



# Newsletter October 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/](http://www.stmichaelshsv.org/)

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

#### **Tuesday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> –**

†6:00 pm Church Council

#### **Wednesday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>**

†6:00 pm Vespers. Followed by 7:00pm Study Group “*Struggle for Virtue*” by Archbp. Averky

**Sunday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> –** Commemoration of the earthquake in Constantinople in 447, when a boy was lifted to heaven and heard the “Trisagion”

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Liturgy

#### **Wednesday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>**

†6:00 pm Vespers. Followed by 7:00pm Study Group “*Struggle for Virtue*” by Archbp. Averky

#### **Saturday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> – Protection of the Theotokos**

†6:00 pm Vespers.

**Sunday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> –** Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin-martyr Justina and Martyr Theoctistus of Nicomedia.

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Liturgy

#### **Wednesday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>**

†6:00 pm Vespers. Followed by 7:00pm Study Group “*Struggle for Virtue*” by Archbp. Averky

#### **Sunday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Liturgy

**Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> –** Visit from His Eminence Bishop Longin

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Liturgy

†12:00pm Ordination of Sub-Deacon & Readers

†1:30pm Blessing of new church property

### **Coffee Hour:**

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – Zarzaur

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – Haddock

Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – Bergantz

Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> – Hartley

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – Cox

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – Harwell/Couch

Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Darzi/Baker

Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – Hogan/Schultz

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> – Ellis/Fontane

**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 – Samuel Novak

7th – David & Cheryl Brown

5th – Samuel Braun

15th – Charles & Anastasia Malmede

8th – Ivan Sievers

16<sup>th</sup> – Bob & Mary Zarzaur

11th – Tim Harwell

16<sup>th</sup> – Justin & Lisa Novak

14th – Vincent Novak

21st – Cate Queener

26th – Benjamin Huch

27th – Sophia Harwell

### **Anniversaries:**

**Thanks:** To all who helped with the September work parties on the new property – *Sam Braun, Christopher Sweeney, Matthew Hartley, Hal Pastrick, Rick Kaiser, Ken Frack, Eric Huch, James Manley, Greg Barth, Steve Cox, Joe Jefferson, Emil Jovanov, and especially Christopher Murphy* who helped clear out the massive amount of brush and small trees in the clearing areas: driveway, fellowship hall, church, parking, etc. Also, many thanks to Matushka Ann who has been serving up her delicious venison chili.

### **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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**2017 Annual Assembly:** Held on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, this year's Annual Assembly included a financial presentation from our Treasurer Joe Bergantz. St. Michael's is in good shape financially and meeting its operating expenses. We are going to need to boost our fundraising efforts and pledge campaign in the near future, as we continue to develop our new church property. (Please fill out a monthly pledge form or make an annual contribution to the building fund if you have not already done so.) Fr. Gregory presented an update of all the miraculous blessings St. Michael's has received in helping us acquire and develop the new church property over the past year! President Bob presented a plan for some of the next steps. This year's church council members took their oath of office. The slate of officers and members is: President: Bob Zarzaur; Vice President: Michele Platt; Treasurer: Matthew Hartley; Secretary: Pavel Sievers; At-large members: Joe Bergantz, Kathy Couch, Rick Kaiser, Charles Malmede, Hal Pastrick.

**Church Property Work Parties:** This month's work continued at the new Church Property. The trees have now been cleared in the areas designated for the driveway, parking lot, cemetery, church and fellowship hall. We will now be working on removing the stumps and leftover treetop limbs in preparation for the new gravel driveway and parking area that we hope to have completed in time for Bishop Longin's visit on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**New Spiritual Study Group:** On Wednesdays, right after Vespers, our Spiritual Study Group will continue based on the book "*The Struggle for Virtue*" by Archbishop Averky (who was a close friend of St. John Maximovitch). We also enjoy a fasting meal of soup and bread (\$5 donation requested). Please consider coming to enrich your spiritual life!

**Guest Speaker:** On September 21<sup>st</sup>, St. Michael's was honored to host Orthodox Architect Taylor Hostetter for an inspiring and fascinating presentation on the principles and beauty of Byzantine architecture. We had a very good turnout and some excellent discussion over cookies and refreshments following the presentation.

**On Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>,** we are all excited to welcome our Bishop Longin for a visit. He will serve an Hierarchical Liturgy and will ordain Bob Zarzaur as a Sub-Deacon and will tonsure the following Readers: Charles Malmede, Ray Kendall, Joe Bergantz, Matthew Hartley, Rick Kaiser and Steve Cox. After a short meal, he will come out to our new church property and bless a large cross that will be erected on the spot where the future church will be built.

**Coming Soon:** The visit of the Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon from Hawaii is in the process of being scheduled sometime in December. Stay tuned!





**Children's Program**



**2017 Annual Assembly**



**Working on the New Church Property**



**St. Sophia Sisterhood Slava**



**Guest Speaker Taylor Hostetter**



## **Vision for St. Michael's**

Fr. Michael Pomazansky (author of *Orthodox Dogmatic Theology*), once wrote an article called “*The Purpose of the Orthodox Parish*.” He used a quote from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter 4:11-13; “*And He gave some, apostles, and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*” Here then, is [the purpose of the Orthodox Parish]: the perfecting of the saints, the work of ministry, the building up of the Body of Christ...

Fr. Michael explained that “*the perfecting of the saints*,” is the moral perfecting of the members of the Church. The salvation of souls in Christ is **first** and foremost; it must not be relegated to second place....Salvation in Christ is attained through prayer, through Divine services, the regulations of the Church, deeds of love and beneficence, and spiritual struggle...

The **second** task is the work of ministry—to God and to men...Participation in the [Church] services—in church reading and singing, **in constructing churches**, in caring for the beauty and cleanliness of the church—these are some examples of works, “for God.” Ministry to men includes all manner of charitable activity for the needy, help for the sick and [other] efforts on behalf of others...A special and very important task is the religious upbringing of children and youth. This cannot be underestimated, for we are in danger of seeing the younger generations fall away from the Church...

The **third** task, the building up of the body of Christ, is ministry for the Church as a whole...We should never lose sight of the image of the whole Orthodox Church...Ministry to the Church as a whole means caring for church centers...At the local level, we are indebted to these Church centers. The Church Administration makes sure that the services are conducted properly...it safeguards the succession of episcopal and priestly ordination; it looks after the training and preparation of clergy, and provides pastors for church communities...It guards the Church against arbitrariness and against those people who introduce scandal into the Church. It safeguards the external dignity of Orthodoxy as well. It cuts off overt moral temptations, wards off attacks on faith and the Church, wherever they may come from. It is responsible for both the ideological defense of the Church and for her [legal] defense, when this called for...The task of building up the body of Christ's Church is great and many-sided. On the parish level it means that the parish community not shut itself up in its own narrow sphere, but that it be a beneficial and necessary, conscious part of the whole church body.

To summarize,

- **First:** we are called to work out our salvation—to practice prayer, fasting and almsgiving (and doing good deeds)—to attend the Divine Services as often as possible, to give confession and receive Holy Communion; to study the Sacred Scriptures and the writings of the Holy Fathers and Lives of Saints.
- **Secondly:** we must do all we can to support our parish church with our time, talent and treasure; to practice works of charity for the poor, the sick, the elderly...and especially help support the Christian education of our children—for they are the future of the church!
- **Thirdly:** St. Michael's does not exist in a vacuum: we are part of the greater body of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and of the Orthodox Church worldwide. We must do all we can to support our Bishop and the Diocese, for without the bishop, there is no church as St. Irenaeus said in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Finally, we as American Orthodox Christians have a special responsibility: to be ‘missionary-minded.’ As many converts have expressed, one of the main things that attracted them to the Orthodox Faith, is that they witnessed Orthodox Christians sincerely practicing their faith and felt the living Grace of the Holy Spirit! The beauty of the Divine Services, the icons, vestments, incense, bells and all the rest helped as well, but as Orthodox Christians, we are all called to become witnesses of our faith. “*Acquire the Spirit of Peace and thousands around you will be saved*” as St. Seraphim of Sarov used to say.



### 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, Lisa Craft, Ivan Fontane, Angela Gafton, Olga Gulas, Leslie Hargrave, Harris family, Phil Harwell & family, Kathe Hoyer, Weston Letson, Allen Morgan, Sean Perry & family, Cate, David, Anna & Joseph Queener, Tim Waskerwitz, Kurt Weber, Fr. Parthenios, Fr. Dcn. James Hughes, Martin Gureasko. **Friends of Members:** Pamfilis Family, Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros, Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne, Kara, Glen.

**Reposed:** Gregory Hughes, 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 Teachers—Serena Harwell, Adrienne Bowling, Anya Sievers  
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 – 2017 to 2018

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

**Members at large** – Joe Bergantz, 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, new church property developments, etc.). If you need to see him, please call ahead.*