

GOOD WORKS

Quarterly Publication of
The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches
of Metropolitan Detroit



Feast-days

FELLOWSHIP

& Festivals...

Summer-time in Detroit includes our Church!



JULY-SEPTEMBER 2013



A MESSAGE FROM OUR 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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Another summer is upon us! The sounds of the school bell ringing and lockers slamming between classes are replaced with children playing and sprinklers watering the lawn. It's summer, and for many, that means a time to be with family, take a trip, or just simply relax and "chill".

I've noticed as I've grown up, however, is that too often, "summer" also signals many of us taking a break from Church as well. Many communities (I'm speaking from the Orthodox perspective) struggle to meet necessary financial obligations, and are visibly less congested by the unfortunate "vacation" of its faithful.

Yet, the services go on. The clergy continue to serve and minister to the people. They wear the same vestments and give the same blessings. Weddings, baptisms, funerals, and more come and go, besides the regular schedule of services. The choir leads the responses (unless the singers aren't there to uphold this important job!); the cantors chant the hymns that so beautifully characterize our worship. Our liturgical books and cycle do not mention "exceptions for the summer months", and the saints and feasts we commemorate in this time are no less important than others of the year. Visitors still visit, and in fact for many of our parishes, new faces can be found nearly every single Sunday(!), either because there is a special occasion, or just because they want to learn and find a spiritual home.

Too often though, the "Church" is not fully the Church. We still offer the petitions for "those absent for honorable causes", but doesn't it seem like during the summer there are just TOO many empty spots in the pews?

Of course, vacations and time away from work or school is important and necessary. Believe me, as the son of a priest, I am very aware that "vacations" are very few and far between! I'm simply bringing this unfortunate phenomenon to light because it's more evident in the summer. Even when people aren't away on vacation, they still find a way to be on vacation! Get my meaning?

Believe it or not, when YOU are not present on a regular basis, the Church misses you! She is a family of believers, and when some of her members are absent, she suffers. You may not think so, but it's true. Yes, she still relies on your financial gifts, but your physical presence and participation is just as critical! It is not a judgment of who has better attendance than another, it is more of a will to WANT to be present and to make it happen — only you can do that. You should know, however, that every time you pass through the doors of your parish church, she smiles and Our Lord is very glad to have you with Him.

So, enjoy your summer... support our Festivals, send the kids to an Orthodox Camp, take a trip... but don't stay away too long... your Church needs you too!

As always, we hope you enjoy our publication and will offer your "Good Works" to make our organization better.


John E Lazar
COCC President

*God bless America, land that I Love!
Stand beside her
and guide her
through the night with the light from above...*



REMEMBER THEM IN YOUR KINGDOM

So much has changed in our lives since that fateful day in 2001. A sad and dark event was written into the history books. Even now, twelve years later, it's hard to avoid having tears well up in our eyes whenever we stop, think about, and picture what happened that sunny morning that was just coming to life; a day like every other that suddenly became like no other.

*He promises
safe haven,
if not here,
then in the
Paradise He
has prepared.*

The term "9-11" is now known around the globe as a benchmark date, because while there is always a *first-time* for everything, our national policies and so much about our daily lives are now focused on preventing "that" from ever happening again. It struck at the heart of our nation, just as was intended by the Evil One, and somehow we know that, try as we may, we won't be able to keep "that" from happening again, in some form at some time somewhere in what ironically was at once an idyllic but powerful land called America; blessed by God to offer liberty and justice for all.

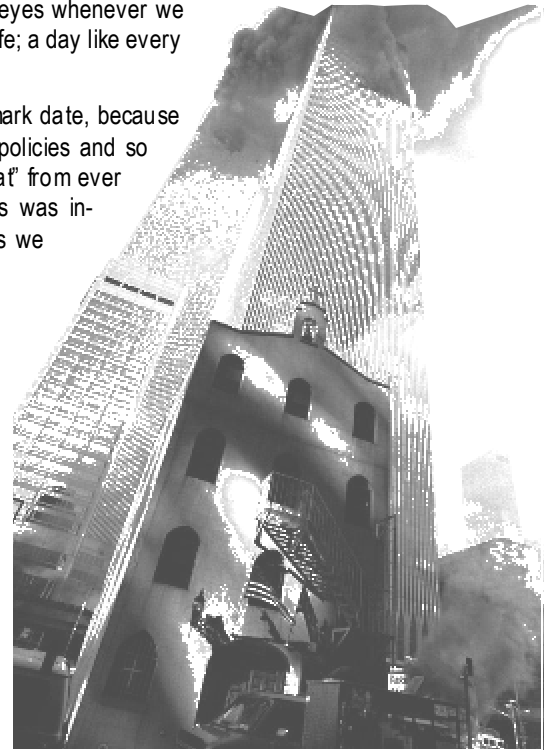
And so, 9-11 has become for us, people of faith, another reason to 'Lift up our eyes to the heavens, for it is from there that our help comes'. (Psalm 121) Yes, God forbid, we may again see deadly jets streaming across the skies as on 9-11,

or experience devastation in some other form, but the person of faith sees much more. He sees the loving God of the heavens, the Giver of Joy, Peace, and Life who brings us into existence not to live in fear, to suffer and die, but to know that He is with us. He constantly calls us to walk with Him through the thunder and lightning and waves of every ugly storm we see forming in the distance or that strikes us unexpectedly, and He promises safe haven, if not here, then in the Paradise He has prepared. That's where, we trust, the innocent victims of 9-11 are today; where the souls of all who fall asleep in the Lord, our ancestors, friends and even enemies who repent of their sins, now rest. They're all at peace, as we should be.

The Enemy may have shocked, scared, and confused us, and he will try to do so again, and again, and again, but the Lord already told us, "*In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.*" (John 16:33) With this in mind, if we, as God-fearing Orthodox Christians "live" our belief that God is with us, in us, and in every soul who lifts his eyes to the heavens, then truly "*Blessed is the nation, whose God is the Lord.*" (Psalm 33:12)

Fr Laurence Lazar

(reprinted / adapted from the Weekly Bulletin of St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral)



Tiny St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in the shadows of the 'twin towers', destroyed on September 11, 2001

+ FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have just celebrated the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost — the descent of the Holy



Spirit upon the Apostles, who received the power of the Holy Spirit. Receiving this power, the Apostles set out on their way to spread the Good News of Christ throughout the world, teaching all nations, each in its own language.

It is only after the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, voluntarily suffered for us, died on the cross for our sins, rose from the dead, ascended into Heaven and sat down at the right side of the

Father, that the Holy Spirit was sent down. All this is God's mercy towards us.

Therefore, let us rise from sinful sleep and be Christians not only in name, but in our good deeds (good works). It is through humility and love for one's neighbor, meekness and fasting, cleansing the body and soul, that makes us equal to the angels, and raises us up to Heaven.

Let us constantly be charitable and compassionate to all, for deeds of charity wash us of every sin, opens to us the gates of heaven, and turns God's wrath into meekness and mercy.

Let us try to accomplish deeds pleasing to God, for such deeds allow us to be called 'children of God.'

-Archpriest Roman Star

The Falling Asleep of the Birth-giver of God

August 15



Introduction

The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Birth-giver of God (Theotokos) and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast commemorates the repose (*dormition* and in the Greek *kimisis*) or "falling-asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos.

Biblical Story

The Holy Scriptures tell us that when our Lord was dying on the Cross, He saw His mother and His disciple John and said to the Virgin Mary, "Woman, behold your son!" and to John, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:25-27). From that hour, the Apostle took care of the Theotokos in his own home.

Along with the biblical reference in Acts 1:14 that confirms that the Virgin Mary was with the Holy Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the tradition of the Church holds that she remained in the home of the Apostle John in Jerusalem, continuing a ministry in word and deed.

At the time of her death, the disciples of our Lord who were preaching throughout the world returned to Jerusalem to see the Theotokos. Except for the Apostle Thomas, all of them including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at her bedside. At the moment of her death, Jesus Christ himself descended and carried her soul into heaven.

Following her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and

laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after her repose and desired to see her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by

the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Dormition

The commemoration of the Dormition of

the Theotokos and the preparation for the Feast begin on August 1 with a period of fasting. A strict fast is followed on most of the days (no meat, dairy, oil, or wine), with the exceptions of fish on the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) and the day of the Dormition. Oil and Wine are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays.

On the weekdays before the Feast, Paraklesis services are held in most parishes. These consist of the Great Paraklesis and the Small Paraklesis, both services of supplication and prayer for the intercessions of the Theotokos.

The Feast of the Dormition is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the Feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Scripture readings for the Feast of the Dormition are the following: At Vespers: Genesis 28:10-17; Ezekiel 43:27-44:4; Proverbs 9:1-11. At the Matins: Luke 1:39-49, 56. At the Divine Liturgy: Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

TROPAR (Tone 1)

In giving birth you preserved your virginity, in falling asleep you did not forsake the world O Birth-giver of God. You were translated to life O Mother of Life, and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

MARTYR PRINCE CONSTANTIN BRÂNCOVEANU

with his SONS & COUNSELOR | August 16

The Church of Romania honors Saint Voivod (Prince) Constantin Brâncoveanu, of Wallachia, province of Romania (1688-1714). He was born in 1654, from a noble Romanian family. His father died in 1655 and Constantin was raised by his uncle, Constantine Cantacuzino, a high-ranking official. In this way the future Prince of Wallachia received the best education. He was fluent in Greek, Latin, Slavonic, and probably Turkish. He married Maria, and they had four sons: Constantin, Ștefan, Radu and Matei and seven daughters: Stanca, Maria, Ilinca, Safta, Anca, Bălașa and Smaranda. Together they reached an impressive wealth.

At 34, Constantin was elected Lord of Wallachia, after the sudden and mysterious death of his uncle. The political situation was very difficult for the small Romanian principalities who tried to keep further their identity, during the growth of Russian power, who came into conflict with the Ottoman Empire and the Austrian Monarchy - present in the Transylvania province since 1699. Even so, his reign has been called the "Romanian Renaissance". He built many churches, monasteries, and secular institutions after a totally new architectural style that combined traditional local mural painting and sculpture with neo-Byzantine style and Italian Renaissance. This combination was called the "Brâncovenesc" style, which could be considered the first typically Romanian current for architecture and painting.

Since 1711, sultan Ahmed III (1703-1730) planned to put someone else on the throne of Wallachia, because Brâncoveanu would not be loyal to him, and because he wanted to fortify his position against the Austrian Monarchy. But Constantin was too powerful, and had too many connections among the Western powers.

In 1714 Constantin was planning the marriage of his son Radu. Brâncoveanu and tried to improve his relations with the Sultan, sending him a letter and 4000 golden coins. The Sultan told to him that he has nothing against the marriage, but, on March 25, 1714, the Turks came to Bucharest and removed Constantin from the throne. The reason invoked was that he gathered too much wealth and had prepared a rebellion against the Turks.

He was taken to Istanbul with his family, was imprisoned and tortured at the fortress of Yedikule (the Seven Towers). Then, finally the execution of Constantin and his family happened August 15, 1714, the day of the Dormition, his 60th birthday and his wife's names-day.

Sultan Ahmed III commanded a grandiose ceremony in order to humiliate his adversaries. Together with him were present also the ambassadors of France, England, Austria and Russia, who were invited to see his manifes-

tation of power. Constantin was brought with his four sons and his confident lanache Văcărescu. The sultan permitted them a last prayer and offered them one more chance to convert to Islam. The Italian chronicler Antonio Del Chiaro noted the answer of Constantin: "Your majesty, you have taken my fortune, but I don't abandon my Christian law. I was born and lived in it and I want to die in it (as Christian). I filled the earth of my country with churches and, now, attaining an old age, should I bow to your Turkish mosques? No, your Highness! I defended my land, I kept my faith I want to close my eyes in my faith and my sons together with me". After that, he encouraged his sons "My children, have courage! I lost everything I had in this earthly world. Only our souls remain, and we shall not lose them too, but we shall be cleansed before our Savior Jesus Christ. Let us wash our sins with our blood!"

The bodies of the four martyrs were thrown into the waters of the Bosphorus and their heads were put on spears through the streets of Constantinople and hanged for 3 days at the gates of the Seray. Later they were also thrown into the water. Some Christians have "fished" out the bodies and buried them secretly in the Assumption Church at Halki Island, and their heads were brought back to Wallachia by Lady Mary (his wife) in 1720 and secretly buried at the church of St. George the New in Bucharest. The tomb was covered by a white marble plate, without any identification or inscription. The discovery of the burial happened only in 1914, because of an inscription on a silver lamp which until then remained unobserved: "This lamp, given to [the church of] St. George the New, lights where the bones of the blessed Lord Voivod Constantin Brâncoveanu Basarab rests."

On June 20, 1992 the Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church canonized the martyrs Brâncoveanu, setting their memorial not on August 15, because of the great Feast of Dormition, but the next day, August 16.



A Beggar Who Builds Up Churches

Translated by Fr John Nemes

"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things... and reveal the counsels of he hearts." (1 Corinthians 4:5)

In the hustle and bustle of a modern capital, the figure of old Dobri Dobrev could easily pass unnoticed as one of the many beggars of Sofia. Not many really know this 96 year



old man and are familiar with what he does. It may seem hard to believe that the largest church in the Balkans, the Patriarchal Cathedral and symbol of the city where the Metropolitans of Bulgaria gather together to serve every month, recently received an immense financial contribution from this elder, Dobri, follower of the words of the Apostle (Paul), (1 Corinthians 4:13). *"We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment."*

This act would have remained hidden from the world had his Grace, Tikhon of Tiveriopol, not unveiled it to the press: "I could not believe it when I saw the receipt, and it's incredible but the biggest donor of the Patriarchal Cathedral is elder Dobri, whom all know as the beggar dressed in traditional costume, who bows to everyone. This old man donated some \$26,000.00 (35,700 leva) to the Cathedral. This man, so modest and poor, made the largest donation in the last decade to the Church of St. Alexander Nevsky."

In 1988, Dedo Dobri (elder /grandfather, as the Bulgarians call him) gave up his old life and started begging in the streets and churches. This elderly man, with a monthly income of about \$100.00 (80 Euros), travels

almost every day from his village, Bailovo, to Sofia, in order to gather every loose penny - but never for himself! Many residents of Sofia have seen Dobri standing year after year, with a glass in his hand, to hold the money - which he would then give to an acquaintance to deposit in a bank account. At first he raised money for the reconstruction of Elesnita Monastery, located a few kilometers away from the Bulgarian capital. With God's help, in 2006, the Monastery Church was renovated and consecrated. In May 2009 he went to the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral's parish trustee, to whom he simply said, "Come with me, so that I can give you some money for the church!" What determined this old man, with a face that seems to have come out of the holy books, to take up this road? Only God knows! When asked why he did it, (Dedo) Dobri simply responded: "We raise money for monasteries. We rebuild churches in need. We reconstruct them, renovate them - it's not much, but... we do what we can."

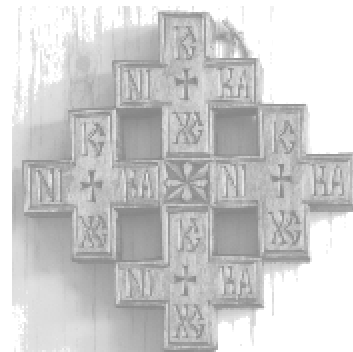
The name of the old man, Dobri, and the amount he donated spread as a big slap in the face to all the politicians and local businessmen, who talked and made lots of promises to help the church but who, ultimately, haven't helped the church, which caused a well known Bulgarian journalist to exclaim: "What a mess our society has become if the largest donor among us is a poor old man! When the Church asks for our help to restore the Patriarchal Cathedral to its greatness, we will no longer be able to justify our excuses because day-to-day Dedo Dobri shows us it can be done - even being silent about it."

Old Dobri, this silent Christian warrior, comes daily to worship quietly in the Cathedral of St. Alexander Nevsky. He then sits down by the exit where he greets and prostrates before everyone, saying farewell with the words: "Rejoice in the Lord!"

We conclude with a few words gathered from Dedo Dobri's simple but living wisdom, this man who is "not of this world" (John 18:36): "There are two wills, one of God, another of the devil. And they wage a war in our minds. We should follow and submit to God's will - may God help us! The good will is right and true. All things that come out of this will are good. We should not lie, steal or commit adultery. We must love one another as God loves us - make us worthy, O Lord!"

[Romanian translation and adaptation by Radu Hagiu, from "The Orthodox Family", April, No.4 (27), 2011, pp 27-28. English translation by Fr Geani Ilie Nemes, from Solia, May/June, 2013, LXXVIII, No. 5-6.

14 September The Exaltation (Lifting) of the Holy Cross



The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross originated in Jerusalem in 355 to commemorate the dedication of the Basilica of the Resurrection. When the true cross of Jesus was found shortly afterwards, this event was commemorated on the same day. In time, the Feast of the Exaltation sup planted the feast of the dedication.

In 395, St. John Chrysostom wrote of three crosses which were discovered beneath Golgotha by the Empress Helena. Many other writers speak of miracles which occurred through contact with the true cross. It was through one of these miracles that the true cross was recognized by St. Helena and St. Macarius, the Bishop of Jerusalem.

The Holy Cross was kept in the Basilica of the Resurrection in Jerusalem until 614, when the Persians conquered the city and burned the church. In 628, Emperor Heraclius III defeated the Persians and returned the Holy Cross to Jerusalem. A portion of the cross was taken to Rome in the seventh century by Sergius I, a Pope of Byzantine origin.

O Lord
*save Your people and bless
Your heritage, grant victory
to Orthodox Christians over
the enemy, and preserve Your
people by Your Cross!*

(tropar, tone 1)

AREA CLERGY CELEBRATE MILESTONES



God bless **FR PHILEMON KARAMANOS** upon his retirement earlier this year. Father served with his wife, Presvytera Helen at St George Greek Orthodox Church (Southgate) since 1968. We wish Father and Presvytera a blessed retirement and many more happy years of service to the Church!



FR WILLIAM (BILL) BARTZ was appointed by Metropolitan Nicholas as “Proistamenos” (Presiding Priest) of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Carmel (Indianapolis) IN. Fr Bill had come to Detroit to serve as Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis, but was called by God to serve as

parish priest in Indiana. We thank him for his work among our churches and wish him continued success.

you
are a
PRIEST
Forever...

-psalms

FR ILYA (Michael) BARN celebrates his 95th birthday in July! Fr Michael (recently tonsured as the Monk Ilya) served many years as president of the COCC. As the ‘patriarch’ of Orthodox clergy in Detroit, we congratulate The Rt Rev Archimandrite and wish that God continue to grant him many years!

We congratulate **FR ROMAN STAR**, President of the St John Chrysostom Clergy Brotherhood (& Spiritual Advisor of the COCC), who serves St Innocent Parish in Redford, as well as **FR**

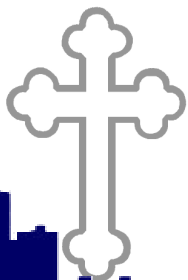
TIMOTHY BARN, pastor of St Michael Parish in Redford, who were both awarded the Mitre and given the title of “Right Reverend Mitred Archpriest” by Patriarch Kirill of Russia, by the hand of Archbishop Justinian. A xios!



May God bless **FR LAURENCE LAZAR**, who celebrates his 40th Anniversary of Ordination on July 8. Fr Laurence has served as Dean of the Diocesan Cathedral of St George (Romanian Episcopate) since 1991, is former president of the COCC and currently Vice President of the Clergy Brotherhood. At 40 years, Father was given the title of “Protopresbyter” by the OCA, a rank bestowed by the Romanian Church in 1992. Many years!

DID YOU KNOW...

That the oldest Orthodox Church in Detroit was founded in 1907: Sts Peter & Paul Russian Parish, and the newest in 2011: St Theodora of Sihla Romanian Mission.



12 STEPS TO LIVING A FULL LIFE AS AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

We are all addicts — to sin and its self-destructive behavior. Therefore, as AA and other groups that help people who are struggling to overcome addictions and self-destructive behaviors use 12-step-programs, here is a suggested Orthodox Christian program for those who would like to overcome their addiction to sin, to stop their self-destructive behavior, and to live a full life, with inner peace, love and joy. Of course, the first preliminary step to overcoming any addiction is admitting to ourselves that we are not “OK,” and indeed are addicted.



1. Spend time in prayer everyday.
2. Read the Bible and other spiritual reading everyday.
3. Live a clean, moral, Christ-centered, humble life everyday.
4. Be honest and truthful: flee from lies and deception everyday.
5. Discern the icon of Christ in everyone, and treat each person with respect, and have a reverence for life everyday.
6. Attend Church Services every Saturday evening, Sunday morning and feast-days.
7. Receive Christ's Body and Blood in Holy Communion at every Liturgy, having prepared yourself by forgiveness, repentance, Confession, prayer and fasting.
8. Observe the Church's fasting days and seasons, and also obey the Church's other disciplines.
9. Give alms regularly of what you have — money, time and talents — to help people, and to serve God and His Church.
10. Let your heart be filled with God's Love, Peace and Compassion, and let it flow out to embrace those around you.
11. Open the door of your heart to God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — for the Lord to dwell in you.
12. Practice the Presence of God continually, and let your heart's desire be — above all else — to always be in communion with the Lord, making Him the Center of your life.

St. Innocent Religious (monastic) Community
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Please visit our web-site (www.firebirdvideos.com) for details on nearly 120 videos, audios and books on Orthodox Faith and cultures; articles, etc. Request a copy of our free catalog.



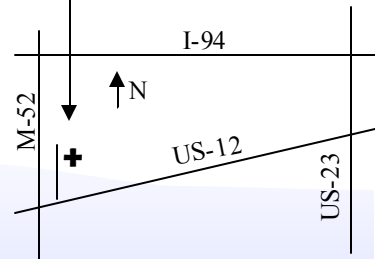
The fathers of Ascension Monastery welcomed the community to their patronal Feast-day celebration during the weekend of June 13-15, 2013. The monastery (formerly located in Detroit at the Jeffries Fwy / I-96 and Telegraph) is an ensemble of 5 buildings on a picturesque 60 acres located southwest of Ann Arbor in the Village of Clinton (Bridgewater Twp). Bishop Irineu (Duvlea) serves as the Abbot.

Thousands of faithful and many clergy made the pilgrimage for the Ascension festivities, which was blessed in particular this year to also include the presence of the miraculous Iveron Icon "of Hawaii". Guests were able to venerate the icon and offer their personal intentions throughout the weekend. Some 600 took part at the main celebration of the Divine Liturgy and festive meal offered by the monks and the host committee who worked very hard under the guidance of Bishop Irineu to provide a peaceful and joyful experience for everyone.

**Ascension of the Lord
Romanian Orthodox Monastery**
Rt Rev Bishop Irineu (DuVlea), Abbot
15143 Sheridan Rd, Clinton MI 49236
Telephone 517 456-4474
www.holy-ascension.org

Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit (Romanian Episcopate), Archbishop Justinian (Russian Patriarchate), Bishop Emilian (Romanian Patriarchate), Bishop Nicodim (Moldova), and Bishop Irineu (Romanian Auxiliary) led the services with a large number of clergy, with responses given by the "Harisma" Male Choir of Romania.

The monastery's spiritual life and practice is based on the Romanian Orthodox tradition, but welcome and encourage people of all backgrounds to visit and worship with them.



With over 150 people in attendance, the annual COCC Spring Dinner Dance was a great success. Held on June 2, 2013 at St. Michael the Archangel Russian Orthodox Church in Redford, there were clergy and parishioners from over a dozen Orthodox churches in the area.

Annual “Spring Celebration” Dinner-Dance Successful!

The evening provided plenty of food, children’s entertainment by Balloon Man Josh, door prizes, auctions and dancing featuring the popular ethnic and American music by the Off Beats! Guests, from the youngest to the oldest, were thanked by then Vice President of the COCC, John E Lazar, for contributing to the success of the evening’s event.

Thank you to everyone that helped and to all the wonderful supporters of the dance and the ad-book! In particular, we appreciate the generosity of our host parish, St Michael the Archangel, Fr Tim Barna, John Vasilco, and Patric Herms. Our efforts realized a profit of \$4,000.00, which will be earmarked specifically for our continued support of area retired Orthodox Clergy and Wives who have served the COCC during their active pastorate.

We look forward to increasing the participation and success of this worthy event, and hope that YOU will be part of it!

Save the date! Next year’s Dinner-Dance to benefit Retired COCC Clergy & Wives is planned for May 18, 2014 at St Michael the Archangel Banquet Hall, Redford. (Date and location subject to change.)

PRAYERS FOR FR BRAGA

We are saddened to have to let everyone know that in the recent weeks, Fr Roman (Braga) has experienced a decline in his health and has consequently underwent some testing. The results of the investigative testing has showed a malignant tumor on top of the right kidney and extensive metastasis in the bones.

At present he is weak and tired but ambulatory, can walk slowly and attend morning services. He suffers pain in his back, but is very calm and desires not to undergo any treatments. In the days to come, with the help of our family physician and Drs Jane and Dan Hinshaw we are setting up palliative care to offer him comfort and pain management.

We ask for your prayers for Father Roman, and for us to be able to give him the best care we can. We appreciate your love and concern for Fr Roman, but we ask that you do not call us as we are not able to handle the number of calls. We will post an update every other day or at any time significant changes will occur.

May God bless you all.

Mother GABRIELLA (Abbess) and the Sisterhood
Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction

Youth Oratorical Festival



Left: 2013 Metropolis Finalists; Below: (L-R) Eva Kokinos (Metropolis Youth Director), Theodore Monk (Senior winner), Metropolitan Nicholas, Jordan George (Junior winner), Penelope Filyo (Festival Co-Chair).

Introduced in 1983, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides teenagers from within the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The Oratorical Festival Program begins at the Parish Level and is divided into two divisions: the Junior Division for students in the 7th to 9th grades and the Senior Division for teenagers in the 10th to 12th grades.

The top speakers in each division advance to the district level and, if selected, become one of two finalists in their division to represent their district at their Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The top speaker in each division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is hosted by a different Metropolis each year.

All eighteen finalists at the Archdiocese Finals participate in a weekend of activities, the highlight of which is the delivery of their speeches on Saturday morning. The Oratorical Festival Scholarship Foundation provides college scholarships to the top three speakers in each division. In addition, those finalists who receive a rank of Honorable Mention are awarded a United States Savings Bond.

The 2013 Metropolis of Detroit Finals were held at St George Church in Southgate, and the National Finals in Memphis Tennessee. The COCC congratulates all participants and organizers of this wonderful educational endeavor — the education of our youth in living and practicing the Orthodox Faith is one of the greatest gifts we can give to them.



It's Summer-time, and the Livin' is Easy!



*"Know and
love the homeless?
Seriously?!"*

*Holidays! Barbeques!
Weddings! Graduations!
Vacation! No School!
Summertime is a wonderful
time of year... Beautiful
feasts of the church:
Pentecost, Transfiguration,
and Dormition are cele-
brated in the summer.*

Think for a moment though, what if you were homeless? Had no family. Mentally ill. Addicted to alcohol or other drugs. Summer is just another time to live on the streets with little hope. Nowhere to take a shower, squatting in a house with no utilities or living in a car. Walking the streets every day, maybe holding a sign "please help, God bless you".

We see the homeless every day in some of our neighborhoods. Freeway exits, red lights, asking for a dollar... "Why don't they get a job!?" some ask. Hmm... would you hire him? Nowhere to live, no address, no bathroom, no clean clothes, alcoholic... It's not easy.

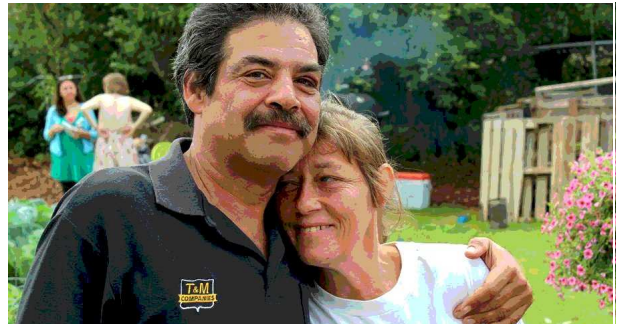
Orthodox Detroit Outreach has been truly blessed to provide for the homeless in our ministry, working with many parish volunteers in the area, coordinating monthly sack lunch sessions, once monthly breakfast at Detroit's NSO Shelter, and weekly lunches in SW Detroit near Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral (OCA).

ODO began a partnership with a group last fall - The Detroit Hunger Alliance - who had been feeding the homeless just a block away from Sts. Peter & Paul at their community garden, "Garden of Hope". We met last year and immediately partnered with them, cooking, serving, and recruiting volunteers to serve about 50 meals every Sunday to homeless men and women who we have come to know and love.

Know and love the homeless? Seriously? How can that be? Aren't they scary? Dangerous? Dirty? Weird? Fill in an adjective here.

As we mentioned in the last issue of "Good Works", we need to strive to see Christ in everyone. We have served the same group of 50 men and women in SW Detroit now for a year. We know their names, their faces, their stories. There's Gloria and her sister Kathy. Kathy likes to sing and has a dog. Gloria is probably with the wrong guy. There's Sil and Elizabeth who are trying to quit drinking. There's Daniel who just can't stop drinking. There's John who always comes hungry and "just needs food". There's the guy who sits alone with three coats on even when it's 80 degrees out and doesn't like to socialize.

No matter who they are or what their drama is, they count on us for a meal on Sunday at 2:00. They provide each other and us with fellowship and friendship, and love. Every



Sunday. Yes, every Sunday at 2:00pm just one block from Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral.

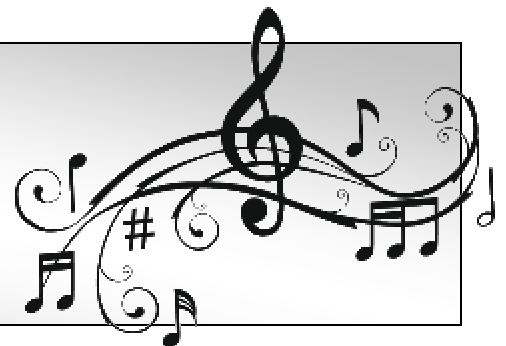
This is why Orthodox Detroit Outreach needs you too. To help serve these needy. Whether you say a prayer, write a check, volunteer your parish, host a sack lunch event, donate some food, cook a lunch, make a sandwich, join us at breakfast at the NSO Shelter, or come on down to SW Detroit any Sunday at 2:00pm. We can use your help.

Visit our website:

www.orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org

Orthodox Choir plans Fall Benefits

The COCC leadership is working with the renowned Orthodox Choir of Detroit to organize two choral benefits later this year! The Choir has offered two benefit concerts in recent years, and we are hopeful that their current efforts will be even more successful. Details of these unique events will be published soon throughout our parishes and www.coccdetroit.com.



AFFILIATES & MINISTRIES OF THE COCC:

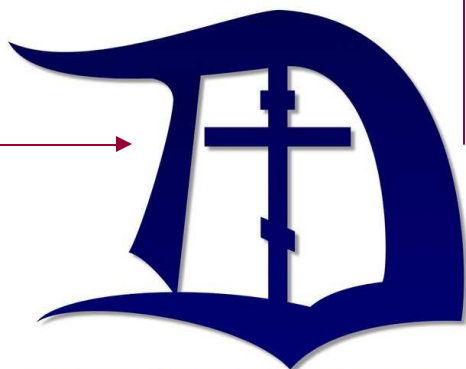
Get involved!

THE ORTHODOX CHOIR OF DETROIT

The Orthodox Choir of Detroit has brought an essential aspect of our Faith to southeastern lower Michigan with its beautiful music. The ensemble has existed in various forms for several decades, and is composed of singers in mixed voice (SATB) from parishes across the city.

The "Lenten Choir" is a more loosely organized group that gathers to give responses at the annual Sunday Lenten Vespers services. The choir also rehearses on a more intense level to prepare for concerts and other special events as needed. The English language repertoire includes composers of many national backgrounds and jurisdictions, from the traditional Byzantine and ancient melodies, to modern-day American composers.

(Matushka) Victoria Kopistiansky is the musical director, and **Elizabeth Star (734 306-1486 | estar2@mi.rr.com)** serves at the choir's representative liaison to the COCC. New singers are always welcome!



ORTHODOX **DETROIT** OUTREACH

ORTHODOX DETROIT OUTREACH (ODO)

Our mission first and foremost is to strive to fulfill the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, being faithful to the Apostolic teachings and Living Tradition of the Orthodox Christian Church. We seek to be known by the fruits of our ministry. We intend actively and in an ongoing manner to assess the needs of those within the greater Detroit metropolitan area, providing through various ministrations towards the material sustenance and spiritual aid to those in need. Finally, we wish to serve the churches of our area by providing both local and coordinated ministries aiding those in need, and offering educational and experiential resources as requested. - **Matthew McCroskery, Chairman / Director**

PO Box 38511, Detroit MI 48238
orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org

ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 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 good canonical order are invited to take part. The president of the Clergy Brotherhood, by virtue of his office, also serves as the Spiritual Advisor for the COCC.



Please contact
Fr Roman Star
(313 538-1142).

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN (OCW)

The Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan is an organization of women from the various jurisdictions of Canonical Orthodox churches in metropolitan Detroit. Its purposes are educational, spiritual, and charitable. Educational programs about our Orthodox Faith are presented monthly March through June and September through November. An annual retreat is held in the summer. The charitable purpose is fulfilled primarily by collecting non-perishable food and paper products then distributed to those in need. New clothing and other items requested by Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit are also collected then taken to the Hospital.

Annual observances of its founding are celebrated in February with a lunch and election of a Board of Directors. For further information, you may contact **President Mary Lafter at (248 356-4186), or Mary Ann Dadich (586 775-4799 | mdadich811@gmail.com).**

BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT MOSES

The Detroit Metro Chapter of the National Brotherhood of Saint Moses the Black (the Ethiopian) exists primarily as an outreach to those seeking the True Faith of the Orthodox Church. Just as the Church finds deep roots in the lands of Africa, so too does the BSMB strive to make those roots more known and understood in America.

The group is represented in the COCC by **Sharon Gomulka (248 477-6411 | bsmb-detroit@att.net)** who serves as the Chair for the Detroit Chapter.

Orthodox Summer Camps



Do YOU take advantage of sending your child / children to an Orthodox Summer Camp? We have several programs in the state of Michigan for our youth that offer a great opportunity to help your children (and your family) grow in the Faith!

Camp is about more than just canoes and nature. It can also be a time to meet new



friends who share the same Faith (and similar heritages), and to learn more about who we are. There is no shortage of fun and great memories too!

So make sure you enroll your young people in one of

our *Orthodox Summer Camps*... you won't regret it, and they will thank you for it!

- St Innocent Camp, Harrison (contact 810 845-9015)
- Camp Vatra, Grass Lake (Romanian | contact 313 562-1521)
- St Timothy Camp, Rose City (Greek | contact 248 909-6372)
- Camp St Mary, Livonia (Antiochian | 734 422-0010)

COMMUNITY FEAST DAY SERVICES

The Great Lent Sunday Vespers series is a long-standing tradition of the COCC. This year we announce a new initiative, encouraging faithful to visit selected parishes *throughout the year* on their feast-day (or a saint's day more specific to people of a particular land).

The Orthodox community is rich in diversity, and this program offers an educational, spiritual, cultural experience, bringing the universal services of our Church to life through the unique melodies, languages, architecture, and customs of various parishes.

Mark your calendar and take advantage of these "Community Feast-day Services", joining our brothers and sisters in prayer.

All are welcome!



+ (Eve of) The Transfiguration Monday, August 5 Vigil of the Feast

Holy Transfiguration Church, 7pm
36075 W Seven Mile Rd, Livonia
www.orthodoxlivonia.org



+ The Holy Cross Saturday, September 14 Divine Liturgy

Holy Cross Greek Church, 10am
25225 Middlebelt Rd, Farmington Hills 48336
www.holycrossgo.org



+ St Demetrios the Martyr Saturday, October 26 Divine Liturgy

Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, 10:30am
750 N Beech Daly Rd, Dearborn Hts 48127
www.spproc.org



+ Archangels Michael & Gabriel Friday, November 8 Divine Liturgy

St Michael (Russian) Church, 10:00am
26355 West Chicago, Redford 48239
www.stmichaelredford.org

* Dates and locations are subject to change. Consult www.coccdetroit.com



Ethnic Festivals

Food, Fun, Dancing, and Faith!

Each year, dozens of our churches offer Ethnic Festivals to our respective communities and neighborhoods. For the most part, we do this to raise needs funds. We share our foods, our music, our dances and traditions. "Be Greek for a Day!" "Enjoy a Taste of Romania!" Our fellow countrymen come to enjoy time together, and (hopefully) we reach out to the general public to come and participate as well. For some parishes, the Festival is a smaller endeavor, while for others, they rival city-wide / big-time attractions with rides and food-courts that bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars. It's true!

While these events are wonderful and good for our churches and our cultural pride, they are also a perfect opportunity to literally open the doors of the Church to our friends and neighbors! Orthodoxy in North America are still relatively unknown in comparison to the reputation of our specialty foods. So why not take advantage of



bringing the Faith to the fore-front of your Ethnic Festival? Many parishes do this already – they offer special tours and explanations of Church

History, Beliefs, Iconography, etc. It is more than just turning on the lights so people can walk in and look around. It is an opportunity to open the eyes of your guests to the True Faith!

So, by all means, bring on the Festivals! Put on your costumes, cue the band and fire-up the grills! Just remember, God gives us the gifts of our heritage and faith – make sure you share them both with your guests – your hearts and parish will benefit!

NEWS from around the Orthodox World...

Antiochian Bishops Abducted

Two hierarchs of the Church of Antioch were abducted in Syria (April 22) while on a humanitarian mission. The Church worldwide asks your continued prayers for the safety and speedy release of Metropolitan PAUL Yazigi and Archbishop Youhanna Ibrahim.



Romania's NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

The mission of the Romanian Church (which numbers some 20 million faithful) to finally build a representative Patriarchal Cathedral is underway. After nearly a century, the Cathedral "of the People's Salvation", having The Ascension of the Lord and St Dimitrie the New as patronal feasts, is being built in Bucharest. The project includes the Cathedral (reaching nearly 400 feet to the top of the central dome!) and an ensemble of other buildings for various uses. It will be one of the tallest Orthodox churches in the world; an offering to the Lord by His people. Visit www.youtube.com (search: Catedrala Mantuirii Neamului proiect) for a digital virtual tour.



INVITATION

Join the Brotherhood of St Moses the Black (Detroit Chapter) for the Akathist to its patron: August 27, 6:30pm (St Innocent Church, 23300 W Chicago, Redford: 1 mile S of I-96, E of Telegraph). This is a great opportunity to invite non-Orthodox friends to learn about a highly revered African saint, a real example of repentance and transformation. Refreshments and iconography tour of the church will follow. Call Sharon Gomulka (248 477-6411) for more information. All are welcome.

PARISH SPOTLIGHT...

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH

St Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church was founded in 1926 in Detroit. The parish later moved to its present location in Redford in 1968. St Michael's began as a community of Russian believers, and cherishes its traditions and heritage while welcoming people of all backgrounds who seek a home in Orthodoxy. Services are primarily in English, with some prayers in Church Slavonic.

It has been a year of celebration at St Michael's. On Bright Saturday, Fr Timothy Barna was awarded a Miter and elevated to the rank of Rt Rev Mitered Archpriest. The Miter was awarded by His Holiness Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, presented by His Eminence Archbishop Justinian. Fr Timothy follows in the footsteps of his father, the Rt Rev Mitered Archimandrite Ilya, who in April 2012 was tonsured a monk and given the name Ilya, and on the next day was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite. Fr Ilya serves with Fr Timothy.

Faithful service to the Church runs in the Barna family. Fr Timothy's grandfather, Ignatius Barna, was also a Rt Rev Mitered Archimandrite, making Fr. Timothy

the third generation of his family to be honored with the miter. However, service to the church is not limited to the men in the family. Fr Timothy's mother, the late Matushka Jane, led the church choir for many years and generously gave of her time and talents. Her service has been carried on by Matushka Sherry, who directs the choir and works in other countless ways.

St Michaels is blessed to have a new deacon, Fr Daniel Woytowich, ordained on St Michael's day, November 2012. Deacon Daniel leads the Parish Youth Group, and his Matushka, Svetlana, serves as President of the Myrrh Bearer's Sisterhood organization.

St Michael's Church welcomes practicing Orthodox Christians who are seeking a Parish, and extends a sincere invitation to all those who wish to learn more about the Orthodox Faith.



ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL (RUSSIAN) ORTHODOX CHURCH

Moscow Patriarchate

26355 West Chicago, Redford 48239

Telephone 313 937-2120

www.stmichaelredford.org

Rt Rev Archpriest Timothy Barna

Rt Rev Archimandrite Ilya (Barna), ret.

Rev Deacon Daniel Woytowich



ORTHODOX CHURCHES OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Founded 1972

www.stjohngoc.net

11455 Metro Pkwy, Sterling Hts

Rev Fr Nicholas Kyritsis

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit

Ecumenical Patriarchate



Saint George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral

Founded 1912

www.sgroc.org

18405 W 9 Mile, Southfield 48075

Very Rev Fr Laurence Lazar

Rev Fr Sabin Pop

Rev Fr John Nemes

Romanian Orthodox Episcopate



Holy Trinity (Russian/OCA) Orthodox Church

Founded 1915

www.holytrinitydetroit.org

20500 Anglin St, Detroit 48234

Rev Fr Lev Kopistiansky

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- **Could you spare a few hours a month?**
- **Would you like to meet new people?**
- **Are you interested in helping others?**

We need caring, energetic people to join in our good works! The commitment is minimal, but the rewards are great, and your presence is a first-step to make our organization better. We hope you will contact us today (coccdetroit@yahoo.com). We welcome you!

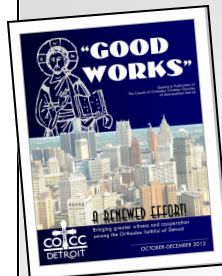


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Please call MARY ANN... (586 775-4799)!

Special offers for Church-related events as well!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JULY

- 4 Independence Day Holiday (USA)
- 7 Independence Day Service of Thanksgiving
St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 20 + *Holy Prophet Elijah*
- 21 Ugandan Children Fund "Ministries of Love" Presentation
St Mark Church, Rochester
- Blessing of Vehicles in honor of St Elijah
St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- ODO Lunches for the Homeless, 2pm
Sts Peter & Paul Cathedral, Detroit
- 25 Ecumenical Service for the Feast of St Anne, 7pm
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Cathedral, Detroit
- 28 Annual Family Picnic, 12pm
St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- Picnic / Backyard Barbeque
Holy Trinity Church, Detroit

AUGUST

- 1-15 St Mary's Lent (Dormition Fast)
- 3 ODO Sack-lunch making session, 10am
Holy Trinity Church, Detroit
- 5 + *Eve of the Transfiguration*
CFS, 7pm: Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia
- 6 + *Feast of the Transfiguration*
- 10 + *Martyr Archdeacon Laurence*
- 15 + *Falling Asleep of the Birth-giver of God (Dormition)*
- 15-18 Annual Greek Festival
Assumption Greek Church, St Clair Shores
- 17 Teens & Family Bowling Benefit Event
St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 18 St Mary's Dinner
Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Dearborn Hts
- ODO Lunches for the Homeless, 2pm
Sts Peter & Paul OCA Cathedral, Detroit
- 31 Evening on the River Benefit Cruise, 7:30pm
Rivard Plaza Dock, Detroit River

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Labor Day Holiday (USA, Canada)
- 7 ODO Lunch-making session, 10am
St Innocent Church, Redford
- 8 + *Nativity of the Virgin Mary*
- 14 + *Lifting of the Holy Cross*
- 15 ODO Lunches for the Homeless, 2pm
Sts Peter & Paul OCA Cathedral, Detroit
- 21-22 8th Romanian Festival of Greater Detroit
St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield

ODO - Orthodox Detroit Outreach sponsored event

OCW - Orthodox Christian Women sponsored event

CFS - Community Feast-day Service Program

Parishes are encouraged to submit calendars to us!



First 40 Days Initiative

Calling all parents, Sunday School teachers, youth workers, parish priests, and OCF alumni!

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is in the midst of collecting names for our "First Forty Days" program. We want to help your high school graduates seamlessly join the OCF network by integrating them into the life of a chapter during the first forty days of their college experience.

Please submit student information on our website to ensure that you will be directly contacted by the OCF Office and that they will be greeted on their college campuses by an OCF family and local parish at the beginning of the fall semester.

www.ocf.net/wikis/programs/first-forty-days.aspx

If you have questions, please contact Chapter Relations Coordinator *Christina Andresen* (christina@ocf.net).



All are welcome to our "Evening on the River"

CRUISE!

Bring family and friends for a relaxing evening on the Detroit River...
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 31 | 7:30pm

Call 313 595-7640

for information

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GOOD WORKS

JUL-SEP 2013



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