Christ is Risen!

Our preparations for Pascha were intense and now that we have experienced the great joy of the Resurrection of Our Lord...

Our preparations for Pascha were intense and now that we have experienced the great joy of the Resurrection of Our Lord we are enjoying springtime and awaiting summer. I encourage us all to avail ourselves of the many opportunities and resources offered to us through the hard work of members of the COCC and their various ministries. As we begin to prepare for our summer activities, we and our families are afforded many avenues to grow spiritually and to serve others through action: FOCUS Motor City – This summer, the immediate need is to feed children during vacation from school. FOCUS has announced a partnership with St Thomas Church, YMCA, Entrega, Hussmann, Allendale Elementary School and Metro Charter Academy, and the US Federal Government to feed children at two YMCA camps in Melvindale and Romulus. Volunteer any weekday from June 20-September 2. For information and to volunteer, visit FOCUSNORTHAMERICA.ORG/DETROIT. Sign up now! If you do not have internet access, call 248 671-4483 to sign up for a date.

Orthodox Detroit Outreach is organizing an Orthodox Mission Weekend June 25-26. Participants will choose from among several activities, including work in the ODO community garden — Jardín de los Santos — refurbishing the Community Hall, building an icon corner, helping neighbors beautify their homes, picking up litter in the neighborhood, and more. To register, visit eventbrite.com/e/orthodox-mission-weekend-2016-tickets-24548438039

The Orthodox Christian Women will be sponsoring their retreat on Saturday, July 16 with Dr Daniel Hingshaw, a professor of surgery at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, as speaker. His clinical research interests are focused on care at the end of life, spiritual distress in advanced illness, and the use of complementary medicine in relief of pain. On May 31, we celebrate the first anniversary of our local radio ministry – Detroit’s Own Orthodox Radio program. Please join us in thanking the hardworking volunteers of this media ministry for their unflagging dedication and professionalism:

Sanya Milutinovic - Producer / Station Liaison;
Jim Badeen - Host / Technical Engineer;
Richard Shebib - Segment Production;
Fr Dimitrie Vincent - Clergy Liaison / Segment Production;
Fr Dusan Koprivica - Segment Production;
Karen R Todorov - Segment Production;
John E Lazar - Segment Production / Music;
Maria Mijac - Segment Production and Tom Rosco - Website Editor.

This is a good time to “catch up” on listening to past programs. Tune in every Sunday or listen to the archived broadcasts via podcast.

I wish you all peace, growth and fulfillment this summer!

Olga Liskiwskyi
COCC President

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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Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Faith,

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Already more than once since the feast of Our Lord’s Entrance into Jerusalem, I’ve said to the faithful and guests of my parish of St George Cathedral, “There isn’t much more that I can say at this point.” After weeks of preparation before Great Lent, with the scriptural lessons the Church presented for us, the example of the saints, the sermons and letters of our hierarchs and words of our priests meant to set us on the right path to Pascha (that annual pilgrimage we’ve been blessed to make so many, many times) what else can be said? What part of the story of our salvation did we not understand?

Did we not learn millennia ago that after man brought sin into the world and with it all of our suffering and ultimately physical death, that “God (still!) so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that those who believe in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life”? (John 3:16) What is it that we didn’t understand about the purpose of God’s Son – through whom all that is created comes into existence, Jesus “the Christ” (i.e. the one Anointed to come and save us) – that the only purpose He was born in Bethlehem was to re-generate God’s creation by becoming one of us and paying the debt we owed for man’s disobedience? Beloved, that’s why our Mother, the Church, gave us Great Lent and gently led us through those 40 days. She was giving us the time to cleanse ourselves physically and spiritually, and to unite ourselves to our Redeemer.

...what else can be said? What part of the story of our salvation did we not understand?

Did we not understand that Lazarus was raised back to life as a sign of what every “friend” of the Lord could anticipate for ourselves? Did we not welcome Christ with palms and willows because we too accepted Him as our King? Did participation in the solemn and life-giving events of the Holy Week of Our Lord’s Passion not seal our communion with Him? Did St John Chrysostom not say personally to us that we are not to fear death, for there are no more dead in the graves since Christ died and rose again?

What more then can I say? Only that joy for the whole world has come through the Cross! Our Lord, MY Lord! accepted to suffer and descend into death, and He who is LIFE destroyed it from within.

In the Risen Lord,

Fr. Laurence Lazar
President of the Detroit Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood Spiritual Advisor to the COCC
The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes, but is always on a Thursday.

The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

The story of the Ascension of our Lord, celebrated as one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church, is found in the book of 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 from the dead. The Acts of the Apostles states that the disciples were in Jerusalem. Jesus appeared before them 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).

(adapted from goarch.org)
On June 29 each year, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast Day of Sts Peter & Paul. So important is this celebration, that it is marked by a preparatory fasting period – called the Apostles’ Fast – beginning from the Monday after Pentecost and lasting until the eve of the Feast Day.

One may ask why these two apostles in particular are celebrated on the same day. Peter was one of the twelve whereas Paul was not. From Biblical evidence, we know that Peter’s ministerial outlook was very different from Paul’s. At the council of Jerusalem (48AD), great problems had arisen in the Church from a large influx of Gentile converts and these saints had different opinions as to how they should be received. Yet we find that not only are they celebrated on the same day, but even icons portray these two major apostles together with each other.

Historically, the reason why the Church combined the feast day of the two apostles into one was that they were both martyred in Rome and on the same day. An ancient tradition claims that they were both executed during Nero’s persecution in approximately 68AD. For this reason, probably from the fourth century onwards, the Church in Rome came to celebrate the feast day of these two apostles on June 29. By contrast, Constantinople celebrated this feast day on December 28. (We see that the Roman custom has prevailed in the Church today.) Theologically, the reason for combining was to show that even though their ministerial vision was not the same, both were necessary and even complemented each other. Even though the Paul was not one of the twelve, he would claim, nevertheless that his ministry was considered equal if not superior to those ministers who had been appointed by Christ during His earthly ministry since he had suffered so much for Christ. During their lifetime, these two great apostles disagreed greatly as to how to receive members into the newly established Christian faith. Paul is said to have rebuked Peter for duplicity in this matter. In Galatians 2:11, he tells us of a disagreement he had with Peter: “when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him in the face because he was to be blamed.” What we learn from this is that when the Church is ruled by the Holy Spirit, tensions can be overcome.

St Peter, originally called Simon was born in the strongly gentile town of Bethsaida but had a home in Capernaum. Both were lakeside towns and this gave Peter the possibility to work as a fisherman. Unlike Paul who was highly trained in the Jewish law, Peter was not; he was married and was accompanied by his wife on his missionary journeys. After Pentecost, it was Peter who became the chief spokesman, principal preacher and administrator of discipline in the newly established Christian faith. He is portrayed as the courageous apostle, full of life, spontaneity and dynamism.

On the other hand we are told that Paul was born in Tarsus, a thoroughly Greek city in Asia Minor and was a Roman citizen. In his early life, not only was Paul a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin, and a Pharisee, but also a staunch persecutor of the Church. In fact he had been given the official authority to direct a campaign against Christians. From his letters and the book of Acts, we learn that a dramatic revelation experience, on his way to Damascus, called Paul to follow Christ as an apostle. After spending his initial three years as a follower of Christ in Arabia, Paul went to Jerusalem to visit the apostolic community where he spoke to Peter and James. It would be fourteen years later that he would return for the second time to Jerusalem for the Apostolic Council of 48AD.

About 46AD, he was commissioned by the Church in Antioch to undertake a missionary journey to Cyprus and Galatia. Paul has come to be known as the prodigious traveler, having undertaken four extensive missionary journeys to Asia Minor, Greece, Rome and possibly as far as Spain with missionary co-workers. It was during this time that he wrote many of his famous letters. Falsely accused of violating temple rituals, he was imprisoned for two years by the governor Felix. After being set free by virtue of his status as a Roman citizen, he went to Rome and was sentenced to death under the Emperor Nero.

Perhaps one of the most intriguing aspects of Paul is that there are many dimensions to his personality. He himself wrote that: “I have become all things to all people, so that by all possible means I might save some” (1 Cor 22). It is Paul’s polytropic nature which promoted the rapid spread of the Christian gospel. The true greatness of Paul lies not only in his polytropic nature, but also the writings that he has left us, having influenced Christianity as no other man with the exception of Jesus Himself.
Already much talk about the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church. Between now and June 19, 2016, when the council officially opens on the island of Crete, there will be many rumors and much spin. Some will be justified; like other patriarchal institutions, Orthodox Churches are not normally known for their transparency. However, other chatter will be less than helpful. Here are some brief clarifications on basic questions surrounding the council.

Is the Great Council an Ecumenical Council?

For Orthodox Christians, there hasn’t been an Ecumenical Council since 787, with the Second Council of Nicaea that resolved the problem of iconoclasm, namely the debate about whether icons can or cannot be used for liturgical and devotional purposes. If you’ve been to an Orthodox Church recently, you know who won that argument! However, the Orthodox believe that it is the whole church that must convene—East and West—in order for a council to be considered ecumenical. In a world where Christians are so tragically divided, the Orthodox are reserved about boasting of an ecumenical council. In any case, an ecumenical council is normally recognized retrospectively.

It would perhaps be more appropriate and accurate to consider the Holy and Great Council as a continuation not only of the early ecumenical councils of the first Christian millennium, but also of the later “great” or “greater” councils of the second Christian millennium. Around a dozen or so such councils have convened through the centuries following the “great schism” of 1054 in order to resolve issues of doctrinal, canonical or administrative character.

However, there is indeed something very unique about this council—even beyond ecumenical councils and previous great councils. This is the first time in the history of Christendom that a council of ancient churches that claim apostolic succession has included so many individual and independent (autocephalous, and even national) churches. The early ecumenical councils of the first millennium assembled five churches, while the later great councils often convened with even fewer churches. By contrast, the Great Council that will convene in Crete this June will assemble fourteen recognized (or canonical) Orthodox churches from all over the world. These include the ancient patriarchates of Constantinople (that calls, convenes and chairs the council), Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem; the modern patriarchates of Russia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria and Georgia; as well as the archdiocesan churches of Cyprus, Greece, Albania, Poland, and the Czech Lands and Slovakia. (…)

As the Ecumenical Patriarch reminded the primates gathered in Geneva, “this is the moment of Orthodoxy.” In the words of Archbishop Anastasios of Albania: “The great council is not a facsimile of an ecumenical council.” Whether described as an ecumenical council, or more aptly labeled a great council, the occasion in Crete this June is not just a new or another council; it is an extraordinary and exceptional event. It is meant to happen. The Spirit is moving. The world is waiting. Let’s see what transpires among the attending bishops.
CHRIST IS RISEN!

TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Images from Holy Pascha 2016 around Orthodox Detroit

1) Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church; 2) Basilica of St Mary Antiochian Church; 3) St George Romanian Cathedral; 4) St John Greek Church; 5) St Mary Ukrainian Cathedral; 6) St Nicholas Greek Church; 7) St Innocent (Russian) Church; 8) St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral; 9) St George Romanian Cathedral
I was alone one day in Romania, outside the monastery gates. No one else was around until a monk came out and slowly approached me. I was a bit nervous thinking I shouldn't be there, at the monastery's "Outside Altar" as I was, but he simply asked my name, where I was from, etc. We spoke of me being a priest in America as was my father, who studied theology in nearby Sibiu. The monk in his old and worn cassock, with his disheveled white hair, was so kind and soft-spoken. He stared at me, no, into me with his eyes almost closed, his head slightly bowed, smiling.

I told him that, if possible, I would like to see the monastery and right away he said he would gladly take me in but..., if I didn't mind, he would like to hold my arm because, he said, "I don't see very well". My nervousness had passed, but I'll never forget being somehow mesmerized by his face. The image is still in my mind. It seemed to be somehow filled with light. Angelic.

And so he reached out and firmly took my left arm as we walked slowly into the holy monastery. He described the buildings briefly and took me directly to the tiny historic church in the center of the quadrangle. I asked if I could take his picture (and although I sadly can't locate it now), he held the same cross as the one he is holding in the picture above. I thanked him and he hugged me as I left. Thinking back over the years, I'm sure I had spent time with a saint.

It was years later that I learned who that humble monk was: Father Teofil Părăian, now 'of blessed memory', renowned as one of the true Spiritual Fathers of the Church of Romania; a priest-monk of Brancoveanu Monastery at Sambata de Sus, where our Bishop Irineu was Abbot.

Thinking back over the years, I'm sure I had spent time with a saint.

Fr Teofil had told me he didn't see very well but to my surprise... he was actually blind.

You don't forget such faces. Fr Roman Braga had that blessed appearance, as did Fr Sofian Boghiu and other "Spiritual Fathers" I've known. What great joy they found in the Lord!

"People come to me and say, "'Father, I believe in God!' . They're lying! They don't believe. If they believed they would live a faithful life. They say, "'I believe in God but I (just) don't go to church'". That's impossible! Someone who doesn't go to church, must know that they don't believe in God ... or their faith is at the level of superstition."

- Părintele Teofil Părăian
The High School Class from St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral Church School took time to put Christ’s Love into action on Palm Sunday. *Thirteen teens helped assemble 40 sets of care packages for the homeless*, which were distributed directly to the needy on Holy Pascha through “Fresh Start Detroit”, a ministry of the Council of Orthodox Churches. Jerome Fisher, the founder and chair of the organization, received the surprise gifts with Richard Shebib and commented on the sincere happiness the teens displayed. Fr Laurence Lazar is the Dean of the Cathedral, assisted by Fr Sabin Pop.

Each of the packages included: a wash cloth, soap, socks, toothbrush & toothpaste, utensils, bottled water, juice boxes, canned foods, granola bars, applesauce and pudding snacks, handy-wipes, etc. Several of the students asked how we could do more to help others and all agreed that similar projects are necessary throughout the year and should be added to (their already busy) schedules in and around the Cathedral.

We should ALL be inspired by this extra Lenten effort! All of our parishes humbly do projects like this and more for the good of others. We publish this example simply to applaud these young people for offering a “helping hand”, and to encourage our readers to give, however and whenever possible.

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**APPEAL + SURVEY**

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. Though it is a labor intensive undertaking, it is an integral part of the COCC’s Media Ministry and as it evolves is becoming a stronger connecting mechanism for our parishes and faithful!

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

If you 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. Your contribution helps with expenses, and 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 Appeal + Survey**

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Please check any area that you may be interested in:

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

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“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!”

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On the day of Pascha 2016, the holiest day of the year, four Orthodox Churches around the world tragically burned.

The Orthodox world was stunned by the fires that devastated communities on three different continents around the world. St Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in New York (Manhattan), Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church (Melbourne, Australia), Holy Resurrection Macedonian Orthodox Church (Sydney, Australia), and a guest house/hotel in the complex of Valaam Monastery (northern Russia), were all the attention of rescue workers and firefighters on the night of Holy Pascha (May 1). According to reports, there were no serious injuries. Each of these venerable structures were registered on their respective National Registers of Historic Places. Assessments to the remaining parts of each building will be made in order for the communities to know how to move forward.

Clergy, parishioners and passers by were all shocked to the point of tears as the holy places were engulfed in flames. Lubys Santos, who works across the street from St Sava’s said, “I was across the street and I just started sweating. That’s how strong the flames were. People were outside and yelling in different languages. I saw a man who was just standing and crying. And parishioner Jovana Djurdjevic cried as said, "It means the world to me and to see it (...) I was just here four hours ago for Easter."

Almost miraculously, the American and Serbian flags which hung off the building to the left and right of the main doors were virtually untouched! "The flag is still standing, which I think is pretty incredible," Luka Vojdodich, a St Sava parishioner said. "I don't even know how that's even possible with all the blaze... That's the meaning I would like to give it." Somehow, in Melbourne, though the interior of the little church (the second oldest in Australia) was charred, seemingly the Tomb of Christ remained intact.

As much of a nightmare each of these terrible fires were, and even with all the devastation and heartbreak caused around the world, perhaps the words of Fr Djokan Majstorovic, Dean of St Sava’s said, “… my heart is broken.” Soon after, he said “… we will rebuild.”
I ASKED GOD...

I asked God to take away my bad habits. He said, No. It's not for me to take away, but for you to give up.

I asked God to take away my handicap. He said, No. Your spirit is whole; your body is temporary.

I asked God to give me patience. He said, No. Patience isn't granted, it's learned.

I asked God to give me happiness. He said, No. I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me suffering. He said, No. Pain erases worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow. He said, No. Grow on your own and I'll prune you to be fruitful.

I asked God for all things to enjoy life. He said, No. I give you life, so that you can enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others as He loves me. He said, Ahhhh... finally you've got the idea.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES...

for “Good Works” is the first day of the month, prior to each issue. So, the JULY-AUGUST submission is JUNE 1.

We welcome your submissions for consideration!
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 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 COCC Telecom channel, and Detroit’s Own Orthodox Radio (DOOR) weekly program. Contact Richard Shebib (248 345-9346 | paschabook@sbcglobal.net) 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. 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 (248 589-4833 | frlazar@hotmail.com)

ORTHODOX DETROIT OUTREACH (ODO)

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

Detroit’s Own Orthodox Radio is nearing 52 weeks of programs thanks to the hard work of our volunteer staff, special guests, clergy contributions, and of course, listeners like you! Our 1st Anniversary will be marked on May 29, 2016.

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 as an Inter-Orthodox effort for our parishes, faithful and the entire city!

Affordable on-air and on-line advertising space for businesses, 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!

Contact us 248 345-9346 or staff@DOORradio.org!

DONATIONS RECEIVED for the COCC Media Ministry

$200.00 St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral
$200.00 M/M Ted Gomulka
$100.00 M/M Stephen Schupra
$25.00 M/M William Pysh - excellent reading!
$25.00 Anna Smerechnak - keep up the good work!
$25.00 Alexander & Mary Kargilis
$20.00 Tom & Irene Christy

We thank you for your generosity!
THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME to attend these FREE, Educational programs!

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 | RETREAT
“Christian Suffering, an example for us all”
Dr Dan Hinshaw, Presenter
Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction

“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.

We will kick-off off with a broad, relevant study of our life together as Orthodox Christians, set on a pilgrimage back to Eden. From there, we will go where the discussion nudges us. 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 (starting May 11), 6:30 - 7:30pm
St Innocent Church (23300 W Chicago Rd, Redford 48239)
Instructor: Sbdn Joshua D. Genig (M.Div., Ph.D.)
First Topic: A Pilgrimage to Eden: Living, Being, and Doing as an Orthodox Christian in an Upside-Down World
RSVP/Questions: joshua.genig@gmail.com; 630 936-6386; Facebook.com/stinnocentredford

Michigan’s Orthodox SUMMER CAMPS

- Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp, Rose City
  Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit
  GOMDSC.ORG
  Young Adults (June 26-July 2)
  Grades 3-11 (many sessions July 3-August 6)

- Camp Vatra, Grass Lake
  Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America
  ROEA.ORG
  Seniors, Ages 14-17 (July 3-16)
  Juniors, Ages 11-13 (July 17-30)

- St Nicholas Summer Camp, Centerville
  Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit
  STNICHOLASCAMP.ORG
  Ages 8-18 (July 24-30)

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ETHNIC FESTIVALS 2016

Bring a friend and check out some of the wonderful cultural showcases of our community!

May 27-29: Ya’ssso Greek Festival
St George Church, Bloomfield Hills | www.stgeorge-bh.org
(See the back cover of this issue for information)

June 4: Romanian-American Heritage Festival
Sts Peter & Paul Church, Dearborn Hts | www.spproc.org

June 9-12: Michigan Sahara Fun Fest
St Mary Basilica, Livonia | www.michiganfunfest.com

June 10-12: Ya’ssso Greek Festival
St Nicholas Church, Ann Arbor | www.stnickaa.org

June 17-19: Greek Festival
Assumption Church, Grand Blanc | www.flintorthodox.com

June 17-19: Windsor Carrousel Greek Village
Holy Cross Church, Windsor | www.windsorite.ca

June 17-19: Windsor Carrousel Serbian Village
Dormition “Gracanica” Church, Windsor | www.windsorite.ca

June 17-19: Windsor Carrousel Romanian Village
St George Cathedral, Windsor | www.windsorite.ca

June 24-26: OpalFest
St Nicholas Church, Troy | www.stnicholastroy.org

August 18-21: Assumption Greek Fest
Assumption Church, St Clair Shores | www.goassumption.org

August 26-28: A Taste of Greece
Nativity of Mary Church, Plymouth | www.nativitygochurch.org

September 10-11: Serb Fest
St Stevan Decanski Church, Warren | www.facebook.com

September 16-18: Romanian Festival of Greater Detroit
St George Cathedral, Southfield | www.sgroc.org

If your parish hosts a Festival we’d love to share the news with our readers and help support it! Let us know!
RUSSIAN BIKERS DELIVER ICONS IN AFRICA

[Africa] Biker-pilgrims from the Night Wolves club visited Russian Orthodox churches in Africa. "The expedition lasted half a year. Its participants covered 42,000 km", the Krestovsky Orthodox paper writes. "We started our trip with the blessing of the rector of the Holy Trinity-St Sergius Lavra, who instructed us to deliver icons to African parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and the Church of Alexandria," Yury Volkov said. The bikers reached the furthest Russian parish of in Uganda (Annunciation Church on the island of Bukasa in Lake Victoria). "Fr Christopher Walusimbi, the first black African priest in ROCOR, said that life is extremely hard there: poverty, lack of medical help and no electricity. To get to the post, the bank or the hospital, Father has to travel many hours by ship," Volkov said. Crosses and icons from Russian believers were given to the priest. Fr Daniil Lugovoy, the rector of St Sergius Church in Johannesburg received icons of St Sergius and St Mary Magdalene. The motor-bikers also visited churches in Morocco, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Mozambique and delivered crosses, icons and other gifts from Russia.

JORDAN RIVER PROJECT PROMOTES PEACE

[QASR AL-YAHUD, West Bank] Free access to the site where St John the Baptist baptized Jesus more than 2,000 years ago has been rare in the 50 years. Israel wrested control of this West Bank area from Jordan in the 1967 war. It then mined the entire site on the banks of the River to ward off attacks from across the border. But Israel signed a peace treaty with Jordan in 1994 and their border has been relatively quiet since. Israel cleared a part of the baptismal site in 2011 and it has become a popular attraction for visiting Christian pilgrims. Now Israeli and Palestinian officials have agreed to allow US and UK-based demining group HALO Trust to clear the rest of the 136 acres. (...) An eerie quiet surrounded the old buildings covered by a tangle of thorny bushes, shrubbery and barbed wire. Abandoned for nearly 50 years, the worn, sandy exterior of an Ethiopian church matched the desert landscape. The ground on a Russian plot cracked in the sun. Through a gaping hole in the side of a Romanian church, light shone through a mural of an angel. Over 300,000 tourists visit the site annually. Israeli, Palestinian and religious officials said they hope it will broadcast a message of religious tolerance. The Coptic Orthodox, Ethiopian Orthodox, Franciscans, Greek Orthodox, Romanian Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, and Syriac Orthodox will get access to buildings on their land. The Armenian Church also has a plot, but without structures on it. (R Jones, The Wall Street Journal)
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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 DOORadio.org. Lunch for the Hungry is served Sundays at 2pm. Sts Peter & Paul Hall (3810 Gilbert St, Detroit). Contact Orthodox Detroit Outreach to help.

MAY

20 Eve of Sts Constantine & Helen Vespers
   6:30pm: Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Church, Westland
   +Equal to the Apostles Constantine & Helen
   Paternal Feast-Day Liturgy
   10am: Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Church, Westland
   OCW Speaker Series: “Orthodox Detroit Outreach”
   10am: St Mary Antiochian Basilica, Livonia
21 Church School Recognition Day & Family Day Dinner
   1pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
27-29 Yassoo Greek Festival
   St George Church, Bloomfield Hills
30 Memorial Day Holiday (US)

JUNE

1 July - August Good Works Submission deadline
4 Romanian-American Heritage Festival
   2pm-midnight: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Dearborn Hts
9-12 Michigan Sahara Fun Fest
   St Mary Antiochian Basilica, Livonia
10 OCW Speaker Series: “FOCUS Detroit”
   7pm: St George Antiochian Church, Troy
10-12 Yassoo Greek Festival
   St Nicholas Greek Church, Ann Arbor
14 COCC Monthly Meeting,
   7pm: Sts George Greek Church, Bloomfield Hills
17-19 Greek Festival
   Assumption Greek Church, Grand Blanc
19 +Descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost)
   Fathers Day
22-26 Parish Life Conference, Livonia & Dearborn
   Antiochian Diocese of Toledo & the Midwest
24-26 Opafest
   St Nicholas Greek Church, Troy
24 + Nativity of St John the Baptist
   Paternal Feast Liturgy
   10:00am St John Greek Church, Sterling Heights
25-26 Orthodox Mission Weekend
   Sts Peter & Paul Community Center, Detroit
26 Paternal Feast Banquet
   1:00pm: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Dearborn Hts
27-28 Lent of Sts Peter & Paul
29 + Holy Apostles Peter & Paul
   Paternal Feast Liturgy
   10:30am: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Dearborn Hts

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

GOOD WORKS MAY-JUN 2016

ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
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