A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

2016 IN REVIEW

Each New Year affords an opportunity to look back at where we’ve come and look forward and hope for the future. The year 2016 was very active in the life of the COCC and I thank our spiritual advisor, V Rev Fr Laurence Lazar, and the Executive Board (J Lazar, M Stanesa, C Tzilos) as well as Rt Rev Roman Star and Richard Shebib for their tireless commitment and work to benefit the larger Orthodox family in metropolitan Detroit. We also thank the Reverend Fathers and delegates from parishes who regularly attend our monthly meetings along with the Orthodox Christian Women. This past year showed many endeavors started or continued by the Council. Our Lenten journey again included a Sunday Vespers series sponsored by the Clergy Brotherhood and the COCC. We were honored to invite V Rev Dr Michael Oleksa, a highly regarded speaker and university professor from Alaska, to be the homilist at the “Triumph of Orthodoxy” service. The faithful were hosted by St Lazarus Serbian, St Mary the Protectress Ukrainian, Nativity of the Virgin Greek, St Michael Russian and St George Antiochian parishes, for which we are thankful.

March 2016 saw our first Ladies Auxiliaries Leadership Social, bringing together women from 7 parishes to learn more about each other and discuss successes and challenges they face in working to help their parishes.

In May 2016, we marked the 1st anniversary of Detroit’s Own Orthodox Radio program which, along with Good Works magazine is part of the Council’s media ministry. It has been a period of growth and we continue to seek the support of ALL Orthodox parishes in our area. We thank the DOOR committee for their dedication. We also held our annual Spring 2016 – Dinner Dance, which supports the COCC’s work and brings people together in fellowship. Thanks again to St Michael’s parish for hosting!

We supported and promoted the work of our local charities which included Orthodox Detroit Outreach whose mission it is to provide a hot meal and to love our neighbors in need in Southwest Detroit. In 2016, they served over 7,000 meals and organized their first Mission Weekend where some 30 volunteers refurbished the hall, worked in the garden and helped neighbors with clean up and renovations. With Sue Barna, president of ZOE for Life! Michigan, COCC members travelled to Parma OH in March 2016 for the dedication of the new ZOE House. FOCUS Detroit also enjoys the support of the Council and we thank Eric Shanburn who updates the Council regularly.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship – we met with a group of students from Wayne State University who are interested in restarting a chapter on campus. In the fall of 2016, the COCC hosted an Open House for students and parents interested in OCF. Our guest speaker was Oana Grigoras, student chair of OCF Real Break.

We are grateful to Matsushka Vicky Kopistiansky and Elizabeth Hatfield for their work with the wonderful Orthodox Choir of Detroit. They brought us “Orthodox Hymns of Praise” in October 2016, a 6th annual benefit concert. We thank them and John Lazar who worked untiringly to organize our 2nd Annual “Christ is Born! Glorify Him” Christmas concert.

Throughout this past year, we have featured our activities in Good Works and hope that you are following along. As a clearing house for the work of the Orthodox in Detroit, we need your active participation and help. There are many ways to do this, first-and-foremost, is to make sure your parishes are members of the COCC and send a representative to the monthly meetings. Please continue to read, contribute and promote Good Works and listen to DOOR. Let others know that these resources exist. If you have a business, consider placing ads in our media ministry. We cannot do it without YOU! I wish you all strength, health and resolve in 2017! May God keep us all in his Mercy and Care.

Olga Liskiwskyi
COCC President

OUR MISSION

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

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

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

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An Inspiration at the New Year...

“GOD is a fire that warms and kindles the heart and inward parts. Hence, if we feel in our hearts the cold which comes from the devil – for the devil is cold – let us call on the Lord. He will come to warm our hearts with perfect love, not only for Him but also for our neighbor, and the cold of him who hates the good will flee before the heat of His countenance.”  - St Seraphim of Sarov

Beloved Faithful,

The past few weeks have been a bit unusual for me. Besides the normal activities of my family, of my Cathedral parish, diocesan responsibilities, and those of our local Orthodox community, etc. it has been a bit sad. My parish was surprised by the unexpected falling asleep of one of our elderly ladies, a beloved member who proved to have had a special relationship with many; a caring sister to some, a mother to others. Of course that is true of many good souls in any of our parishes, but every such loss touches us in a special way. At least it should. Their departure reminds us all of the need for each of us to more deliberately care for, love, and be attentive to others, particularly those new to the area, perhaps new to America, or simply new to our parish. We need to understand their need for a truly welcoming voice and embrace.

A few days later, I served at the funeral of a former parishioner in Ohio, the mother and Grandmother of our Godchildren. She too was one of those who helped others feel at home in the parish family. And I also served at the Chicago funeral of an old friend who married a girl I knew as a young boy. Like others of us, he spent his summers voluntarily working at the “Vatra”, the headquarters of our diocese near Jackson.

I mention these sad occurrences – which are so much a part of life, because I then spent a few quiet days at our annual clergy retreat. There, we listened to some needed reminders of what is required of priests (and bishops) as shepherds of Christ’s flock. There, in the beautiful Arizona sun and peace of the conference center, you’re forced to look inward and to think about your life and pastoral ministry. Regardless of titles or years of experience the priest has one beginning as one of us...

What joy there will be in heaven to once again realize that the One who has no beginning, accepted a beginning as one of us...

None of us, neither priest or layman, knows how much time remains for us to do such eternal work of ours but, as for me, what I could easily see at the conference was that my hair was far whiter than many others. And so, it was a good reminder, especially now on our Great Lenten pilgrimage to Christ’s Glorious Pascha, that I need to get back to work without delay.

Fr. Laurence Lazar
President of the Detroit Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood Spiritual Advisor to the COCC
On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God’s Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants [Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3].

After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos [Luke 1:31-33, 2:21]. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics had taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured [Colossians 2:11-12]. Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by Saint Stephen of the Saint Sava Monastery.

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God’s Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus [Savior] on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world [Matthew 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Philippians 2:9-10]. These two events -- the Lord’s Circumcision and Naming -- remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and “are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ” [Colossians 2:11]. The very name “Christian” is a sign of mankind’s entrance into a New Covenant with God.

The Circumcision of our Lord inspired our Holy Church to institute a beautiful and deeply symbolic custom for the newborn children of Christians: at eight days, the Priest reads the "Prayer for the Signing of a Child Who is Receiving a Name on the Eighth Day After His Birth" (see the Small Evchologion); in such a way the first "Seal" of Grace is given to the infant: "Let the light of Thy countenance be signed upon Thy servant (name), and let the Cross of Thine Only-begotten Son be signed in his heart and his thoughts...."
St. Haralambos was a priest in the city of Magnesia, near Smyrna in Asia Minor. Thru Christ, he was able to perform miracles much to the dismay of the government. He converted many pagans to Christianity including the daughter of Servius, the Emperor of the Roman Empire. He was 113 years old when he was martyred for the Faith. St. Haralambos guarded his people much as a shepherd would guard his flock, therefore, he is considered to be the protector of shepherds and their flocks. His body is now in the Monastery of Saint Stephen in Meterora, Greece, where it performs miracles to this day.

Kontakion: O Priest-martyr, athlete, champion Haralambos, your relics are a priceless treasure of the Church. Wherefore she rejoices, glorifying the Creator.

Troparion Hymn: O wise Haralambos, you were proven an unshakable pillar of the church of Christ; an ever-shining lamp of the universe. You shone in the world by your martyrdom. You delivered us from the moonless night of idolatry; O blessed one. Wherefore, boldly intercede to Christ that we may be saved.

Great Martyr Theodore “The Recruit” | February 17

They charged him with setting a pagan temple on fire, and threw him into prison to be starved to death. The Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him there, comforting and encouraging him. Brought to the governor, Saint Theodore boldly and fearlessly confessed his faith, for which he was subjected to new torments and condemned to burning. The martyr Theodore climbed onto the fire without hesitation, and with prayer and gave up his holy soul to God. This occurred in about the year 306 under the Roman emperor Galerius (305-311). Unharmed by the fire, the body of Saint Theodore was buried in the city of Euchaita, not far from Amasium. His relics were afterwards transferred to Constantinople, to a church dedicated to him. His head is in Italy, in the city of Gaeto.

Fifty years after the death of Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians, commanded the city-commander of Constantinople during the first week of Great Lent to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, ordering him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces, but rather to eat cooked wheat with honey (kolyva). In memory of this occurrence, the Orthodox Church annually celebrates the holy Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of Great Lent. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts following the prayer at the ambo, the Canon to the holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by Saint John of Damascus, is sung. After this, kolyva is blessed and distributed to the faithful. The celebration of the Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of Great Lent was set by the Patriarch Nectarius of Constantinople (381-397). We pray to Saint Theodore for the recovery of stolen articles.
The 2nd Annual “Christ is Born! Glorify Him! A Detroit Orthodox Christmas Concert” was scheduled for December 11, 2016 at St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral. Due to heavy snow the night before, it was decided to postpone the event and so, as they say, “the show must go on”, just a couple weeks later on January 8, 2017! Being that this was the “2nd Day” of Julian Calendar Christmas, it brought extra meaning to our hosts and those churches celebrating on January 7.

Building on the tremendous success of last year’s concert, the first of its kind in nearly 30 years, this event brought together a number of parish choirs to share carols and hymns from their traditions. Beautiful St Lazarus Cathedral offered a lovely setting for the performances by the Serbian Singing Society “Ravanica” (host choir), the Choir of St Mary Antiochian Basilica, St Mary “Pokrova” Ukrainian Cathedral Choir, and “The Archbishop Valerian Choir” of St George Romanian Cathedral. Each group took their turn, interspersed with orations by Jim Badeen and David Adrian, who shared passages from the Christmas Gospels.

COCO President Olga Liss gave a welcome and gave a brief explanation of the beneficiaries from the concert. Fr Laurence Lazar, President of the Clergy Brotherhood gave an introduction, and Fr Zivan Urosev, host priest, welcomed all in attendance.

The second half of the concert saw an Ensemble of the Orthodox Choir of Detroit offer a wonderful selection of English language hymns and carols, then, a combined “Christmas Chorus” from the OCMD with singers from various parishes gave an inspiring rendition of several hymns. The performance concluded with a sing-along of Carols with the grateful audience, and presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to each participating ensemble from the chairman, John E Lazar. A lovely afterglow / reception hosted by the Ravanica Choir followed.

We look forward to our 3rd Concert in December!
Some of my earliest memories of church involve my mother and grandmother. Although Baba watched me with an eagle eye to make certain I didn’t misbehave, I felt safe and loved as I stood snug between them.

In those days, our parish choir was quite large and had a number of exceptionally good voices. I especially enjoyed hearing one soprano sing very high notes and a bass who sang very low. But what I loved the best was listening to my mom and Baba quietly sing along—Mom with her clear, sure alto voice and Baba who sang neither soprano nor alto but straight from her heart.

When I was about seven years old, I received my first prayer book and was able to follow the Divine Liturgy by picking out words that I could read. At that time, our Liturgy was half in English and half in Slavonic, and I was always curious about the different-shaped letters on the opposite pages. As I grew older and had somewhat mastered the English, I found a Cyrillic alphabet with pronunciation key and began to use it to figure out some words in Slavonic. Eventually, another voice was added to the mother-daughter duet to make it a trio. It bought me such joy to join Mom and Baba’s voices in praise to God.

Although I was able to read music and sang in my school’s choirs, I waited until I was in my mid-twenties to become a member of the parish choir. I admit, I felt a bit intimidated the first time I climbed those steps to the choir loft, but I quickly found my place among the other members.

I belonged to the choir for fourteen years and now often help to sing when needed. Recently, and on more than one occasion, I’ve found myself singing the responses to the Liturgy alone, especially on Soul Saturdays. With no director or other choir members, I’ve felt ill prepared when asked to sing at the last minute. The last time this occurred I thought, “God deserves better than me ‘winging it’.” Things such as switching from my usual alto to soprano and being unable to “find the pitch” prevent me from doing my best.

In the early years of our church, a Psalomchyk (Reader) sang the responses with the congregation following along. Even after the choir was formed, the Psalomchyk was present for all services when the choir was not available. These young men received their training from the priest. Time was often set aside during Saturday Russian School for this purpose.

Times have changed though. Due to work schedules, dwindling church memberships, and sadly, lack of interest, few people may be in attendance for holy days and other services, with no one to sing the responses. A possible solution to this problem might be to establish deanery training programs for men and women of all ages who are interested in leading and singing responses for church services.

Whether we sing in large, professionally trained choirs or alone, our purpose is still the same—lifting up our voices in singing hymns of praise to God.

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

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

www.zoehousemi.org

ZOE for LIFE!
BOTTLES FOR BABIES Campaign

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

Please send me ________ baby bottles.

Name __________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City / State / Zip ___________________________________
Phone __________________________________________
Email __________________________________________

GOOD WORKS introduces a new feature, bringing awareness to special efforts taken on by a particular parish in our city that benefits others and put our FAITH INTO ACTION!

Here we feature Sts Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church (Westland), and their annual “John Koinis Feed the Needy” program! Many families from the parish volunteered to pack and deliver Thanksgiving food to over 120 needy area families. The funds to purchase the foods were collected during the course of the year by the parish’s Men’s Club.

On January 24, Fr Teodor Petrutiu (parish priest), the choir and parishioners took part in an Ecumenical Prayer celebration of the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity”, with other churches in the Westland area. The theme reminded those present that “through faith in Jesus Christ, Christ’s love becomes the driving force that moves us beyond our division toward acts of reconciliation.”

We commend “St Cons” for their work, not for their own gain, but to the glory of God!
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!

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!

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

We grateful for the positive comments received, and welcome your submissions (and even constructive critiques). If you find merit in “Good Works”, or other aspects of the COCC, we hope you will find it in your heart to support us with a donation. Your contribution enables us to expand our publication and the work of the COCC. Simply fill out and return the card below with your gift and proper postage. Thank you and may God bless you!

GOOD WORKS Subscription

☐ YES! Please send Good Works to me at home!
   I’ve enclosed $20.00 for 1 year (6 issues)

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ADDRESS _______________________________________________
CITY / STATE / CODE  _____________________________________
EMAIL _____________________________________________ ___
PHONE ( ___________ ) __________________________________

COCC + MINISTRIES Support

☐ YES! I’d like to support COCC’s efforts!

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

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

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

_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

THANK YOU!

Return this clipping with donation to:
COCC Good Works, c/o 18405 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield MI 48075
5 MARCH THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY
With Children's Procession of Icons
ST CLEMENT OHRIDSKI MACEDONO-BULGARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
19600 Ford Rd, Dearborn (between Evergreen & Southfield Fwy)
The Rev Fr Gabriel Bilas, Homilist

12 MARCH ST GREGORY PALAMAS
ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
21800 Marter Rd, St Clair Shores (off Jefferson)
The Very Rev Dr James King, Homilist

19 MARCH THE HOLY CROSS
ST GEORGE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
18405 W Nine Mile, Southfield (just W of Lodge & Southfield fwys)
The Rev Dr Teodor Petrutiu, Homilist

26 MARCH ST JOHN OF THE LADDER
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
20500 Anglin St, Detroit (at Eight Mile, between Dequindre & Ryan)
The Very Rev Fr Dimitrie Vincent, Homilist

2 APRIL ST MARY OF EGYPT
HOLY TRANSFIGURATION ORTHODOX CHURCH
36075 W Seven Mile Rd, Livonia (between Newburgh & Farmington)
The Rev Fr Michael Manos, Homilist

ALL ARE WELCOME — Pray, learn and enjoy fellowship with us!
Services begin at 6:00pm | Free-will offering | Refreshments to follow
One of the best ways to see good things happening is to watch the children in our parishes. Among others, we wish to share the “good works” of the Church Schools at St George Romanian Cathedral and St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral, as well as a volunteer effort from St John’s Greek Church.

At St George, they continued the tradition of bringing dozens of new toys to be blessed at the icon of “Sfântul Nicolae” in the Cathedral. The gifts were then distributed to children at Children’s Hospital and to needy children who otherwise may not receive a gift at Christmas. The children at St Lazarus offered a program of poems and songs to “Sveti Nikola” on the occasion of his feastday! Young people from St John parish in Sterling Heights once again came to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit Center in December to assist in assembling and mailing Christmas greetings and more! Thousands of envelopes were stuffed, bringing truth to the adage “Many hands make light work”! The help was much appreciated by Metropolitan Nicholas and the busy office staff!

These are just a couple examples from the Christmas season. We are proud of ALL our children and their efforts to keep the true spirit of St Nicholas alive and well!

This year’s Lenten Vespers Series will continue a unique addition started in 2016... PARENTS and parish Church Schools are asked to bring students (ages 7 through High School), each with an icon of their choice, to participate in the Triumph of Orthodoxy Vespers!

The youth will hold their icons and be assembled with the clergy during the Procession of Icons, then lead the clergy out of the church at the end of the service. This is sure to be a wonderful way to meet new friends from different parishes and be part of a new tradition... Please join us! (Address and details on facing page)
Looking for a way to get involved with FOCUS? Help us expand our reach to children experiencing poverty!

- Sign-up to tutor or read to kids on a school day
- Support our Operation Warm-up Drive of Winter clothing items for children
- Sign up to host a weekend food sacks for kids assembly at your church or business on a Wednesday evening January through May 2017
- Get a group together for a Saturday volunteer group project.
- Conduct a donation drive at your church or workplace for any of the following: Single-serve kids foods, Kids clothing (K-6), Reading books (K-6), Emergency food pantry items
- Help us sort and organize clothing donations in our office during the week. Get a group of ladies together or come by yourself!

Contact us: Detroit@focusna.org or 248 671-4483
www.FOCUSDetroit.org

“A Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve”
**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, 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_

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**LENTEN RETREATS**

**ST THOMAS PARISH**

“An Unchanged Church in a Changing World”
Saturday, March 18 | 9am-3pm

*Presented by Mother Abbess Gabriella,*
Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction

_Sponsored by “The Daughters of St Thomas”_

_RSVP / Info: Marcie Moran 248 798-3237_

_St Thomas (Albanian OCA) Orthodox Church_
29150 W 10 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills

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**ST NICHOLAS PARISH**

13th “Women’s Lenten Spiritual Retreat”
Saturday, March 11 | 9am-3pm

*Presented by Dan Christopulos,*
US Representative for IOCC

_Sponsored by the St Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos_

_RSVP / Info: Patti Chalker 248 722-5849_

$35.00 Advanced Registration Only (includes meals)

_St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church_
760 Wattles Rd, Troy

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**DORMITION MONASTERY**

Women’s Retreat:
“Be still and the Lord Will Fight for You”
Saturday, March 11 | 9am-2:30pm

_Teen Retreat_
Friday-Sunday, March 17-19

Please call the monastery for details

_OCFC / College Retreat_
Friday-Sunday, March 31-April 2

*Presented by Nun Magdalena*_

_RSVP: Anastasia Frigerio, afrigerio@hillsdale.edu_

_Holy Dormition Orthodox Monastery_
3389 Rives Eaton Rd, Rives Junction

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**EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY...**

**LENTEN RETREATS**

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_Holy Dormition Orthodox Monastery_
3389 Rives Eaton Rd, Rives Junction

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_Tamburitzans_**

_Sunday March 26 | 2:00pm_

Seligman Center for the performing Arts at Detroit Country Day High School (13 Mile & Lahser)

_Tickets $25 adults | $10 children_

_Select & purchase seats: tsalentshadows.events_

_For more information, contact Ron: 586 997-1711 | rpayok@att.net_

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_If you would like to announce an event for the community, contact us: webeditor@coccdetroit.org! We would be happy to help you._

*(There is no required fee, but donations are appreciated!)*
**Coptic Orthodox Choose Peace**

[Cairo, Egypt] In truest response to tragedy, Christians in Cairo are ready to forgive according to an article in The Christian Post titled, “Coptic Christians ‘Ready to Forgive’ After Suicide Bombing Kills 24 in Cairo Church”. Although, Egypt’s President announced the identity of the man who walked into St Mark’s Coptic Orthodox Cathedral on December 11 and detonated a 12-kilogram explosive that killed mostly Christian women and children, Bishop Anba Angaelos, of the Coptic Church in the United Kingdom, said the persecuted Coptic Christian community will not respond to the attack with vengeance. “(...) Their pain cannot be comforted with vengeance, so they have turned to forgiveness. “We are praying that there is healing in the community (...)”

**March For Life Includes Orthodox**

[WASHINGTON, DC] January 22, 2017 marks the 44th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States, and Orthodox Christians from across the US will be among those gathering in the US Capital on Friday, January 27 to participate in the annual March for Life. [Due to the inauguration of President-Elect Donald Trump, this year’s March will be held one week later than usual. Sanctity of Life Sunday, however, will not be affected, and will be observed on January 15.] The annual march will conclude with the celebration of Memorial Prayers for the victims of abortion near the US Capital. The theme of this year’s March is “The Power of One.”

**Speaker Series**

ALL WELCOME at these FREE, Educational programs!

- **Sunday, February 5 | 2PM**  
  *Anniversary Luncheon*  
  St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield

- **Monday, March 20 | 7 PM**  
  “ST GREGORY PALAMAS”, Fr Dimitrie Vincent  
  Holy Trinity Church, Detroit

- **Monday, April 24 | 7PM**  
  “DEALING WITH SECULARISM”, Fr Nick Marcus  
  St Clement Ohridski 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
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 intensively 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 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 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 COCCCtelcom 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)

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 Sts 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 Mc Croskery (matt@orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org), or Janet 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 Razook (248 345-9346 | orthodoxvisitondetroit@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.

DETOUR 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).
The DOOR is open… have you stopped in?!

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

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

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

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St Petka Serbian Orthodox Church “Vratnica”
1755 E Wattles Rd, Troy
Rev Fr Stavrophor Zivko Kajevic
Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New Gracanica & Midwestern America

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
www.holycrossgo.org
25225 Middlebelt Rd, Farmington Hills
Very Rev Fr Dean Hountalas
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit

Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St Mary
www.stmarylivonia.com
18100 Merriman Rd, Livonia
Very Rev Fr George Shalhoub
Rev Fr James King
Antiochian Orthodox Diocese of Toledo & the Midwest
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FEBRUARY

2 +Presentation of the Lord in the Temple
10 Outreach Detroit Foundation Board Meeting
6:30pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
14 Valentine’s Day
19 Farewell to Meat Products
20 President’s Day Holiday (US)
21 COCC Monthly Meeting,
7pm: St Mary Ukrainian Cathedral, Southfield
25 Eve of the Annunciation
9am: St Thomas Church, Farmington Hills
26 Forgiveness Sunday
6pm: Assumption Greek Church, St Clair Shores
27 Start of Great Lent

MARCH

5 1st Sunday of Great Lent - Triumph of Orthodoxy
Inter-Orthodox Vespers & Procession of Icons
6pm: St Clement Ohridski Church, Dearborn
11 Women’s Lenten Retreat
9am: St Nicholas Greek Church, Troy
11-13 Women’s Lenten Retreat
Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction
Spring Forward! Change clocks ahead 1 hour
before going to bed
12 2nd Sunday of Great Lent - Inter-Orthodox Vespers
6pm: Assumption Greek Church, St Clair Shores
14 COCC Monthly Meeting
7pm: St Mary Ukrainian Cathedral, Southfield
18 Lenten Retreat
9am: St Thomas Church, Farmington Hills
Springtime Vendor’s Show
10am: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Drbn Hts
19 3rd Sunday of Great Lent - Inter-Orthodox Vespers
6pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
20 OCW Speaker Series Presentation
7pm: Holy Trinity Church, Detroit
24 +Eve of the Annunciation
Patronal Feast Vespers
7pm: Annunciation Greek Cathedral, Detroit
25 +Annunciation
Patronal Feast Liturgy
10am: Annunciation Greek Cathedral, Detroit
26 4th Sunday of Great Lent - Inter-Orthodox Vespers
6pm: Holy Trinity Church, Detroit

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