



# Newsletter August 2017

Christ is in our midst!

## St. Michael the Archangel Serbian Orthodox Parish

Saturday Vespers 6:00 PM Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Website: [www.stmichaelsv.org/](http://www.stmichaelsv.org/)

### [Click here for St. Michaels Website Calendar](#)

**Wednesday, Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Prophet Elijah

†6:00 pm Vespers

**Wednesday, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>**

†Ve†6:00 pm Vespers

**Monday, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Beginning of Dormition Fast**

**Wednesday, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>**

†6:00 pm Vespers

**Friday, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>**

†6:00 pm Vespers Feast of Transfiguration

**Saturday, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> – The Holy Transfiguration  
of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Liturgy

†6:00 pm Vespers for Sunday

**Wednesday, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

†6:00 pm Vespers

**Sunday, Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> – Prophet Micah (8th c. B.C.).**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Liturgy

†6:00 pm Vespers Feast of Dormition

**Monday Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> – Dormition of the Theotokos**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Liturgy

**End of the Dormition Fast**

### **Coffee Hour:** (\*Dormition Fast)

Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> – Huron

Sept. 3<sup>RD</sup> – Pastrick

Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> – Kaiser

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> – Platt

\*Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> – Kendall

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – Pickle

\*Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> – Malmede

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – Sievers

Note: *If you cannot be at church on your Sunday, please arrange to trade places with someone from the coffee hour list that can.*

### **Birthdays:**

### **Anniversaries:**

2<sup>nd</sup> – Aleksandra Barth

15<sup>th</sup> – David & Cate Queener

10<sup>th</sup> – Mark Novak

14<sup>th</sup> – David Hogan

16<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Couch

24<sup>th</sup> – Michele Jokich

29<sup>th</sup> – Tatiana Shadrina

**Announcements:** Anya Seivers and Cate Queener's Baby Shower on Sunday, August 6 at Matushka's home – RSVP.

Charles and Clayton Walker were baptized on July 9. Gavin Boost was made a catechumen on July 30, please welcome them. The driveway has been put in at the entrance of the new Church property on Madison Blvd.

**Thanks:** We thank Justin Novak for the pre-cut Icon Shrines for the children to construct at the Orthodox Children's Camp and thanks to Anya Seivers and Serena Harwell for organizing it.

**Prayers:** Please pray for Fr. Seraphim Joa's recovery from surgery.

**Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment** – Luke 10:5 "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!'"

# St. Michael's News

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**The Glorification of St. Mardarije July 14 – 17 in Chicago:** Fr. Gregory, Matushka Ann, Monica, Bob and Mary Zarzaur and Charles Malmede and his daughter Robin attended this celebration. It was wonderful to participate with Orthodox Christians from all over the United States, Canada, Serbia and other countries. It was truly an international event filled with the Grace from the incorrupt relics of Saint Mardarije. Friday night Vespers were served at the Holy Resurrection Cathedral 30 minutes from New Gracanica. Saturday at 9:00 am was a Hierarchical Liturgy at New Gracanica which all of us from Huntsville attended. Fr. Gregory concelebrated and was asked to assist Patriarch Iriney at the end of the Liturgy. Some of us were able to attend the lunch at New Gracanica. On Saturday at 5:00 pm there was a Vigil Service at St. Sava Cathedral at Libertyville, a much smaller space, and Monica and Matushka were within 3 feet of His Eminence and were able to venerate the coffin containing the relics of St. Mardarije. The culmination occurred on Sunday 9:00 am at an outdoor Hierarchical Liturgy at St. Sava Monastery under a tent. The cover was off of St. Mardarije's coffin so that you could see his incorrupt hands through a glass covering. It seems that several thousand people attended. There were 5 priests confessing and 5 priests serving Communion followed by a long procession around the cemetery with the coffin of St. Mardarije.

**The Orthodox Children's Camp July 24 – 25 at St. Michael's, Huntsville:** The camp began with a field trip at Cathedral Caverns with 18 adults and children taking a 1½ hour tour followed by a picnic. It was a beautiful day and the children experienced first-hand what it was like to be in a cave; they experienced darkness, dampness and cooler temperatures. On Tuesday, Fr. Gregory talked about the cave-dwelling saints; St. Anthony of the Kiev Caves, St. John of Cyprus and St. John of Rila, Bulgaria. The older children constructed two icon shrines that were pre-cut by Justin Novak that will be nailed to trees at our new Church property on Madison Boulevard. The other children glued icons of the cave dwellers on wooden plaques, painted them and nailed a hook on the back to take home with them. We then had outdoor activities with a water balloon fight followed by a pizza lunch. On Wednesday, we lit candles in the Church and Fr. Gregory talked about how the Holy Fire from Pascha in Jerusalem was transported to our Church in Huntsville. Then the kids decorated sanctuary candles with Christian symbols. Anya Sievers told the story of Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego – the Three Holy Youths in the Furnace from the Book of Daniel – and how they were not burned by the Holy Fire. Afterwards, Fr. Gregory lit their candles with the Holy Fire from the Church to take home.

**New Church Property Driveway:** The driveway entrance has now been installed at our new church property! This will enable us to begin the process of clearing the trees that are unfortunately in the way of the buildings and roadways. Please keep this project in your prayers. With God all things are possible!

**Baptisms, Catechumens and Inquirers:** This past month, St. Michael's celebrated the baptisms of Charles and Clayton Walker. Gavin Boost was also blessed as a new catechumen. We are also very happy that several new Inquirers have been visiting St. Michael's and are interested in learning about the Orthodox Christian faith.







## Finishing the Course

We often think of annual cycles in terms of the school year or the calendar year. However, the Church (or Liturgical) Year follows a heavenly, rather than an earthly cycle. St. John Maximovitch once said that the Nativity of the Mother of God (Sept. 8/21) is at the beginning of the Liturgical (Church) Year and her Holy Dormition (Aug. 15/28) is at the end of the Liturgical Year.

As St. Paul wrote in Romans 12:2, *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* As Orthodox Christians, the Holy Church has given us the whole cycle of Divine Services, Feasts and Fasts for our spiritual benefit. While time and space are only found here in this fallen world, the Church Year sanctifies time itself and in the Divine Services and Cycles of the Church, heaven and earth come together.

We’ve been hearing about the upcoming solar eclipse that will happen on August 21<sup>st</sup>. While this is an astronomical event, it can also serve as an image of heavenly events. If we want to see the eclipse, we’ll have to make some preparations: get some special glasses so we don’t ruin our eyes, and then find out where and when the best time to view it will be. Yet this is merely an event in the material world. Heavenly events also require preparation. There are two events that will take place in the heavenly world during the month of August, when heaven and earth will come together and it will be possible to experience a foretaste of heaven. Yes, God is ‘everywhere present and fillest all things,’ but the Great Feasts of the Church offer us a special opportunity to experience God’s Grace more readily.

On Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ will take place at St. Michael’s Church. Then, on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God (following a two-week fast in preparation for the feast) will take place. There will be a vespers service the night before each of these great feasts and then an Orthos service and Divine Liturgy on the mornings of the feasts.

As written in Matthew 6:33 in the Sermon on the Mount, our Lord instructed us: *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* If we will learn to organize our lives around the great feasts and fasts of the Church, we will ‘seek first the kingdom of God’ and in so doing, will fulfill this great commandment of our Lord. Then, ‘all these things’ will be added unto us: that is, food, clothing, housing, etc. More importantly, we will be found pleasing to God and He will grant us His great blessing!

May our Lord help us to practice our faith by paying attention to the great feasts and fasts and participating as much as we are able, that we too may be counted worthy to enter into the kingdom of heaven when we depart this life. Amen!



### Prayer List:

**Living:** **Church Members & Orthodox Friends** Please pray for God's help with building the future church and hall on our new property on Madison Blvd.; Loren Capsapoulos, Dolores Gelemny, Jim Cesari, Lisa Craft, Ivan Fontane, Angela Gafton, Olga Gulas, Leslie Hargrave, Harris family, Phil Harwell & family, Kathe Hoyer, Mat. Julie Joa, Weston Letson, Allen Morgan, Sean Perry & family, Tim Waskerwitz, Kurt Weber. **Friends of Members:** Pamfilis Family, Cheryl Brown, Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros, Martin Gureasko, Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne, Kara, Glen, Todd McCaffery, Steve McCreary.

**Reposed:** Angela Gafton's Father; Ron Waskerwitz, Christopher Pamfilis, Alexa & Hayden Hannig, Nicolae Caracalean, Valentina, Vangie Pamfilis, Milan Petrovic, Boris and Mary Kochoff, Mary, Sam, Frances, Joe, Anne, Stan, Daniel, Anna, Fryni, Nelia, Natalie.

### Committees/Chairpersons:

Choir Director – Sandy Ellis  
Ass't Choir Director – Matushka Ann  
Sisterhood President – Iryna Haddock  
Sunday School Director - Matushka Ann  
Sunday School Teacher—Serena Harwell  
Library & Bookstore – Matushka Ann  
Building Maintenance – Bob Zarzaur & Rick Kaiser  
Welcoming Committee Coordinator – Charles Malmede  
Capital Campaign – Hal Pastrick and Joe Bergantz  
Website – Charles Malmede  
Newsletter Bulletin – Rick Kaiser  
Candle/ Supplies – Rick Kaiser

### Church Council – 2016 to 2017

Father Gregory Schultz – Parish Administrator  
Bob Zarzaur– President  
Michele Platt – Vice President  
Joe Bergantz – Treasurer  
Pavel (Elliot) Sievers – Secretary

**Members at large** – Kathy Couch, Rick Kaiser, Charles Malmede, Hal Pastrick

Please note: the Church telephone number is: **256-881-2449**

Office hours at the church are as follows.\*

Tues: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Wed: 12 noon – 6:00 pm, Thurs: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

*\*Please note: while Fr. Gregory will normally be at the church during these times, pastoral needs are given priority (i.e.; when someone is ill, etc.). If you need to see him, please call ahead.*