

Issue 24 | Volume VI, Number 2

# GOOD WORKS

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



## CHRIST IS RISEN!



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MARCH-APRIL 2017

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## *A Time to Rejoice!*

What an incredible opportunity we have as Orthodox Christians to embark on the spiritual journey of Great Lent! It is a time of discipline and testing ourselves, a chance to grow in our faith. Through the work of Fr. Laurence Lazar and the "Saint John Chrysostom" Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of metropolitan Detroit and the

*The COCC works to focus on the whole Orthodox community - its hopes, its joys, its needs, its concerns, its gifts and its pursuit of the mission of the Church.*

generosity of our local parishes, we are able to come together in fellowship throughout Great Lent every Sunday evening for vespers. This year, we want to thank the clergy and faithful of the following parishes who agreed to open up their churches and their hearts to us: St. Clement Ohridski Church (Dearborn), Assumption Greek Church (St. Clair Shores), St. George Romanian Cathedral (Southfield), Holy Trinity Church (Detroit) and Holy Transfiguration Church (Livonia). We appreciate Matushka Vickie Kopistansky, the members of the Orthodox Choir of Detroit and the various church choir

members from many different parishes for meeting together in January and February to rehearse the responses in preparation for the Lenten Vespers. We are grateful to the Romanian Cathedral of St. George for allowing us to rehearse in their hall.

Through the goodwill offerings collected at the Vespers, we as a council are able to support the various ministries and affiliates of the COCC. Whether you donate to the production of the weekly radio program or bring canned goods to help the Orthodox Detroit Outreach, you become part of the Orthodox efforts to "feed the sheep" as Christ instructed Paul following His Resurrection.

Building on the friendships we create during the fellowship hours following the Lenten Vespers, we hope to introduce or further discuss the work of the COCC. We hope to schedule times to meet with the various parish boards to present the work of the COCC and to showcase a sampling of programs offered on DOOR. The COCC works to focus on the whole Orthodox community - its hopes, its joys, its needs, its concerns, its gifts and its pursuit of the mission of the Church. If you are interested in representing your parish, please let your pastor know and he may submit your name as an official representative to the COCC.

*Olga Liskiwskyi*

COCC President

Visit: [www.coccdetroit.org](http://www.coccdetroit.org)

[www.DOORradio.org](http://www.DOORradio.org)



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

ON THE COVER: Miss Adriana Gomez, granddaughter of Fr. Laurence Lazar, at the Resurrection Service at St. George Cathedral



## 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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**Norwegian** Kristus er oppstanden! Han er sannelig oppstanden! **Swedish** Kristus är uppstånden! Ja, Han är verkligen uppstånden!  
**Portuguese** Cristo ressuscitou! Verdadeiramente ressuscitou! **Czech** Kristus vstal z mrtvých! Vpravdě vstal z mrtvých! **Lithuanian:**  
 Kristus prisikėlė! Tikrai prisikėlė! **Turkish** Hristós diril-Di! Hakikatén diril-Di! **Filipino** Si Cristo ay nabuhay! Siya nga ay nabuhay

# CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

**Aleut** Kristus aq ungewektaq! Pichinuq ungewektaq! **Japanese** ハリストス復活! Haritosu fukkatsu! 実に復活! Jitsu ni fukkatsu! **Swahili** Kristo Amefufukka! Kweli Amefufukka! **Greek** Χριστός Ανέστη!

Christos Anesti! Αληθώς Ανέστη! Aleithos Anesti! **German** Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden! **Romanian** Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat! **Italian** Cristo è risorto! È veramente risorto! **French** Le Christ est ressuscité Vraiment Il est ressuscité! **Spanish** Cristo ha resucitado! Verdaderamente, ha resucitado! **Russian** Христос Воскресе! Khristos Voskres! Воистину Воскресе! Voistinu Voskres! **Ukrainian** Христос Воскрес! Khrystos Voskres! Воистину Воскрес! Voistynu Voskres! **Serbian** Христос Воскресе! Christos Voskres! Воистину Воскресе! Vaistynu Voskres! **Albanian** Krishti u ngjall! Vërtet u ngjall! **Arabic** Al-Masih-Qam! حقًا قام! Hakkan Qam! المسيح قام! **Latin** Christus Surrexit! Surrexit vere! **Polish** Chrystus zmartwychwsta! Prawdziwie zmartwychwsta!

## + FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

### *Beloved Faithful,*

The faithful of my parish know that unlike other Sundays and feasts, on Palm Sunday I usually don't give a sermon... so-to-speak. My message that day is rather simple. It's something like this...

Brothers and Sisters, Beloved Faithful, after all the Scriptural readings and sermons from weeks before Great Lent began...



and then the readings and their explanations, etc., and encouragements to attend the special, solemn services throughout the 40 days of Great Lent... and after celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord's friend Lazarus -- after he was dead and buried for FOUR days -- literally showing us that WE, His friends, can also expect to hear Him say when we too (eventually) lie in our graves: "John, Mary, Samuel, Fr Laurence, Dorothy, ALL OF YOU Come Forth!"... and then having heard that Lazarus was alive, and we saw all the people of Jerusalem come out, waving willow branches while shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" **JUST AS WE DO TODAY** as OUR "King" humbly enters the citadel sitting on the foal of a donkey(!), on His way to suffer and die so that we can live... **Brothers and Sisters, what more can I say? If you still don't get it, how else can I say it?**

Beloved, the message is simple, yet profound. **In the beginning** God wanted to create a world that would be a reflection of Himself... a world filled with beauty, joy, love, peace, justice, forgiveness. And having created this world and us He saw it was good.

Then, man brought sin into the world and with it came all of our struggles, tears, sickness, and as St Paul says, death. But then, amazingly, because of His unbelievable love, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price we owed, trampling down death by His own death, in order to redeem, renew, regenerate His creation.

*And so, the Resurrection of Christ wasn't just an incredible physical miracle, as only He could perform. It was the fulfillment of God's plan from the beginning.*

And so, the Resurrection of Christ wasn't just an incredible physical miracle, as only He could perform. **It was the fulfillment of God's plan from the beginning.** "There are no more dead in the graves", St John Chrysostom tells us. "Death has vanished. Adam dances and Eve rejoices. (Hymns of Resurrection) And so (as on Palm Sunday) **what more can I say? If you still don't get it, how else can I say it?**

God has wiped away our fears and our tears. **Christ is Risen** and, however undeservedly, in union with Him so it will be for our parents and grandparents and ancestors who sought the joy of God's Kingdom before us and, if we seek that same joy, we, our children and our children's children can also live in the promise of rising from death to new and eternal life.

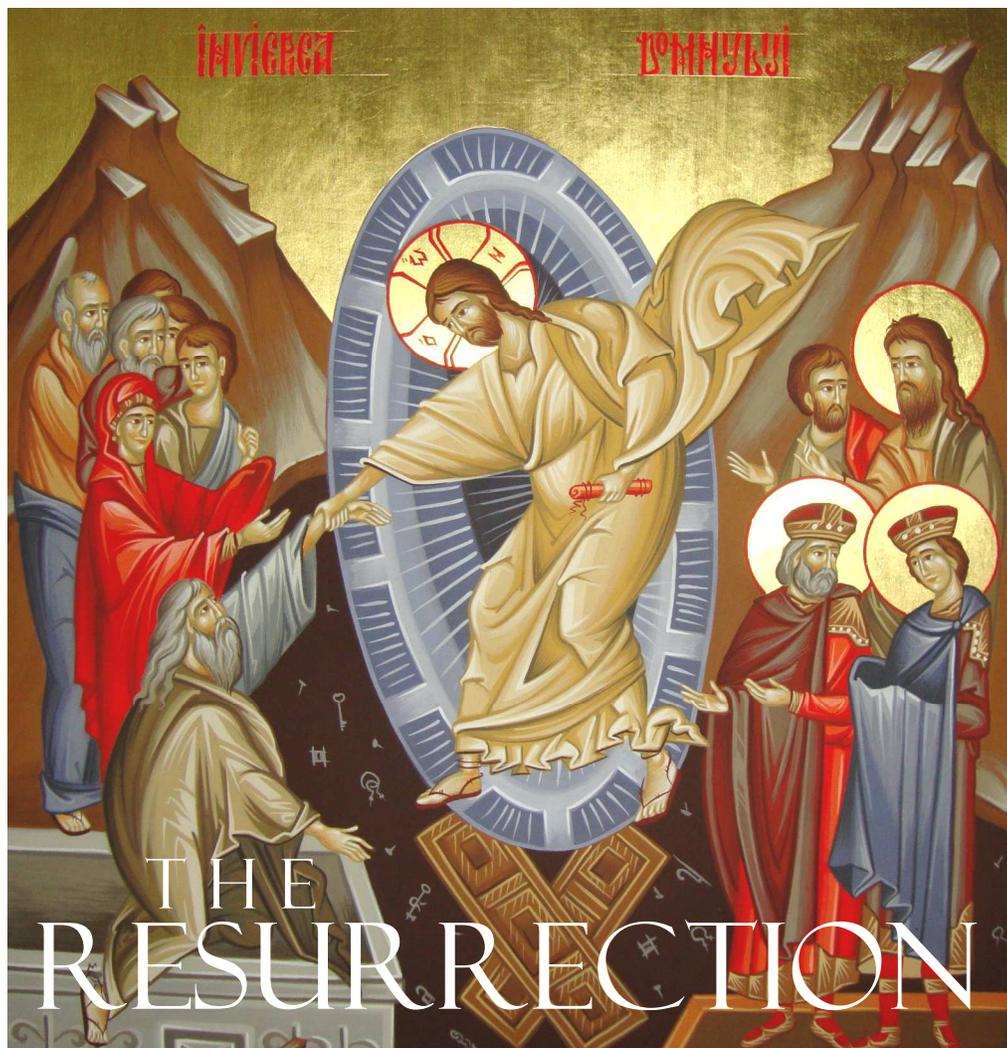
In the joy of Christ's Resurrection,

*Fr Laurence Lazar*

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

*"Christ is risen  
from the dead  
trampling down  
death by death,  
and to those  
in the tombs  
bestowing life!"*

-Tropar of Pascha



**P**eople condemned God to death; with His Resurrection He condemned them to immortality. For striking Him, God returned embraces; for insults, blessings; for death, immortality. Never did men show more hate towards God than when they crucified Him; and God never showed His love towards people more than when He was resurrected. Mankind wanted to make God dead, but God, with His Resurrection, made people alive, the crucified God resurrected on the third day and thereby killed death! There is no more death. Immortality is surrounding man and his entire world.

***Death, now where is your sting?  
Hell, now where is your victory?  
Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!  
Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!  
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!  
Christ is risen, and life reigns!  
Christ is risen, and no more dead are in a tomb!***

With the Resurrection of the God-Man, the nature of man is irreversibly led toward the road of immortality and man's nature becomes destructive to death itself. For until the Resurrection of Christ, death was destructive for man; from the Resurrection of Christ, man's nature becomes destructive in death. If man lives in the faith of the Resurrected God Man, he lives above death, he

is unreachable for her; death is under man's feet. Death where is thy sting? Hell, where is thy victory? And when a man who believes in Christ dies, he only leaves his body as his clothes, in which he will be dressed again on the Day of Last Judgment.

Before the Resurrection of the God-Man, death was the second nature of man; life was first and death was second. Man became accustomed to death as something natural. But after His Resurrection the Lord changed everything; and it was only natural until Christ's Resurrection, that the people became mortal, so after Christ's Resurrection it was natural that the people became immortal.

Through sin, man becomes mortal and temporal; with the Resurrection of the God-Man, he becomes immortal and eternal. In this lies the strength, in this lies the power, in this lies the might of Christ's Resurrection. Without the Resurrection there is no Christianity. Among the miracles, this is the greatest one; all other miracles begin and end with it. From it sprouted the faith and the love and the hope and the prayer and the love toward God.

Taken from "Condemned to Immortality:  
A meditation on the Resurrection"  
Saint (Archimandrite) Justin Popovic

## The Ascension of the Lord

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha. Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of this Feast changes also, but is always celebrated on a Thursday. The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven.

The Ascension, one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church, is explained in the Acts of the Apostles 1:3-11. It is also mentioned in the Gospels of Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53). The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: "He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Christ made His last appearance on earth, forty days after His Resurrection. Jesus appeared before His disciples in Jerusalem and commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the "Promise of the Father". He stated, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:5). After Jesus gave these instructions, He led the disciples to the Mount of Olives. Here, He commissioned them to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). It is also at this time that the disciples were directed by Christ to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus also

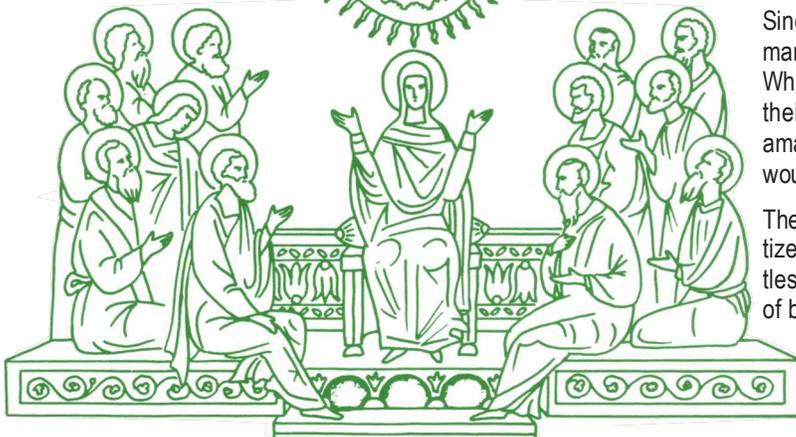
told them that He would be with them always, "even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). As the disciples watched, Jesus lifted up His hands, blessed them, and then was taken up out of their sight (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9). Two angels appeared to them and asked them why they were gazing into heaven. Then one of the angels said, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11).



**"LET GOD ARISE, LET HIS ENEMIES BE SCATTERED, LET THOSE WHO HATE HIM FLEE BEFORE HIM!  
THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE, LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!"**

## The Descent of the Holy Spirit

The Feast of Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great Feast of Pascha and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles. The Feast is

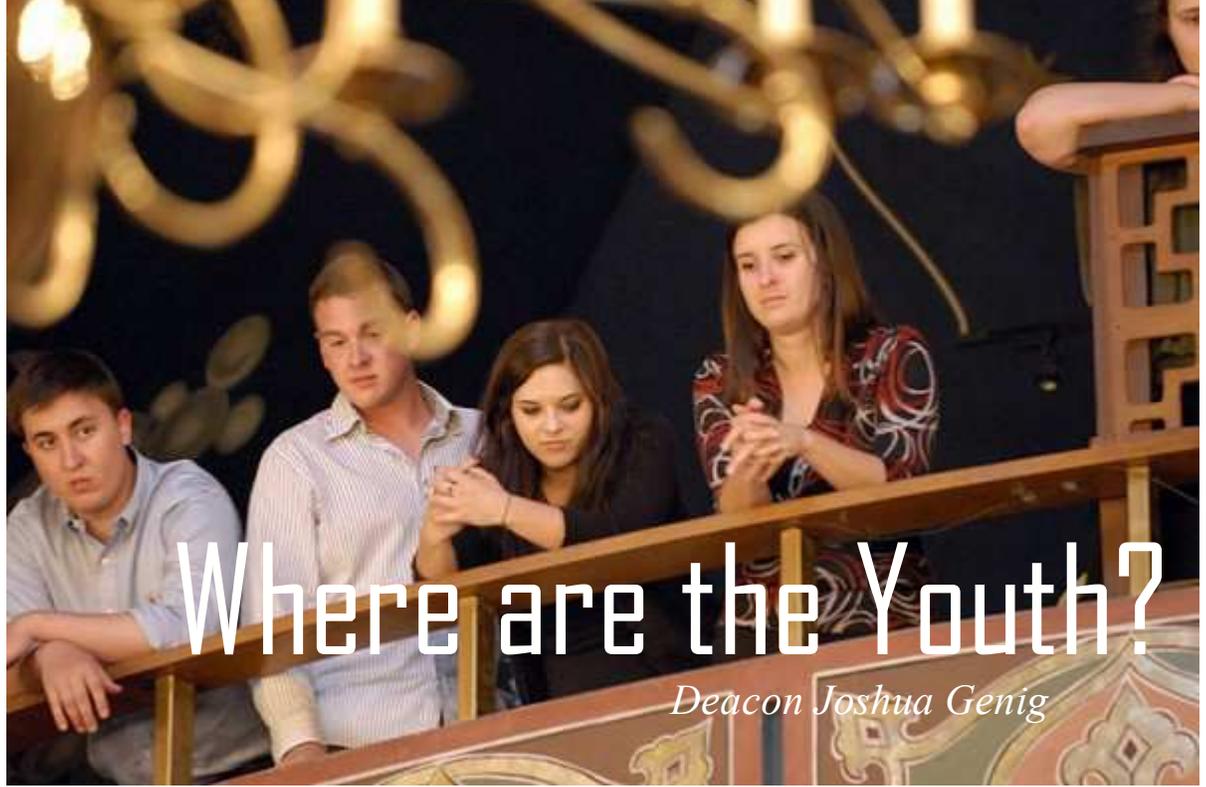


also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

The story of Pentecost is found in the book of Acts of the Apostles. We are told that the Apostles of our Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house. Then, tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as directed by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

Since the Jewish Feast of Pentecost was one of great pilgrimage, many people of the Roman Empire gathered in Jerusalem on this day. When the people heard the sound, they came together and heard their own languages being spoken by the Apostles. The people were amazed, knowing that some of those speaking were Galileans, who would not normally speak their language.

The Bible records that on that day about three thousand were baptized. The newly baptized continued to hear the teaching of the Apostles, as the early Christians met together for fellowship, the breaking of bread, and for prayer. Many signs and miracles were done through the Apostles, and the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).



# Where are the Youth?

*Deacon Joshua Genig*

**In** many parishes, Pascha is a time when irregular attendees again show their faces. And this is not a new phenomenon. Even St. John Chrysostom speaks of those who arrive at the first hour and those who arrive at the eleventh hour; those who have kept the fast and those who have failed to fast. Nevertheless, all of them are invited to feast sumptuously upon our Paschal Lamb. But this begs the question: What will encourage

**...what young adults — the future of the Church — are looking for is that which is ancient. They may not always understand, but understanding is not the key...**

more regular attendance from those whose faces we see so seldom? And, more specifically, what will encourage younger folks to come around more frequently?

First, some facts. The *Modern Era*, according to many, ran from the start of the French Revolution (1789) through the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989). This 200-year period was marked by innovation and intellectual discovery; it was marked by the triumph of the mind. Yet, we are now living in what many call the *Postmodern Era*. This is the time of the Millennial Generation, those born between 1980 and 2000 (i.e. college students and young adults). Unlike their predecessors, however, Postmoderns are not driven principally by the mind, but by the heart. Therefore, the way we encounter, witness to, and retain Postmoderns might well be dramatically different than the way we did those things 30 years ago—especially in the Church.

The philosopher, James K.A. Smith, offered this as balm for the Postmodern soul: “I will argue that the postmodern church could do nothing better than be ancient, that the most powerful way to reach a postmodern world is by recovering tradition, and that the most effective means of discipleship is found in the liturgy” (Smith, *Who’s Afraid of Postmodernism?*, 25).

What is stunning about Smith’s assessment (he is Protestant!) is that this is precisely what the Orthodox Church should be doing, by her nature! We are the ancient Church! We are guided by Holy Tradition! We have the Liturgy! So, what has gone wrong? It seems to me that two things, at least, have occurred.

First, in many places and parishes, “cultural” Orthodoxy is seen as a retention strategy. In other words, it is believed (somewhat falsely) that people will come to the Church and stay in the Church because being Orthodox is part of their cultural identity. This might well be true in other countries, but not here in America. Therefore, we need to be cognizant of this, recognizing that as we give a winsome witness to the world and offer continual catechesis, we are not appealing to “cultural” roots, but we must proclaim an ancient way of life. This leads to the second point.

In America, especially, there is an ongoing, concerted effort to make Orthodoxy more accessible. In theory, this is commendable. Yet, we must not confuse accessibility with “Americanization”. For example, it is helpful to offer the divine services (at least in part) in English. Yet, it is a mistake to confuse services in the vernacular with a downplaying of a true, historic Orthodox way of living and being. This way of living and being can be seen in things like the encouragement for frequent confession, serving the full-range of liturgical services, promoting the ancient fasting expectations, and encouraging decorum and reverence among all who enter the temple. Why does this matter? Precisely because younger folks are drawn to that which is tested and well-tried, even if it appears difficult or antiquated. In fact, it is this very way of living and being—the kind that has been around for 2,000 years—that they are longing for!



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

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

***In Michigan, there are currently ACTIVE groups at:***

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

***Groups are in the PLANNING stages at:***

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

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

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

**[www.COCCdetroit.org](http://www.COCCdetroit.org)  
[www.OCF.net](http://www.OCF.net)**



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

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

[www.zoehousemi.org](http://www.zoehousemi.org)



**ZOE for LIFE!  
BOTTLES FOR  
BABIES Campaign**



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

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An ancient African proverb affirms that, “It takes a village to raise a child.” At Vista Maria, where the collective mission involves wraparound care for vulnerable youth and families, it also takes a village to breed hope—an aspect that requires rigorous support before, during and after residential treatment.

Bearing these factors in mind, Vista Maria launched a new Intensive Aftercare Program in Spring 2015. Centered on recidivism reduction and successful community reintegration, the program involves a close collaboration between youth, family, therapists and staff members to

# It Takes a Village to Raise Hope:

**Vista Maria’s Intensive Aftercare Program  
is inspiring girls to dream**



ensure that girls are equipped with the skills they will need to thrive in a post-treatment setting.

“Aftercare doesn’t start at discharge; every child becomes a part of this model upon admission,” she says Yulonda Shell, Senior Clinical Unit Manager (Beata Hall). “It’s all about rapport building. When parents drop their kids off for one of our treatment programs, they should know exactly who we are. When these girls are discharged, we need to keep in touch with them on a regular basis. Overall we want families to know that we’re here and that we support them.”

The new Aftercare model has been successful, with Vista Maria staff maintaining close contact with families throughout the process. This involves regular interaction while girls complete residential treatment, with specialists visiting the family home to offer updates on the child’s progress. Upon discharge, staff members also perform weekly phone calls and in-home visits during the initial 90 days, with biweekly communication ensuing for 3 to 9 months thereafter.

“For the first 90 days, we reach out on a weekly basis. But we have a flexible agenda to present,” says Kristine

Durr, Youth and Family Specialist. “We understand that many families are experiencing “system overload” from having multiple state agencies in the home, however we are there to see where things are going well and if there are any concerns that we can help with.

“So if a family requests conflict resolution, we’re able to assist in that area. If one of the girls needs transportation or additional resources, we will direct them. Our approach involves honing in on specific goals these girls and their families want to address, while altogether allowing them to take the lead.”

Upon successful completion of Aftercare services, girls will have acquired valuable training in areas of education, career development, social living and emotional/behavioral wellbeing. For many of them, the initiative will also provide ideas for fun, healthy recreational activities, with participants attending group outings throughout their stint with the program that have included the Motown Museum, the Detroit Zoo, local water parks and skating rinks.

“We have youth who couldn’t wait to leave our care, but now they call asking when our next outing will take place,” Shell says. “In the end, this shows that our kids know that if no one else is there for them, we are always here at Vista Maria. That means the world to us; it really is all about the village.”

Vista Maria President and CEO, Angela Aufdemberge, echoes this sentiment, maintaining that the program’s mission will continue to evolve as a beacon of light for young dreamers impacted by the ‘Village of Hope’.

“This program represents a continuum of wraparound services that preserve families at the early stages,” she says. “Everything is designed in a way that once young people move back into the community, they’re being set up for the best success possible.

“As we expand from our pilot model into the next phase, the second piece will hopefully involve young people returning to our campus as peers and mentors. We’re thinking about the village as a connective spider web that provides them with the life skills they need to fulfill their personal goals and dreams, while ultimately giving back to the next generation. We envision that everything will eventually come full circle. That’s what the ‘Village of Hope’ is all about.”



Article submitted to Good Works by Vista Maria.  
For more information visit [vistamaria.org](http://vistamaria.org).

# ATTENTION PARISH LEADERS —

By now you all should have received your 2017 Contribution Request Form in the form. We ask you to please complete the form and return it to us today! Your prompt response helps us keep good order and better serve the community. Please feel free to call Olga with any questions (248 252-8184). Thank you for your continued support of the COCC and the worthy ministries of our community!

## 2017 Parish Dues Received (to date)

- St George Romanian Cathedral
- St Innocent Church
- Assumption Greek Church
- Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church
- St Michael Russian Church
- Holy Transfiguration Church
- Holy Trinity Church
- St Mary Antiochian Basilica
- St Thomas (Albanian) Church
- St Michael Russian Church

## Parish DOOR Support (to date)

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

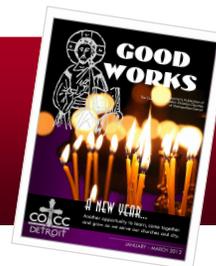
## SUBSCRIBE to Good Works!

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

- Mother Gabriella, Dormition Monastery

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

# YOU CAN HELP US!



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

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

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



## GOOD WORKS Subscription

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

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## COCC + MINISTRIES Support

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

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

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

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

Comments regarding "Good Works" or the COCC are welcome:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!**

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



DETROIT INTER-ORTHODOX SUNDAY  
2017 LENTEN

# Vespers





Images from the Celebration of Pascha 2017 around Orthodox Detroit

# RESURRECTION



Previous page:

1) St Clement Macedono-Bulgarian Church, 2) St George Romanian Cathedral, 3) Holy Transfiguration Church, 4) Children's Procession at Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers, 5) Holy Trinity Church, 6) Assumption Greek Church;

This page:

1) St Nicholas Greek Church, 2) St Clement Church, 3) St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral, 4) Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Church, 5) St George Romanian Cathedral





# CHRIST IS RISEN!

***Although the Saint Sava Serbian Cathedral community in New York City lost its church in the fire on Pascha May 1, 2016, with God's grace, thanks to the brotherly love of the Greek and the Russian people, it continued uninterruptedly to conduct its services.***

Both the Greek and the Russian Churches opened the doors of their temples to the faithful of the Saint Sava parish. One of those churches, where the Serbs regularly conduct their Sunday and weekly services, is a beautiful Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Eleftherios. This year the Serbs and Greeks gathered together here for the Great and Holy Friday service. Leading the service was His Grace Bishop Irinej, accompanied by V. Rev. Stavrophor Dr. Albert Demos, parish priest at the Greek Church of Saint Eleftherios, V. Rev. Stavrophor Dr. Zivojin Jakovljevic, Saint Sava Cathedral Dean, and V. Rev. Vladislav Radujkovic, parish priest at the Saint Sava Cathedral.

In His address to the faithful that evening, His Grace Bishop Irinej emphasized how the friendship between the Greek and Serbian people goes back many years and endures until the present day. The Bishop especially pointed out the significant and the unforgettable act of love from the World War I when the Greek people welcomed and embraced exiled and anguished Serbian soldiers at the island of Corfu. Incidentally, many of the Greek faithful who belong to Saint Eleftherios parish come exactly from this area. In his address the Bishop greeted the Greek parishioners on behalf of the Serbian clergy and the faithful extending His deep and heartfelt appreciation. "I was this evening transported to the island of Corfu in 1916

during World War I when the entire Serbian government led by an elderly and very fragile King Peter the First together with the entirety of the Serbian army had to leave Serbia to her own fate, cross over the Albanian mountains, which is known as the Albanian Golgotha. Thanks to our wonderful Greek brothers and sisters and their love, Serbia survived World War I. There is a magnificent video clip, which shows how your people took care of our people for one year, as you here in Saint Eleftherios are now taking care of us. I know that this is a burden for you, but the burden is nothing strange to the good and faithful Greek Orthodox people. You nurtured us in 1916 and here in 2017 once again you are doing the same. This is the sacrificial love from the Cross, the love, which took Christ to His tomb and through His tomb to His Resurrection."

The next day, on Saturday at midnight, the Serbian congregation joined the Russian faithful at the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of Our Lady of the Sign for the Resurrection matins. The presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, His Grace Bishop Nicholas and His Grace Bishop Irinej, accompanied by the clergy from both the Russian and the Serbian communities, in the presence of many faithful, who filled both the Cathedral and the courtyard, made this service exceptionally beautiful. According to Bishop Nicholas, who joined the Serbs during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, this was not

only a very beautiful celebration, but also a historic one, as this was the first time the Russians and the Serbs served Paschal matins together.

Both hierarchs emphasized that the friendship of the two people, who share the same blood and faith, has been cherished for many centuries and has been strengthened with mutual support particularly during the time of suffering and affliction. The Russian solidarity with the Serbs in World War I left such an impact that they attribute the survival of the Serbian nation at that time to "the sacrificial love" that Russia showed, a love that, in the words of St Nikolai Velimirovich, can hardly ever be repaid. In the same way, as a token or reciprocal love, the Serbs opened their arms and hearts and provided a safe heaven to many Russians after the Revolution. A number of the children of these émigrés, whom the author of this text met and who attend this aforementioned beautiful church of Our Lady of the Sign, were born in Serbia. In their minds and the minds of many other faithful Russian people the joint Paschal celebration this year was not an accident. The miraculous Kursk-Root icon, which is safeguarded in this beautiful Russian Cathedral and which accompanied the Russian émigrés through Serbia, according to Bishop Nicholas made this gathering possible. As the Serbs provided the refuge for the Russian people and this extraordinary icon, in the same manner did the icon now bring the Serbian people to the Russian Church.

The Serbian faithful at the service indeed felt at home, surrounded with their own closest and dearest relatives. The overall ambience of love and sincere joy epitomized this most festive and the most jubilant Christian celebration.

V. Rev. Stavrophor Dr. Zivojin Jakovljevic  
Dean of Saint Sava Cathedral, New York  
Submitted to Good Works by Fr Srbojub Jankovic

# EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY...

## ST INNOCENT Orthodox Study Group

Bearing the name of our Church Patron and through his prayers, this study group has been formed as a venue for ongoing, life-long formation in the faith and life of the Holy Orthodox Church. Following the example of St Innocent of Irkutsk, who devoted much of his life to theological education, we seek to promote continuing catechesis as a means for the faithful to grow, by God's mercy, from strength to strength.



This is not only for Orthodox Christians, but to be evangelical, in the sense of sharing the beauty of our faith with friends, co-

workers, families — who are literally dying to live. So, do come, and bring a friend or two!

**WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 - 7:30pm | St Innocent Church  
(23300 W Chicago, Redford 48239)  
Instructor: Dn Joshua D. Genig (M.Div., Ph.D.)**

**RSVP/Questions:**

**joshua.genig@gmail.com; 630 936-6386;  
Facebook.com/stinnocentredford**



**Memorial Day  
Weekend  
2017**

# YASSOO GREEK FESTIVAL

*A Taste of Greece*

Enjoy Greek Cuisine,  
Greek Culture, &  
Greek Customs!

**ST. GEORGE  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

43816 Woodward Ave.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI  
Just North of Square Lake. Rd.

**MAY  
26th, 27th & 28th  
Friday-4 pm-11pm  
Saturday-11am-11pm  
Sunday-12 pm-11pm**

\$2 Admission • Free On-Site Parking  
Free Admission Saturday 11-4  
Free Entry With 3 Canned Goods  
(for the Lighthouse of Oakland County)

Kids Under 12 Free | Rain or Shine

[yassogreekfestival.com](http://yassogreekfestival.com)

*We are here to help you  
and your parish!  
If you would like to  
announce an event for  
the community, contact  
[webeditor@coccdetroit.org](mailto:webeditor@coccdetroit.org)!  
We are happy to help you.*

*(There is no required fee,  
but donations are appreciated!)*



**Put your Faith  
into action!  
Sign up today**

**Orthodox Detroit Outreach  
MISSION WEEKEND 2017  
MAY 20-21**

[orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org/mission2017](http://orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org/mission2017)

## 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 free-will financial and / non-perishable food items for distribution to qualified local ministries. For information, contact **President Mary Ann Dadich (586 775-4799 | mdadich811@gmail.com)**.

## FOCUS DETROIT **FOCUS**

FOCUS is a Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve. They are a national 501c3 nonprofit 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.FOCUSdetroit.org](http://www.FOCUSdetroit.org) or [www.facebook.com/focusdetroitcenter](http://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 **Olga Liss (248 252-8184 | olgaliss0910@gmail.com)** to help.



## FRESH START: DETROIT

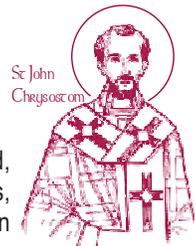
Fresh Start Detroit is small, grass-roots service group that collects food and clothing and then distributes it face to face to the needy in underserved areas of the inner-city. Contact **Jerome Fisher (313 407-1888 | jfisher48228@yahoo.com)**.

## BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT MOSES

The Detroit Chapter of the Brotherhood of Saint Moses the Black exists primarily as an outreach to those seeking the 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 Detroit Chapter Chair.

## 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 encouraged to take part. The president of the Clergy Brotherhood, also serves as Spiritual Advisor to the COCC and other affiliated groups. Contact **Fr Laurence Lazar (248 569-4833 | frlazar@hotmail.com)**



## ORTHODOX DETROIT OUTREACH (ODO)

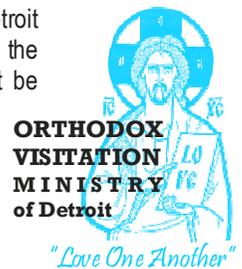


ORTHODOX DETROIT OUTREACH

Since 2011, our mission is to provide a venue for Orthodox Christians to serve the poor within an Orthodox ethos. We serve them face to face, providing a hot meal every Sunday at 2:00pm in SW Detroit at Ss Peter & Paul community center. Men, women, and children are served with love, dignity, friendship, and respect. A small clothing bank and a food pantry, including a mini-pantry outside providing much needed food during the week, are on site. All are welcome to come and serve, parishes, individuals, etc. Contact **Matt McCroskery (matt@orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org)**, or **Janet Damian Lapko (janet@orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org)**.

## ORTHODOX VISITATION MINISTRY (OVMD)

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



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



## DETROIT METRO OCF



Orthodox Christian Fellowship is an organization with chapters at colleges across North America. Our local effort is a resource and support for students and campuses in the Detroit region. Contact **Olga Liss (248 252-8184 | olgaliss0910@gmail.com)**.



# DOOR Radio Celebrates 100th Program!

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

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

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

Affordable on-air and on-line advertising space for busi-

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

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

Contact us 248 252-8184 or staff@DOORradio.org!

*Listen on 690AM Radio, via live-stream online and archives on DOORradio.org*

On St Thomas Sunday (the Sunday after Holy Pascha), April 23, 2017, Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio marked a special milestone in its history. With God's help and the dedication of the volunteer staff, we proudly aired our 100th consecutive program!

This ministry of the Council of Orthodox Churches of Metropolitan Detroit has been a labor of love by those involved. The program exists to share our Faith with one another and our city, and to educate, inform, and entertain the entire listening audience on subjects and events in and around the Orthodox Christian Community of Detroit. Our beautiful music is broadcast over the airwaves each Sunday (4:00-5:00pm) through traditional means on 690AM, as well as live-streamed on www.DOORradio.org! Additionally, all 100 programs (and counting!) are archived on that web-site and can be accessed at any time anywhere in the world!

We have shared individual stories in our "Passing the Legacy" segment, offered books through the "Reading Room", informed the audience about our "Affiliates and Ministries", heard from our clergy in "Ask Father", connected to the city through "Reaching out to the Community", learned about the holy fathers and mothers by "Lives of the Saints", publicized parish and other events during "Commercials and Announcements", etc... the list goes on and is always expanding!

So, we now again appeal to YOU, our friends, parishioners, clergy, parishes, businesses, etc... will YOU support DOOR? Tune in! Make a donation! Purchase commercial time! Volunteer your talents on the staff! Spread the word! (Fill out the form at the left and submit it, or visit DOORradio.org.) 100 programs is a great achievement, but with YOUR help and Our Lord's blessings, it's only the beginning!

With Love from the Staff and Producers,  
*Snezana Milutinovic, Jim Badeen, Fr Dimitrie Vincent, Karen R Todorov, Richard Shebib, John Lazar, Tom Rosco, Dn Josh Genig, Andrew Smyk*



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

The ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF MICHIGAN (OCW), is an organization of ethnically diverse Orthodox Christian Women from in and around the metro Detroit area, sharing our holy Orthodox faith through topics and presenters, charitable works and fellowship. Our topics are selected by situations, events and of course knowing our faith so we can put it to work for us for our salvation. Now, more than ever, come, we invite you to join us, as this is the best time for all of us Orthodox women to come together with what is happening in the world. Hope to see you soon.

- Mary Ann Dadich, President

## **SPEAKER SERIES**



### **MONDAY, APRIL 24 | 7PM**

"DEALING WITH SECULARISM", Fr Nick Marcus  
St Clement Ohdriski Church, Dearborn

### **MONDAY, MAY 15 | 7PM**

"RECAP OF THE GREAT COUNCIL", Metropolitan Nicholas  
St John Greek Church, Sterling Heights

### **MONDAY, JUNE 19 | 7PM**

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

### **SATURDAY, JULY 15 | 9AM**

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

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 7PM**

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

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 16 | 7PM**

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

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 | 10AM**

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

**ALL WELCOME at these FREE,  
Educational programs!**

## **ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN METROPOLITAN DETROIT**



### **Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church**

*Founded 1925*

[www.sfantatreime.com](http://www.sfantatreime.com)  
1850 E Square Lake Rd, Troy  
*Rev Fr Calin Barbolovici*

*Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the United States*



### **St Stevan Decanski Serbian Orthodox Church**

*Founded 1976*

14235 E Eleven Mile, Warren  
*Office of Parish Priest Temporarily Vacant*  
*Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Midwestern America*



### **Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church**

*Founded 1930*

[www.stcons.org](http://www.stcons.org)  
36375 Joy Rd, Westland  
*Rev Fr Teodor Petrutiu*

*Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit*

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

## APRIL

- 2 5th Sunday of Great Lent - Inter-Orthodox Vespers  
6pm: Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia
- 4 COCC Monthly Meeting,  
7pm: St Mary Ukrainian Cathedral, Southfield
- 9 +Palm Sunday - Entrance of the Lord in Jerusalem  
Annual Fish Dinner  
1pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield  
1pm: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Drbn Hts
- 10-15 THE GREAT & HOLY WEEK
- 16 +HOLY PASCHA  
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!
- 17-22 BRIGHT NEW WEEK OF PASCHA
- 21 +Life-Giving Fountain
- 22 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit  
Oratorical Festival District Finals  
10am: Sts Constantine & Helen Church, Westland
- 23 "St Thomas Sunday"  
+Holy Great Martyr George  
4pm: DOOR Radio 100th Program (690AM)
- 30 Patronal Feast Banquet & Cultural Program  
1pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield

## MAY

- 6 Spring Ball  
7pm: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Drbn Hts
- 7 Parish Complex Expansion Ground-breaking  
St Nicholas Greek Church, Troy
- 9 COCC Monthly Meeting  
7pm: St Mary Ukrainian Cathedral, Southfield
- 14 Mothers' Day Holiday
- 15 OCW Speaker Series Presentation  
7pm: St John Greek Church, Sterling Heights
- 16 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit  
Clergy Synodesmos Meeting, Toledo OH
- 20 +Eve of Sts Constantine & Helen  
Patronal Feast Vespers  
7pm: Sts Constantine & Helen Church, Westland
- 21 +Sts Constantine and Helen  
105th Family & Founders' Day Banquet & Program  
1pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 25 +Ascension of the Lord
- 29 Memorial Day Holiday

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



## The Day of Resurrection,

let us be illumined O people!  
Pascha of the Lord, O Pascha!  
For Christ God has brought us  
from death to life and from  
earth to heaven, we who sing  
the song of victory:

## Christ is risen from the dead!

GOOD WORKS

MAR-APR 2017



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