



GOOD WORKS

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



A NEW YEAR...

Another opportunity to learn, come together
and grow as we serve our churches and city.



JANUARY - MARCH 2013



FROM OUR PRESIDENT



OUR MISSION

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

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

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

Christ is in our midst!
Happy New Year!

We thank our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ for allowing us to see another year and thereby giving us an opportunity to service this community.

Our mission is to promote the Orthodox Christian Faith and to provide a forum where all the Orthodox churches can come together represented by their Priest and two Lay Delegates to discuss, debate and act on issues important to our community and our faithful.

I'm pleased to report to you that our charity giving was strong last year as the Council donated almost \$13,000 to the following, \$1,500 - Orthodox Detroit Outreach a local organization ministering to the need of the poor and disadvantaged; \$3,758 - International Orthodox Christian Charities; \$1000 - Grants to two missionaries; \$4,400 - Gifts to

Retired Clergy and Clergy Widows; \$2,190 Community Events; and \$500 - Clergy and Wives Appreciation Dinner.

In 2013 we look forward to a new initiative suggested by our newest member Fr Nabil Fino of St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Berkley, Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy's. We will gather together in a spirit of brotherly love and unity and celebrate the feast days of various Saints throughout the year. Fr Nabil is our host for the 1st such service commemorating the Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs on the Eve of the Feast, January 29.

Please be in touch and let us know what you'd like to see presented in future issues of our quarterly publication.

We hope to see you at our upcoming Lenten Vesper services.

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Robert A Mitchell
President

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Best wishes to the re-elected officers of the COCC! May God guide us all as we work for His Church in Detroit!

Contributions welcome!

If you have an article or information you'd like to have considered for publication, contact Mary Ann Dadich (*contact info is on right*) today!

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SOME GOOD WORKS OF THE COCC...



◆ *Community Feast-day Services*

This new initiative of the Council encourages participation from the larger Orthodox community at selected feast-day services in various parishes. A schedule is published in this issue of Good Works (page 10). Join us!

◆ *Charitable Assistance & Volunteerism*

The COCC offers physical and financial aid through annual choir concerts, volunteering with Orthodox Detroit Outreach, missionaries, etc. However you may be able to help, we welcome your participation!

◆ *Dinner-Dance Benefit & Social*

The Annual Dinner-Dance offers a wonderful opportunity for families to come together socially, but also to raise funds and awareness for worthy causes sponsored by the COCC throughout the year.

◆ *Clergy & Wives Appreciation Dinner*

In an effort of gratitude for their tireless efforts as our spiritual leaders, the Council hosts an evening for local clergy and wives each year. It is a small but important gesture to bring our clergy together socially.

+ SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the time-period of this second issue of “Good Works,” we will be entering into the Great Lenten season — a time of preparation, preparing ourselves with fasting and sincere repentance. However, even before Great Lent begins, we are being prepared during the pre-Lenten Sundays by a series of spiritual “reminders,” as we are about to embark on our spiritual journey towards Pascha,

We are reminded of our greed through the tax-collector Zacchaeus, who became a true lover of God who repented in word and deed. We are reminded of our need for humility by the humility of the Publican, in the Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee. And then, in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the despairing son who returned home and was lovingly comforted by his father, reminds us of our need to return to the loving embrace of our Father in heaven. And finally, on the Sunday of the Last Judgment, we are reminded about the criteria by which we will be judged, and our ultimate responsibility as Christians. We are reminded that neither knowledge, nor ambition, nor achievements have any usefulness without our works of love and mercy. Blessed St. Maria Skobtsova of Paris said: “At the last judgment I will be asked whether I fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick and the prisoner in jail....”

Ultimately, these spiritual “reminders” during the pre-Lenten period show each one of us that our true desire to be with God involves our being able to forgive one another. This is precisely how we begin the Great Lenten journey. Asking one another for forgiveness is paramount for true repentance. Christ Himself gave us the supreme example for us to follow when He called out as He was being crucified: “Forgive them for they know not what they do.” If Christ forgives, then how can we expect His mercy if we do not also forgive?

I now take this opportunity to ask you, my brothers and sisters, to forgive me if I have voluntarily or involuntarily offended you or caused you grief, or if I did not hear you and share in your pain and your worries. If I have sinned before you in my words, deeds or thoughts, I ask forgiveness of my transgressions.

May we all heed the words of Saint Ephraim the Syrian:

“O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant.

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother....”

Archpriest Roman Star

SAINTS OF THE SEASON



Born Prince Rastko Nemanjic, son of the Serbian ruler and founder of the Serbian medieval state Stefan Nemanja, St. Sava became the first Patriarch of Serbia (1219-1233) and is an important Saint in the Serbian Orthodox Church.

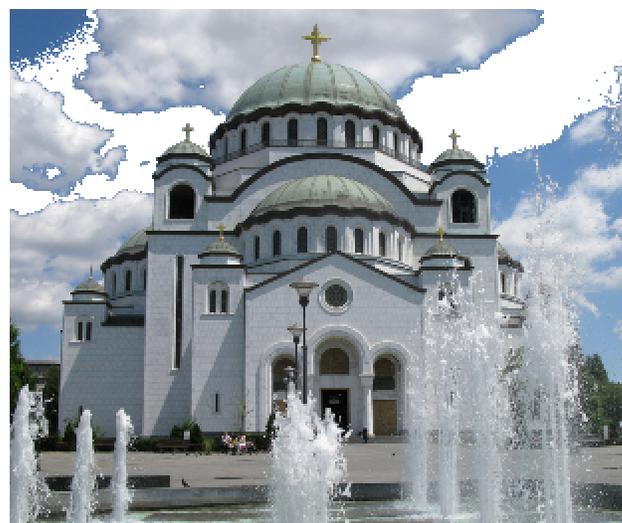
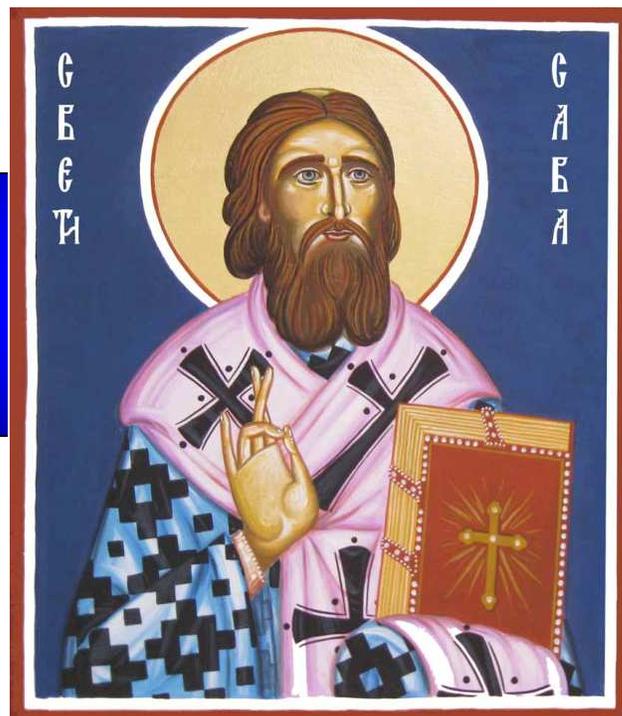
As a young boy, Rastko left home to join the Orthodox monastic colony on Mount Athos and was given the name Sava. In 1197 his father, King Stefan Nemanja, joined him. In 1198 they moved to and restored the abandoned monastery Hilandar, which was at that time the center of Serbian Orthodox monastic life. St. Sava's father took the monastic vows under the name Simeon, and died in Hilandar on February 13, 1200. He is also canonized a saint of the Church.

After his father's death, Sava retreated to an ascetic monastery in Kareya which he built himself in 1199. He also wrote the Kareya typicon both for Hilandar and for the monastery of ascetism. The last typicon is inscribed into the marble board at the ascetic monastery, which today also exists there. He stayed on Athos until the end of 1207, when he persuaded the Patriarch of Constantinople to elevate him to the position of first Serbian archbishop, thereby establishing the independence of the archbishopric of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the year 1219.

Saint Sava is celebrated as the founder of the independent Serbian Orthodox Church and as the patron saint of education and medicine among Serbs. Since the 1830s, Saint Sava has become the patron Saint of Serbian schools and schoolchildren. On his feast day, students partake in recitals in Church.

After participating in the blessing of the waters in January of 1235, St. Sava developed a cough that progressed into pneumonia. He died of pneumonia in the evening between Saturday and Sunday, January 14, 1235 and was buried at the Cathedral of the Holy Forty Martyrs in Trnovo. His relics remained in Trnovo until May 6, 1237, when his sacred bones were moved to the monastery Mileseva in southern Serbia. Three-hundred and sixty years later the Ottoman Turks burned his relics on the main square in Belgrade.

The Cathedral of Saint Sava in Belgrade is the largest active Orthodox temple in the world today. It was built on the site where his holy relics were burned. He is commemorated each year on January 27 (old calendar January 14).



The Church of St Sava in Belgrade is the world's largest Orthodox Church in use today.

A HYMN TO SAINT SAVA

ХИМНА СВЕТОМ САВИ

(Uskliknimo, s' ljubavlju, Svetitelju Savi)

Let us sing with love
To Saint Sava.

Serb churches and schools
Glorify Him!

Serb pride-protector of schools
Good shepherd, St. Sava,
Let us praise Him, O Serbs
Let us sing His hymn thrice!

That all Serb lands
Can soon be united
Sun of freedom and righteousness
To shine to us at once:

To live in love and harmony
Help us, O Holy Father Sava,
Hearken the voice of the people,
The Serb nation!

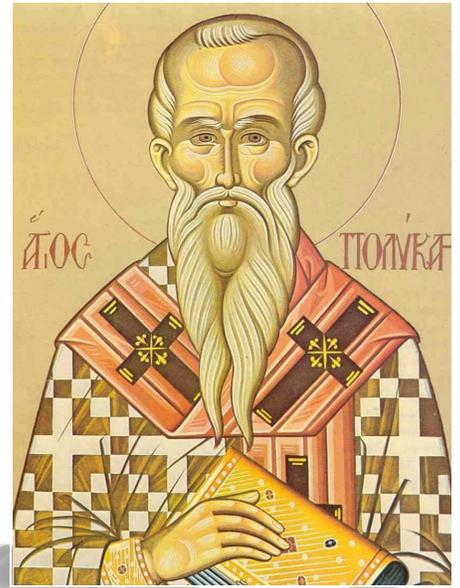
MARTYR POLYCARP of SMYRNA (February 23)

Polycarp was born a pagan, and was converted to the Faith of Christ and baptized by St John the Theologian. In his childhood, Polycarp became an orphan and according to a vision, Callista, a noble widow, took him as her own son, raised and educated him. From his childhood Polycarp was devout and compassionate. He strove to emulate the life of Bucolus, then Bishop of Smyrna, as well as the Apostles John and Paul, whom he knew and heard. Bucolus ordained him and before his death, Bucolus designated him as his successor in Smyrna.

The apostolic bishops, who gathered at the funeral of Bucolus, consecrated Polycarp as bishop. From the beginning, Polycarp was gifted with the power of working miracles. He expelled an evil spirit from the servant of a prince and through prayer stopped a terrible fire in Smyrna. Upon seeing this, many pagans regarded Polycarp as one of the gods. He brought down rain in times of drought, healed illnesses, discerned, prophesized and so forth.

He suffered during the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius. Three days before his death, he prophesized: "In three days, I will be burned in fire for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ!" And when the sol-

diers arrested him and brought him to trial, he cried: "Let this be the will of the Lord my God." When the judge counseled him to deny Christ and acknowledge the Roman gods, Polycarp said: "I cannot exchange the better for the worse!" When the Jews placed him bound at the stake, he prayed to God for a long while. The people saw how the flame encircled him but did not touch him. Frightened by such a phenomenon, the pagan judges ordered the executioner to pierce him with a lance. When he was pierced, so much blood flowed from him that the entire fire was extinguished, and his body remained unburned. At the persuasion of the Jews, the judge ordered Polycarp's lifeless body be incinerated according to the custom of the Hellenes. So they burned the dead body of the lifeless one whom they could not burn while alive, on Great and Holy Saturday in the year 167 AD.



SAINT INNOCENT of ALASKA (March 31)

In 1824, 30 years after the establishment of the Russian mission on Kodiak Island in Alaska, a new phase of mission work commenced. Fr. John Veniaminov, a 27-year old priest, arrived with his wife and family, beginning the 37 years of missionary work in Alaska of St Innocent, Apostle to America.

Fr. John was born in 1797 in the small village of Anga, near Irkutsk, Siberia, seven years before the glorification of St Innocent of Irkutsk. For eleven years he attended the school that St. Innocent had established in Irkutsk. Thus, it was appropriate when Fr. John later received his monastic name in honor of St Innocent of Irkutsk.

The brilliant future saint and bishop had numerous gifts. Besides being a scholar, linguist, scientist and writer, he had many practical and technical skills. In Alaska he worked tirelessly on behalf of the people, learned the Aleut and other native languages and created written alphabets for them, so he could translate the catechism, liturgical books and Bible for the natives and teach them to read.

While on a trip to Moscow, his wife died, and in 1840, he was tonsured a monk and consecrated as the first resident Bishop of Alaska. The Bishop traveled throughout his large, new diocese, preach-

ing and serving in native languages, expanding earlier work. His diocesan center was in Sitka, where he built St Michael Cathedral, and established a seminary.

In spite of his requests to retire due to ill health, in 1869 (just two years after Russia sold Alaska to the United States), St. Innocent was made Metropolitan of Moscow (the Head of the entire Russian Church), from where he continued to watch over his former missions. When he died in 1879, he was buried at the Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra Monastery. He was glorified as a saint in 1977, and now his relics are in the Dormition Cathedral there.

As a result of the missionary work of St. Herman and St. Innocent, thousands of native Alaskans came to know the Lord, and Orthodoxy was established in America, of which all Orthodox people in America are heirs today.



(Taken & abridged from Firebird Videos)



THE

ANNUNCIATION

*"Today marks the crowning of our salvation
and the revelation of the mystery before all ages.
For the Son of God becomes the son of the
Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the grace.
Wherefore, we also cry out with him,
"Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with you."*

(Tropar of the Annunciation, tone 4)

Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden. According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women."

*Rejoice,
you who are
Full of Grace,
the Lord is
with you...*

After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that all things are possible to the Most High, answered in humility:

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

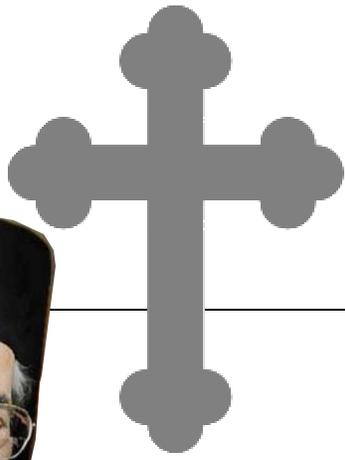
And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God, Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).

Bearing in her womb the Uncontainable One, the blessed Virgin went with haste from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, where Zacharias had his dwelling; for she desired to find Elizabeth her kinswoman and rejoice together with her, because, as she had learned from the Archangel, Elizabeth had conceived in her old age. Furthermore, she wished to tell her of the great things that the Mighty One had been well-pleased to bring to pass in her, and she greeted Elizabeth and drew nigh to her.

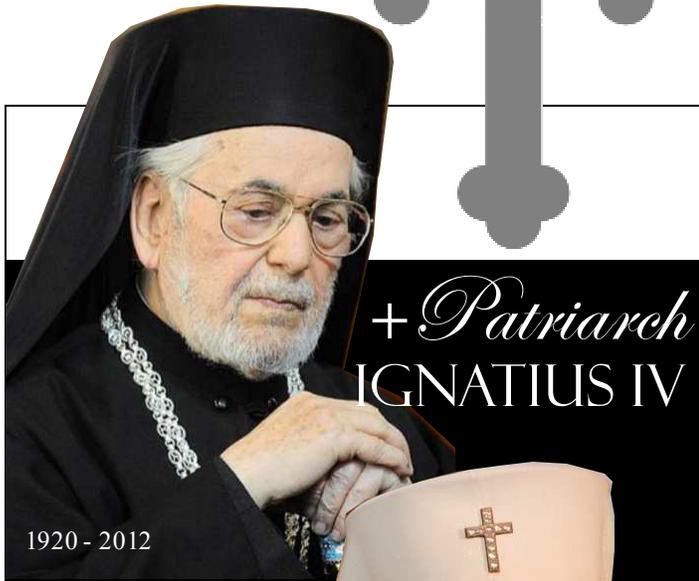
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt her six-month-old babe, Saint John the Baptist, prophesied of the dawning of the spiritual Sun. Immediately, the aged Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized her as the Mother of her Lord, and with a great voice blessed her and the Fruit that she held within herself. The Virgin also, moved by a supernatural rejoicing in the spirit, glorified her God and Savior, saying: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior," and the rest, as the divine Luke hath recorded (1:39-55)

This feast of the Church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is celebrated each year on March 25, nine months before the feast of the Nativity of the Lord.

(adapted from www.goarch.org)



The Triumph of Orthodoxy



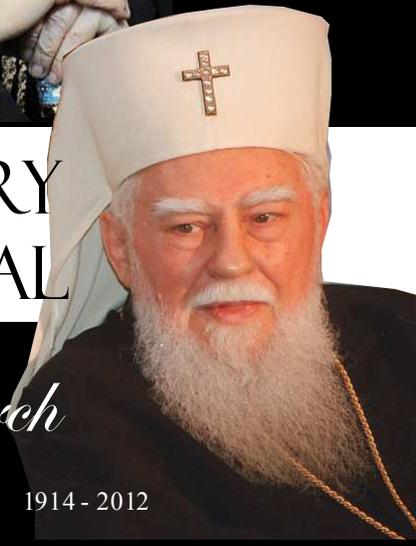
+ *Patriarch*
IGNATIUS IV

1920 - 2012

MEMORY
ETERNAL

+ *Patriarch*
MAXIM

1914 - 2012



The life of every Christian is meant to be that of sacrifice, of offering to the Lord our time, talents, treasures, praise and thanks for his blessings. The parish priest (and deacon), conveys to the people this necessary attitude. And the hierarch is to wisely teach and guide us on this journey to eternal salvation.

Yet, while God's People, the *laos tou theou* share this calling in life, some carry additional burdens, e.g. Archpriests, Archbishops, Metropolitans and Patriarchs.

- Two of the Patriarchs, national Fathers of their country, were
- **Patriarch Maxim** who served the Bulgarian Church through the painful decades of atheistic communism, and
 - **Patriarch Ignatius IV** of Antioch, who did the same while encouraging a powerful European youth movement, and establishing a respected Orthodox university.

Their leadership was *needed* at a specific time in history, and the gift of their lives blessed the Church!

The first Sunday of Great Lent is known as the Sunday of Orthodoxy. On that day in the year 842, the Empress Theodora proclaimed the restoration of the liturgical use of icons. For some one hundred years, the use of icons had been forbidden in the Byzantine Empire. While the controversy was settled at the Seventh Ecumenical Council in 787, full restoration of the veneration of icons did not take place until 842. Here in America, it is customary for Orthodox Christians to commemorate this event through the special Vesper Services that bring the greater Orthodox community together.

We venerate your most pure image O Good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions O Christ Our God; of your good-will you were pleased to ascend the cross for us and deliver your creatures from bondage to the enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You: You have filled all with joy O Our Savior for You came to save the world! (Tropar)

O Lord save your people and bless your inheritance, grant victory to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by virtue of your cross, preserve your habitation! (Tropar)



INVITATION...

Join us this year's Inter-Orthodox celebration of the "Triumph of Orthodoxy", March 24 (6pm) at Annunciation Cathedral (in Greektown). View the full schedule on page 8.

SUNDAY

LENTEN VESPER SERIES

2013

*Pray, learn and enjoy fellowship with us!
Free-will offering. All are welcome.
Services begin at 6:00pm.*

TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY | 24 MARCH
ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
707 EAST LAFAYETTE, DETROIT

ST GREGORY PALAMAS | 31 MARCH
ST MICHAEL RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
26355 WEST CHICAGO, REDFORD

THE HOLY CROSS | 7 APRIL
ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
21800 MAR TER. RD, ST CLAIR SHORES

ST JOHN OF THE LADDER | 14 APRIL
ST LAZARUS SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
4575 EAST OUTER DRIVE, DETROIT

ST MARY OF EGYPT | 21 APRIL
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
20484 ANGLIN ST, DETROIT

*Clergy should be vested in purple, except for March 24,
where blue or gold should be worn.*



SINGERS WANTED!

We invite choir members to participate in this year's Inter-Orthodox Lenten Choir! All (SATB) voice-parts are needed, so mark your calendar and join us. Music will be provided, but attendance at rehearsal is required.

Please contact Elizabeth Star (734 306-1486, estar2@mi.rr.com) with questions.

St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral
18405 W Nine Mile Rd, Southfield | www.sgroc.org

- ◆ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 (2-4pm)
- ◆ SUNDAY, MARCH 10 (2-4pm) *
- ◆ SUNDAY, MARCH 17 (2-4pm)

* *Pot-luck luncheon... Please bring a dish to share!*

LET US BEGIN THE FAST

With Joy!



Beloved Faithful,

If a person decides to eat only every few years, or once a year, or every few months, is it a good idea? No! Would you say it isn't a law that he/she has to eat, so at least they'll save money on food! Of course not! *They are going to die!* It is written in the law of Common Sense, the law of life.

Well, Our Lord said, "Unless you eat my Body and drink my Blood, you have no (spiritual; real) life in you". Is He mistaken? Do we think that if we don't eat *this* food we'll beat the odds? No, that's *His law*, period. We

Great Lent is the perfect time to exchange weak spiritual habits...

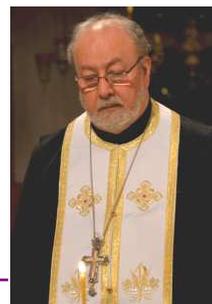
are to receive Him in Holy Communion as often as He is offered in the Divine Liturgy, because He has directed it as a matter of eternal life and death. Anyone who accepts Him must accept that unless we receive Him in Holy Communion there is only death. It isn't because of Fr Laurence, the hierarch, or the Diocesan By-laws (that mandate receiving the sacraments *at least* once a year)! It's Christ's law for Orthodox Christians, the

members of His Body, the (parish) Church and, therefore, what has been taught for 2000 years. Those who "know" otherwise are, sadly, mistaken; dead wrong.

Great Lent is the perfect time to exchange weak spiritual habits and nominal parish membership with living membership in the Body of Christ through the holy sacraments. None of us, including myself, are *worthy* to be members of His Body, the (parish) Church. *He gives us this gift in Baptism*. And as He lovingly calls us to receive Holy Communion, we must prepare ourselves through Holy Confession. So *don't delay*, prepare to receive Him *regularly and frequently* during Great Lent and the days of Pascha *by coming for Confession TODAY*. This is one of the best ways to make your Lenten journey meaningful.

During Great Lent...

- ❖ *Visit the home-bound or elderly*
- ❖ *Offer someone a ride to church*
- ❖ *Give money, clothing, food to the poor*
- ❖ *Say an extra prayer for yourself & others*
- ❖ *Get to Church on time, and often*
- ❖ *Participate in the extra services and programs*
- ❖ *Have your confession heard*
- ❖ *Forgive others, and ask to be forgiven by others*
- ❖ *Make God more present in your daily life*



The Very Reverend Fr Laurence Lazar has served as Dean of Saint George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral (www.sgroc.org), since 1991. He is a graduate of St Vladimir's Seminary, and is married to (Preoteasa) Anita. They have 3 children.

Within the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, he is Dean of the parishes in Michigan, Secretary of the diocesan Council, Chair of the Commission on Religious Art, Chair of the Joint Dialogue Commission (with the Romanian Patriarchate), etc.

Fr Laurence has volunteered as a Southfield Police Chaplain, and is a former President and current Vice President of the St John Chrysostom Clergy Brotherhood of Detroit.

COMMUNITY FEAST DAY SERVICES



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

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

The schedule for the first-half of this year is printed to the right. We invite you to mark your calendar and take advantage of our “Community Feast-day Services”, joining our brothers and sisters in prayer.

Join us!

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



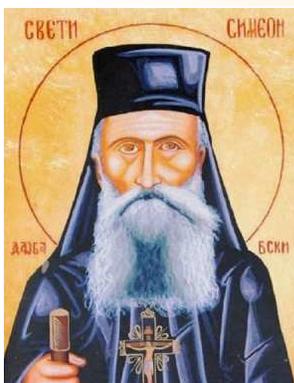
+
(Eve of) **The Three Hierarchs**
January 29
Divine Liturgy

St Mary Antiochian Church, 7pm
3212 W 12 Mile Rd, Berkley
www.cha.di.biz/stmary/main/



+
(Eve of) **St Raphael of Brooklyn**
February 26
Vespers

St Raphael Church, 7pm
23300 Davison West, Detroit
www.straphaeldetroit.org



+
(Eve of) **New St Simeon Popovic**
March 18
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

St Lazarus Serbian Cathedral, 7pm
4575 East Outer Drive, Detroit
www.ravanica.com



+
(Eve of) **Sts Constantine & Helen**
May 20
Vespers

Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Church, 7pm
36375 Joy Rd, Westland
www.stconsc.org



+
Ascension of the Lord
June 13
Hierarchal Liturgy

Holy Ascension Romanian Monastery, 10am
15143 Sheridan Rd, Clinton
www.holy-ascension.org

PARISH SPOTLIGHT...

SAINT MARY CHURCH

Serving the faithful and helping them grow into a union with Christ is the reason for the establishment of St. Mary of Berkley. The Antiochian Orthodox Church has three churches in the Metropolitan of Detroit area, but St. Mary has been attracting mostly the first generation of Arab speaking Syrian, Lebanese and Jordanians.

The community of St. Mary is very welcoming, open always to all and homey. The worshipers come to the church because they feel the Lord's presence and leave it being blessed.

Fr. George Baalbaki served this community for about 14 years until end of June 2013. He was able to build this community by sharing with them through these years the Love and care of the Lord. His departure and reassignment has left a huge gap that need to be filled. That is the challenge of Fr. Nabil Fino, our new priest, who has been very active in visiting the faithful

and praying for and with them.

Fr. Fino is building on what has already been established. The tasks and the challenges are great, but the grace and the spirit of corporation exits which will make these tasks and challenges less taxing. Christ said, "Where two or three gathered in my name there I will be in their midst."

Services at St. Mary are conducted in the Arabic language, with English used as well. We are located on West Twelve Mile Rd., west of Coolidge in downtown Berkley.



SAINT MARY'S ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese
3212 W 12 Mile Rd, Berkley MI 48072
Telephone 248 546-0880
www.chadi.biz/stmary/main/

Rev Fr Nabil Fino



ORTHODOX CHURCHES OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

**Saints Peter & Paul
Romanian Orthodox Church**
Founded 1929

www.spproc.org
750 N Beech Daly, Dearborn Hts
Very Rev Fr Romey Rosco
Rev Fr Horatiu Balanean

*Romanian Orthodox Episcopate
of America*



**Saint Clement Ohridski
Macedono-Bulgarian Church**
Founded 1927/1935

www.stclementchurch.net
19600 Ford Rd, Dearborn
Rev Fr Slavcho Panev

*Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox
Diocese of USA, Canada
& Australia*



**Assumption
Greek Orthodox Church**
Founded 1930

www.goassumption.org
28100 Marter, St Clair Shores
Very Rev Fr Michael Varlamos
Rev Fr Tom Michalos

*Greek Orthodox Metropolis
of Detroit*



Orthodox Detroit Outreach

is an effort by all Detroit-area Orthodox Christians, and encourages participation and input by everyone in our Church community. If you would like to get involved in a scheduled event, you are always welcomed and encouraged to do so. If you would like to schedule an event or know of an event in which others can participate, let us know and we will help you spread the word!

We will be hosting events at least once every month at various locations in and around Detroit. As these events are scheduled, we will spread the word through Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, and word-of-mouth. We will let you know when and where the events are, what we will be doing, and what, if anything, participants will be asked to bring with them. If you would like to be included in our e-mailing list, please send us an email with your name and email address. That information can be sent to info@orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org.

We are always eager to hear from our friends who know of upcoming events in which we can get involved. Do you know of a family member or fellow parishioner who is engaged in an outreach effort and could use some help? Let us know and we can help gather support. Or, perhaps you

would like to set up an event yourself? Maybe you would like to gather a group to deliver meals to shut-ins, or pick up litter along a stretch of road, or shovel snow for people who can't do it themselves. We hope you will contact us and we can help you!



I N V I T A T I O N

"State of ODO... where we are, where we've been, where we're going"

TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2013 - 6:30pm

St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield

Main course & beverages provided

If able, please bring a dish to pass!

RSVP by Feb 15: 313.706.0666

OCW
20years

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2013

St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral
(18405 W 9 Mile Rd, Southfield) 2:00pm

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF MICHIGAN

Please celebrate with us as we look back on some of our accomplishments and break bread sharing a delicious lunch! The Very Reverend Abbess Mother Gabriella (Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction) will offer a presentation on 'A Woman's role in the church, now and in the future'.

Advance reservations are required. Please send your check made to 'OCW' for \$25.00, to Kathy Sedor, 1156 Drexel, Dearborn MI 48128. Contact Mary Ann Dadich at 586-775-4799 or mdadich811@gmail.com with any questions. Our elections follow the presentation which is open to everyone.

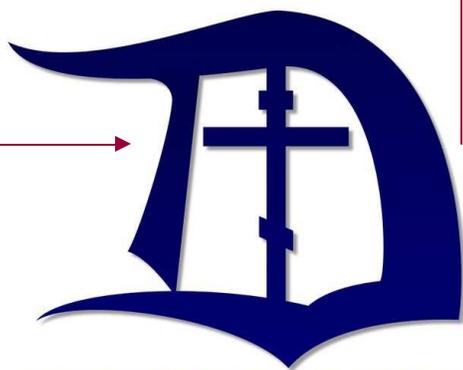
AFFILIATE MINISTRIES OF THE COCC...

THE ORTHODOX CHOIR OF DETROIT

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

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

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



ORTHODOX **DETROIT** OUTREACH

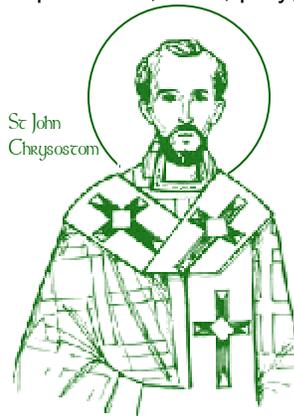
ORTHODOX DETROIT OUTREACH (ODO)

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

PO Box 38511, Detroit MI 48238
orthodoxdetroitoutreach.org

ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM CLERGY BROTHERHOOD

The Orthodox Clergy of metropolitan Detroit gather throughout the year as part of the "Saint John Chrysostom" Brotherhood, as a way to share their pastoral experiences, learn, pray, and interact with one another on a unique level. All priests and deacons in good canonical order are invited to take part. The president of the Clergy Brotherhood, by virtue of his office, also serves as the Spiritual Advisor for the COCC.



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

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN (OCW)

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

Annual observances of its founding are celebrated in February with a lunch and election of a Board of Directors. The twentieth anniversary of its founding will be observed in February 2013 at the Romanian Cultural Center at St George's Cathedral.

For further information, you may contact **Mary Ann Dadich at 586-775-4799 or mdadich811@gmail.com.**

BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT MOSES

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

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

Q&A

Does the Orthodox Church practice "Open Communion"?

Answer by Fr S Tsihchlis,
St Paul Greek Orthodox
Church (Irvine CA)

In the strictest sense the Communion of the Orthodox Church is open to all repentant believers. That means we are glad to receive new members in the Orthodox Church. The Orthodox concept of "Communion" is totally holistic, and radically different from that of most other Christian groups. We do not separate the idea of "Holy Communion" from "Being in Communion," "Full Communion," "Inter-Communion" and total "Communion in the Faith."

In the Orthodox Church therefore, to receive Holy Communion, or any other Sacrament (Mystery), is taken to be a declaration of total commitment to the Orthodox Faith. While we warmly welcome visitors to our services, it is understood that

only those communicant members of the Orthodox Church who are prepared by confession and fasting will approach and receive the Holy Mysteries / Holy Communion.

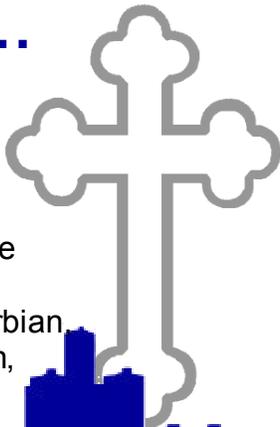
EDITOR'S NOTE:

As this is a short yet informative answer regarding non-Orthodox receiving Communion in our Church, we should also understand that although other Christian denominations may offer Communion TO us, we as Orthodox are only to receive the Holy Eucharist in an Orthodox Church. For example, I attended Catholic schools for 13 years, and although I was told I could receive communion at mass, I respectfully never did, being mindful that as an Orthodox Christian I prepared to receive Communion only after participating in an Orthodox Liturgy.

DID YOU KNOW...

there are nearly 40 Orthodox parishes here in metropolitan Detroit, that are welcomed into COCC membership?

Each canonical jurisdiction of the Orthodox world is represented: Greek, Russian, Romanian, Serbian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Antiochian, and others...



IN GREAT LENT...

Evening Communion

The purpose of the evening Pre-Sanctified Liturgies is to enable the faithful to receive Holy Communion more frequently during Great Lent. How should one prepare to receive the Holy Eucharist? First, you need to observe the fast. Since it is hard to keep strict fast all day, you may have a Lenten breakfast in the morning and, then, if necessary, a light meal at lunch. After this, strict fast is required. This means nothing to eat or drink. Confession is also necessary. If in doubt, ask your Priest!

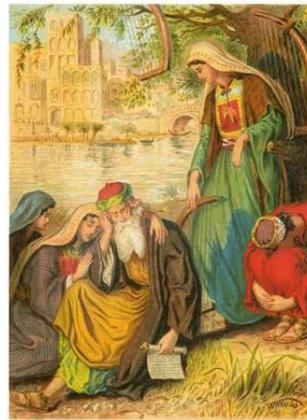


Note: Your priest / parish may have a different expectation or custom. If you are not sure, give father a call!

Hymn of Exile Leads Us Home

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and we wept when we remembered Zion. We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it. For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, and those who plundered us requested mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget its skill! If I do

not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy. (Ps. 137, 1-6)



This song of the Jewish Babylonian captivity became known as the hymn of those in exile. Spiritually, humanity is in such a state of alienation. For

this reason, three Sunday before Lent, at Matins, the Polyeleion is being sung on the Orthodox Church. The verses of this Psalm remind us of the heavenly Zion and that we are all in exile from our heavenly home. They call us to ever remember our spiritual origins and to return to that place and that condition. Romanians say: "He who returns enters Paradise." Repentance is indeed a precondition of our true return home.

(the Weekly Bulletin of St George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral)

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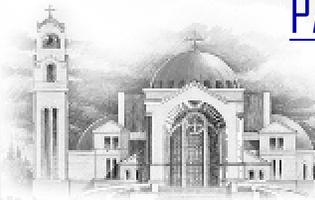
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PARENTING:

Meeting Critical Challenges
of Effective Parenting

Dr John T Chirban

Speaker



Saturday, March 2 (10am-2pm)

Antiochian Basilica of Saint Mary

Merriman Rd (between 6 & 7 Mile Rds), Livonia

Call Fr Jim King for details (734) 422-0010

Register online: saintmarylivonia.com (\$10 includes lunch)

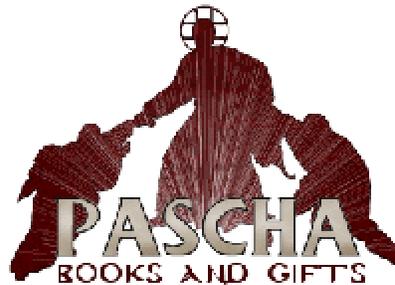
A&A

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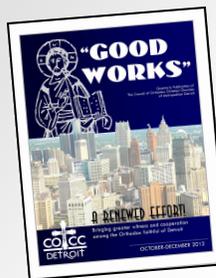
*"Celebrity Estate Plans Gone Bad...
Secrets Every Woman Needs to Prevent Emotional
and Financial Turmoil When a Loved One Passes"*

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Special offers for Church-related events as well!

In Support of the COCC!



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 9 ODO Lunch-making session, 10am
St Paul Cathedral, Dearborn Heights
- 10 OCW 20th Anniversary Memorial & Lunch, 2pm
St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 12 COCC Monthly meeting, 7pm
Holy Trinity Church, Detroit
- 17 ODO Community Lunch serving, 2pm
Sts Peter & Paul Cathedral, Detroit
- 19 "State of the ODO" gathering & meal, 7pm
St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 26 +Eve of St Raphael of Brooklyn
CFS Vespers, 7pm; St Raphael Church, Detroit

MARCH

- 2 ODO Lunch-making session, 10am
Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia
Annual "Mărtisor" (Rite of Spring) Dance, 7pm
St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield
- 9 Fundraising Event
St Raphael Church, Detroit
- 10 Farewell to meat
- 12 COCC monthly meeting, 7pm (location TBA)
- 17 Farewell to dairy (Forgiveness Sunday)
ODO Community Lunch serving, 2pm
Sts Peter & Paul Cathedral, Detroit
- 18 Start of Great Lent
Community Feast-day Service (#2), 7pm
St Raphael of Brooklyn Church, Detroit
OCW speaker-series, 7pm
"Supporting our Service Men & Women"
St George Antiochian Church, Troy
- 20 Ash Wednesday (Western-rite) Mass, 6pm
Holy Incarnation Church, Lincoln Park
- 24 +Sunday of Orthodoxy
Lenten Vespers (#1), 6pm
Annunciation Greek Cathedral, Detroit
- 25 +Feast of the Annunciation
Patronal Feast Hierarchal Liturgy, 10am
Annunciation Greek Cathedral, Detroit
- 30 Lenten Retreat
St Thomas Church, Farmington Hills
- 31 Lenten Vespers (#2), 6pm
St Michael Russian Church, Redford

ODO - Orthodox Detroit Outreach sponsored event

OCW - Orthodox Christian Women sponsored event

CFS - Community Feast-day Service Program

**Unless noted, all are welcome at published events.
Parishes are encouraged to send calendars to us!**

Volunteers...

We need YOUR help!



- Is our Orthodox Faith important to you?
- Could you spare a few hours a month?
- Would you like to meet new people?
- Can you help your parish?
- Are you interested in helping others?
- Do you want to make a difference?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, then COCC Detroit has a place for you!

We need caring, energetic people (this means YOU!) to join us in our good works... the commitment is minimal, but the rewards are great! Our expanding list of programs and opportunities has something for everyone, and new ideas are always welcome... so please join us at our monthly meeting, as each parish is encouraged to participate with their priest(s) and 2 lay representatives. Your presence is a first-step to making our organization better!

Call President Robert Mitchell (313 204-5103) with inquiries. We look forward to having you.

GOOD WORKS

JAN-MAR 2013



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