



Newsletter March 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.stmichaelshsv.org/

See link – ST. MICHAEL’S CALENDAR:

* www.stmichaelshsv.org/ Please check calendar for details

Wednesday, March 1st – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy*

Thursday, March 2nd – 6:00 pm Great Canon of St. Andrew

Sunday, March 5th – Sunday of Orthodoxy.

† Shared Vesper services with meal following at Holy Cross - St. Constantine & Helen at 5:00 pm – Please RSVP

Wednesday, March 8th – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy*

Sunday, March 12th – St. Gregory Palamas

Wednesday, March 15th – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy*

Thursday, March 16th – 6:00 Sisterhood Mtg.

Sunday, March 19th – Adoration of Cross.

Wednesday, March 22th – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy*

Sunday, March 26th – St. John the Ladder

*6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy (those wishing to receive Communion should not eat or drink anything after lunchtime)

Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment – Luke 10:5 “Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’”

Supplies Needed!

- Olive Oil (regular, not virgin)
- Kleenex

Coffee Hour: (* Lenten Fast)

*March 5 th – Haddock	*April 2 nd – Kaiser
*March 12 th – Harwell/Couch	*April 9 th – Kendall
*March 19 th – Hogan/Schultz	April 16 th – Pascha
*March 26 th – Huron	April 23 rd – Malmede/Chynoweth
	April 30 th – Pastrick

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:

3rd – Iryna Haddock
18th – Bob Pickle
18th – Jeremy Harwell
19th – Lucas Novak
21ST – Brad Chynoweth
22nd – David Brown

Anniversaries:

16th – Steve & Robbie Cox

Thanks to our Members!

We thank *Charles Malmede* and his sister, Susan Malmede Jackson, who have been designing and producing the St. Michael’s yearly calendar for several years. *Charles’s* sister is a graphic artist.

Please Pray For:

Robbie Cox who’s sister, Brenda Boss, reposed unexpectedly. *Loren and Rob Capsapoulos* who have been ill with a virus, *Phil Harwell* who recently had surgery in his neck.

Join Us for a Lenten Spiritual Film Festival

Thursday, March 9 at 6:00 pm – Orthodox Adventures:

Ascent to Heaven and The Life of a Monk – Spruce Island

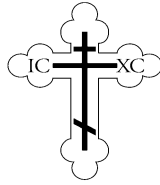
Thursday, March 23 at 6:00 pm – *The Island*

Diocesan Assembly:

Fr. Gregory, Matushka Ann, Bob Zarzaur, Charles Malmede and Rick Kaiser will be attending the Archdiocesan Assembly in Chicago – New Gracanica Friday, March 31 – April 1.

The new sign on our new property; Jeremy Haddock's baptism on Sunday, February 19, 2017, and Maryna Hamby's baby shower on Monday, February 20





Great Lent: Our Spiritual Journey

At this time we have just begun the journey of Great Lent. As with any journey, we anticipate arriving at our destination: in this case, the Bright Resurrection of Christ—the Feast of Feasts: Pascha! The Feast of Passover (*Pesach* as it's called in Hebrew, and *Pascha* in Greek), signifies the “crossing-over” from the worldly life to the spiritual life. Just as the people of Israel were led out of the bondage of Egypt and followed Moses in the wilderness for 40 years on their journey to the Promised Land, so the 40-day fast of Great Lent is intended to be a means of spiritual purification and renewal to prepare us to enter more deeply into that spiritual Promised Land on the Feast of Pascha.

Many Holy Fathers have seen in Moses, a prefiguring of Christ. Moses gave the Commandments of the Law to the chosen people of Israel and Christ fulfilled that Law and calls us to an even higher standard of spiritual life to repent of our sins, forgive one another and love one another. Moses fasted for 40 days on Mt. Sinai and received the covenant of the Law; Christ fasted for 40 days in the wilderness, overcame the temptations of the world, the flesh and the Devil, and began His saving ministry for us all.

Archbishop Andrew Rymarenko once referred to the fast of Great Lent as a kind of “spiritual academy which will reveal to us the laws of life and the laws of our heart which we need so much.” When one is a student and attending school, in order to learn the lessons properly and pass the tests, we must attend the classes, pay attention and study the textbooks. So it is with the spiritual academy of Lent. In order to derive the spiritual benefit that we very much need, it is not enough to simply avoid meat and dairy products alone. There are people who do not even believe in God and yet observe a vegan diet for other reasons.

In the Gospel of Matthew 5:20 the Lord said, “...*Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*” This was because the scribes and Pharisees fulfilled only the outer, moral aspects of the commandments, but neglected the inner spirit of them. During Great Lent, we should make an effort to attend as many of the church services as possible, give confession, pay attention to the Lenten prayers and readings, and take time to study the Scriptures and writings of our Holy Fathers about the spiritual life. The book “*The Ladder of Divine Ascent*” by St. John Climacus is appointed to be read each year during Great Lent.

We're all familiar with recordings of ‘the greatest hits’ of popular bands or classical composers. Great Lent, in a sense, could be considered ‘the greatest hits’ of the spiritual life! The Sundays before Lent remind us to repent of our sins: Zaccheus the tax collector who repented by giving away all his wealth to those he had wronged and to the poor; the Publican and the Pharisee who demonstrated how we must not be proud in our outward accomplishments, but that we must be humble and confess our sins before God if we wish to be justified; the Prodigal Son, who acknowledged his sinfulness and made up his mind to return to his Father in repentance; the Sunday of the Last Judgment that admonishes us with a vision of the dread Day of Judgment that we will each encounter, and Forgiveness Sunday that teaches us to forgive one another, so that God will forgive us.

Then, the Sundays of Lent teach us about the Triumph of Orthodoxy and the proper veneration of Holy Icons; St. Gregory Palamas who confirmed the importance and practice of spiritual prayer; The Adoration of the Cross in which we see how we must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ; St. John Climacus and the Ladder of Divine Ascent which teaches us how to struggle against the passions/sins with God's help to acquire the virtues; and St. Mary of Egypt who gave us great consolation by showing us that no matter how great our sins are, if we repent, there is nothing that God cannot forgive.

We have been given this time of spiritual renewal and our Holy Church calls us to do all we can to take advantage of this opportunity. Our merciful God knows how weak we are, and yet He calls us to make our best effort to be obedient to His commandments. Let us keep the fast, attend as many Church services as possible and pray at home as well, do good deeds, come to Holy Confession and receive absolution for our sins, participate in Holy Communion and forgive and love one another. Then Pascha will be for us a true crossing over to the blessings of the spiritual Promised Land! May God bless you!

+Fr. Gregory

Donations in Memory or In Honor of:

\$20.00 from *Michele Platt* in honor of her birthday and for her family's good health!

\$20.00 anonymously toward the St. Michael's building fund.

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, Robbie Cox, Kathy Couch, Pat Darzi, 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, Justin Novak, Sean Perry & family, Chris Sweeney, Catrina Thomas, Ron Waskerwitz, 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: 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
Church Supply Coordinator – Loren Capsopoulos
Legal Advisor—Brad Chynoweth
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.*