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GOOD WORKS

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



GOD IS WITH US!

We pray for a peaceful
and Happy New Year!



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

We are back! You never know how much impact you make until something interrupts your work and people start asking you "Where have you been?" The same is true of our publication - the Good Works magazine, the official publication of the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches (COCC). Quite honestly printing a magazine of this caliber is expensive and we need your support. As of this issue, we are only able to offer Good Works electronically until we can secure a printer who is willing to work with us and also find solid sponsors.

There is no way around it, we can't keep publishing this magazine or funding the weekly DOOR program WITHOUT YOU. If you're not able to sponsor a program or an advertisement, then perhaps there is someone in your parish who would be interested in the exposure that our Media Ministry can offer. We would appreciate the contact information and an introduction, if possible.

We are all recipients of different gifts. Take an honest look at your God given talents and think about how you can use them best to help us grow awareness of the Orthodox Christian Faith in our area. You know yourselves, from your parish life, that participation from members is vital for growth and sustainability. Having the same people doing all the events or tasks, all the time gets stale quickly. Not to mention the fact that these folks become weary of their workload while others stay on the sidelines.

If you listen to Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio program (Sundays from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on WNZK 690AM) you know that every month we do a roundup of major events from the 40 Orthodox parishes in the area. Originally, we had hoped that parishes and outreach organizations would contact us with updates, but we still must hunt out the information every month. Often after learning about an interesting event or speaker your parish may be sponsoring, we reach out to your parish directly or to the speaker to invite them for an interview. It would be great if you could let us know, we'd be happy to publicize your event on the radio or in print. Let's work together. We are here to cooperate with local parishes.

In the next few days, your parish will be receiving a direct appeal from the COCC to your pastor and the parish council to continue to be a member of the COCC and to consider contributing to our Media Ministry. In addition, and this is vital, each member parish has the right to have two lay persons endorsed by their priest, who will join him as representatives to the COCC. Come join us at the monthly meetings, learn about the life of the Orthodox faithful in the area, bring your ideas and help us help you.

In Him,

Olga Liskivskyi

COCC President



*Blessed are You O Christ God, who has revealed the fishermen to be most wise; by sending the Holy Spirit down on them You drew the world into Your net through them, O Lover of mankind glory to You!
(Tropar of Pentecost)*

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) is a cooperative organization of clergy and laity, established in 1957. Its mission is to promote the Orthodox Christian Faith across the region of Detroit and southeast lower Michigan through worship and fellowship, as well as to develop and facilitate charitable, educational and outreach programs. We strive to aid our sister parishes toward success in their endeavors, and bring our community into greater cooperation.

We invite YOU to be an active part of the COCC! All Orthodox parishes are sincerely encouraged to join us, and volunteer representatives are very much needed to bring new ideas and new life to our family so that we can continue to bring greater witness to our city as Orthodox Christians of various ethnic and jurisdictional backgrounds, united in our Faith.

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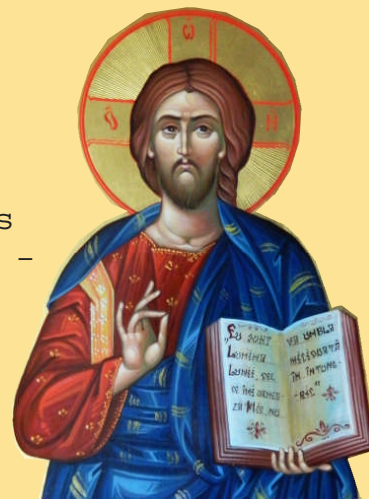
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An Inspiration at the New Year...

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



+ FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Beloved Faithful,

It has become kind of a fun annual tradition of my oldest child – and we join him (!) in watching the 1989 Chevy Chase movie “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation”. We laugh hysterically together hearing the same silly dialogue year after year, as if it’s our first time.



Well, maybe that’s true, in a way, of how many of us act as Orthodox Christians when it comes to hearing the Church’s joyful message about Christmas. Celebrating the nativity of Jesus Christ is an annual event. We know the story. We know the words spoken by the angels, by Herod, the Magi, etc. We’ve all heard it before but do we really listen as if it was the first time? Do we take the words in? Is it all just an annual event or do we look forward to the occasion as something new and life-

giving each year, as something that will renew us and fill us, our spouses, our children, our parish family, our friends and neighbors with real joy *if we share it with them?* If we all sit down and watch and listen.

Believe it or not, we’ll start our journey to Pascha in March, just a matter of weeks from now. Our Savior, while remaining God, was just born as one of us, a human being, and we’re already moving toward His Cross!

Ah, but His birth is a happy event that brings joy into the world. We *celebrate* His Nativity, Christmas, and try to share the good news with those around us. And isn’t that also true of His death and resurrection. Did He not bring joy into the world by enduring the Cross? Do we not want the whole world to know that joy?

Beloved, the beautiful feasts of the Church, her celebrations of the lives of the saints, His Mother, of Christ Himself, mark incredibly wonderful events. Miraculous events in ancient history and current times that involve people just like us, but we wouldn’t know of them, we wouldn’t have any joy to celebrate and share with our families and friends, to pass to future generations if we didn’t gather together at Christmas every year to hear the wonderful words that the baby’s name is Emanuel, “God is with us!”.

And yes, we are and we need to encourage everyone (...) to gather together to experience the work of our loving and merciful Lord in our lives.

In that silly Christmas movie, Clark Griswold says at one point when everyone thinks it’s useless to continue trying to celebrate, “Oh, no! We’re all in this together!” And yes, we are and we need to encourage everyone (including, as in the movie our “Eddie’s, Mr Shirley’s, Aunt Bethany’s” etc.) to gather together to experience the work of our loving and merciful Lord in our lives.

I hope you had a blessed Christmas and a wonderful Theophany... the shining forth of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the joyful news that He fills the world, OUR world, our Orthodox Detroit world with light. Have a “Hap, Hap, Happy New Year!”

With love and joy,

Fr Laurence Lazar

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

HOLY PROPHET JOHN THE BAPTIST



The primary feast day of St John the Baptist is celebrated on January 7. St John was the son of the Prophet Zacharias and Elizabeth, who was a kinswoman of the Virgin Mary. John is known as the “Forerunner” and “Baptist.” He is known as the Forerunner because he preceded Christ and taught repentance, which prepared men for Jesus’ teaching and His ministry. He even recognized Christ as the Messiah as early as when they were both still in their mothers’ wombs. According to Holy Tradition, the Virgin Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and when they embraced John leapt in his mother’s womb, which is considered his first acknowledgment of Christ as Messiah.

After his birth, John’s father Zacharias was murdered in the temple. He and his mother fled to the desert and he was raised there. Thus he lived as an ascetic from the earliest part of his life. He ate plants and roots and wore rough clothing. When he grew, he baptized people in the Jordan, teaching repentance, but also saying that someone greater would come after him and baptize with the Holy Spirit.

St John always spoke the Truth and because Herod did not appreciate his criticism, he was imprisoned. Later he was beheaded, as the result of a promise Herod gave to his step-daughter to give her anything she asked. The daughter was convinced by her mother to ask for John’s head on a platter. His martyrdom is commemorated on August 29. John’s life was such a luminous example for monastics, martyrs and all Christians to follow him.

Tropar of St. John the Baptist (Tone 2)

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner; for you have proved to be truly more venerable than the Prophets, since you agreed to baptize in the stream Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore having contested for the truth, you rejoiced to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God had appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us His great mercy.

“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY

The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God. The story of the Baptism of Christ is recorded in all four of the Gospels: Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-9, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:31-34.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus. When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” This was the voice of God the Father.

Christ’s baptism in the Jordan was *theophany*, a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord’s public ministry. It was also a *theophany* in that the world was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divinity of Jesus; the Son received His Father’s testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son.

The theme of *manifestation* or *revelation* is also expressed in Scripture with the symbolism of light. In the hymn of the Feast we sing, “Christ has appeared and enlightened the world.” Thus, January 6 is also known as the Feast of Lights. The Church celebrates on this day the illumination of the world by the light of Christ.



*“When You, O Lord,
were baptized in the Jordan,*

the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to You by calling You His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His Word. O Christ Our God who has revealed Yourself and has enlightened the world, glory to You!”

The Feast Day is celebrated with the Festive Divine Liturgy and followed by the second Blessing of the Waters. The Blessing is conducted in the church; however in many places throughout the world services are conducted near open bodies of water. The holy water from the church is given to the faithful to consume. In the weeks following the Feast, clergy visit the homes of parishioners and conduct a service of blessing using the holy water that was blessed on the Feast. (*abridged: goarch.org*)



Serbian Traditions at CHRISTMAS

While much of the Orthodox World celebrates Christmas according to the Julian Calendar, this article is specifically related to the Serbian faithful.

Mir Bozji, Hristos Se Rodi

Christmas is one of the holiest days of the year for Serbian Orthodox Christians who follow the Julian calendar. It is preceded by 40 days of fasting during Advent to prepare for the birth of Christ. And even though the Feast of St. Nicholas (when children receive presents from the kindly saint) falls on December 19, and which happens to be many families' "Slava", or patron saint's day, there is no dispensation from the fast. No meat, dairy or eggs are consumed, continuing through Christmas Eve night (Badnje Vece) on January 6.

Christmas Eve

Years ago, on Christmas Eve morning (badnji dan) in Serbia, fathers would take their eldest son to the forest to chop down an oak tree branch, which would become their badnjak or Yule Log. Today, many Serbians buy their badnjak. Decorated Christmas trees are not traditional in Serbia although, due to Western influences, they are becoming more common. Straw is placed throughout the home to signify Christ's humble birth. Walnuts and wheat are strewn in the four corners of the dining room with a prayer for health and prosperity.

The meatless meal, depending on the family and the region, may consist of bakalar with potatoes (cod fish), tuna salad, prebrana (a layered bean and onion dish), meatless sarma, djuvece (a rice-and-vegetable casserole), nuts in the shell, fresh and dried fruits, and cookies made without dairy and eggs.

Christmas Day Rituals

Mir Bozji! Hristos se Rodi! is the greeting on Christmas Day, January 7, which means "Peace of God! Christ is Born!" The response is Voistinu Hristos se Rodi! (Indeed, He is born!). Prayers and hymn singing precede the breaking of a bread known as cesnica, which takes center stage on the Christmas table. The word Česnica is derived from the Serbian word čest, meaning "share." And that is how the bread is eaten, at a communal table where it is rotated three times counterclockwise before each person tears off a piece. In some homes, the host tears off a piece for every person present and one extra piece for the polozajnik (poh-loh-ZHAY-nik) or First Guest.

This ceremonial round bread varies by region and may be a simple peasant bread, a sweet bread or even something akin to. What seems to remain constant is that a silver coin is baked inside, which will bring luck to the one who finds it. Also on the table is a container of wheat grass that was planted on St. Nicholas Day, symbolizing a good harvest, usually festooned with a ribbon, and a lighted candle. After toasting with slivovitz (plum brandy) or warm vruca rakija (a potent blend of variously whis-

MIR BOŽJI! HRISTOS SE RODI!



key and slivovitz with honey and spices), wheat grains are sprinkled over the guests for luck and prosperity. Only then does the feasting begin.

The meal is lavish with (pecenica), sarma (stuffed cabbage), baked ham, sausage, roast potatoes, parslid potatoes, and desserts galore – nutrolls, cheese and apple strudels, tortes, fresh and dried fruits and, of course, slivovitz and strong, dark Turkish coffee.

Polozajnik

After dinner, Christmas Day is spent receiving and visiting friends and family. The first visitor to one's home on Christmas Day is known as the polozajnik or poleznik. A special gift is prepared for this First Guest (in the old days in Serbia, it was a scarf or wool stockings) and he or she is given the reserved piece of česnica. The polozajnik, whether young or old, male or female, is said to come in the name of God with best wishes.

In the old days, the polozajnik would take a branch from the badnjak and stir up the fire in the hearth. The more sparks (representing God's blessings for the family) he or she created, the better.

Taken from thespruceeats.com (via St Lazarus parish).

ORTHODOX CUSTOMS at the New Year

Blessing of Homes

It is an ancient custom that following the Feast of the Theophany, faithful welcome their parish priest to bless their homes with the newly Sanctified Water. The priest says a prayer in front of an icon surrounded by the family. Usually, the head of the family or a child will lead the priest from room to room while the cantor or others sing the Tropar or Festal Hymn for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In the Byzantine and Romanian tradition, a bouquet of sweet basil leaves (fresh or dried) is dipped in the water, and used to sprinkle each room of the home, and finally, each member of the family. In this way, just as we receive the Holy Water and its healing and protecting powers when we are at church, at this special time, the Holy Trinity comes into each of our homes, is present with us, and, we pray, will keep us safe and in good health at the new year!

Vasilopita

On January 1, the Church remembers St Basil (Vasilios / Vasile / Vasyli / etc) the Great. In the Greek tradition, a special loaf of bread (Vasilopita literally means "Basil's Bread") is baked with a coin hidden inside. Other Balkan groups hold a similar custom. It is based on a few legends of St Basil secretly helping those in need. The person who receives the coin in their share will receive blessings for the new year.

Remembrances

At the start of the new year, faithful are invited to submit a list of remembrances (Diptychs / Pomelnici / etc) to their parish priest. The priest then commemorates the names of those listed at each Divine Liturgy throughout that year. Although Remembrances can be offered at any time for specific needs or to particularly pray for someone, the "Crown of the New Year" is a special time to keep this custom.



ECUMENICAL SPIRIT SHARED AT VESPERS FOR ST NICHOLAS

the day,” Metropolitan Nicholas said. “I’m here to tell you we are brothers in Christ, and more than anything, we are family.”

Those gathered at St. Nicholas parish prayed the Great Vespers of St. Nicholas the Wonder Worker, a fourth-century bishop of the ancient Greek city of Myra, located in modern-day Turkey. Archbishop Vigneron delivered the homily, reflecting on how the author of the text used for evening prayers saw the poetic similarity between the city where St. Nicholas was bishop, Myra, and myrrh, a fragrant oil used for consecration in the ancient world.

“You see the poet who wrote these verses plays on these two similar words to help us understand this particular grace made available to us on this fest day,” Archbishop Vigneron said. “When St. Nicholas was anointed with myrrh, it was



Archbishop Vigneron prayed evening vespers with Detroit Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Nicholas on December 5 at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Troy for the vigil of St. Nicholas, a display of Christian ecumenism in honoring a saint and bishop revered in both rites.

“I’m here to tell you we are brothers in Christ, and more than anything, we are family.”

Blessed Sacrament on the Vigil of Ss Joachim and Anne.

“We have started this gracious gesture, twice a year, where we go to one another’s churches and exchange cultures for

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas welcomed Archbishop Vigneron, Catholic clergy and laity in attendance, noting how he and Archbishop Vigneron have a tradition of praying together in an Orthodox Church on the Vigil of St. Nicholas, and at the Cathedral of the Most

revealed he would become true myrrh himself. If we embrace that truth, we will better understand our identity as those who also have been anointed to proclaim Christ.”

Archbishop Vigneron noted St. Nicholas’ role in rebuking the heresy of Arius – who denied the divinity of Jesus and the Trinity – and how Nicholas gave witness at the Council of Nicaea.

“The text underscores this fact, that when the Holy Spirit instilled in the mind of Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, he had great and true insight into the divine nature of Christ,” Vigneron said. “Therefore, he was able – in courage – to confess Jesus was the only begotten Son of the Father, God from God, light from true light, as you and I, and all of us, say in the Nicene Creed – that He is consubstantial with the Father.” Vigneron noted that once oil is applied to skin or clothing, it sinks in and is difficult to remove, just as St. Nicholas became soaked in Christ’s grace when he proclaimed the eternal divinity of Jesus.

Ecumenical Spirit (continued from page 8)...

“Nicholas had this deep profound insight into Jesus – that Jesus is God the Son, and with that, the Holy Hierarch Nicholas would become himself, by grace, what Jesus is by nature,” Archbishop Vigneron said. “He was filled with the divine light, because he confessed – understood – the life of Jesus is divine. So Nicholas, in a way, was divine by what he proclaimed.” Just as St. Nicholas became the myrrh by what he proclaimed at Nicaea, Archbishop Vigneron challenged the congregation to become the myrrh in what they proclaim and do in spreading the kingdom of Christ.

“You in this parish, in keeping the faith in acts of love, are – as the text predicts – becoming the myrrh,” Archbishop Vigneron said. “This began ... for all of us when we were chrismated – what we call in the Latin Church the Sacrament of Confirmation. [With] this anointing with sacred chrism, we become what Nicholas had become.”

Speaking as the leader of the Latin-rite church in southeast Michigan, Archbishop Vigneron invited Orthodox believers to help their Catholic brothers and sisters proclaim the Kingdom of God to the region.

“This is our great task: to live the Christian life in the 21st century here in southeast Michigan, to stand as the witness to the divine light that has been poured into your soul,” Archbishop Vigneron said. “This is your personal vocation ... your vocation to live this Orthodox faith here in our community. I need you to do this. My Catholic people need you to live this Orthodox life by all you say and do. I need you to be myrrh.”

After vespers, the congregation had the opportunity to venerate a relic of St. Nicholas and to take part in a ritual eating of five loaves of bread, commemorating Jesus feeding the 5,000. For Catholic parishioners, the ecumenical service was an opportunity to experience the beauty of the Greek Orthodox Church and its similarity with the Roman Catholic faith.

“I love the efforts of ecumenism, and the Orthodox Church is beautiful, with a very rich liturgy that is just beautiful,” said Natalia Cappella, a staff member at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. “When Archbishop Vigneron spoke about co-existing and how we need each other to live our vocations, I found that really beautiful and encouraging.

“I enjoy the richness of the Orthodox liturgy, the differences and similarities to the Latin Rite,” Cappella continued. “You see the differences in the liturgy, but you still have the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, just like we do. It shows we have our differences, but also our commonality.”

Taken from: detroitcatholic.com



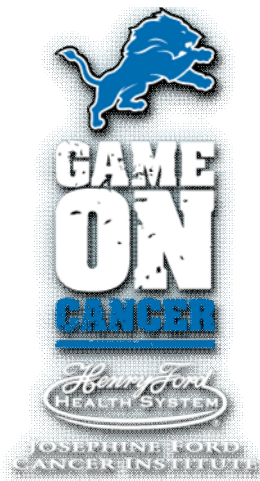
7th ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT

The Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit held its 7th Annual Benefit Concert on Sunday, October 28, 2018 at Dearborn’s St Clement Church. As *Fr Laurence Lazar, Clergy Brotherhood President and Spiritual Advisor to the COCC*, noted in his Welcoming Remarks, under the direction of (Matushka) Victoria Kopistiansky the COCC sponsored ensemble

“has distinguished itself among Orthodox community choirs across America. It is the Pride of the Church of Detroit.”

This year, the Choir partnered with Henry Ford Health System’s “Game On Cancer” Campaign. A check for \$1,000.00, representing part of the concert’s proceeds, was issued by the COCC in the name of the Choir for this initiative.

The performance received rave reviews, and it was noted that attendance had increased. We look forward to continued future success and invite interested singers to join this wonderful ensemble



THE ORTHODOX CHOIR OF DETROIT

VICTORIA KOPISTIANSKY,
DIRECTOR

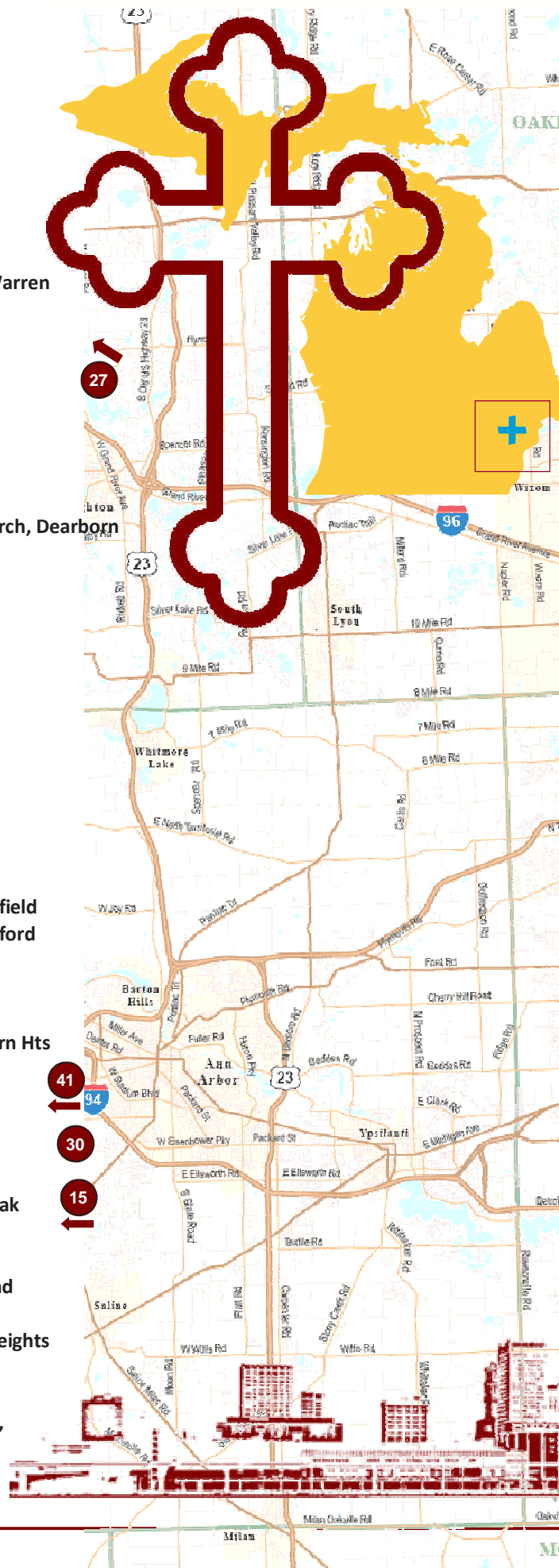
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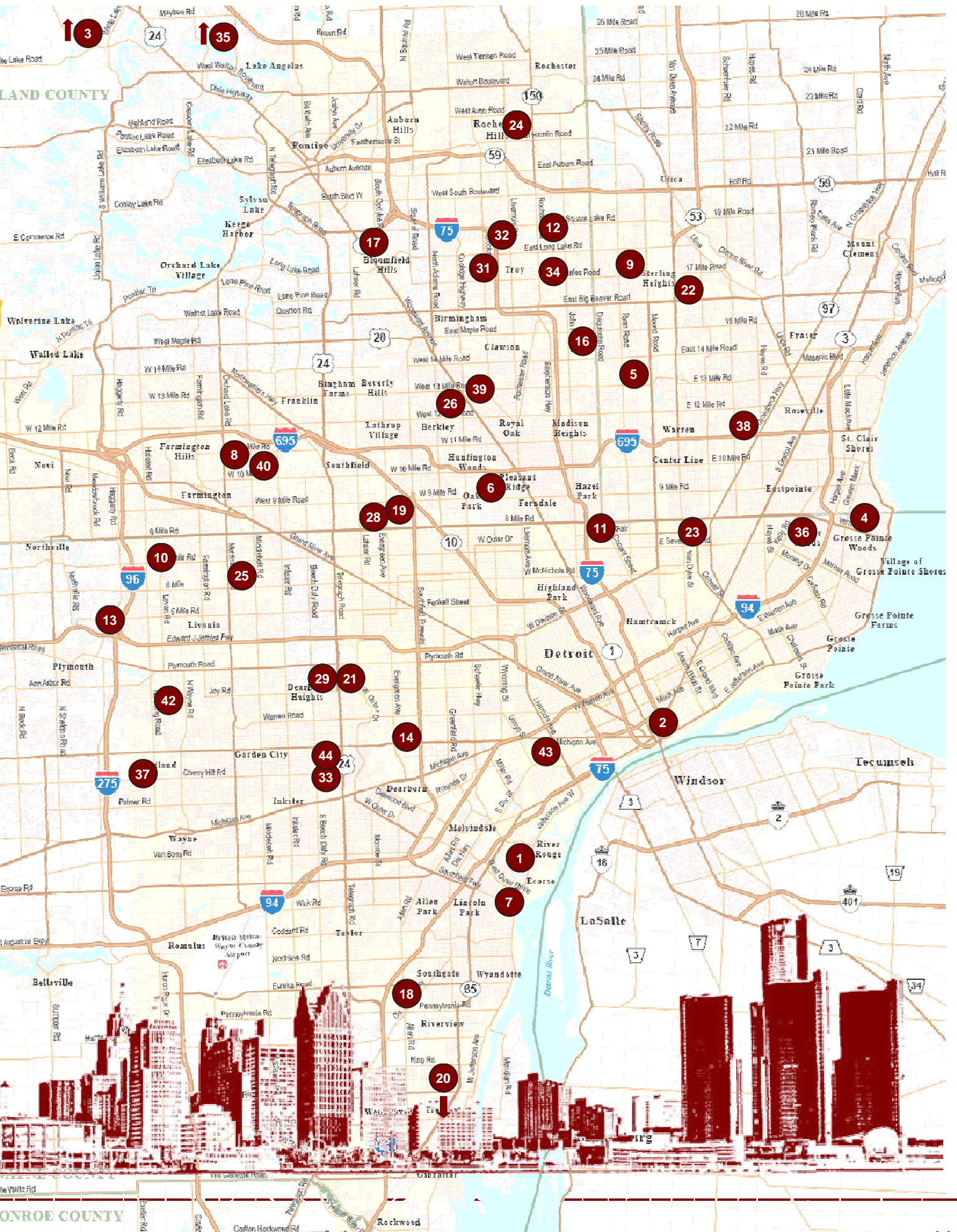
ORTHODOX CHURCHES IN METROPOLITAN DETROIT

All canonical Orthodox Churches in the region are considered members of the COCC.

1. Christ the Savior Orthodox Mission, River Rouge
2. Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Detroit
3. Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Grand Blanc
4. Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, St Clair Shores
5. Descent of the Holy Ghost Romanian Orthodox Church, Warren
6. Dormition Russian Orthodox Cathedral, Ferndale
7. Holy Ascension Serbian Orthodox Church, Ecorse
8. Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Farmington Hills
9. Holy Ghost Orthodox Church, Sterling Heights
10. Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Livonia
11. Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Detroit
12. Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church, Troy
13. Nativity of Virgin Greek Orthodox Church, Plymouth
14. St Clement Ohridski (Macedono-Bulgarian) Orthodox Church, Dearborn
15. St Demetrius Orthodox Church, Jackson
16. St George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Troy
17. St George Greek Orthodox Church, Bloomfield Hills
18. St George Greek Orthodox Church, Southgate
19. St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, Southfield
20. St George Serbian Orthodox Church, Monroe
21. St Innocent (Russian) Orthodox Church, Redford
22. St John Greek Orthodox Church, Sterling Heights
23. St Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, Detroit
24. St Mark Orthodox Church, Rochester Hills
25. St Mary Antiochian Orthodox Basilica, Livonia
26. St Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, Berkley
27. St Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church, Fenton
28. St Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Southfield
29. St Michael the Archangel (Russian) Orthodox Church, Redford
30. St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Ann Arbor
31. St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Troy
32. St Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church, Troy
33. St Paul Macedono-Bulgarian Orthodox Cathedral, Dearborn Hts
34. St Petka Serbian Orthodox Church, Troy
35. St Prokopius Serbian Orthodox Church, China
36. St Sabbas Orthodox Monastery, Harper Woods
37. St Simion Romanian Orthodox Church, Westland
38. St Stevan Decanski Serbian Orthodox Church, Warren
39. St Theodora of Sihla Romanian Orthodox Church, Royal Oak
40. St Thomas (Albanian) Orthodox Church, Farmington Hills
41. St Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church, Dexter
42. Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Westland
43. Sts Peter & Paul Orthodox Cathedral, Detroit
44. Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox Church, Dearborn Heights

Diocesan Offices (2), Monasteries (4), Schools / Academies (2), and Camp Grounds (3) are not included. As this rendering was created by the Editor, locations shown are approximate.





YOU SHOULD KNOW...

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) is an organization of clergy and laity established in 1957. Among other purposes, we strive to aid our sister parishes to succeed in their endeavors and bring our community into greater cooperation. Beyond our annual services and events, our outreach efforts include...



- ◆ **GOOD WORKS Magazine**, the COCC's publication, is distributed six times annually to more than 50 Orthodox Churches and institutions in the metropolitan region (Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw, Jackson, Macomb counties). The magazine reaches thousands of readers of various ages, backgrounds, and interests!
- ◆ **Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio** ("DOOR") broadcasts each Sunday, 4-5pm via 690AM WNZK. The program also streams LIVE each week, and all of the nearly 200 programs are available at any time for download as pod-casts on DOORradio.org! The program features topics and guests which are heard by thousands of listeners, both from the Orthodox Christian community as well as the general public!
- ◆ **COCCdetroit.org** and **DOORradio.org** provide up to date information on the Orthodox Community of metro Detroit, and act as our central on-line presence anywhere in the world. The respective sites (along with facebook.com @orthodoxdetroit and @DOORradio) are visited by thousands each month, and provide a constant advertising presence for businesses and sponsors of our Campaign!
- ◆ **Our Media Ministry** team visits area Festivals, parish and community events where we are warmly received and often able to increase our reach and audience. Each facet of our respective Media has a special role to fill. Do you have marketing or broadcast experience? We may have a place for you on our team... contact us!



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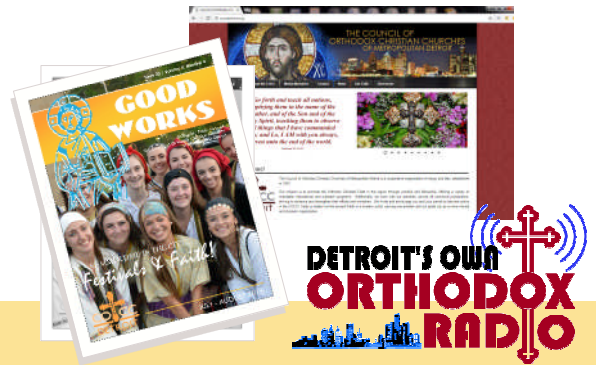
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- 1/2 page in Detroit Orthodox Business & Services Directory

\$750.00

- 1/4 page in Good Works (full year = 6 issues)
- Banner on COCC & DOOR web-pages (1 yr)
- 1/8 page in Detroit Orthodox Business & Services

\$1,500.00

BIG SAVINGS!

- 1/4 page in Good Works (full year = 6 issues)
- 24 on-air sponsor thanks / 30 sec. commercials (1 per month)
- banner on COCC & DOOR web-pages (1year)
- 1/4 page in Detroit Orthodox Business & Services Directory

\$500.00

- 1/8 page in Good Works (full year = 6 issues)

\$250.00

- 1 DOOR full-program sponsorship & recognition

\$1,000.00

- 1/4 page in Good Works (full year = 6 issues)
- 6 on-air sponsor thanks / 30 sec. commercials (1 per quarter)
- banner on COCC & DOOR web-pages (1year)
- 1/8 page in Detroit Orthodox Business & Services Directory

\$50.00

- 1 DOOR on-air 30 second commercial

Other \$ _____

PLEASE NOTE: Advertisement content (commercial copy and / or printed text) may be changed up to two times during a purchased period to suit your needs. Ask Michael for details!

Thank you!

Payable to: "COCC", earmarked "2019 Media Ministries"
Mail completed form & payment to:
COCC, c/o 18405 W 9 Mile Rd, Southfield MI 48075



St. John Chrysostom

CLERGY BROTHERHOOD

The COCC exists and works by the blessings of the Clergy Brotherhood. The "Saint John Chrysostom" Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood, gathers throughout the year to share pastoral experiences, learn, pray, and interact with one another on a unique level. All priests and deacons in canonical order are encouraged to take part. The president of the Clergy Brotherhood, also serves as Spiritual Advisor to the COCC and other affiliates. Contact **Fr Laurence Lazar, president (248 569-4833 | frlazar@hotmail.com)**

MINISTRIES

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*, *DOORradio.org*, YouTube *COCCTelcom* channel, and *Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio (DOOR)* weekly program. Contact **Olga Liss (248 252-8184 | olgaliss0910@gmail.com)**



THE ORTHODOX CHOIR OF DETROIT

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

DETROIT METRO OCF

Orthodox Christian Fellowship is an organization with chapters at colleges across North America. Our local effort is a resource and support for students and campuses in the Detroit region. Contact **Fr Josh Genig (630 936-6386 | joshua.genig@gmail.com)**.



ORTHODOX VISITATION MINISTRY

The Orthodox Visitation Ministry of Detroit helps parishes keep in contact with the elderly, shut-in, or others who cannot be physically active in their community. It is a simple, meaningful program that can be adopted by any parish. Contact **Karen Todorov (734 634-9481 | orthodoxvisitationdetroit@gmail.com)**.

PARTNERS

ORTHODOX DETROIT OUTREACH



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

FOCUS DETROIT



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

ZOE FOR LIFE! WASHTENAW



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. Zoe is becoming a presence in the Ann Arbor area, open to ALL women in need (zoeonline.net; anonymous help-line: **855 ZOE-LIFE**).

BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT MOSES

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

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN of MICHIGAN (OCW)



The OCW of Michigan has members from Orthodox churches across 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. Contact **Mary Ann Dadich (586 775-4799 | mdadich811@gmail.com)**.

The ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF MICHIGAN (OCW), is an organization of ethnically diverse Orthodox Christian Women from around the metro Detroit area, sharing our holy Orthodox faith through topics and presenters, charitable works and fellowship. 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



Sunday, February 3 | 2PM
ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON, MEMORIAL
 St George Romanian Cathedral, 18405 W Nine Mile, Southfield

Saturday, March 16 | 10AM
BRINGING POST MODERNS INTO THE CHURCH
 Fr Joshua Genig, Speaker
 Holy Transfiguration Church, 36075 W Seven Mile, Livonia

Monday, April 15 | 7PM
A CHRISTIAN ENDING TO OUR LIVES
 Fr Andrew Yavornitzky, Speaker
 St Mary Ukrainian Cathedral, 21931 Evergreen, Southfield

Monday, May 20 | 7PM
Topic: TBA
 Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, 750 N Beech Daly, Drbm Hts

Monday, June 17 | 7PM
FAITH AND EMOTIONAL WELL BEING
 Fr Michael Varlamos, Speaker
 St Mark Church, 400 W Hamlin, Rochester Hills

Saturday, July 13 | 9AM
ANNUAL RETREAT
 Fr Michael Butler, Speaker
 Dormition Monastery, 3389 Rives Eaton Rd, Rives Junction

Monday, September 16 | 7PM
OUR FAITH AND GOOD WORKS
 Fr Stratton Dorozenski
 St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral, 4575 E Outer Drive, Detroit

Monday, October 14 | 7PM
HALLOWEEN - RESPONDING AS ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS TODAY
 Dn James Rimelspach, Speaker
 St Thomas Church, 29150 W Ten Mile, Farmington Hills

Monday, November 18 | 7PM
RECONSTRUCTING THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT WITH RECENT ANTHROPOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES
 Dr Hakem Al-Rustom, Speaker
 Nativity of the Virgin Greek Church, 39851 W Five Mile, Plymouth

ALL WELCOME at these FREE, Educational programs!



Statistics show that a staggering 60% of students *may* not return to active church involvement once they leave for college. Are you, or is someone in your family a college / university student? The Orthodox Christian Fellowship is a registered student group at over 200 colleges and universities.

In Michigan, there are currently ACTIVE groups at:

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

Fr Joshua Genig is the COCC Liaison to these OCF groups. Our intention is to offer greater support to the young people on campus and better coordinate activities already in place with the spiritual fathers and students!

If YOU are a current or incoming student at any of these schools, or would like to help us, please simply drop an email via: www.coccdetroit.org in the "contact" section.

COCCdetroit.org | OCF.net

SAVE THE DATES! Inter-Orthodox 2019 SUNDAY LENTEN VESPERS SERIES

- 17 March, 6pm | TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY**
St Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, Detroit
- 24 March, 6pm | ST GREGORY PALAMAS**
Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Livonia
- 31 March, 6pm | THE HOLY CROSS**
St Clement Ohridski Orthodox Church, Dearborn
- 7 April, 6pm | ST JOHN OF THE LADDER**
St George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Troy
- 14 April, 6pm | ST MARY OF EGYPT**
St George Greek Orthodox Church, Bloomfield Hills



CHRISTIAN RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Attend services regularly. **HELP.**
DONATE a little extra. Teach someone. Feed the hungry. **PRAY.**
Volunteer. Welcome a stranger. Bring a friend to church. **SING.** Be kind. Encourage another. Trust God. **FORGIVE.** Receive the Sacraments. Read the scriptures. Be thankful. Lend a helping hand. **LOVE.**

желанный
Welcome!

His Grace **MATTHEW**,
Bishop of Sourozh



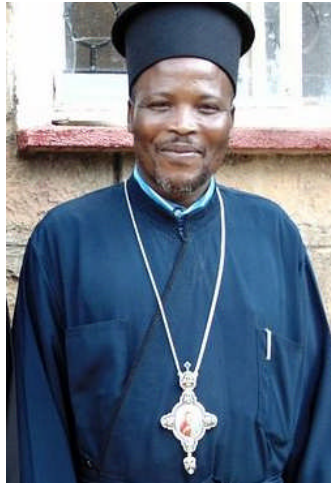
Bishop Matthew was recently appointed by Patriarch Kyrill as the Administrator of the Russian Patriarchal Parishes in the United States, following Bishop John of Naro-Fominsk. We look forward to cooperating with His Grace during his tenure!

NEWS

from around the
Orthodox World

YOUNG AFRICAN BISHOP DIES

When I first learned how serious Bishop Athanasius' illness was, my first reaction was to pray, and as I began to pray the



above reading from the Wisdom of Solomon came to mind. This Scripture has always struck me when I heard it; perhaps because of my own insecurity in life and maybe even because of a wish to be "taken away from the bewitching of naughtiness"; but no matter why, I have always felt a strong attraction

to this verse. I can say without qualification that I have never met anyone who more clearly embodied this verse in their very person than Bishop Athanasius.

In the Orthodox ascetic tradition, humility is seen as the mother of all virtues. While most of us struggle to even be able to define humility, let alone practice it, His Grace embodied it. As everyone who has ever encountered Bishop Athanasius can attest, His Grace always put others before himself, sometimes even to my chagrin. The first time I met him, he picked me up to go visit one of his missions. Upon picking me up, he pushed me to the front seat while he folded himself nearly in half to climb into the back seat of his car with three other people and a goat. No matter who you were, you knew that Bishop Athanasius would literally lay down his life in love for his flock, and I am certain that there was no one who he wouldn't put in front of himself.

The truth of Orthodox Christianity has always and will always continue to spread through love and sacrifice; when I think back on the life of Bishop Athanasius, that is exactly what I will remember: the love and sacrifice that poured forth from a truly humble heart. [...]

May we all be found worthy of living such a life. Memory Eternal, Your Grace. You will be missed but your life was not in vain and all of us, as your spiritual brothers and sisters, will continue to ring the bells of Orthodoxy wherever we live in your honor.



ROMANIA'S NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

[Bucharest, Romania] The new National Cathedral 'of the People's Salvation' was consecrated November 25, 2018. Conceived of a more than a century ago in memory of Romania's heroes who died in wars for the country's freedom and dignity, the monumental church is dedicated to the Ascension of the Lord - Romania's equivalent to our Memorial Day, and the Apostle Andrew 'Protector of Romania' - who preached the Gospel along the Romanian Black Sea coast. Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem served the first Patronal Feast Liturgy on St Andrew's Day, November 30.

Romania's historic Patriarchal Cathedral dates to the mid 1600's, but was never intended to be the "national cathedral", as it is quite modest in size. (The Church of Romania numbers some 20 million faithful.) It will retain its functionality and revered historical position.

The new building is the second largest national Orthodox church in Europe in capacity (5,000+) after St Sava's in Belgrade, and will be the tallest in the Orthodox world (the main tower's cross will reach over 400 feet). The cathedral's main

(25 ton) free-swinging bell is the largest in Europe. The all-mosaic iconostas is also the largest ever of its type.

Serving at the consecration with Patriarchs Bartholomew and Daniel were: 60 bishops, 40 priests and 12 deacons. The Patriarchal Cathedral's "Nicolae Lungu" Chorale and "Tronos" Byzantine Male Choir sang the responses. An estimated 50,000 faithful attended.

Ground was broken in 2007, and its consecration was the pinnacle of the historic Centennial of Romania, when all Romanian provinces united as Greater Romania in 1918. The Cathedral with its ensemble of buildings (offices, medical and social-services center, museum, chapels, etc) and mosaic adornments is planned for completion in 2024. May it bring joy, glory to God, and growth to the Church of Romania, and an added "jewel" in the Divine Crown of our Orthodox Faith on Earth.

Trinitastv.ro | basilica.ro | construimcatedrala.ro
Selected photos: facebook.com/detroitROcathedral



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN METRO DETROIT



**Basilica of St Mary
Antiochian Orthodox Church**

Founded 1975

18100 Merriman Rd, Livonia
*V Rev Fr George Shalhoub
Rev Fr James King*

*Antiochian Diocese of Toledo
& the Midwest*



**St Vladimir
Russian Orthodox Church**

www.stvladimiraami.org
9900 Jackson Rd, Dexter
V Rev Fr Gregory Joyce

*Diocese of Chicago & Mid-America
(ROCOR)*



**Assumption
Greek Orthodox Church**

Founded 1920

www.flintorthodox.com
2245 Baldwin Rd, Grand Blanc
Rev Fr Angelo Maggos

*Greek Orthodox Metropolis
of Detroit*

Visit www.COCCdetroit.org and www.DOORradio.org

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The COUNCIL OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
of METROPOLITAN DETROIT

A cooperative organization of clergy and laity, established 1957

February 22, 2017

To the Hierarchs, Clergy, Parish Leaders and Faithful of our Community:

On February 21, 2017, at the regular meeting of the COCC, a motion was unanimously approved *that The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) with its ministry Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio (DOOR), regretfully suspends any involvement with Outreach Detroit Foundation (ODF).*

You may or may not be aware of this more recently established entity (ODF), however we convey this action to alleviate any confusion that may exist regarding the two organizations. We reaffirm that DOOR is a working committee of the COCC's media ministry, and ask for your renewed physical, financial and spiritual support of the COCC and DOOR, with our prayers that we all may have a peaceful new year.

Contact: Olga Liss (248 252-8184), COCC President

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This Statement was published on COCCdetroit.org and mailed to all parishes in February 2017. A follow-up was transmitted to the St John Chrysostom Clergy Brotherhood. Confusion and concern among clergy and within parishes have caused us to again publish it here in Good Works.*



NOTICE

SUBMISSION DEADLINES for "Good Works" is the first day of the month, prior to each issue.

So, the deadline for MARCH-APRIL is February 1. Similarly, DOOR Radio and our Web-sites staff would appreciate at least 1 month's notice for announcements. We welcome your submissions for consideration!

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.

JANUARY

- 1 + Circumcision of Christ / + St Basil the Great
New Year's Day 2019
- 6 + Holy Theophany / Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)
- 8 COCC Monthly Meeting,
7pm: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Dearborn Hts
- 11 "Journey to a Better You", part I
6:30pm: St Mary Antiochian Basilica, Livonia
- 13 Inter-Orthodox Choir rehearsal
3pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 17 FOCUS Detroit Board meeting
7pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
Winter Dinner to Support Dormition Monastery
St George Church, Flint
- 18 "Journey to a Better You", part II
6:30pm: St Mary Antiochian Basilica, Livonia
- 21 Dr Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday
- 25 "Journey to a Better You", part III
6:30pm: St Mary Antiochian Basilica, Livonia
- 27 Annual Memorial service for Archbishop Valerian
12pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
"Sveti Sava" Program & Lunch
St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral, Detroit
Inter-Orthodox Choir rehearsal
3pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 30 + Three Hierarchs: Basil, Gregory, John

FEBRUARY

- 1 "Journey to a Better You", part IV
6:30pm: St Mary Antiochian Basilica, Livonia
- 2 + Presentation of the Lord
- 3 OCW Anniversary Luncheon & Memorial
2pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 8 "Journey to a Better You", part V
6:30pm: St Mary Antiochian Basilica, Livonia
- 10 Annual Installation of Officers Banquet
1pm: Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Church, Dearborn Hts
Inter-Orthodox Choir rehearsal
3pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 12 COCC Monthly Meeting
7pm: St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral, Detroit
- 15 "Journey to a Better You", part VI
6:30pm: St Mary Antiochian Basilica, Livonia
- 17 Beginning of Lenten Triodion
- 24 Inter-Orthodox Choir rehearsal
3pm: St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield

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



FOCUS Detroit wins Detroit News Cheer for Charity

The Detroit News | December 28, 2018

In a contest that literally wasn't decided until the last minute, FOCUS Detroit won the \$20,000 prize in The Detroit News Holiday Cheer for Charity competition Friday. Now the nonprofit can double the size of its staff, said founder and director Eric Shanburn — which would mean adding one person. Or maybe it'll splurge and add two.

Charging from third place among the five nonprofits in the finals, FOCUS Detroit strategically timed its major donations to come in at the wire in a contest where dollars counted as votes. When the Orthodox Vision Foundation doubled a planned \$5,000 gift and someone else added a seconds-before-the-noon-deadline \$500, FOCUS Detroit — whose mission is to connect communities with kids in need to help them thrive in school — edged Brilliant Detroit by only \$464.

FOCUS Detroit wound up with \$50,349, plus the \$20,000 prize. Though the organization receives some \$400,000 per year in in-kind donations, its cash budget is only \$100,000, so "this has a huge impact," Shanburn said. He launched in 2015 and has enlisted hundreds of volunteers, plus interns from social work programs at the University of Michigan and Wayne State. Those are good things. But "I've been the only staff," he said. "That's a problem." Also a problem: he's been renting space from schools, and his second straight landlord is about to close. "Now maybe we'll think about buying," he said.

The contest began four weeks ago with online voting that chose five finalists from among 16 charities. The finalists had two weeks to rally support from its regular donors and others. [...] "The News salutes the generosity of our readers and is proud to provide FOCUS Detroit an additional \$20,000 to support its important work."



GOOD WORKS

JAN-FEB 2019



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