



GOOD WORKS

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

*Celebrating
a New Year...*

of Love for One Another
and Serving Our Lord Together!



JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2016

A MESSAGE FROM

OUR PRESIDENT

Recently, I took up the mantle of leading the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches. As I was reminded, this is the first time a woman has been elected to this office. Although I am honored by this fact, I am not so much concerned since as we know, women are prominent in the story of Jesus Christ. He was born of a woman, interacted with women, was seen first by women after His resurrection and commissioned them to go and tell his disciples that He is risen. My new role with the COCC is both an exhilarating and a humbling ex-

...we all have our own traditions and concerns in our parishes, but when we come together we are strengthened and are able to grow as Orthodox Christians.

perience. I am filled with optimism and hope that we will be able to inspire the Orthodox parishes in our area to take an active role in the work of the COCC. We encourage all parishes to send representatives to our monthly meetings and join us for our many programs. We also welcome an opportunity to understand how the COCC may benefit your parish.

Over the last few years the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches, under the leadership of Richard Shebib and through the guidance of our spiritual advisor, Fr Laurence Lazar, has grown significantly as an organization. Pick up a copy of Good Works magazine published six times a year, listen to the weekly broadcast of DOOR (Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio) program and you will understand how much work the Council has done. Perhaps you enjoyed the "Christ is Born! Glorify Him!" Christmas Concert in December, sponsored by the COCC and hosted at Sts Constantine and Helen Greek Or-

thodox Church in Westland. For the first time in nearly 30 years, we enjoyed listening to several choirs share their musical traditions honoring the Nativity of Our Lord. Then, a combined chorus, under the direction of Matusha Vickie Kopistiansky, came joined their voices together. I suppose this is analogous to what the COCC strives to be, we all have our own traditions and concerns in our parishes, but when we come together we are strengthened and are able to grow as Orthodox Christians.

We do our best to be the face of Orthodox Christianity in our city and have united to work with Orthodox-based outreach programs like Orthodox Detroit Outreach, FOCUS Motor City, Fresh Start Detroit, and ZOE for Life to help those in need and to encourage parishes to participate. Through the generosity of Richard Shebib, members of the Council have taken an advanced grant writing class to learn how to fundraise effectively either through event planning or by applying for grants to support the work of the COCC. Recently, the Outreach Detroit Foundation (ODF) was organized as a 501c(3) non-profit, and the COCC will be working closely with the ODF for funds to support our programs.

So let us come together to share the Lenten journey at the Vespers services on the five Sundays of Great Lent. Asking for His guidance and blessings, let this be the beginning of our work together in 2016.

"He is my Helper and Protector and has become my salvation. This is my God and I will glorify Him. My father's God and I will exalt Him. For gloriously has He been glorified." (Exodus 15:2; Psalm 117:14) - from the Canon of St Andrew of Crete during the first week of Great Lent.

Olga Liskiwskiyi
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.

THE COCC EXECUTIVE BOARD

OLGA LISKIWSKIYI, President

St Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral
phone 248 252-8184 | olgaliss0910@gmail.com

JOHN E LAZAR, Vice President / Publications

St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral
phone 734 646-6420 | detroitROjel@yahoo.com

Mary Stanesa, Secretary

Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox Church
phone 313 562-1341 | mariaceamica@comcast.com

CHRISTINA TZILOS, Treasurer

Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church
phone 248 798-3627 | ctzilos@gmail.com

RICHARD SHEBIB, Past President

Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St Mary
phone 248 345 9346 | paschabooks@sbcglobal.net

V REV FR LAURENCE LAZAR, Spiritual Advisor

St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral
phone 248 569-4833 | flazar@hotmail.com

MARY ANN DADICH, Good Works Liaison

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
phone 586 775 4799 | mdadich811@gmail.com

GOOD WORKS (John E Lazar, graphic designer / editor) is the official periodical publication of The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC). All artwork and original content is not to be reproduced without prior written permission of the COCC Board. All rights reserved. © 2016.

“When You, O Lord were baptized in the Jordan the worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You by calling You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His Word. O Christ Our God who has revealed yourself and enlightened the world, glory to You!” - Tropar of Theophany



+ FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Decisions, decisions.

We've been hearing about the next presidential elections for ages, well, since the last elections(!), and now that they're just around the corner... well, that's what we're told... we have to make up our minds on who should be President. Personally, I'm not crazy about, well, (almost)



any of the candidates, although the fact that I dislike, well, I'm fearful of certain ones, is helping me decide.

Life is full of decisions. We have to make them every day. Serious and important decisions. Silly and probably inconsequential decisions. What to wear? (That's pretty easy for priests to decide.) How to react to this or that? When would be best to do something? What are the benefits of choosing one thing over another? Etcetera.

Our Lord, however, has made decisions a great deal easier to make. He simply says, "Follow me." "I am the Way." Whatever you do or say or think, make sure that love for Me and everyone else is at the heart of your decision. Yes, we still have to weigh the choices and the consequences and they can be extremely difficult and heavy on our hearts and minds, but if we are trying to live our life with and for HIM our decision will be a lot easier; giving us joy and peace rather than heartache and confusion. As we pray dur-

ing the Divine Liturgy before the Holy Gospel is proclaimed, we need to open our minds and our hearts to understand the teachings He gives us... "so that trampling down all bodily desires, we may practice a spiritual life thinking and doing all that pleases you." That's the key. The little stuff will most often be incidental. But in making those countless difficult and life-changing decisions that often put such pressure on us, we need to use your Free Will to let the Lord decide "the what, how, when, and why" that will please HIM.

Think about this as Great Lent and the Glorious Pascha approaches. If the Lord blesses you (and me) to make that journey again this year, will we decide: to participate in the services as faithfully as possible? receive the holy Mysteries more frequently? read the Holy Scripture and of the saints more attentively? give more generously to His Church, the poor and destitute? turn off the noise of the world? fast with more determination? Forgive more deliberately? He will give us the right answer to every choice we have to make. And if we choose that answer, it will please Him and us.

...if we are trying to live our life with and for HIM our decision will be a lot easier...

Even, as a matter of fact, about the presidential elections.

With love in the Lord,

Fr Lawrence Lazar

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

SAINTS & FEASTS OF THE SEASON

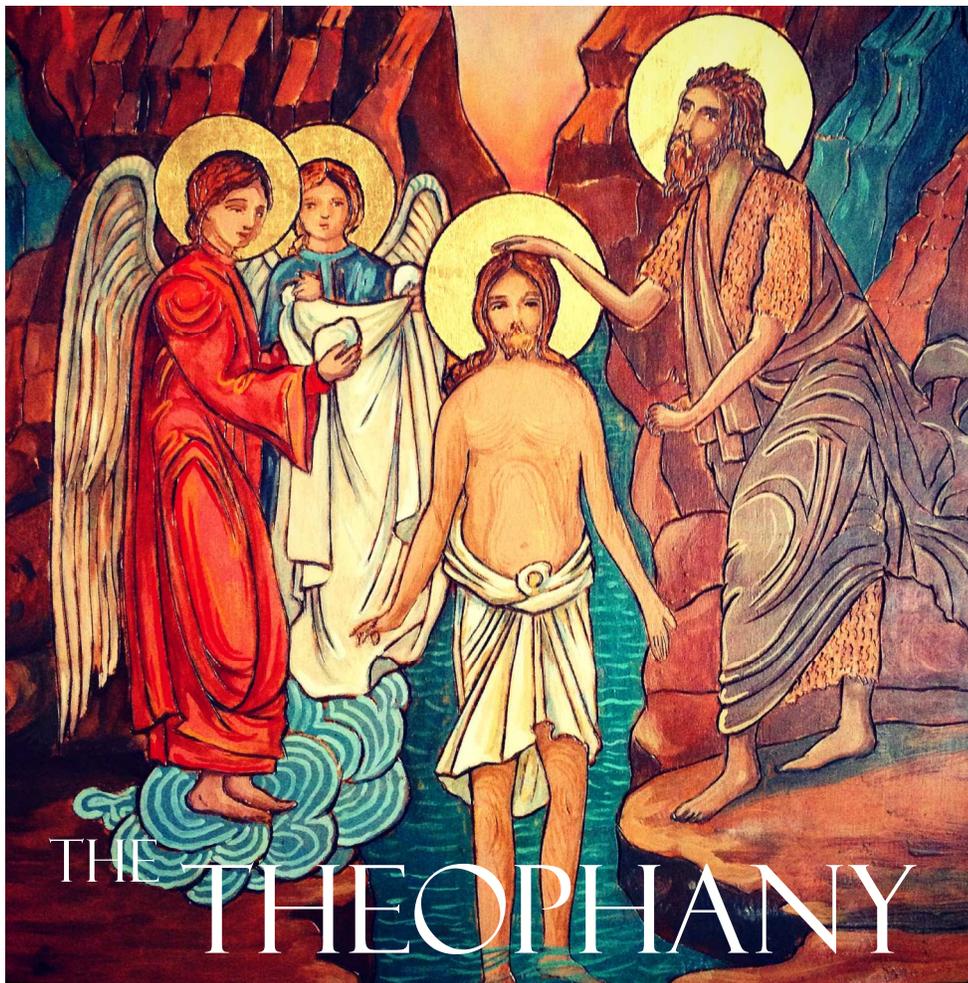
“When You, O Lord were baptized in the Jordan the worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You by calling You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His Word. O Christ Our God who has revealed yourself and enlightened the world, glory to You!”

This observance commemorates Christ's baptism by John the Forerunner in the River Jordan, and the beginning of Christ's earthly ministry. The Feast of Theophany is the culmination of the Christmas Season, which starts on December 25 and ends on January 6. In mystic commemoration of this event, the Great Blessing of Waters is performed on this day, and the holy water is used by the local priest to bless the homes of the faithful.

The feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ the Holy Trinity appeared clearly to mankind for the first time—the Father's voice is heard from Heaven, the Son of God is incarnate and standing physically in the Jordan, and the Holy Spirit descends on Him in the form of a dove.

This feast is also sometimes referred to as Epiphany by English-speaking Orthodox Christians, but that name more properly refers to the Western Christian feast falling on that same day and commemorating the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus. The term epiphany does appear in some of the service texts for this feast, however.

Originally, there was just one Christian feast of the shining forth of God to the world in the human form of Jesus of Nazareth. It included the celebration of Christ's birth, the adoration of the wise men, and all of the childhood events of Christ such as his circumcision and presentation to the temple as well as his baptism by John in the Jordan. There seems to be little doubt that this feast, like Pascha and Pentecost, was understood as the ful-



fillment of a previous Jewish festival, in this case the Feast of Lights. The Armenian Apostolic Church still keeps January 6 as a feast of both Christ's Nativity and baptism.

The services of Theophany are arranged similarly to those of the Nativity. (Historically the Christmas services were established later.) The Royal Hours are read and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is served with Vespers on the eve of the feast. The Vigil is made up of Great Compline and Matins. On the morning of the feast, the Divine Liturgy is served. The Liturgy of the feast begins with psalms of glorification and praise instead of the three normal Antiphons. And the baptismal line from Galatians 3:27 replaces the Thrice-Holy, “As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ: Alleluia”. The Gospel readings of all the services tell of the Lord's baptism by John in the Jordan River. The epistle reading at Liturgy tells of the consequences of the Lord's appearing which is the divine epiphany.

Since the main feature of the feast is the blessing of water. It is prescribed to follow both the Divine Liturgy of the eve of the feast and the Divine Liturgy of the day itself. But most local parishes do it only once when most of the parishioners can be present. The blessing verifies that mankind, and all of creation, were created to be filled with the sanctifying presence of God.

MARTYRS PERPETUA & FELICITY | February 1

Sometime in 202 or 203AD during the persecution of Emperor Septimius Severus (193-211AD) five catechumens were arrested in Carthage, North Africa. They were St Vibia Perpetua, a young woman of good family, about twenty-two years old, married and with a son who was still nursing, Felicity and her fellow slave Revocatus, Saturninus and Secundulus. Soon afterwards Saturus, who had deliberately declared himself a Christian before the magistrate, joined them in prison. St Perpetua herself wrote an account of their time in prison. A contemporary Christian wrote an introduction to her account and added an account of the actual martyrdom.

Perpetua's father, who was not Christian, came to the jail to persuade her to save her life by offering sacrifice to the gods. She refused, saying, "I am a Christian." A few days after their arrest they were all baptized. St Perpetua was inspired to pray only for "perseverance of the flesh." Then they were sent to prison.

The conditions in the prison were very bad, but two deacons of the local Church bribed the guards to give the prisoners better quarters. Perpetua could even have her infant son with her. She had a vision about her future. She saw a ladder going up to heaven, which was guarded by a dragon. She went up the ladder under great difficulty and entered a garden where there was shepherd who gave her fresh milk. She waked with the realization that they must all suffer martyrdom. Her father came again to persuade her to sacrifice. Again she refused.

At a hearing in the forum, Perpetua's father came once more to dissuade her. At her refusal he would not give her son back to her for nursing, but miraculously her son no longer cried and she no longer felt discomfort. On the day before the execution she had another vision. Changed into a man, she had to fight as a gladiator against a huge and ferocious Ethiopian. She won the contest, treading on the Ethiopian's head, and received from the judge a branch with golden apples on it. She understood that her battle would not be with wild beasts but with the devil. St Perpetua's account ends here.

Saturus also had a vision, in which he saw himself and St Perpetua being carried to heaven by four angels after death and being united to four other martyrs of the same persecution.

The editor / narrator continues the account. Secundulus died while in prison, but is united with them in spirit. Felicity, who is eight months pregnant, prays that she may give birth prematurely, for Roman law forbade the execution of a pregnant woman. Two days before the execution she gives birth to a baby girl, who is adopted by a Christian woman.



After being exposed to wild animals all were killed by a gladiator's sword on March 7, 203AD.

Their story, "The Martyrdom of Felicitas and Perpetua," spread all over the Roman Empire as one of the classics of early Christian literature. Their feast day is on March 7th in the Roman calendar. The Orthodox Church honors these martyrs on February 1.

Submission by
Fr Vergil Heier, CMM
A good friend of the COCC

Getting JESUS' Attention

Dr Joshua Genig



You and I have all been to churches where young children who make noise are quickly carried out, so as not to disturb other worshippers. Worse still, you and I have all been to churches where mothers are given the “stink eye” when they don’t remove their children quickly enough. When it happens here, however, usually Fr Roman or Fr Daneil will look over at me and ask: “Is that yours?” Well, yes, it probably is! But that’s not the point. The point is that that noise is, very simply, the noise of the Gospel. It is the sound through which God, in His mercy, continues to call all to His Church – all to salvation – even the littlest and the loudest.

And that’s the way children work, you know. Because one gift is lacking – their words, their speech – they find all sorts of other creative ways to let us know what they need. They throw things, they cry, they giggle, and, yes, sometimes they even yell and scream. They will do anything – yes, anything – to get our attention.

And it is really no different for the man in today’s Gospel. When a certain gift is lacking – his sight – this blind man finds another way to get the attention of Jesus. St. Luke describes it this way: “[...] he cried out, saying, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’” In a word, this blind man became like a child again, making all sorts of noise so that Jesus might hear him, and in hearing him, see him, and in seeing him, love him.

Now, this is the usual point in the homily where you’d hear it said: “Now, folks, we are all like that blind

man. We are spiritually blind. We cannot see the things of God. And we are in need of having our spiritual sight restored.” And while that is true, I think there something much simpler here, something much more basic to the blind man’s encounter with Jesus today.

No matter what your struggle, no matter what your weakness, no matter what it is that you find lacking – maybe not eye sight or hearing or taste or touch or smell, but maybe:

- *your prayers – maybe you struggle to say them every single day;*
- *maybe your love – maybe it has grown cold;*
- *maybe your repentance – maybe it’s hard to give up a particular sin;*
- *maybe your fasting – maybe you struggle to make a go of it;*
- *or maybe your forgiveness of others – maybe you continue to nurse old grudges and feed old wounds...*

Whatever it is, it really doesn’t matter.

What matters is this: whatever it is that you find lacking, Jesus invites you to do the most childish, innocent thing imaginable: He invites you to cry out for his mercy! That is, after all, what this blind man asked for.

Getting Jesus' Attention (continued)...

You notice he didn't say: 'Jesus, give me my sight again.' No. He said: 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.' And it is in having mercy, it is in stopping, bending down, and talking directly to that blind man, that Jesus finally asks him what it is he wishes to receive.

And that is how it is with us. It is Christ first. And so it is mercy first. And mercy is simply the Church's way of talking about God, in the person of His Son, coming to meet you where you are, stooping down to your level, joining you in your weakness, and entering into what is lacking.

And when He enters into our lives that way, as the One who is "all in all," as we just heard in the Epistle, He not only forgives and heals, but He also restores and fills and makes whole again.

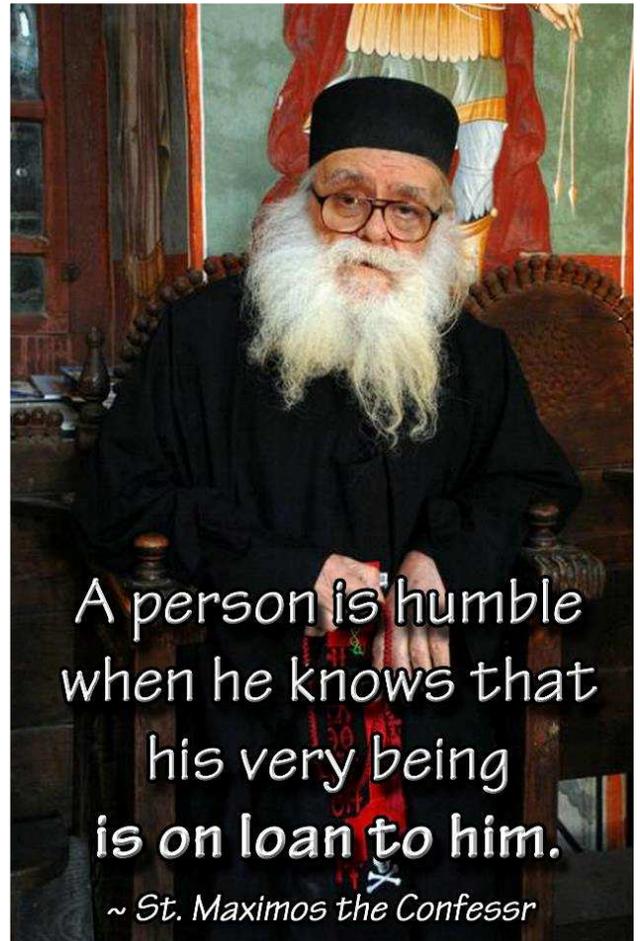
So, please, go ahead and act like a child again. Beg for His mercy. Say it as simply as this:

*Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me a sinner.*

And know that this prayer offered in faith, from a child's heart, will undoubtedly make us well again. And then be sure to do what that blind man did. You remember that the Gospel ends with the blind man following Jesus. No, Jesus is not interested in tallying up miracles. He is interested in making disciples.

May God grant this to all of us.

Subdeacon Joshua holds a Masters of Divinity degree in Pastoral Theology and Systematic Theology from Concordia Theological Seminary, and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Systematic Theology from the University of St Andrew's in Scotland. Currently, he serves as Associate Professor of Historical Theology at Sts Cyril and Methodius Seminary at Orchard Lake, and as Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Purdue University's North Central campus in Westville, Indiana. He also serves as a Chaplain for the Detroit Fire Department. Prior to entering the Orthodox Church, he served as a Lutheran minister for seven years. He and his wife, Abigail, and their four daughters are active members of St Innocent Church in Redford.



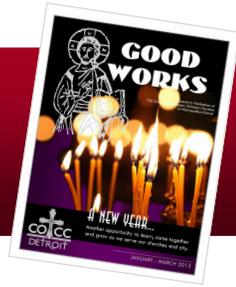
The Detroit Orthodox Community has a history of over 100 years! Over the decades, most parishes have left the "old neighborhoods" and venerable original structures. Some have sadly closed their doors, while others are more recently founded. Whatever the case, your history is our history, so please contact Mary Ann Dadich (586 775 4799, mdadich811@gmail.com) 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!

“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 amazing how interesting and informative each issue is!”

YOU CAN HELP US!



APPEAL + SURVEY

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

NAME(s) _____
 EMAIL(s) _____
 PHONE (_____) _____

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

 (payable to: COCC Detroit)

Please check any area that you may be interested in:
 Choir Poor & Needy Youth & Young Adults
 Outreach Food Pantry Other _____

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

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

NEWS from around the Orthodox World...

Patriarchs Meet at Chambésy

[Chambésy, Switzerland] At the invitation of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Synaxis of Primates of the Orthodox Autocephalous Churches took place at the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy, Geneva, from 21 to 28 January, 2016. The following Primates were unable to attend: Their Beatitudes Patriarch John X of Antioch and Metropolitan Sawa of Warsaw and All Poland, for health reasons, and Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece, for personal reasons. Nevertheless, all three were represented by official delegations of their Churches.

The Primates of the Orthodox Churches convened to finalize the texts for the Holy and Great Council. In the framework of the Synaxis, on Sunday, 24th January, a Divine Liturgy was held at the Holy Stavropegic Church of St. Paul. Along with the Ecumenical Patriarch, who presided, Their Beatitudes and Heads of the delegations of the Orthodox Churches concelebrated the Liturgy, with the exception of the Head of the delegation of the Patriarchate of Antioch.

During the Synaxis, whose sessions were held in the apostolic spirit of “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4.15), in concord and understanding, the Primates affirmed their decision to convene the Holy and Great Council. The Council will be held at the Orthodox Academy of Crete from June 16 to 27, 2016. To this end, the Primates humbly invoke the grace and blessing of the Holy Trinity and fervently invite the prayers of the fullness of the Church, clergy and laity, for the period leading to and the sessions of the Holy and Great Council.

(source: radiovaticana.va)





A New Endeavor

Regarding the Inclusion of Youth in Serving God

THE Kolo Srpskih Sestara is widely recognized as one of the most prominent organizations that serve the Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church. In an effort to ensure its ability to continue in this capacity, the Serbian Sisters Ravanica, Detroit's Kolo, embarked on a new concept. We are pleased to announce that on October 18, 2015, we inducted 24 young girls into the Junior Sisters Ravanica. At the conclusion of Divine Liturgy, they were called up to the altar where they stood proudly reciting the Oath, followed by a special pinning. Their willingness and desire to participate and donate their time to their parish is to be commended and embraced.

Junior Sisters Mission Statement: *"To help our Serbian Sisters of Ravanica and St Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral throughout the school year in many different Acts of Kindness that benefit our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. This is a wonderful opportunity for me to serve God and to put my faith into action by helping people at all times. To respect myself and others; to be honest and fair; considerate and caring; to respect authority; to do Outreach such as visiting the sick and elderly and feeding the homeless; to be a sister to every girl; to encourage one another and build each other up; to be a good example for younger girls; and to be friendly and helpful at all times."*

In the history of the world, change often starts with the young. Young people look at the world with fresh eyes. They see the world as it is and ask "Why?" and imagine a different world and ask "Why not?"

Investing in the Next Generation of Leaders!

Going forward, a Serbian Sister, parish priest and other church leaders will mentor each Junior Sister. The mentors will help them process experiences and walk alongside them as they encounter dilemmas that require making sound decisions. They will also teach them how to acquire leadership skills and show them how to become involved in a ministry context.

Our hope is that, while they are learning through example, they will make lifelong friendships, learn how to be supportive and encouraging to one another, accept their similarities as well as

differences and share amazing experiences with other Orthodox youth by serving God and their community. Many of today's youth experience confusion regarding decisions about their future. We believe they will benefit from someone who walks alongside them, recognizes their potential and encourages them toward a life in Christ.

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for her friends..." John 15:13

"For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is my brother and sister & mother." Matthew 12:50

"Let sisterly / brotherly love continue." Hebrews 13:1

"Loving one another as Christ, first loved us." John 15:12



What Will People Experience When They Meet Our Junior Sisters? Love of God. Acceptance. Empowerment.

Our Junior Sisters accept members from 1st through 12th grade. When a Junior Sister turns 18, she will officially become a member of the Serbian Sisters Ravanica, where she will be given the rights and privileges associated with the membership. The proceeds of all the Junior Sisters fund-raising efforts will be directed to the Serbian Sisters Scholarship Fund as well as helping and aiding their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Beloved of the LORD, remember this: A friend loveth at all times..." Proverbs 17:17

Donna Rajkovic
President, Serbian Sisters Ravanica



Inter-Orthodox Christmas Concerts are quite common in the United States. Here in Detroit, although we enjoy a beautiful Choir for our Great Lent Vespers series, and a renowned ensemble for concerts and other events, bringing our respective parish choirs together for a concert has unfortunately eluded us for nearly 30 years. And so, inspired by efforts in the 1980's, as well as similar events in other cities, we are proud that this tradition has finally been brought back to Detroit!

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) sponsored "Christ is Born! Glorify Him! A Detroit Orthodox Christmas Concert" on Sunday, December 13, 2015. Sts Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Westland, led by Fr Teodor Petrutiu, hosted the event at their spacious complex.

The first part of the concert featured Nativity hymns and carols from Greece, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine sung by choirs from five Orthodox churches: Sts Constantine and Helen, directed by Maritsa Kalasz; Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, directed by Sharon Gomulka; St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, directed by John E Lazar; St Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, directed by Petra Koprivica; and St Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, directed by Mykola Newmerzyckyj. Each ensemble enchanted the audience with their respective traditional and popular selections.

The large church was filled to standing-room only capacity and included more than 20 Orthodox clergy. A welcome was offered by the Very Rev Fr Laurence Lazar, president of the St John Chrysostom Clergy Brotherhood of Detroit and Spiritual Advisor to the COCC. The "Oratorio" style presentation included scriptural passages from the Nativity story and recitations of particular hymns of the season offered by narrator Jim Badeen,

host of Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio.

After a short intermission, the second part of the concert began with Romanian Children Carolers, directed by Fr George Carstea. Then, a chorus of the combined parish choirs gathered on the solea to offer several hymns and carols sung in English, directed by Matushka Victoria Kopistiansky (director of the well-known Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit).



His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit was an honored guest, and was kind enough to offer inspiring remarks to the audience and choirs. Fr Teodor Petrutiu then gave thanks for the participants. The concert concluded with a sing-along of popular Western Christmas carols that filled the entire church with the spirit of the season. The free-will offering that was collected during the concert was used to benefit "Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio" program

(DOOR), broadcast Sundays 4-5pm on WNZK-690AM, and live-streamed / pod-casted via www.DOORradio.org. Excerpts from the concert were featured by DOOR on the special Christmas programs! Additionally, a donation was made to FOCUS Motor-City by the organizing committee in the name of the host parish as a sign of appreciation for the use of their facilities.

An afterglow reception with refreshments provided by host parish of Sts Constantine and Helen and the Orthodox Christian Women (OCW) follow the concert in the Hellenic Center.

There were rave reviews of the evening which certainly reinvigorated the entire community to continue this now restored tradition! Amid the compliments, one attendee shared, “What a



“What a wonderful event! I’m so glad I came... I’m not even Orthodox but I already can’t wait for next year’s concert!”

wonderful event! I’m so glad I came... I’m not even Orthodox but I already can’t wait for next year’s concert!”

We thank John E Lazar for his initiative and leadership in proposing and producing the concert. He and the participants are to be commended. - *Participant*

The hymns and carols in order of performance included... **St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral “Serbian Singing Society Ravanica”** (Fr Zivan Urosev, Dean; Fr Dragan Micanovic, Priest; Petra Koprivica, Director): Oj Badnjace - *The Yule Log* (Traditional Serbian Carol), Tiha Noć - *Silent Night* (German Carol; Franz Gruber), Slava Vo Višnjih Bogu - *Glory to God in the Highest* (harm Jerej S Vujkov), Rođestvo Tvoje - *Christmas Troparion* (Tone 4; J Kindt); **Holy Transfiguration Church Choir** (Fr Michael Butler, Parish Priest; Sharon Gomulka, Director): O Come, O Come Emmanuel (arr Andrew Hawryluk), What Shall We Call You, Mary? (Fr Sergei Glagolev), African Noel (arr Andre J Thomas; Thomas Stinson, drums); **St Mary Protectress Ukrainian Cathedral Choir** (Fr Pavlo Bodnarchuk, Parish Priest; Mykola Newmerzyckyj, Director): Nova Radist Stala - *A New Joy Has Arisen* (arr Fr Kyrilo Stetsenko), Diva Siohodni - *Today the Virgin Kontakion* (Tone 3, Ukrainian), Boh sya Rozdzhaye - *God is (Being) Born* (Yakiv M Yatsinevich), Dnes' Poyushche - *Today, We Sing a Song of Praise* (arr Fr Kyrilo Stetsenko); **St George Romanian Cathedral “Archbishop Valerian Choir”** (Fr Laurence Lazar, Dean; Fr Sabin Pop, Assistant; John E Lazar, Director): Astăzi s-a Născut Hristos - *Christ is Born Today* (Timotei Popovici), Mărește Suflete al Meu - *Magnify O My Soul / Imos* (T Popovici) Mare Minune, Crestinilor Noi Astazi, Ziurel de Ziu - *A Great Wonder, Today We Christians, At the Break of Dawn* (Gheorghe Cucu, et al), Sus în Vârful Muntelui - *On the Mountain's Peak* (Tiberiu Brediceanu); **Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Church Choir** (Fr Teodor Petrutiu, Parish Priest; Maritsa Madias Kalasz, Director): I Parthenos Simeron - *Today the Virgin / Kontakion* (arr Theodore Bogdanos), I Gennisis Sou, Christe - *Your birth, Christ* (arr Th Bogdanos), Christmas Lullaby (John Rutter); **Romanian Children's Carolers** (Fr George Carstea, Director): O Ce Veste Minunata - *What Wonderful News*, Steaua sus Răsare - *The Star Shines*, Trei Păstori - *Three Shepherds*, Moș Crăciun cu Plețe Dalbe - *Father Christmas*, Astăzi s-a Născut Hristos - *Christ is Born Today*; **Detroit Inter-Orthodox Chorus** (Victoria Kopistiansky, Director): Christ is Born, Glorify Him (Fr Sergei Glagolev), Thy Nativity / Troparion (Serbian; arr T Heckman), Down from Heaven's Holy Height / Exapostliarion (Greek; Sakillaridhes; P Costianes), In Olden Days (Richard Toensing), Magnify My Soul / Imos (Romanian Byzantine), Heaven and Earth (Ukrainian melody); **Chorus & Audience Finale**: Joy to the World, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Silent Night, Adeste Fideles / O Come All Ye Faithful. **The Organizing Committee** included: David Adrian, Simona Ghilezan, Sharon Gomulka, Elizabeth Star Hatfield, Matushka Victoria Kopistiansky, John E Lazar, Olga Liss, Fr Teodor Petrutiu, Richard Shebib.



Photos and video online via COCCDetroit.org and Facebook.com/OrthodoxDetroit.



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

Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio is approaching 40 weeks of programs thanks to the hard work of our volunteer staff and listeners like you! Our program is expanding with a variety of subjects and special interviews that are both entertaining and informative for the entire family.

With God's help, the program will continue to evolve into a true Inter-Orthodox effort for our parishes, faithful and the entire city!

Affordable advertising space for businesses, restaurants,

banquet halls, and professionals is available via commercial air time and for longer periods on our website! Program sponsorship is also available to mark your personal or parish special occasion! We also hope you will

SUNDAYS: 4:00-5:00PM
690AM
WWW.DOORRADIO.ORG

consider a gift (see form below) to support DOOR and keep us on the air!

Contact us 248 345-9346 or staff@DOORradio.org, and invite family and friends to TUNE IN!



NAME(s) _____

EMAIL(s) _____

PHONE (_____) _____

Please accept my gift of: \$100 \$50 \$25
 (payable to: COCC Detroit) _____

Comments regarding "DOOR Radio" are welcome:

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

SPEAKER SERIES

2016



THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME to attend any of these FREE, Educational programs!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 | 2PM

23rd Anniversary Memorial & Luncheon, 2pm
 "Fresh Start Detroit"
 Jerome Fisher, Presenter
 St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, Southfield

MONDAY, MARCH 21 | 7PM

"St John Climacas (of the Ladder)"
 Fr Stratton Dorozenski, Presenter
 St Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, Detroit

MONDAY, APRIL 18 | 7PM

"A Priests Conversion"
 Fr Michael Butler & Fr Joseph Gingrich, Presenters
 Nativity of Mary Greek Orthodox Church, Plymouth

SATURDAY, MAY 21 | 10AM

"Orthodox Detroit Outreach"
 Matt McCroskery & Janet Damian, Presenters
 St Mary Antiochian Orthodox Basilica, Livonia

MONDAY, JUNE 10 | 7PM

"FOCUS Motor-City"
 Eric Shanburn, Presenter
 St George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Troy

SATURDAY, JULY 16

"Christian Suffering, an example for us all"
 Dr Dan Hinshaw, Presenter
 Retreat at Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 | 7PM

"ZOE for Life"
 Sue Barna, Presenter
 Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox Church, Dearborn Hts

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17 | 7PM

"Evangelizing without Imposing"
 David Adrian, Presenter
 St George Greek Orthodox Church, Bloomfield Hills

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 | 10AM

"Outreach for Syrian Refugees"
 Fr Nabil Fino, Presenter
 Location TBA

THE ORTHODOX CHOIR OF DETROIT

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

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN (OCW)

The Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan has members from various Orthodox churches in the Detroit region. Educational programs are presented monthly, and a summer retreat is held. Charitable work focuses primarily on collecting and distributing food / paper products to those in need. New clothing and other items requested by Children's Hospital are also collected. For information, contact **President Mary Ann Dadich** (586 775-4799 | mdadich811@gmail.com).

FOCUS MOTOR CITY **FOCUS** MOTOR + CITY

FOCUS is a Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve. They are a national 501c3 non-profit with a local Detroit ministry to children in need. Live out your faith in Christ by serving the needs of neglected children in the city of Detroit. They have volunteer opportunities at Detroit K-5 schools, at area parishes and in their office in Midtown. Visit www.FOCUSMotorCity.org or www.facebook.com/focusdetroitcenter for more info contact the Director, **Eric Shanburn** (Detroit@focusna.org).

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 *Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio* (DOOR) weekly program. Contact **Richard Shebib** (248 345-9346 | paschabook@sbcglobal.net) to help.

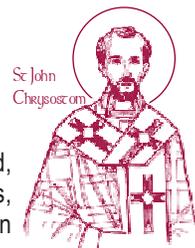


HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Humble Beginnings is small, grass-roots service group that collects food and clothing and then distributes it face to face to the needy in underserved areas of the inner-city. It relies on contributions and community support to do its humble work as a response to Christ's call of how to live. Contact **Jerome Fisher** (313 407-1888 | jfisher48228@yahoo.com) to get involved.

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 DETROIT OUTREACH (ODO)

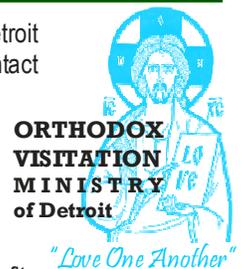


ORTHODOX DETROIT OUTREACH

Our mission is to strive to fulfill the Gospel of our Lord, and to be known by the fruits of our ministry. Our primary activity (in cooperation with Orthodox parishes throughout the region) is to provide a hot meal every Sunday on Gilbert Street in Southwest Detroit. We also try to aid those in need with clothing and other aid as possible, by offering our friendship and love to all whom we serve. Contact **Matthew McCroskery** (orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org).

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

ZOE FOR LIFE!

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. The metro Detroit presence of Zoe is very new, but becoming a presence in the community, open to ALL women in need. **Sue Barna** serves as president (info@zoehousemi.org) or call the anonymous help-line 855 ZOE-LIFE.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN...

MINI-RETREAT

BIBLE BASICS

for the ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

February 27, 2016 | 9:30a-3:00p

St Nicholas Church, 3109 Scio Church Rd, Ann Arbor 48103

The retreat is free of charge and lunch will be provided. You must register as a Church or individually. For more information, contact the St Nicholas Church secretary by phone at: (734) 332-8200, or by email at: secretary@stnickaa.org.

CAMP HELP

Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp (MDSC) is excited to announce that they are now accepting 2016 Staff Applications. MDSC is now accepting staff applications for the upcoming 2016 camp season. You can apply now through our new online Staff Application system.



Camper Registration will open soon! Stay tuned! For more information

regarding staff opportunities and other MDSC Camp News, visit www.gomdsc.org.

MICHIGAN TEEN RETREAT

February 26-27

Colombiere Retreat Center
9075 Big Lake Rd, Clarkston

The teens of St George Church in Flint invite you to join us for an exciting retreat focused on how we can better serve the Lord in the many different areas of life. Clergy from the Antiochian, Greek, and OCA churches of Michigan will be present to lead discussion and offer unique insight.

\$90 will cover your overnight stay, all meals, and meeting spaces! After the RSVP deadline of February 1st, we will accept additional attendees as space permits at a cost of \$115 per person. Contact KARI FARAH at karifa@umflint.edu for more information.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY *Tamburitzans*

April 9, 2016: Warren Community Arts Center

Tickets: tamburitzans.talentshadows.com



DEAR SINGERS!

We sincerely invite you to join the Orthodox Lenten Vespers Choir, under the direction of (Matushka) Vickie Kopistiansky, that will lead the responses for 2016's Inter-Orthodox Sunday evening Great Lent services. This has been a tradition in Detroit for more than 30 years, and we would love to have YOU! You'll learn music, make friends, and enrich your Lenten journey by offering your voice to Our Lord and the community!

LENTEN VESPERS CHOIR

of Metropolitan Detroit

2016 REHEARSALS

SUNDAY, 21 FEBRUARY (3-5pm)

SUNDAY, 28 FEBRUARY (3-5pm)

SUNDAY, 6 MARCH (3-5pm)

SUNDAY, 13 MARCH (3-5pm) *if needed*

Make 2016 the year you join us! Contact Elizabeth (734 306-1486 | starelizabeth70@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you at rehearsal!

ST GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHEDRAL CULTURAL CENTER

18405 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield 48075
sgroc.org | Just W of the M-10/M-39 freeways

ALL ARE WELCOME — PRAY, LEARN AND ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH US!

DETROIT INTER-ORTHODOX SUNDAY
LENTEN
Vespers
2 0 1 6

20 MARCH THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY

SAINT LAZARUS SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

THE VERY REV DR MICHAEL OLEKSA, GUEST SPEAKER
4575 EAST OUTER DRIVE, DETROIT (AT CORNER OF VAN DYKE)

27 MARCH ST GREGORY PALAMAS

SAINT MARY THE PROTECTRESS UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

THE REV FR JOSEPH GINGRICH, GUEST SPEAKER
21931 EVERGREEN RD, SOUTHFIELD (BETWEEN EIGHT & NINE MILE RDS)

3 APRIL THE HOLY CROSS

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE VERY REV FR STRATTON DOROZENSKI, GUEST SPEAKER
39851 FIVE MILE RD, PLYMOUTH (BETWEEN HAGGERTY & I-275)

10 APRIL ST JOHN OF THE LADDER

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE VERY REV FR DIMITRIE VINCENT, GUEST SPEAKER
26355 WEST CHICAGO, REDFORD (BETWEEN BEECH DALY & INKSTER)

17 APRIL ST MARY OF EGYPT

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE VERY REV FR MICHAEL BUTLER, GUEST SPEAKER
2160 EAST MAPLE RD, TROY (JUST EAST OF JOHN R)

Services begin at 6:00pm | Free-will offering | Refreshments to follow



AN ANNUAL SERIES, SPONSORED BY THE COUNCIL OF ORTHODOX CHURCHES OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT |

WWW.COICCDetroit.ORG



PARISH SPOTLIGHT...

ALL SAINTS MISSION

We are a newer community, about 7 years old now, located just south of Detroit (and north of Toledo) in the community we affectionately call the Dearborn / Downriver area, and welcome everyone from Southeast Michigan & Northwest Ohio. Our mission is part of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR).

Exciting times are coming our Way! We have been praying at a beautiful facility, just a couple of miles off the Gibraltar Road exit of I-75, which puts us in a really central location - 15 minutes from Detroit or Toledo! We still do Reader's Services on Sundays, and scheduling a Divine Liturgy at least once a month, celebrating ALL Holy Days and our

ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX MISSION

Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia

14100 Navarre St, Gibraltar

Mailing Address:

30111 Marr St, Gibraltar 48173

tel 734 934-6337

allsaintsorthodoxchurch.org

V Rev Fr Gregory Joyce, Administrator

Bishop PETER is helping us actively seek a Shepherd.

Our criteria isn't based on where you live or whether you are Russian, Ukrainian,



Greek, Serbian, Mexican, Arabic or even Cherokee Indian - We want everyone to come and celebrate the True Word of our Holy Orthodoxy. Although many of you may have never heard of us (especially without an ethnicity attached), we have been around since Jesus Christ Himself, and can show our ties without Ancestry.com (although that would be interesting to see).

Please come and check us out. In a time of such uncertainty, and the changing landscapes that is challenging our brothers and sisters, especially for those who maybe are, or have lost their spiritual homes, we promise to work diligently - with love and respect and the humble abilities of our faithful to provide support

to our Lost Sheep (new and old) and to invite all of you into our lives and share our community. We really have something special and are very excited to talk about it: In English, Russian, Ukrainian, Greek, Serbian, Mexican, Arabic or even Cherokee Indian!

With God, ALL things are possible, and with the love and strength of our community, we will be there for you! It is my sincere hope that this would be the last year that we celebrate scattered about in different places and parishes and the next year we will all be together in one place - a parish church our Lord will have entrusted to us as we celebrate all of our Christian Sacraments and Holy Days.

ORTHODOX CHURCHES OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Basilica

Founded 1972

www.stmarylivonia.com

18100 Merriman, Livonia

V Rev Fr George Shalhoub

Rev Fr Jim King

Antiochian Diocese of Toledo & Midwest



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Founded 1931

www.stnickaa.org

3109 Scio Church, Ann Arbor

Rev Fr Nicolaos Kotsis

*Greek Orthodox Metropolis
of Detroit*



Saint Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church

Founded 1955

5353 Livernois, Troy

V Rev Fr Gheorghe Carstea

*Romanian Orthodox Episcopate
of America*



THIS PAGE IS USED FOR PRINT ADVERTISEMENTS.
Please call 586 775-4799 for information.

THIS PAGE IS USED FOR PRINT ADVERTISEMENTS.
Please call 586 775-4799 for information.

THIS PAGE IS USED FOR PRINT ADVERTISEMENTS.
Please call 586 775-4799 for information.

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.

Bible-Study is offered Wednesdays at 7:30pm through St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral. Call 313 893-6025 for more information. All are welcome.

FEBRUARY

- 2 + Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord
- 7 OCW 23rd Anniversary Memorial & Luncheon
2pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 9 COCC Monthly Meeting
7pm: St Innocent Church, Redford
- 12 ODF Board Meeting
6:30pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 20 Winter Garage Sale
10am: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Dearborn Hts
- 21 Lenten Vespers Choir Rehearsal
3pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 23 Clergy Brotherhood Luncheon
11:30am: Nikola's Restaurant, Southfield
- 26-27 Teen Retreat (through Antiochian Deanery)
See information on page 14
- 27 Mini-Retreat
9:30am: St Nicholas Greek Church, Ann Arbor
- 28 Lenten Vespers Choir Rehearsal
3pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield

MARCH

- 6 Lenten Vespers Choir Rehearsal
3pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 8 COCC Monthly Meeting
7pm: St Nicholas Greek Church, Troy
- 13 Lenten Vespers Choir Rehearsal
3pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 14 Start of Great Lent
- 20 1st Sunday of Lent: Orthodoxy (Lenten Vespers)
6pm: St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral, Detroit
- 21 Clergy Conference with Fr Michael Oleksa
10am: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
OCW Speaker Series: "St John of the Ladder"
7pm: St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral, Detroit
- 24 Eve of Annunciation
Patronal Feast Vespers
Annunciation Greek Cathedral, Greektown
- 25 + Feast of the Annunciation
Patronal Feast-day Liturgy
10am: Annunciation Greek Cathedral, Greektown
- 27 2nd Sunday of Lent: Orthodoxy (Lenten Vespers)
6pm: St Mary Ukrainian Cathedral, Southfield

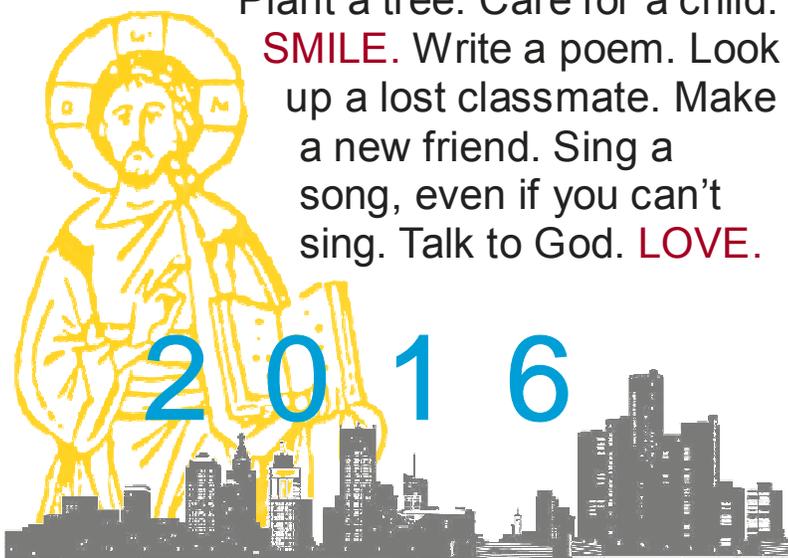
Unless otherwise noted, Saints listed are based on New Calendar
OCW - Orthodox Christian Women sponsored event
Parishes are encouraged to submit calendars to us!

A Few Church Resolutions For the New Year...

Attend services regularly. **HELP**. Donate a little extra. Teach someone. Feed the hungry. **PRAY**. Volunteer. Welcome a stranger. Bring a friend to church. **SING**. Be kind. Encourage another. Trust God. **FORGIVE**. Receive the Sacraments. Read the scriptures. **GIVE**. Be thankful. Lend a helping hand. Forgive a grudge.

Plant a tree. Care for a child.

SMILE. Write a poem. Look up a lost classmate. Make a new friend. Sing a song, even if you can't sing. Talk to God. **LOVE**.



Visit: www.coccdetroit.com



GET CONNECTED! Like *COCC Detroit* on Facebook®!

GOOD WORKS

JAN-FEB 2016



ST GEORGE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
 18405 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield MI 48075 USA
 Telephone 248 569-4833

U.S. NON-PROFIT
 POSTAGE
 PAID
 Permit No.353
 SOUTHFIELD MI

Dated Material - Do not delay
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED