



Newsletter January 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/

Link - St. Michaels Calendar:

* Please check calendar for details

Friday, January 6th – Eve of Nativity of Christ

†9:00 am Royal Hours

†6:00 pm Compline

(Followed by a potluck fasting meal; please contact Sandy Ellis)

Saturday, January 7th – Nativity of our Lord

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 7th – Christmas open house, 6-10pm at the Schultz's; RSVP to

mrs.ann.schultz@gmail.com

Tuesday, January 10 – Church Council

†6:00pm Meeting

Saturday, January 14 and January 28 – Children's Program

†9:30am Program

Wednesday, January 18 – Vespers for Theophany

†9:00am Royal Hours

†6:00pm Vespers for Theophany & indoor blessing of waters

Thursday, January 19th – Theophany of the Lord

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy & outdoor blessing of the waters

†12:00pm Outdoor blessing of water at Tennessee River

Saturday, January 21st – Catechumen Class

†4:30pm Program

Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment after January 19 – Theophany.

Coffee Hour: (*Fast Day)

*Jan 1st – Platt

Jan 8th – Sievers

Jan 15th – Wolf Standifer

Jan 22nd – Zarzaur

Jan 29th – Bergantz

Feb 5th – Capsopoulos

Feb 12th – Cox

Feb 19th – Darzi/Baker

Feb 26th – 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:

11th – Mat. Julie Joa

17th – Pavel Sievers

18th – Ivan Fontane

22nd – Tamara Savina

26th – Steve Cox

Anniversaries:

None this month!

Supplies Needed!

- Olive Oil (regular, not virgin)
- Communion wine (preferably Manischewitz concord)
- Non-dairy creamer
- Sugar
- Dessert Plates
- Kleenex

Prayers Needed!

Kathy Couch had surgery and expects recovery 6 weeks and Pat Darzi broke her arm and it may be 6 to 8 weeks. Please give them a call or send a get well card.

👉 NEWS AT ST. MICHAEL'S:



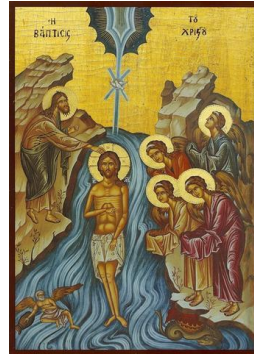
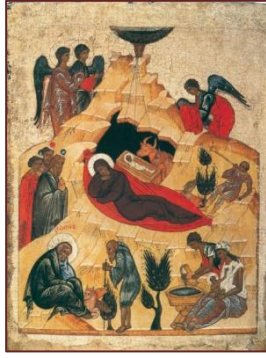
St. Nicholas Visits



Children's Program



Christmas Caroling at Windsor House where Ron Waskerwitz resides!



On the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

The present Feast, commemorating the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, was established by the Church. Its origin goes back to the time of the Apostles. In the Apostolic Constitutions (Section 3, 13) it says, “Brethren, observe the feast days; and first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month.” In another place it also says, “Celebrate the day of the Nativity of Christ, on which unseen grace is given man by the birth of the Word of God from the Virgin Mary for the salvation of the world.”

In the second century Saint Clement of Alexandria also indicates that the day of the Nativity of Christ is December 25. In the third century Saint Hippolytus of Rome mentions the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, and appoints the Gospel readings for this day from the opening chapters of Saint Matthew.

In 302, during the persecution of Christians by Maximian, 20,000 Christians of Nicomedia (December 28) were burned in church on the very Feast of the Nativity of Christ. In that same century, after the persecution when the Church had received freedom of religion and had become the official religion in the Roman Empire, we find the Feast of the Nativity of Christ observed throughout the entire Church. There is evidence of this in the works of Saint Ephraim the Syrian, Saint Basil the Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, Saint Ambrose of Milan, Saint John Chrysostom and other Fathers of the Church of the fourth century.

Saint John Chrysostom, in a sermon which he gave in the year 385, points out that the Feast of the Nativity of Christ is ancient, and indeed very ancient. In this same century, at the Cave of Bethlehem, made famous by the Birth of Jesus Christ, the empress Saint Helen built a church, which her mighty son Constantine adorned after her death. In the Codex of the emperor Theodosius from 438, and of the emperor Justinian in 535, the universal celebration of the day of the Nativity of Christ was decreed by law. Thus, Nicephorus Callistus, a writer of the fourteenth century, says in his History that in the sixth century, the emperor Justinian established the celebration of the Nativity of Christ throughout all the world.

Patriarch Anatolius of Constantinople in the fifth century, Sophronius and Andrew of Jerusalem in the seventh, Saints John of Damascus, Cosmas of Maium and Patriarch Germanus of Constantinople in the eighth, the Nun Cassiane in the ninth, and others whose names are unknown, wrote many sacred hymns for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, which are still sung by the Church on this radiant festival.

During the first three centuries, in the Churches of Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria and Cyprus, the Nativity of Christ was combined together with the Feast of His Baptism on January 6, and called “Theophany” (“Manifestation of God”). This was because of a belief that Christ was baptized on anniversary of His birth, which may be inferred from Saint John Chrysostom’s sermon on the Nativity of Christ: “it is not the day on which Christ was born which is called Theophany, but rather that day on which He was baptized.”

In support of such a view, it is possible to cite the words of the Evangelist Luke who says that “Jesus began to be about thirty years of age” (Luke 3:23) when He was baptized. The joint celebration of the Nativity of Christ and His Theophany continued to the end of the fourth century in certain Eastern Churches, and until the fifth or sixth century in others.

The present order of services preserves the memory of the ancient joint celebration of the Feasts of the Nativity of Christ and Theophany. On the eve of both Feasts, there is a similar tradition that one should fast until the stars appear. The order of divine services on the eve of both feastdays and the feastdays themselves is the same.

The Nativity of Christ has long been counted as one of the Twelve Great Feasts. It is one of the greatest, most joyful and wondrous events in the history of the world. The angel said to the shepherds, “Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, glorifying God and saying: Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Those who heard these things were astonished at what the shepherds told them concerning the Child. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen” (Luke 2:10-20).

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Prayer List:

Living: **Church Members & Orthodox Friends** Please pray for God's help with acquiring the land and future church and hall building; 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, 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 and Rick
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.*