy within the order of the Trinitarian Godhead. The Father is the “First Person” of the Holy Trinity; the Son is the “Second Person” of the Holy Trinity; and the Holy Spirit is the “Third Person” of the

Holy Trinity. The Father is the “First Person” because He is the Begetter of the Son and the Source of the Holy Spirit. We know from Scripture that the Father is the “First Person” because Jesus Christ, the Son of God incarnate, said “The Father is greater than I” (John 14:28). This hierarchy, however, does not imply any “subordinationism” (an ancient heresy which said that the Son and the Spirit do not have the same degree of divinity as the Father), or “domination” by any one Person of the Holy Trinity. There is always a perfect relationship of Love between the Persons of the Trinity.

We can pray to the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit “individually,” or we can pray to the Holy Trinity “together.” Examples of these types of prayers are the “Our Father,” the “Jesus Prayer” (“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”), “O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...” and “All-Holy Trinity have mercy upon us...” We can pray to any one Person of the Trinity however, only by involving the other two—because of the Unity of the Holy Trinity. Orthodox Christian prayer is always Trinitarian, whether we realize it or not. Whenever we pray to the Father, it is only through the Son (Jesus Christ), by means of the Holy Spirit. Whenever we pray to the Son, Jesus Christ, we are praying to the Person Who, in His resurrected body, radiates the Holy Spirit which comes forth from the Father. Whenever we pray to the Holy Spirit, it is only because the Son has sent Him to us and continually sends Him to us from the Father.

The Holy Trinity is a communion of divine Persons in Love, and the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit want us to share this love. Jesus prayed, “Holy Father, keep them in my name, which Thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one” (John 17:11).

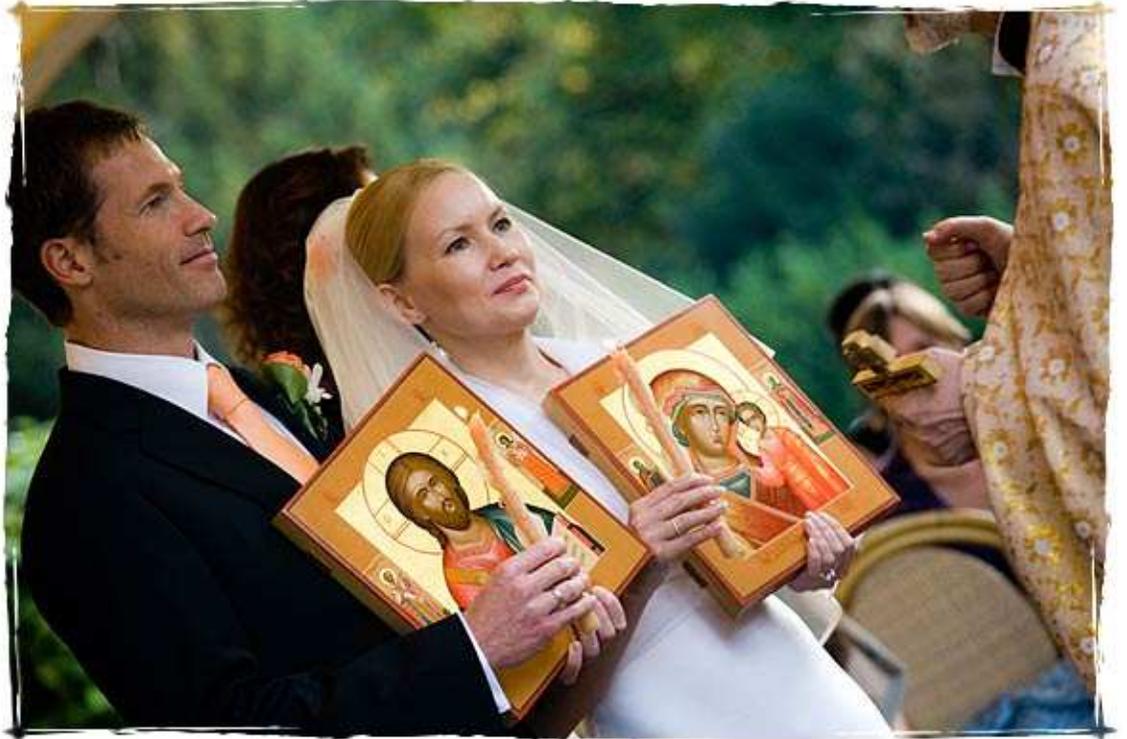
### **About the author:**

Reader **Robert Joseph Latsko** (Bob) is a tonsured Reader and a graduate of St Vladimir’s Seminary with a Masters of Divinity degree. He also has a Bachelors of Science in Engineering from Michigan State University and a second Bachelors and Masters degrees in Architecture from the University of Michigan. His specialty is Orthodox Church architecture, where he combines his knowledge of Orthodox theology and of architecture to design Orthodox churches that fully reflect Orthodox teachings and tradition. A tonsured Reader, Bob is a member of St Innocent Church in Redford, where he sings in the choir and chants.



The Detroit Orthodox Community has a history of over 100 years! Over the decades, most parishes have left the “old neighborhoods” and venerable original structures. Some have sadly closed their doors, while others are more recently founded. Whatever the case, your history is our history, so please contact Mary Ann Dadich (586 775 4799, [mdadich811@gmail.com](mailto:mdadich811@gmail.com)) for more information. We’d like an article and archived photos for print.

Help us preserve and share our rich spiritual and cultural heritage in our great city. Let’s share our pride and history, keeping our past alive for future generations!



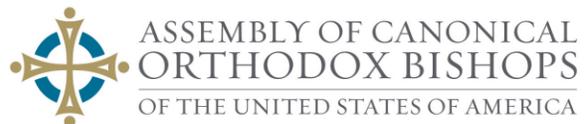
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 2, 2015

## **Response of Assembly of Bishops to Obergefell v Hodges**

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America strongly disagrees with the United States Supreme Court decision of June 26, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, in which the Court invents a constitutional right for two members of the same sex to marry, and imposes upon all States the responsibility to license and recognize such “marriages.”

The Supreme Court, in the narrowest majority possible, has overstepped its purview by essentially re-defining marriage itself. It has attempted to settle a polarizing social and moral question through legislative fiat. It is immoral and unjust for our government to establish in law a “right” for two members of the same sex to wed. Such legislation harms society and especially threatens children who, where possible, deserve the loving care of both a father and a mother.

As Orthodox Christian bishops, charged by our Savior Jesus Christ to shepherd His flock, we will continue to uphold and proclaim the teaching of our Lord that marriage, from its inception, is the lifelong sacramental union of a man and a woman. We call upon all Orthodox Christians in our nation to remain firm in their Orthodox faith, and to renew their deep reverence for and commitment to marriage as taught by the Church. We also call upon our nation’s civic leaders to respect the law of Almighty God and uphold the deeply-rooted beliefs of millions of Americans.



## ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH MEETS U.S. BISHOPS

[Istanbul] On Tuesday, June 16, 2015 His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew warmly received the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA at the Phanar in Constantinople.

During the meeting, which took place in a spirit of open exchange in the personal office of the Ecumenical Patriarch, the hierarchs reviewed with His All-Holiness the work of the Assembly of Bishops, especially as it relates to the overall work of its committees. Particular attention was given to the work of the Committees for Pastoral Practice and Canonical Regional Planning. The hierarchs also discussed a number of challenges and opportunities in the formulation of a proposed plan for the restructuring of the Orthodox Church in the US.

Joining the Ecumenical Patriarch, Elder Metropolitan John of Pergamon discussed the mission of the Assemblies of Bishops as originally envisioned at their inception in Chambésy in 2009. Both the Ecumenical Patriarch and Metropolitan John commended the efforts of the US hierarchs, and acknowledged their work as a model for inter-Orthodox cooperation.

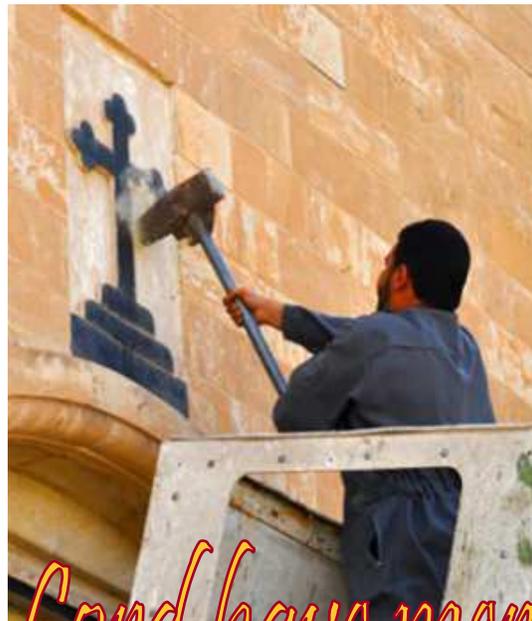
Present at the meeting with the Ecumenical Patriarch and Metropolitan John were: Archbishop Demetrios (Ecumenical Patriarchate, Assembly Chairman), Bishop John (Moscow Patriarchate, Second-Vice Chairman), Metropolitan Antony (Treasurer), Bishop Longin (Patriarchate of Serbia), Archbishop Nicolae (Patriarchate of Romania), Metropolitan Joseph (Patriarchate of Bulgaria), Bishop Saba (Patriarchate of Georgia). Also present were Bishop Maxim (Cte Coordinator) and Metropolitan Tikhon (OCA).

## METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS IN BOSTON

[Brookline MA] His Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) of Diokleia delivered a lecture at Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology on Saturday, June 20, 2015. He spoke on "Divine Compassion and the Restoration of the Human Icon." The lecture was presented by Saint Catherine's Vision (SCV), and co-sponsored by Holy Cross School of Theology and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston.

SCV is an international, Pan-Orthodox fellowship of women theologians and other lay servant-leaders engaging contemporary issues within the life of the Orthodox Church, blessed by the Assembly of Bishops of the USA.

More than 200 participants attended, hearing His Eminence speak movingly on the centrality of divine compassion to which all human persons are called, created "in the image of God." He elaborated on how this "image" is in the image of Christ, the Logos of God, and simultaneously in the image of the Holy Trinity.



*Lord have mercy!*

ISIS has removed all Christian symbols from the large St Ephraim Syrian Orthodox Church in Mosul and converted it into a mosque. Some say that this is worse than having them just destroy the entire temple.

## NATIONAL CATHEDRAL RISES IN ROMANIA

The Cathedral of the "Salvation of the Nation", dedicated to the Feast of the Ascension and the Holy Apostle Andrew, Protector of Romania is taking shape in Bucharest. It is the central structure in a complex of buildings being built on the site where three monasteries destroyed by the former Communist government had existed previously. When completed, it will be the tallest Orthodox Church in the world.

To view a digital rendering via virtual tour of the complex, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcV6BzFXkPw>



# What's Happening Around our Community...

## AXIOS!

His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas recently ordained two new priests for Detroit's Greek Orthodox Community.

**Fr Christopher Abell** (at right with family) was ordained at St George Church in Bloomfield Hills on Saturday, June 13.

St Nicholas Church in Ann Arbor was blessed to witness the ordination of **Fr Vasilios Pliakas** (at right with wife) on Saturday, June 20.

We pray that both, with their families, are blessed with many years of service and good work in the Church.

**Χρόνια πολλά!  
Many years!**



## AN INVITATION:

On Sunday, August 2nd, (5pm) the youth of Holy Transfiguration Church in Livonia, will be telling us about their patronal feast and singing its troparion on "DOOR", Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio (690AM). Also, they invite you to their patronal feast: Vespers(August 5, 6:30pm) and Divine Liturgy (August 6, 9:00am).

## OLDEST AREA PARISH CELEBRATES PATRONAL FEAST

Bishop Paul (Gassios) of the OCA Midwest Diocese, made a visit to Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral in Detroit on their feast day, June 29. Fr Andrew Yavornitzky (Dean), with several area clergy, faithful, friends, and neighbors gathered for the lovely day. After Liturgy, the faithful processed from the Church across the street to the garden (on Livernois just south of Michigan Ave), "Jardin de los Santos", where the garden was blessed and the orchard was dedicated. *The parish, founded in 1907, is the oldest in the state. Its hall is home to the "Lunch for the Hungry" each Sunday. They are awaiting appointment of a new permanent priest.*



ALL ARE WELCOME...

**DETROIT RIVER CRUISE!**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 | 8-10pm**

**CRUISE! DINNER! MUSIC & DANCING!**

\$35 | \$20 [10 & under] until August 1

\$40 | \$25 [10 & under] from August 1-23

Includes Cruise & Light Meal from Bucharest Grill

**248 495-9909**

Hosted by St George Cathedral Young Adults

## MEFGOX CONVENTION

The Mid Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFGOX) 68th Annual Convention

**Sts Constantine & Helen Church, Westland  
July 16-19, 2015**

Pamela Cramer, Guest Director  
George Cholack, Guest Organist

The choirs will be singing the bilingual Liturgy by Anna Gallos.



For more information, please visit:

[www.mideastern.churchmusic.goarch.org/convention](http://www.mideastern.churchmusic.goarch.org/convention)



# DETROIT'S OWN ORTHODOX RADIO

The DOOR is open! After months of preparation, our renewed radio program, Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio has begun broadcasting. The first show aired on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2015.

A focus group gathered for the premier broadcast at WNZK Studio to listen and give feedback to the pilot episode. Responses were very positive, honest and helpful. The staff was grateful for the input and continues to meet weekly to organize each program. A great deal of time and effort is expended by our team both in the studio and in the field. (Our managing committee includes: Richard Shebib, Fr Dimitrie Vincent,

Snezana Milutinovic, Jim Badeen, Karen Todorov, John Lazar, and Tom Rosco.)

We are doing our best to provide the community with a professional quality and beneficial program for all who listen! Now we look to YOU for assistance (broadcast / media experience, marketing / sales), financial and physical support. Simply contact [staff@DOORradio.org](mailto:staff@DOORradio.org) or 248 345-9346.

Affordable advertising space for businesses, restaurants, banquet halls, and professionals is available via commercial air time! Program sponsorship is also available to mark your personal or parish

special occasion! With God's help, we can make this a true Inter-Orthodox effort for our parishes and the entire city!

**SUNDAYS: 5:00-6:00PM**  
**690AM**

**WNZK, DETROIT'S STATION OF NATIONS!**

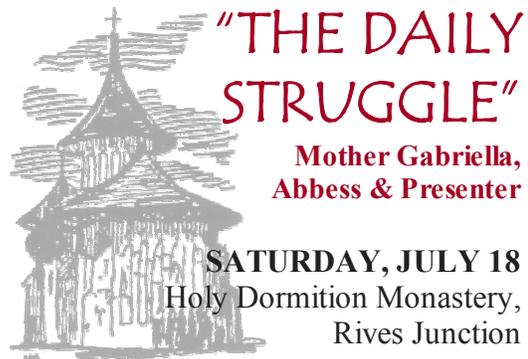
*Listen on 690AM Radio, via live-stream online ([wnzk.birach.com:9000/listen.pls](http://wnzk.birach.com:9000/listen.pls)) and soon to be archived on DOORradio.org*



## FENTON CONSECRATION

On April 26, Bishop Alexander of the OCA's Bulgarian Diocese, joined by Very Rev Paul Jannakos and visiting clergy, celebrated the consecration of St Mary Magdalene Church in Fenton among some 200 faithful. The beautiful church (shown at left) fits nicely into the wooded setting, along the bank of the Shiawassee River, and is home to a young parish with many converts to the Faith. The Jannakos's were honored during the celebration for their 30th Anniversary of priestly service to the Church. Many years!

## OCW ANNUAL RETREAT



**"THE DAILY  
STRUGGLE"**

**Mother Gabriella,  
Abbess & Presenter**

**SATURDAY, JULY 18**  
Holy Dormition Monastery,  
Rives Junction

**Women and men welcome.**

Registration: \$20 includes lunch  
Call Loretta Gates 248 689-9721



*"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship in the breaking of bread and in prayers."*  
- Acts 2:42

Christ is among us! Wow, I can't believe our organization is well into our 23rd year of sharing our Orthodox Faith through the good women of our Detroit area parishes. Our program chair people have put our faith to work in our presentations and special efforts.

As everything of this world changes, we are challenged to hold steadfast to our Orthodox way of living. The challenges of today are pulling us away with distractions so we need to be in 'fellowship' with one another more than ever. I invite all of you to come and be a part of our Orthodox Women not only through attending our presentations, but join us in sharing your ideas so we can all grow closer in Christ. New members from all parishes around the area are always welcomed!

Check the COCC website (coccdetroit.org) for our presentation schedule. Of course, you can contact me (ocw.michigan@yahoo.com / mdadich811@gmail.com / 586 775-4799) any time! We hope you are enjoying the summer and invite you to our annual retreat (information on page 8 of this edition of Good Works.)

Mary Ann Dadich,  
OCW President



**COCCTELCOM**

We invite you to visit our

COCC YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com)! Simply key in "COCCTELCOM" to view a variety of features on living our Orthodox Faith, the community, current issues, COCC and other parish events, and more. A few of our clergy have already volunteered — we hope more will step forward and contribute — it's a wonderful outreach effort and we are happy to come to you and film, edit, produce, and publish! The channel's inventory is updated regularly, so check in often.

If you have a suggestion for an event or a subject that could be filmed and featured on COCCTELCOM, please contact us (248 345-9346)!

## Calling all Orthodox Students @ EMU!



If you are attending or are considering attending Eastern Michigan University, consider your Christian calling! No matter if you are living on campus or you are a commuter you can find other ways to stay in touch with your Orthodox Community and church, while attending school.

Hi, I am Victoria Lawrence, an EMU student who is working on establishing a new organization on campus called Orthodox Christian Fellowship. We have some Christian groups on campus I have noticed, but not an Orthodox group. There are numerous groups at Eastern you can join. Why not help to start up a brand new organization? This will provide fellow pupils another option on campus and will also look great on your resume. You'll be networking with fellow Orthodox and that may help you to find a job. Please contact me via email: [victorialawrence57@yahoo.com](mailto:victorialawrence57@yahoo.com) or [vlawren2@emich.edu](mailto:vlawren2@emich.edu).

Thank you!  
**VICTORIA LAWRENCE**  
St Michael Church, Redford



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! Locally, there are groups at University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan State University, Oakland University, and Grand Valley State University. *With your help, this year, the COCC is working to reactivate the group at Wayne State University and start one at UM Dearborn, and EMU! More information will be published soon, but 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](http://www.coccdetroit.org) in the "contact" section.*

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

## THE ORTHODOX CHOIR OF DETROIT

The Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit has brought an essential aspect of our Faith to the region with its beautiful music. The ensemble is composed in mixed voice (SATB) from parishes across the city, and is regarded as one of the finest such ensembles in the US. The Vesper Choir is a more loosely organized group that leads responses at the annual Sunday Lenten series. The choir also rehearses more intensely to prepare for concerts and other events as needed. The repertoire includes many composers, from traditional Byzantine and ancient melodies, to modern-day Americans. (Matushka) Victoria Kopistiansky is the musical director, and **Elizabeth Star (734 306-1486 | starelizab70@gmail.com)** is the COCC liaison. New singers are always welcome!

## FOCUS MOTOR CITY

FOCUS North America is a national movement, founded by Orthodox Christians united in faith, and joined by others, with a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions to poverty in communities across America. As

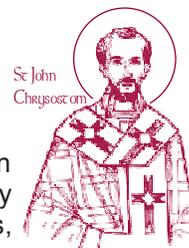
an expression of Christ's love we serve the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick and imprisoned by providing Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter. We bring communities, parishes, and partners together in hands-on activities – uniting giver and the underserved -to help transform all of our lives and break the cycle of poverty that afflicts so many in our society, by moving them from dependency to self-sufficiency. A 501c3 nonprofit, services are provided without discrimination of any kind. We do not require any faith commitment from anyone we help. We have a deep belief in the sanctity and dignity of each person we serve and we welcome partnerships with others, faith-based or secular. We are an accredited charity with the Better Business Bureau. FOCUS + Motor City is our Detroit Center. **Eric Shanburn, Director (248 671-4483 | detroit@focusna.org | focusmotorcity.org)**

## COCCTELCOM & 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**, YouTube **COCCTelcom** channel, and the soon to be launched **Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio (DOOR)** weekly program on WZNK. Spread the word and please contact **Richard Shebib (248 345-9346 | paschabook@sbcglobal.net)** and see how to help!

## CLERGY BROTHERHOOD

The Orthodox Clergy of metropolitan Detroit gather throughout the year as part of the "Saint John Chrysostom" Brotherhood, as a way to share their pastoral experiences, learn, pray, and interact with one another on a unique level. All priests and deacons in canonical order are invited and encouraged to take part. The president of the Clergy Brotherhood, also serves as Spiritual Advisor to the COCC and other affiliated groups. Please contact **Fr Laurence Lazar (248 569-4833 | frlazar@hotmail.com)**



## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN (OCW)

The Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan has members from various jurisdictions of Canonical Orthodox churches in metropolitan Detroit. Educational programs are presented monthly, and a summer retreat is also held. The charitable purpose is fulfilled primarily by collecting food / paper products then distributed to those in need. New clothing and other items requested by Children's Hospital of Michigan are also collected. Annual observances of its founding are celebrated in February with a luncheon and election of a Board of Directors. For further information, contact **President Mary Ann Dadich (586 775-4799 | mdadich811@gmail.com)**.

## ORTHODOX VISITATION MINISTRY (OVMD)



The Orthodox Visitation Ministry of Detroit is an effort to help parishes keep in contact with the elderly, shut-in, or otherwise disabled members who cannot be physically active in their community. Their motto is "Sharing Christ's Love by Visiting with a Friend", reminding these brothers and sisters in the Faith that they are not forgotten by their Church. It is a simple but meaningful program that can be adopted by any parish wishing to benefit from it. Contact **Karen Todorov or Gail Razook (248 345-9346 | orthodoxvisitationdetroit@gmail.com)**.

## BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT MOSES

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



Photo credit: St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

# Opa! FEST

## Grand Blanc GREEK FEST

Assumption Greek Orthodox, Grand Blanc, held their "Greek Fest" on June 19 through 21. I decided to make the drive after hearing about the event from Fr Angelo and Presbytera Teri Maggos at our OCW presentation earlier that week. I arrived Saturday afternoon and ran into Fr Joe Abud (our speaker from that earlier event)! We went in and he introduced me to Laura, Assumption's secretary who suggested I try the Greek fries. He then went through the food tent area greeting people while I listened to the live Greek music and came back to greet Presbytera Teri. I greeted Fr Angelo, the parish priest, and introduced my new friend Anita, and we then went to the tour of the church together. Fr Angelo told us of the church being built around 5 yrs ago and that the iconography project will start in the coming years. Anita and I separated and I got some Greek fries to go and started on the (short) drive back to the city. I had a nice time and would go back again... and invite you to support them next year! - *Mary Ann Dadich*

I attended "OpaFest" at St Nicholas Greek Church in Troy (June 19-21) and picked Saturday (AKA: the rainy day). People slowly started to come as the rain let up. I went into the vendors area and noticed some friends, Paula Kalevas (past OCW board member) and her mom, Helen Martin (also a board member for many years) at the bake sale ringing up and replacing items as needed. We chatted awhile and I noticed Fr Stratton Dorozenski, Parish Priest, who slowly made his way over with a warm greeting. I then made my way to the church where Mary Lafter (past OCW President) was greeting people, and took in the Cultural Exhibit, The Human Face of God with representations of Early Christian, Byzantine, and Italian Renaissance Art which was displayed at the perimeters of the church. The day turned out to be energizing as their festival had so much for everyone. Many years to St Nicholas Parish! - *Mary Ann Dadich*

*Editor's Note:* St Nicholas Parish's OpaFest is the longest continuing Greek Festival in Michigan. Since the days of the well-known 2nd Avenue complex near Palmer Park until today, St Nicholas has been a community of outreach and community, strong in Faith and Hellenic heritage. Among other good works, at this year's Festival, over 600 pounds of food was collected for the hungry!

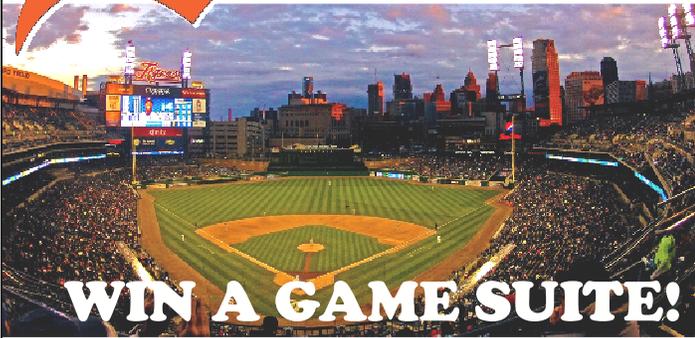


The Tenth **SEPTEMBER 12 & 13, 2015**  
**ROMANIAN FESTIVAL**  
 of Greater DETROIT  
 ST GEORGE CATHEDRAL, SOUTHFIELD





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- ◆ Fireworks show after the game!



**\$100 donation**

Help us raise much needed funds for the efforts and charitable works of the COCC!

No more than 150 tickets sold! Must be 18 to enter. Need not be present to win. Tickets on sale thru August 10. Drawing: August 11, 2015 (8pm).

**Call 248 345-9346 today!**

*Sponsored by the Council of Orthodox  
Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit*

**“Truly a unique magazine — I don’t think any Orthodox council in the country can say they have something like this to help us further our work!”**

**“Outstanding publication! It’s really amazing how profession and informative each issue is!”**

**YOU CAN  
HELP US!**



**ANNUAL APPEAL**

Our “Good Works” Publication is a labor intensive effort of love and joy. Our goal is 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.

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

If you have found merit in the “Good Works”, or other aspects of the COCC, we hope you will find it in your heart to support us with a donation at this once-a-year appeal. Your contribution will help with expenses, and enable us to expand our publication and the ministries of the COCC. Simply fill out and return the card below with your gift and proper postage in the enclosed envelope. *Thank you and may God bless you!*



**GOOD WORKS Appeal + Survey**

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*Please accept my gift of:*  \$100  \$50  \$25  
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*Please check any area that you may be interested in:*

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

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

# PARISH SPOTLIGHT...

## ST DEMETRIUS CHURCH



St Demetrius parish grew out of St Andrew parish in East Lansing. Conscious of the need for a parochial mission to serve the spiritual needs of the families of Jackson, Archpriest Photius Donahue, determined to establish a missionary work in this city.

The first Liturgy in Jackson was served on the feast of Sts Peter and Paul, 1956, in the Moose Hall. A general memorial for departed loved ones was sung, and soon education classes began when a group of students from Michigan State University was sent regularly to Jackson to teach.

A major advance and historic event for the new mission came in October 1958, when Bishop Bogdan visited Jackson to bless the new temporary chapel and classrooms on Cooper Street. His Grace spoke with encouragement to the faithful, and praised their dedication. That same year, a group spearheaded a fund-raising dance to purchase a permanent building of its own.

In 1959, Fr John Ball was appointed the first permanent pastor, and under his self-sacrificing labors, the people finally purchased a permanent Temple at 3043 Seymour Road. In 1966, the building was enlarged to the present structure. Fr Paul Karas was appointed pastor and the church was consecrated by Archbishop Jonathan in 1968. In 1969, Fr Clement

Palmer was appointed pastor, then Fr Alexis Keppeler became as fourth pastor in 1976. The choir sang the Holy Week responses for the first time and the church school was reactivated.

In 1983, the parish transferred to the Orthodox Church in America from the Patriarchate of Moscow. Bishop Job made his first visit to St Demetrius for the Thirty-fifth Anniversary. Deacon Michael Butler, who was living in Lansing, was conducting services in the absence of a priest, and was ordained in 1995, becoming the fifth pastor. In the next few years, the church enjoyed God's blessings on many fronts. The cycle of services were expanded, our relationship with Holy Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction prospered and several new families made St Demetrius their home.

By the grace of God, Father Dusan Koprivica has served the parish since 1999. During Father Dusan's tenure, we began to grow once again. In 2006, a major

**ST DEMETRIUS  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
*Diocese of the Midwest, OCA*  
3043 Seymour Rd, Jackson MI 49201  
tel 517 784-0116 | [www.stdemetrius.com](http://www.stdemetrius.com)  
V Rev Fr Dusan Koprivica



renovation and beautification began with a new hand-carved iconostas and beautiful iconographic project in place. In October 2008, St Demetrius Church celebrated its 50th Anniversary and in 2011 celebrated the grand opening of a new parish hall.

## ORTHODOX CHURCHES OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

**Assumption  
Greek Orthodox Church**  
*Founded 1930*

[www.goassumption.org](http://www.goassumption.org)  
21800 Marter Rd, St Clair Shores  
*Rev Fr Michael Varlamos*

*Metropolis of Detroit  
Ecumenical Patriarchate*



**St Mary Protectress  
Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral**  
*Founded 1950*

[www.protectress.org](http://www.protectress.org)  
21931 Evergreen Rd, Southfield  
*Very Rev Fr Pavlo Bodnarchuk*

*Western Eparchy  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church USA*



**St Mark  
Orthodox Church**  
*Founded 1980*

[www.stmarkrochester.org](http://www.stmarkrochester.org)  
400 W Hamlin, Rochester Hills  
*Very Rev Fr Andrew Yavornitzky*

*Diocese of the Midwest  
Orthodox Church in America*



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

A Bible-Study class is offered every Wednesday at 7:30pm, St Stevan Decanski Serbian Church (14235 E 11 Mile, Warren — 696 Service Dr). All are welcome to take part in this Free class.

## JULY

- 2 + Prince Stephen the Great and Holy (Romania)
- 4 Independence Day (USA)
- 14 COCC Monthly Meeting  
7pm: St Mark Church, Rochester Hills
- 16-19 MEFGOX 68th Convention  
Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Church, Westland
- 18 OCW Annual Retreat  
Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction
- 20 + Holy Prophet Elijah
- 23 FOCUS Motor City Fundraiser  
(see information at right)
- 26 Annual Romanian-American Family Picnic  
1pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield

## AUGUST

- 1-14 St Mary Lent (Dormition Fast)
- 5 + Eve of the Transfiguration Vespers  
6:30pm: Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia
- 6 + Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ  
Patronal Feast Liturgy  
9am: Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia
- 10 + Holy Martyr Archdeacon Laurence  
Tigers Charity Drawing ticket purchase deadline
- 11 COCC Monthly Meeting  
7pm: St George Antiochian Church, Troy
- 14 + Eve of the Feast of the Dormition  
Patronal Feast Vespers  
7pm: Assumption Greek Church, St Clair Shores
- 15 + Dormition (Assumption) of the Mother of God  
Monastery Patron Feast, Rives Junction
- 16 St Mary Dinner  
1pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield  
1pm: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Dearborn Hts
- 20-23 Assumption Greek Festival  
Assumption Church, St Clair Shores
- 23 Greek Festival  
St George Church, Southgate
- 28-30 A Taste of Greece Festival  
Nativity of Mary Church, Plymouth
- 29 + Beheading of St John the Baptist  
Detroit River Cruise & Dance (All welcome — see pg 10)

Unless otherwise noted, Saints listed are based on New Calendar

**FMC** - FOCUS Motor City (Orthodox Detroit Outreach) sponsored event

**OCW** - Orthodox Christian Women sponsored event

**Parishes are encouraged to submit calendars to us!**

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OR CALL 248-671-4483




## CLERGY & PARISHES...

We kindly remind you to submit your 2015 COCC membership contribution to our treasurer today. Also, each priest is reminded to please appoint two representatives as liaisons from your community to our monthly meetings. We need your voice!

## GOOD WORKS

## JUL-AUG 2015



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