

Issue 21 | Volume V, Number 5

GOOD WORKS

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



AUTUMN IS HERE...

*Enjoy the Beauty
of God's Creation!*



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016

A MESSAGE FROM

OUR PRESIDENT



For a Christian End to Our Lives

To everything there is a beginning and an end. How will our end come when it is our time?

One of our parishioners has been in a nursing home for the past 10 years, she was a dedicated choir member and until her early nineties was truly independent even driving herself to events ... her entry into this facility was very difficult for her and the transition did not go well. Suddenly, she was swallowed up into this institution and disappeared from our community. Did we note it? We would speak of her and ask her family how she was doing, but did we make the effort to visit her?

Recently, on the occasion of her 100th birthday, we organized a group of parishioners who knew her best and coordinated with her family to visit her and honor her and celebrate this milestone.

It was difficult to walk into the nursing home – these facilities vary very little - with the same scene we so often see - the elderly and ill lined up in their wheelchairs in the hallways – looking expectantly at those walking past. It was a bit overwhelming.

The nursing home was gracious to give us the use of their board room for our celebration. Our centenarian was so happy to see us and with each person walking into the room, was excited to see them. You could see she remembered each of us, repeating our names often to make sure she remembered us.

Her heart was overflowing - she was making the sign of the cross and blessing us, holding our hands, kissing us and was engaged with all of us. We were enthralled with her. She told us she would dream of each of us that night. Her hearing is gone and that is a painful adjustment since she was an amazing opera singer.

We have many claims on our time – but have we made the effort to visit those who have been part of our parish family? Out of sight, out of mind? Along with the dedication of our Reverend Fathers, some parishes have a committee or dedicated people whose ministry is to visit those who gave their time and talents to build our parish families. Let's help them in their work and lighten their load. The rewards and goodwill far outweigh the sacrifice of our time.

For a Christian end to our lives, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, we pray to you O Lord. Bless us, be merciful to us and grant us life eternal. Amen.

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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SUBMISSION DEADLINES...

for "Good Works" is the first day of the month, prior to each issue. So, the JANUARY-FEBRUARY submission deadline is December 1. We welcome your submissions for consideration!



ON THE COVER: The (Nancy Brown) Peace Carillon Tower on Belle Isle

always
Gives 
as much as you can...
then give a little MORE.

+ FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Faith,

Perhaps by the time you read this the U.S. presidential election will already have taken place. Listening to the candidates, watching them and their supporters on TV, and listening to the far too often bias of media networks and their commentators for over a year has been... Well, let's see. It has been at least at times: informative, surprising, frustrating, tumultuous, contemptuous, confusing, disgusting and ugly. In fact, a number of other adjectives can and have been used, but that's not for this publication! You'll notice that I chose not to use the terms hopeful or encouraging. I wish I could but, overall, for me and many others this election has been sad.



I think it was all quite sad in the sense of how it all unfolded, the unprecedented revelations it exposed about this or that candidate; the way the political system (or lack thereof) and (too many) politicians really work and think; who they really are as people and citizens; and how it is that we (irrationally) continue to elect them to office. And most of all, at least for me, it was a frighteningly sad view of where we are as a nation and the radical direction it has been taking for years now. Again, that's my personal opinion, but I think many others would agree, even if they do so in silence. Are we really that blind to the inevitable consequences? I'm afraid of what is happening and, again in my view, of how naïve we are to think it is good for us and our children; especially since so many of our faithful literally fled to America after suffering for generations under atheistic socialism/communism in Eastern Europe.

Phew! I'm not sure that I feel any better for letting all of that out but Okay, let's move ahead.

Beloved, there is only one thing for sure, and it is really the only true reason for hope and thanksgiving and that is that nothing will destroy Christ's Church. God is with us, in the hearts and minds and actions and words of good and faithful people. We exist by God's grace, for his glory, and to seek our eternal salvation beyond any earthly cloud of dismay. Even when our nation has gradually (but quite officially) removed Him from our schools, the public front lawns of our civic centers, etc. God has not and never will forsake those who call Him by name: the God of our Fathers, the One under which our nation exists, the Hope of

Even when our nation has gradually (but quite officially) removed Him from our schools, the public front lawns of our civic centers, etc. God has not and never will forsake those who call Him by name...

all those on land, on sea, and in the skies... all of which – and I'm sorry to refute the opinions of many ever-so-intelligent minds! -- He created and loves and protects.

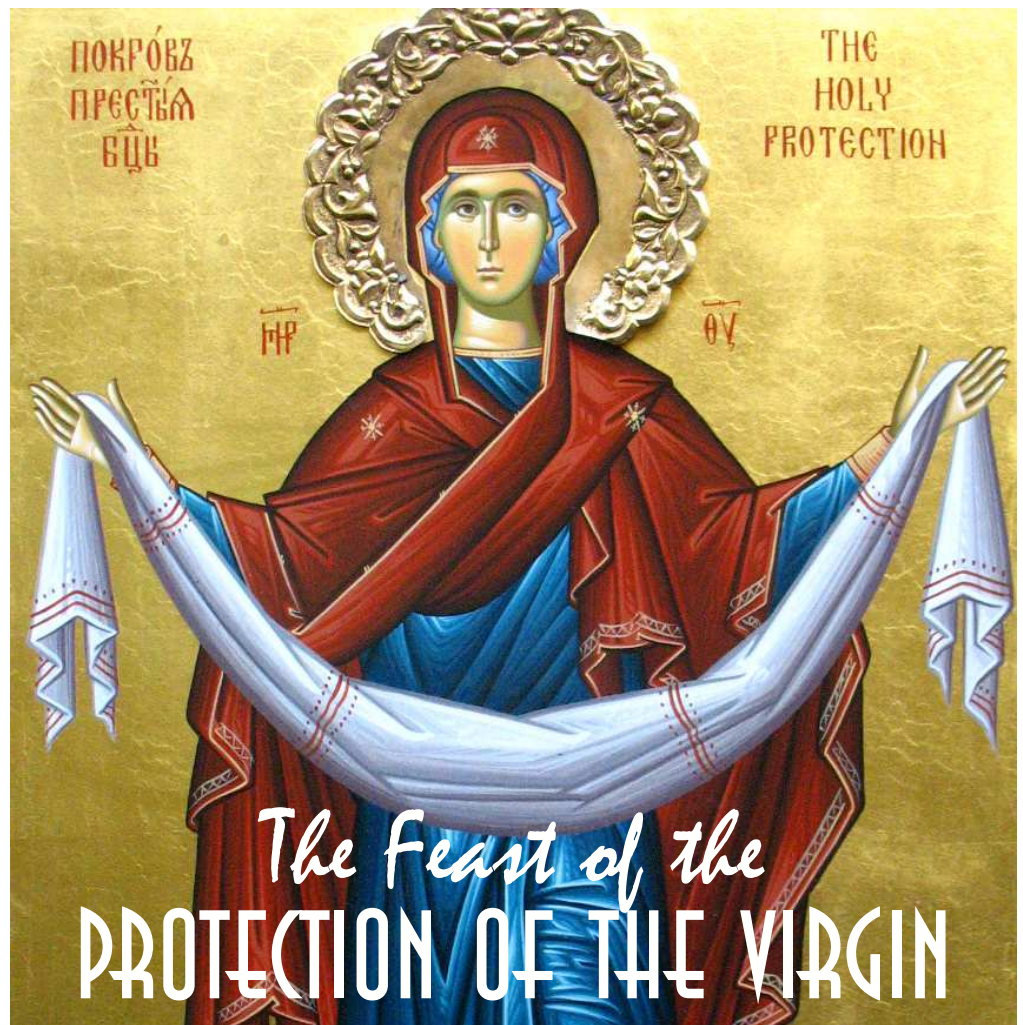
Yes, we will have a new president who will lead the charge in one direction or another, and each of us will be free to joyfully lead the procession or, like sheep, follow with our heads down and mouths shut. So be it. However sad or hopeful any of us may be, let's pray what the early Church used as its anthem: "O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance! ...by the power of your Cross."

Fr. Lawrence Lazar

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

SAINTS & FEASTS OF THE SEASON

Today the Virgin stands before us in the Church praying for us with the choirs of Saints. Angels worship with Hierarchs, Apostles rejoice with Prophets, for the Mother of God intercedes with the Eternal God for us.



On October 1 the Church celebrates the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos. This feast is neither one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church nor is it a commemoration of any events in the earthly lives of our Lord or His Mother. So why does the Orthodox Church—here in twenty-first-century North America—keep this feast?

From the fifth to the fifteenth centuries, Constantinople presided over a glorious civilization. On scores of occasions, the Byzantine Empire—along with its capital—teetered on the verge of collapse. One of the most perilously dramatic moments in the history of the city took place in the 860's.

The city, as often happened, fell under barbarian attack. The massive gates of the city were closed. The port was sealed off. The people manned the defenses and prayed. The attackers—pre-Christian Russians reputed for their great brutality—descended with a fleet that threatened to overwhelm the defenses of Constantinople. The first assaults on the city went badly for the defenders. During one of the lulls in the fighting, however, the people of the city were able to gather together for prayer inside the Church of the Virgin at Blachernae where the veil of the Virgin Mary was kept and venerated.

While a service was being sung in the church, the Blessed Andrew, saw the Theotokos in a vision. As she was carrying her veil, she stretched it out over the city and over all the people

defending it. Beneath her protection, Blessed Andrew and others were shown, the people of the city could take refuge. As part of the veil that the Virgin Mary was carrying was dipped in the waters of the Bosphorus, an incredible storm began to brew. The attacking Russians, allowed to see the Virgin, were accordingly disturbed by both her appearance and the dramatic change in the weather. Depending on the account one reads, the Russians were either scared off or overwhelmed by the storm. Regardless, the people of Constantinople believed that the Lord, through the prayers of His Mother, had preserved their city from certain destruction. The Orthodox faithful preserved in their memory this specific intervention in the affairs of God's people; thus the feast entered into the liturgical life of the Church.

Today, Orthodox Christians still remember this event. The Russians, particularly, have a deep love for this feast. A surprisingly large number of churches throughout Russia, in fact, bear the name Protection (Pokrov) of the Theotokos. The great irony of the Feast of the Protection is that those who most faithfully keep this feast are the biological descendants of those pre-Christian Russians who were scattered at the gates of Constantinople! (In the ninth century, of course, the Russians were still pagans and constituted, most likely, the Byzantine Empire's greatest foes. It was not until 988 that the Slavs of Rus were permitted to hear the Gospel and be baptized.)

Fr Justin Patterson, 2007 (Abridged)

GREAT MARTYR DEMETRIUS the MYRRH-FLOWING | October 26

Saint Demetrios suffered in Thessalonica during the reign of Galerius Maximian (c. 306). He belonged to one of the most distinguished families of the province of Macedonia and was widely admired not only because of his noble ancestry and grace of bearing, but also for virtue, wisdom and goodness of heart surpassing that of his elders.

The military expertise of Saint Demetrios led Galerius, as Caesar of the Eastern Empire, to appoint him commander of the Roman forces in Thessaly and Proconsul for Hellas. But for all this, Demetrios remained ever aware of the underlying realities of life. Since faith in Christ had touched his heart, all the glory of this world meant nothing to him, and there was nothing he preferred to teaching and preaching the word of God.

Despite the persecution directed against Christians by the Emperor, Demetrios brought a large number of pagans to the faith. His words convinced them because they saw in the righteousness, peace and brotherly love that marked his life an illustration of the truth of which he spoke.

The Emperor Maximian had just won a series of brilliant victories over the Scythians and was on his way back to Rome when he halted at Thessalonica. A number of pagans, envious of the success of the Saint, took advantage of the Emperor's presence in the city to denounce Demetrios as a Christian. Maximian's astonishment gave way to violent indignation when he was told that Demetrios' was making use of his official position to spread the faith. Demetrios was summoned and confined in a cell, located in the basement of nearby baths.

Maximian arranged for games and gladiatorial combats to take place in the amphitheater of the city. He had brought with him a man of gigantic stature and Herculean strength called Lyaïos, a Vandal by origin. There was in the city a young Christian called Nestor, who observing the empty pride of the Emperor in the victories of his champion, made up his mind to show him that real power belongs to Christ alone. He ran to the baths where Demetrios was imprisoned and asked for the protection of his prayer in going to confront the giant. The Martyr made the sign of the Cross on the brow and the heart of the boy, and sent him like David before Goliath. He reached the amphitheater just as the heralds were crying out on all sides for any who would stand against Lyaïos. Advancing towards the Emperor, Nestor threw his tunic to the ground and shouted, "God of Demetrios, help me!" In the first encounter, at the very moment the giant rushed upon him, Nestor slipped aside and stabbed him to the heart with his dagger. There was uproar and amazement, and people asked themselves how a mere child, relying neither on strength nor weapons, could so suddenly have brought down the barbarian.

Rather than yield to the sign of the sovereign power of God, the Emperor flew into a rage and ordered the immediate arrest of Nestor and his beheading outside the city. He had heard Nestor calling upon the God of Demetrios

and, supposing the Saint had used some kind of witchcraft, Maximian ordered his soldiers to go and thrust Demetrios through with their lances, without trial, in his prison cell. There were some Christians, including Demetrios' servant Lupus, present at his martyrdom, and when the soldiers had gone, they reverently buried the Saint's body.

It was God's will that the grace with which He filled Saint Demetrios should remain active even after his death. This is why He caused to flow from his body a myron with a delightful scent, which had the property of healing all who



took it as an unction, with faith in the intercession of the Saint. Time and again, during sixteen hundred years, Saint Demetrios has given proof of his benevolent care for the city of Thessalonica and its inhabitants. He has defended them from the attacks of barbarians, he has preserved them from plague and famine, healed the sick and comforted the afflicted. (*adapted from goarch.org*)



ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS IN DETROIT

The Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America convened their 7th Annual General Assembly Meeting in Detroit on October 4, 2016 with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Antiochian Basilica of Saint Mary in Livonia, Michigan.

The Bishops commenced their work with an opening address by the Assembly Chairman, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, who greeted and welcomed the hierarchs, encouraging them that "...when we speak together as an Assembly of Bishops, we do so with the authority of the Church; we do not speak as jurisdictions or merely as representatives, but as a single body of Orthodox Hierarchs who are committed to sharing the transformative light of Christ with our local society."

His Eminence began his remarks with an expression of gratitude and with reflections on the Holy and Great Council which met in June of this year in Crete, crowning 55 years of preparation. The Archbishop noted that 12 of the Assembly's bishops participated in the productive conciliar work and discussions of the Council, which "...helped us gain a better perception of who we are and...of the need to consistently strive for unity."

Emphasizing the importance of our local Assembly, the Chairman stated, "...we must search for ways to align our local diocesan work with the work of the Assembly, and it is obvious that our committees may assist us."

The first working session of the day commenced with the participation of 41 hierarchs of the Church. In brotherly love, and with responsibility and hopes for a fruitful meeting, the bishops approved the minutes of the 2015 General Assembly Meeting, the agenda of their present work, and the financial report from the treasurer. The bishops



Assembly in Detroit (continued)...

also heard the reports of the work of the Assembly Secretariat and Committees. A substantial amount of time during the day was dedicated to hearing and discussing the reports from five of the Assembly Agencies.

Fr. Steven Powley, Executive Director of Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), presented a new promotional video that describes the work of this ministry in fulfilling the call to minister to those in prisons through thousands of personal letters written to prisoners, as well as the distribution of Bibles and books, icons, pamphlets and spiritual works.

Mr. Dean Triantafilou, Executive Director of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)—the humanitarian arm of the Assembly of Bishops—shared details on IOCC’s work since its inception. IOCC has delivered nearly \$600 million of assistance worldwide in some 50 countries in 25 years of existence. In 2015, IOCC provided program services of \$55 million. This year to date, IOCC has provided program services of \$21 million and looks forward to celebrating its 25th Anniversary.

Fr. Martin Ritsi, Executive Director of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), reported on the ministry which focuses on evangelization and re-evangelization of people. In 2015, 29 people served as OCMC missionaries whose assignments in 6 countries involved catechism, theological and seminary teaching, youth work, primary and secondary teaching, counseling, translations and various outreach ministries. Fr. Martin also described the SAMP (Support a Mission Priest) program, which continues to subsidize the support of almost 400 clergymen in 16

countries. OCMC currently contributes to theological training and mission projects in the over 30 countries.

Fr. Gregory Joyce, Board member, Mr. Charles Lelon, Vice Chairman, and Ms. Eleni Alexiou, Managing Director of Orthodox Christian Network (OCN), each highlighted details of this effective media witness around the world. OCN now offers a suite of Orthodox mobile apps, which, along with other multimedia methods, now reaches as many as 5.7 million people per week.

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Mr. James Giannakis, of Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), presented ways OCF strives to be the loving presence of Christ and the Orthodox Church on college campuses. OCF is an integral part of students’ spiritual formation and challenges them to explore and to live their Faith on a daily basis. OCF currently has more than 320 chapters throughout the country.

The first day’s work concluded with a meaningful discussion and some clarification on the Assembly’s mandate following the Council in Crete. Following this discussion, the Hierarchs re-committed to their common work as members of the Assembly of Canonical Bishops of the United States.



counter are in dire financial straits and their needs are far beyond what we can provide. One of the moms with two young daughters is homeless and another recently had her three children removed from their home due to addiction by the mother. We do not stand in judgment, as these beautiful children did not choose to be born into poverty or unstable living conditions. We pray that God will guide us as we provide material and emotional support to these women who often feel

that their lives are hopeless.

We are grateful for the generous donations of infant clothing, diapers/wipes and layette items from the Orthodox community in Detroit. By the grace of God, we were able to provide each of our four pregnant moms with a stroller, car seat and Pack 'n Play unit upon the birth of their babies.

Recently, we learned about a Community Diaper Program offered by Jet.com for non-profit organizations. Nationwide, the high cost of diapers hurts many low-income families. In response to a call from the White House, Jet has partnered with Cuties to help deliver their high-quality diapers in the most cost effective way possible. They were able to create the Cuties Economy Plus Pack and bring the price per diaper down without sacrificing quality. ZOE for Life! applied and are now approved to purchase diapers online at a 30% discount, with no shipping or tax charges. What a blessing!

We are very thankful for your continued prayers and spiritual support. 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.

With love in Christ,
ZOE for Life!
www.zoehousemi.org

Greetings from ZOE for Life! In our efforts to expand the outreach of our ministry, ZOE for Life! has partnered with Image Clear Ultrasound Detroit, a mobile ultrasound-equipped vehicle that provides free pregnancy tests, basic ultrasounds and referrals to social agencies for women in crisis pregnancies. We gave the ICU Mobile vehicle staff a supply of our brochures and asked them to refer any pregnant women to us who are in need of diapers, wipes, maternity and baby clothing.

We received our first referral from ICU Mobile on August 2, 2016. This young woman is truly in a crisis situation. She is 23 years of age, has 4 children (ages 1, 2, 5 and 7) and is pregnant with her 5th child. She was very depressed, her car had broken down and she couldn't afford to repair it. At the time we called her, she only had 5 diapers left for her 2 youngest children. The very next day, 2 women from our ministry delivered 300 diapers to this mother's home, as well as household items that she desperately said she needed (laundry soap, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, canned goods). We promised her that we would provide clothing for all of her children and we have learned that she is going to carry her unborn child to term. We are so very humbled that she has chosen life for her baby and we will continue to help her.

Our Michigan ZOE ministry can be very difficult – the mothers we en-



! 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 every day. 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 _____

Do Christians Have a Political Responsibility?

Fr. John Meyendorff, *Witness to the World*, SVS Press, 1987

NOTE: This question was raised by the late Fr. John Meyendorff while editor of the OCA newspaper dated May 1980, 36 years ago, yet the message rings true today.

In this year of political crisis...all Christians must realize their responsibility in shaping events -- at least by voting. One of the greatest fallacies which is held by many is that it is possible to abstain from politics and thus remain immune to the process which is, of necessity, ambiguous and frequently dirty. In fact, abstention means a passive, unconscious, and irresponsible support to whom ever is or will be -- in power. ***Very often the wrong people came to power at the wrong time because of the majority's indifference.***

...in our modern secular societies, the people themselves -- not God -- are responsible for the way in which government is run. Only we, as faithful Christians, acknowledge our responsibility before God, not only for ourselves and for our salvation, but also for the world as a whole.

One of the gravest mistakes one can make in either taking part in the political process or in abstaining from it, is to believe that all political choices are choices between the absolute Good and the absolute Evil. In fact, such

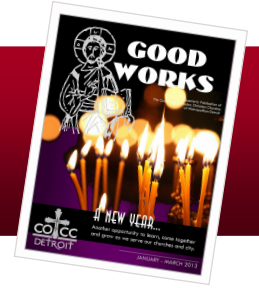


absolute choices exist only in the spiritual realm, where Evil is called sin and God Himself is identified with absolute Goodness. Politics rarely involve such radical dichotomies. When we vote for a candidate we [vote]... for a person who, in our opinion, will do better (or not as bad) as another...(and) as responsible Christians, we must have opinions about what is "better" or "worse" for people, for society, for our country. If we do not at least try to have an opinion, we sin by irresponsible self-centeredness. Of course, very often the choices offered to us are very ambiguous, but we always must try to choose, if not that which is truly "good", at least that which appears to us as a lesser evil.

"Truly a unique magazine — I don't think any Orthodox council in the country can say they have something like this to help us further our work!"

"Outstanding publication! It's amazing how interesting and informative each issue is!"

YOU CAN HELP US!



APPEAL + SURVEY

Our "Good Works" Publication is 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

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

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

 (payable to: COCC Detroit)

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

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

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



Beauty Will Save the World

By Joshua Genig
St Innocent Church, Redford

Bostoevsky's famous assertion has found a welcome place in Orthodox thought: "Beauty will save the world" (*The Idiot*, trans. Constance Garnett [New York: Bantam, 1981], 370). And, indeed it will. But what is the character and contour of that beauty? Is it merely aesthetic?

I recently spoke with someone who had visited a small Orthodox parish out-of-state. Upon returning, he quipped that if Prince Vladimir had sent emissaries there, they **would not** have come away exclaiming: "We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. For on earth there is no such splendor or such beauty, and we are at a loss how to describe it." This Orthodox temple was, for all intents and purposes, **not** beautiful. But then he made the most stunning observation. He said: "And, yet, the people there made this the most beautiful place in the entire world."

Certainly, such an observation sounds quite pious and would be received by all with a smile. But do we actually believe what he said? In other words, do we actually believe that beauty is deeper than aesthetics?

At times, there can be such a push to make the interior of the parish temple the most beautiful place in the whole world. And that push is commendable. Indeed, God prescribed the best for the temple of old (cf. the Book of Exodus), and so we, following in the footsteps of the faithful who have gone before us, ought to do the same. But we

also need to remember that the interior beauty of the temple—the aesthetics—only assumes its beautiful character when it is preceded by the beauty of love found in its faithful parishioners—the incarnational.

The incarnational understanding of beauty, which must precede our understanding of beauty as aesthetics, means that the primary point of beauty is when God became man in the person of Jesus Christ. And He became man in order to enter into a new and more profound relationship with us, His created. And that relationship with us was based upon the relationship first shared by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: it was a relationship of love. Love is what caused the cosmos to come into being through the Word. Love is what created Adam and Eve. Love is what created all of us. Love is what sent the only-begotten Son into our flesh for us and for the life of the world. And so it is love that now binds all of us together. And love, when lived-out the Jesus way—the way of self-sacrifice and prayer and mutual concern and consolation—is the most beautiful thing in all the world. Why? Because this love—pure and selfless love—is a gift of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit, as Dostoevsky also said, is "the direct seizure, the grasping of Beauty" (see Evdokimov, *Art of the Icon*, 2).

Beauty, you see, is, first and foremost, a person. Beauty is God. And the world, and the Church, become beautiful when we embody that person in our very lives, in our very love. As Saint Augustine so magnificently said:



I was late in loving you, beauty so ancient and so new, I was late in loving you. You were inside me and I was outside myself, and I was looking for you out there and went rushing headlong among all the beautiful things you had made, me in my self-made ugliness. You were there for me and I was not with you. All sorts of things distracted me from you, things that wouldn't have had any meaning without you giving it to them. So you called out to me and shouted and broke through my deafness! You flashed, you gleamed, you chased away my blindness! Your odor flooded me and I took a deep breath and sucked you in! I took a taste, and I hungered and thirsted the more! And then you touched me, and I was all on fire for your peace (Augustine, *Confessions*, 10.27.38, trans. in *Late Have I Loved Thee: Selected Writings of Saint Augustine on Love*, xxv).

And so that brings us back to where we started. Yes, “beauty will save the world.” Not merely superficial or aesthetic beauty, which can oftentimes come-and-go with taste and time and money, but true beauty, the beauty of God, given by the Holy Spirit as love. And when we have that kind of beauty, no matter how simple or ornate our temples, we will, indeed, belong to the most beautiful parish in the entire cosmos.



SERBIAN ROYAL FAMILY IN DETROIT



Serbian Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine visited Detroit recently to tour St John Hospital, as part of a collaboration to combat hearing loss and educate Serbian medical staff on how to help deaf children at the earliest age possible. Their weekend visit included Liturgy at St Lazarus Cathedral and a fund-raiser at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN...

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

"A Quiet and Peaceful Life: Following Christ in Troubled Times"

Presented by Fr Michael Butler

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 (7:15pm)

Holy Transfiguration Church, 36075 W Seven Mile, Livonia

Information: 734 634-2650



On Saturday November 26th bring your children to hear about the REAL story of who Santa Claus is, sing carols, and more. There will be snacks, treats and refreshments for everyone!

Join us at St George Greek Orthodox Church, 43816 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills (just north of Square Lake) for a unique experience you will enjoy with your children. Everyone is welcome, bring your Church School students and parents too! We look forward to having you with us.

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

Mary Ann Dadich, President

SPEAKER SERIES

The Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan



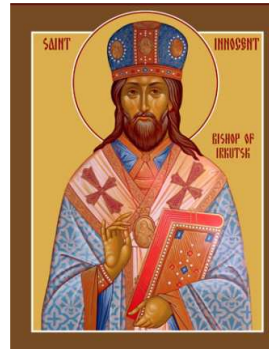
ALL WELCOME at these FREE, Educational programs!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 | 10AM

"Outreach for Syrian Refugees"

Fr Nabil Fino, Presenter

St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Troy



"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: Sbdn Joshua D. Genig (M.Div., Ph.D.)

RSVP/Questions: joshua.genig@gmail.com; 630 936-6386;

[Facebook.com/stinnocentredford](https://www.facebook.com/stinnocentredford)



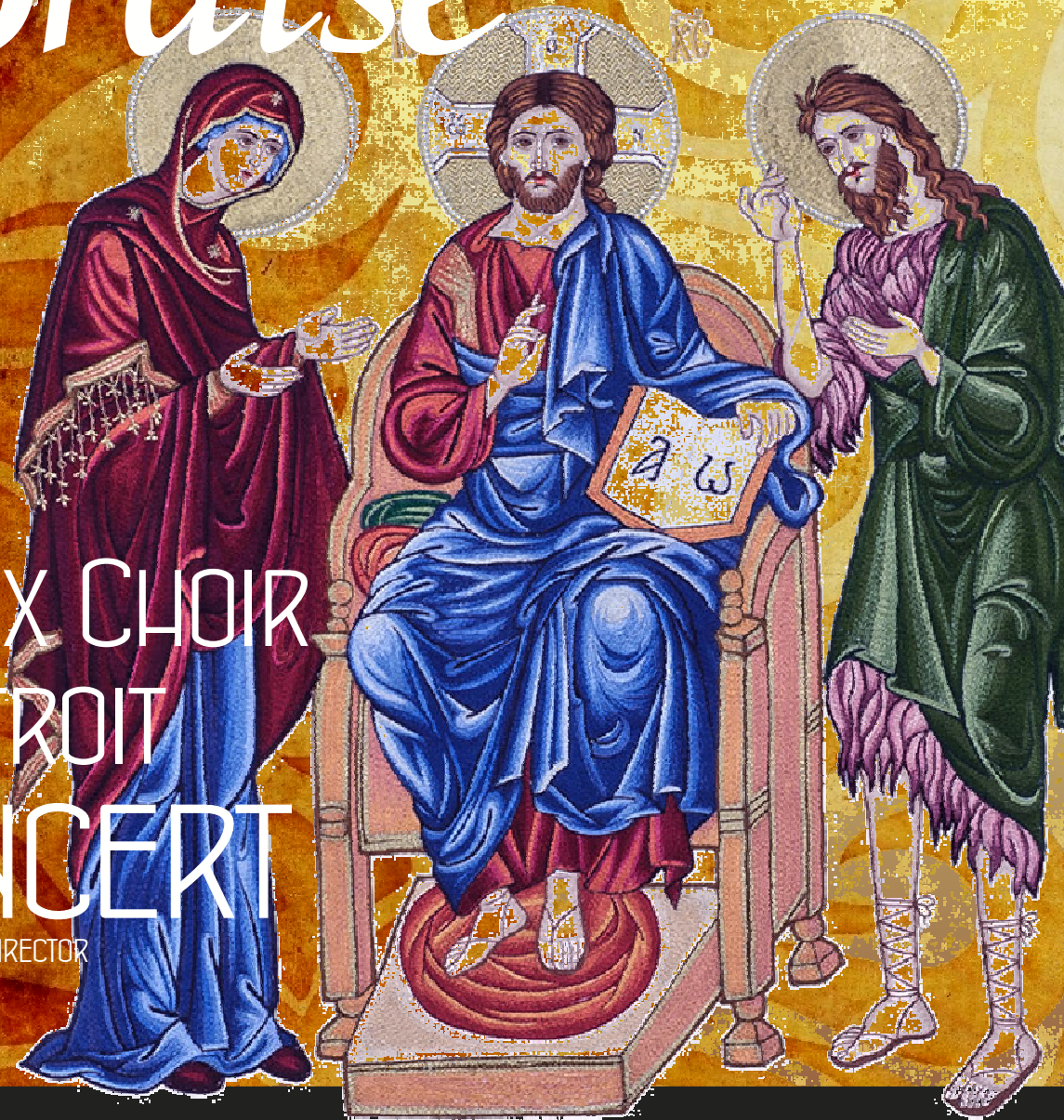
SCHOOL UNIFORM DRIVE!

Help FOCUS DETROIT gather donations for Detroit school children of new and gently used school uniforms for Prek-8th grade sizes. For Girls & Boys Pants: Khaki, navy, or black Collared Shirts: White, navy, light blue, Burgundy, or black. Contact Eric (Detroit@focusna.org) today.

Orthodox Hymns of Praise

THE
ORTHODOX CHOIR
OF DETROIT
IN CONCERT

VICTORIA KOPISTIANSKY, DIRECTOR



23 OCTOBER, 2016 | 6:00PM

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, 707 E LAFAYETTE BLVD, DETROIT

FREE ADMISSION - ALL WELCOME | FREE-WILL OFFERING BENEFITS LOCAL CHARITIES



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IN COOPERATION WITH DETROIT PUBLIC RADIO / WRD 300.9FM



Church School Requires Commitment

No matter the parish, this message is important for every parent, family and parishioner.

When God allows us to become parents, He entrusts us with the greatest gift and responsibility He can give. As parents we are responsible not only for our own salvation, but also for giving our children every possible help and tool for helping them achieve their own salvation. Much of that responsibility is carried out at home, in our own example and our own way of life. But an important aspect of this is how we treat our faith when it comes to attending Church, participating in the Church's liturgical prayer, and learning more about our Faith.

This requires commitment from us. We need to take our child's religious education seriously. If we treat it in a haphazard way, if we come irregularly, or if we consistently come late, we will be sending a very powerful message to our child: that our faith and our participation in our services are not terribly important. When anything and everything else becomes a valid excuse to miss Church and Church School, then we clearly teach our children that everything else is more important.

It can seem difficult to get everybody up on a Sunday morning and off to Church, but it is no more difficult than any other day, and it is not as early. Everything comes down to what we want to do, and where we place our priorities.

Our teachers make a commitment to you and your child to be at Church every Sunday with a lesson prepared. They deserve to be respected for their efforts, and the way we can show our respect for their commitment is to return that commitment ourselves.

- *Please be on time. With only a little more than one hour of teaching time, every minute will count. Children arriving late disrupt the class and miss valuable lesson time.*
- *Please attend regularly. The teachers are happy to work hard to present a meaningful lesson each week, and each week's lesson leads to the next week's lesson, so that the entire curriculum can be completed in the course of a year. A child who only attends occasionally will miss out on learning!*
- *Take an interest in your child's work from week to week. Ask what they learned and talk about it with them. Try to relate the lesson to everyday life.*
- *If you cannot bring your child, contact another parent of your child's teacher. They may be able to arrange for a carpool or ride for your child.*

In short, we ask parents to treat Church School with the same or greater care as they do secular education. History, math, science and language skills are important for our children's earthly success. **Their religious education, both in the classroom and at home, is important for their spiritual success. And as Orthodox parents, that should be our first priority.**

Adapted from St Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral's "Glas Ravanice" Newsletter.

ORTHODOX SEED ON ISLAND OF TONGA

Under the spiritual leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Amfilochios the Orthodox Church has now been planted in the Island Kingdom of Tonga. This past Sunday, October 16, 9 persons were baptized in the newly constructed font situated directly behind the altar of the small chapel. The chapel also newly constructed is dedicated to the Holy Foremost Apostles Peter and Paul. The church was established at the direction of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

SERBIAN BISHOP RETURNS TO USA

[PITTSBURGH PA] Hundreds of the faithful of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Eastern America joined hierarchs, clergy and well-wishers from around the world in Pittsburgh on October 1 in welcoming His Grace Bishop Irinej (Dobrijevic) as their new Hierarch and Archpastor.



Bishop Irinej was elected in May by the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church as the new Bishop of Eastern America, replacing His Grace Bishop Dr. Mitrophan, who was elected at the same meeting as the new Bishop of Canada. This is a homecoming for Bishop Irinej, who was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio to parents who left the former Yugoslavia at the conclusion of World War II. Bishop Irinej has spent the past ten years as Serbian Orthodox Bishop of Australia and New Zealand. The impressive and meaningful rite took place in Pittsburgh's Holy Trinity Cathedral following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy concelebrated by nine bishops, numerous priests and two deacons.

THE ORTHODOX CHOIR OF DETROIT

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

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN (OCW)

The Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan has members from various Orthodox churches in the Detroit region. Educational programs are presented monthly, and a summer retreat is held. Charitable work focuses primarily on collecting free-will financial and / non-perishable food items for distribution to qualified local ministries. For information, contact **President Mary Ann Dadich** (586 775-4799 | mdadich811@gmail.com).

FOCUS MOTOR CITY

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



MEDIA MINISTRY

There are several branches to the Media Ministry, intended to expand our reach and provide educational and other resources to our Orthodox faithful and the public worldwide. These outlets include: *Good Works* publication, COCCdetroit.org, YouTube COCCTelcom channel, and *Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio* (DOOR) weekly program. Contact **Richard Shebib** (248 345-9346 | paschabook@sbcglobal.net) to help.

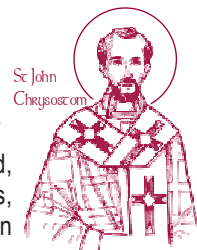


FRESH START: DETROIT

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** (248 569-4833 | frlazar@hotmail.com)



ORTHODOX DETROIT OUTREACH (ODO)

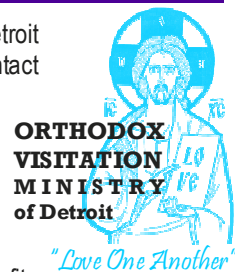


ORTHODOX DETROIT OUTREACH

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

ORTHODOX VISITATION MINISTRY (OVMD)

The Orthodox Visitation Ministry of Detroit is an effort to help parishes keep in contact with the elderly, shut-in, or otherwise disabled members who cannot be physically active in their community. Their motto is "Sharing Christ's Love by Visiting with a Friend". It is a simple but meaningful program that can be adopted by any parish wishing to benefit from it. Contact **Karen Todorov** or **Gail Razook** (248 345-9346 | orthodoxvisitationdetroit@gmail.com).



BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT MOSES

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

ZOE FOR LIFE!

ZOE is a non-profit Christ-centered support organization with three major goals: to help women who need confidential emotional and spiritual support during crisis pregnancies; to assist Orthodox Christians seeking to adopt; and to provide an education for Pure Living and other resources. The metro Detroit presence of Zoe is 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.





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Please accept my gift of: \$100 \$50 \$25
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ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN METROPOLITAN DETROIT



St George Greek Orthodox Church

www.stgeorge.mi.goarch.org
 16300 Dix-Toledo Rd, Southgate
 Rev Fr Anthony Cook
 Very Rev Fr Philemon Karamanos
 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit



St Clement Ohridski Macedono-Bulgarian Church

Founded 1935

www.stclementchurch.net
 19600 Ford Rd, Dearborn
 Rev Fr Antonie Poposki

Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of USA, CAN & AUS



St Petka Serbian Orthodox Church "Vratnica"

www.saintpetkatroy.org
 1755 E Wattles, Troy
 Very Rev Fr Zivko Kajevic

Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Midwestern America

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

OCTOBER

- 1 + Protection of the Mother of God
- 4 Assembly of Orthodox Bishops Meeting
Opening Divine Liturgy
9am: St Mary Antiochian Basilica, Livonia
- 7 Outreach Detroit Foundation Board Meeting
6:30pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 9 Orthodox Choir of Detroit (rehearsal)
3pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 11 COCC Monthly Meeting,
7pm: St Mary Antiochian Church, Berkley
- 16 Orthodox Choir of Detroit (rehearsal)
3pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 22 Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) Open House
5pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 23 6th Annual Benefit Concert "Orthodox Hymns of Praise"
6pm: Annunciation Greek Cathedral, Greektown

NOVEMBER

- 1 Clergy Brotherhood Luncheon
12pm: Nikola's Restaurant, Southfield
- 8 +Synaxis of the Archangels
Election Day (USA)
COCC Monthly Meeting,
7pm: Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia
- 11 Veteran's Day
Outreach Detroit Foundation Board Meeting
6:30pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 12 OCW Speaker Series: "Refugee Crisis"
7pm: St Nicholas Greek Church, Troy
- 13 104th Anniversary Banquet
1pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 15 Start of Nativity Fast (Christmas Lent)
- 16 "A Quiet and Peaceful Life" Lecture
7:15pm: Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia
- 20 Orthodox Combined Christmas Chorus (rehearsal)
2pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 21 +Entrance of Mary into the Temple
- 23 Thanksgiving Eve Service
7pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 24 Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- 26 "St Nicholas is Santa Claus" Children's Event
12pm: St George Greek Church, Bloomfield Hills

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

OCF

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP



OPEN HOUSE



AN IMPORTANT, INFORMATIONAL
EVENT FOR ORTHODOX COLLEGE &
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

5:00-8:00pm: Presentation | Student & Parent
Session | Q&A | Vespers | Snacks

St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral
18405 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield 48075
Information: 248 252-8184 | 248 569-4833

Visit: www.coccdetroit.org



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GOOD WORKS

JUL-AUG 2016



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