



# ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SERBIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

April 2023

Saturday Vespers 6:00 PM  
Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00  
[www.stmichaelshsv.org](http://www.stmichaelshsv.org)

## APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

See also St. Michael's website for the calendar.

### Apr 1 Saturday:

†10:00 am—1:00 pm Church Cleaning  
†4:00 pm Catechumen / Inquirer Class  
†6:00 pm Vespers

### Apr 2 Sunday: St. Mary of Egypt

†8:45 am Orthros and †10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Apr 5 Wednesday: †6 pm Presanctified Liturgy

†7:30 pm Fasting meal & Study Group

### Apr 6 Thursday †6:00 pm Vespers

### Apr 7 Friday: Annunciation of the Theotokos

†8:45 am Orthros and †10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Apr 8 Lazarus Saturday

†8:45 am Orthros and †10:00 am Divine Liturgy followed  
by Baptisms of *Ballew Family and Taylor & Erin Terry*

†6:00 pm Vespers

### Apr 9 Palm Sunday

†8:45 am Orthros and †10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Apr 10 Great Monday †6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

### Apr 11 Great Tuesday †6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

### Apr 12 Great Wednesday †6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

### Apr 13 Great Thursday

†10:00 am Vespers Liturgy

†6:00 pm Service of 12 Gospels

### Apr 14 Great Friday

†9:00 am Royal Hours

†11:00 am Decorate Tomb with Flowers-see Serena

†5:00 pm Vespers & Procession with Epitaphios

### Apr 15 Great and Holy Saturday:

†10:00 am Vespers Liturgy

†11:30 pm Paschal Vigil

### Apr 16 Sunday: Pascha

†3:00 pm Agape Vespers with Potluck and Easter Egg  
Hunt at Edgewater Clubhouse

### Apr 23 Sunday: St. Thomas

†8:45 am Orthros and †10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Apr 26 Wednesday: †6 pm Moleben Service

### Apr 29 Saturday:

†4:00 pm Catechumen / Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vespers

### Apr 30 Sunday: Myrrh-bearing Women

†8:45 am Orthros and †10:00 am Divine Liturgy

## COFFEE HOUR (Fast)

Apr 02: Veres

Apr 09: Zarzaur

Apr 16: PASCHA

Apr 23: Braun, Sam  
& Sarah

Apr 30: Fontane/Gordon

May 07: Eversole

May 14: Haddock

May 21: Brennan

May 28: Harwell/Sue Braun

## BIRTHDAYS

2nd: Maryna Hamby

7th: Alexandra Jones

8th: Mary Catherine Ballew

10th: Jeremy Haddock

10th: Veronica Johnson

13th: Nathan Hay

14th: Mat. Ann Schultz

14th: Becky Brennan

18th: Helena Jones

21st: Brian Ballew

27th: Zoe Zarzaur

## ANNIVERSARIES

7th: Bill & Heather Tanner

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Church Cleaning for Pascha** on Saturday, April 1, 10—  
1 pm. Bring a lunch. See **Stephanie Litter** for details.

**Faculty Recital at Snead State University** in Boaz, AL  
on Sunday, April 2 at 3:00 pm at Fielder Auditorium with  
performance by **Monica Baker** and **Miguel Ramirez**.

ALL ARE WELCOME! **Palm Sunday:** April 9 Please feel  
free to bring items to add to **Bob Zarzaur's** coffee hour  
since it is a Feast Day. We can have fish!

**Decorate Tomb:** On Friday, April 14, 11:00 am with  
Serena Harwell

**Pascha Potluck at the Edgewater** on Sunday, April 16,  
3 to 6 pm. See Stephanie Litter for details

## SAVE THE DATE

**Christian Ending Study Group** presents talk by  
**James Potts, III**, from St. Symeon's Orthodox Church in  
Birmingham on **Burial Preparation in the Ancient  
Christian Tradition** 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 27  
funded by The Historical Education Institute.

**St. Michael's 9th Annual Retreat** on Monte Sano from  
Thursday, June 8—Friday, June 10. Our speaker is  
**Fr. Peter Heers**. See Benj Litter for details.

## THANK YOU

**Christine Ramirez** for providing flowers for the Feast of  
the Veneration of the Holy Cross.

## PARISH NEWS

### Fasts & Feasts

This past month our focus was on the fast of Great Lent with church services every night during the first week. We have celebrated the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy each Wednesday which helps strengthen our souls spiritually. On the first Sunday of Great Lent, the “**Sunday of Orthodoxy**,” the Greek Church hosted a joint Vespers service and a delightful meal afterwards.

**Catechumen & Inquirers Classes** continued on Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm.

### Lenten Spiritual Study Group

We began our Lenten Spiritual Study Group on Wednesday, March 1st. These have continued following the Presanctified Liturgy each Wednesday in March and will finish on April 5th.

### Annual Diocesan Assembly Meeting

The meeting was held on Friday, March 24th and Saturday, March 25th. This year’s St. Michael’s delegates were **Fr. Gregory**, our Treasurer, **Caleb Eversole** and Alternate Delegate **Joseph Mahafza**. The meetings were well-attended and we heard lots of great things going on around the Diocese. Saturday morning we celebrated the Divine Liturgy and after the meetings were finished, we went to St. Sava’s for an Akathist service and veneration of the relics of St. Mardarije where we prayed for everyone at St. Michael’s.

### New Property Update

Having received the electrical, plumbing & mechanical drawings at the beginning of March, we have submitted these to three contractors for their construction estimates. We expect to have these this month. The remaining water utility work has also been scheduled for completion in April, after which we will work on the paving. Once the construction estimates are in, the Church board will meet to choose a general contractor and we will work out the financing with the bank.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Music Recital

On **Sunday, April 2nd at 3pm**, our very own musicians, **Monica Baker**, Piano and **Miguel Ramirez**, Violin, will be performing two movements from the Brahms Violin Sonata at the Fielder Auditorium at Snead State College, 220 North Walnut Street, Boaz, Alabama. Admission is free.

**Church Cleaning Party** will be held on Saturday, April 1st from 10am to 1pm. We will especially be preparing the church for Pascha, polishing the brass, cleaning the lampadas and so forth.

**Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos** will be celebrated with Vespers on Thursday, April 6th at 6:00pm and Matins & Divine Liturgy at 8:45am and 10am on Friday, April 7th.



### Lazarus Saturday

On Lazarus Saturday, April 8th, there will be a Divine Liturgy at 10:00am followed by several **Baptisms: Brian, Mary Catherine, Julian and Neil Ballew and Taylor and Erin Terry**.

### Holy Week & Pascha

Please check the April Calendar for the Holy Week & Paschal Services schedule. Also, please watch your email for information about the Paschal potluck meal and celebration.

## A Pledge of the Promised Kingdom



*“O God, great and wondrous, Who with unsearchable goodness and abundant providence orderest all things, and grantest unto us earthly good things; Who hast given us a pledge of the promised kingdom through the good things already bestowed upon us...”* (from the Prayers of Lamp-lighting Time at Great Vespers)

As we continue the fast of Great Lent, we are moving forward, as if in procession, toward the glorious and joyous Feast of Pascha. Yet, even in the midst of the Great Fast, the Holy Church has given us a great abundance of Grace-Filled Divine Services, a foretaste of the promised kingdom to come! Each week, we have been celebrating the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Though we are working hard to keep the fast, struggle against the sinful passions with God’s help, increase our prayers, engage in spiritual reading and study, the Holy Church grants us the Life-Giving Body and Blood of Christ which fills our souls and hearts with spiritual joy.



Then we will celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos on April 7th. This joyous Feast takes us back to the moment when the Archangel Gabriel brought the Good News to our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

*“Today is the beginning of our salvation and the manifestation of the mystery which is from eternity. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces grace. So with him let us also cry to the Mother of God:/ Rejoice, thou who art full of grace! The Lord is with thee.”* (Troparion of the Feast of the Annunciation)



Next comes the Feast of Palm Sunday, Christ’s Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. This great Feast prefigures the joy that is to come when Christ rises from the dead. *“Giving us before Thy Passion an assurance of the general resurrection, Thou hast raised Lazarus from the dead, O Christ our God. Therefore, like the children, we also carry tokens of victory, and cry to Thee, the Conqueror of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.”* (Troparion of the Feast of Palm Sunday)



Once again, we will enter Holy Week (also known as Passion Week). Here we follow our Lord as He fulfills everything needed to save mankind. On Great and Holy Monday, we hear the following sessional hymn at Matins: *“Today the Holy Passion shines forth upon the world with the light of salvation; for Christ in His love hastens to His sufferings. He who holds all things in the hollow of His hand consents to be hung upon the Tree, that He may save mankind.”*

As we proceed through each day of Holy Week, we draw closer and closer to Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross and His Resurrection from the dead. We receive the healing Unction Oil, partake of His Holy Body and Blood, worship Him at the foot of the Cross and lament as His Body is carried in procession on Holy Friday. Then at the stroke of midnight, we celebrate the awesome mystery of Christ’s Resurrection: the ultimate fulfillment of the salvation of all mankind.



*“Down here on earth, during this great feast day of holy Pascha, every Christian feels a special joy in his soul, which of course, is insignificant in comparison to the joy of the other world. Nonetheless, Pascha is something that comforts our soul, makes it joyful, and fills it with grace, because in some way it draws nearer to Christ during this feast day.”* Elder Ephraim of Arizona

St. Paul used the image of an athlete running a race to describe our Christian spiritual life as we journey in this fallen world. In his Epistle to the Romans 12:1-2, he writes: ...*“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us**, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

## AROUND THE PARISH



Forgiveness Sunday started our Season of Lent



Eric Morgan helps our newest Acolyte, Jude Litter, learn how to ring the bell for the 12 phrases of the Creed.



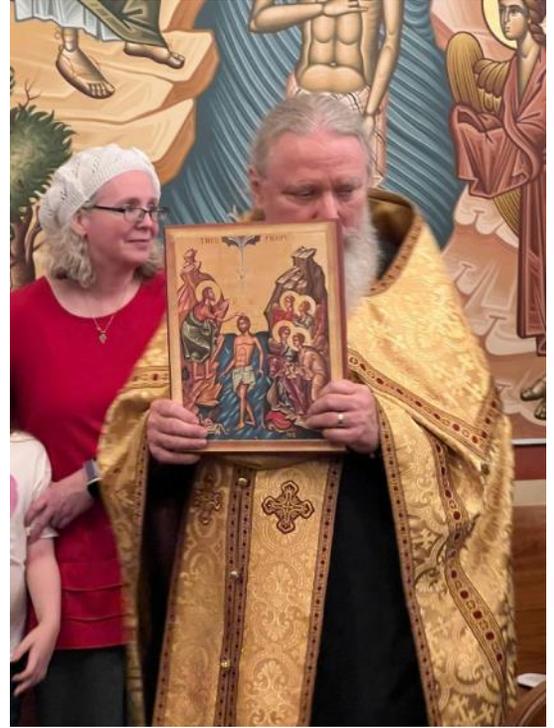
Joseph Bischoff, St. Michael's newest Catechumen.

AROUND THE PARISH



# SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

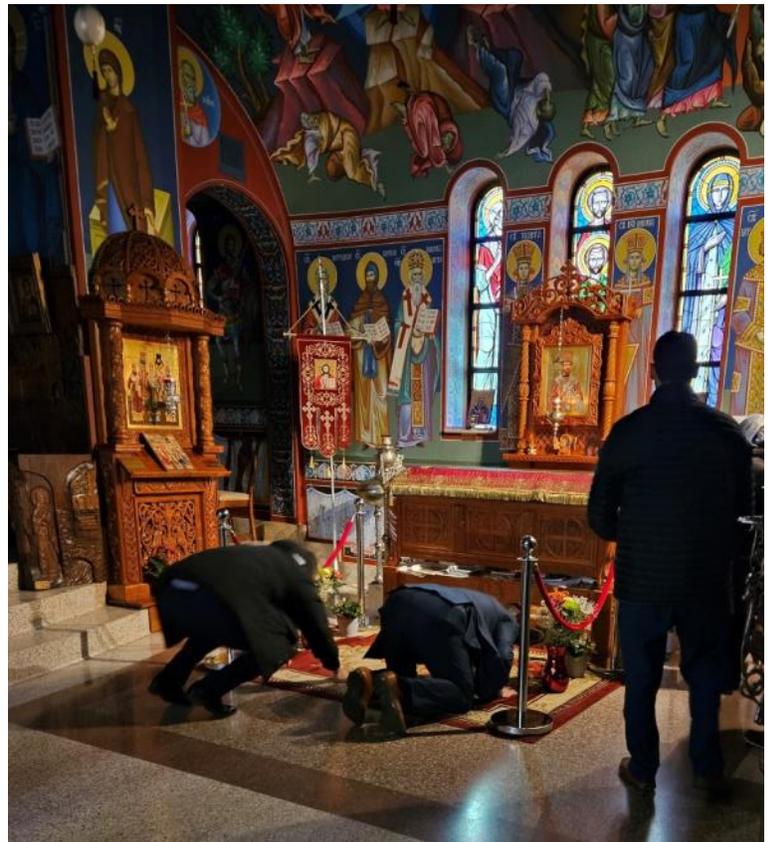
Vespers at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church



# Maddie Terry's Baby Shower



## Annual Diocesan Assembly at New Gracanica Monastery



## PRAYER LIST

### LIVING

#### Church Members and Orthodox Friends

Ray & Vicki Kendall, Oksana Falconbury, Wanda (Christine) Gilbert and Pat Darzi. Please pray for God's help with building of the future Church and hall on our new property on Madison Blvd.

#### Friends of Members, Inquirers, and Catechumens

Joseph Bishoff, Sam Johnson, Scot Dill, Taylor and Erin Terry, Rob Christiansen, Brian & Mary Catherine Ballew, David Reid, Logan & Nathan Hays, Christine Bazala, Liam Patrick Cook.

### REPOSED

**Orthodox:** Alevtina Shirotov, John Driver, Shannon (Brigid) McBride, Dolores Gelemy (Pat Darzi's sister), Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Monk Maximos Rossi, Alexander Fedoseenko (Oksana Falconbury's father) Matushka Ann Hopko, Madelyn Lloyd, John Leonforte, Larissa Newman, Tamara Savina, Jim Nordness, Patriarch Iriney, Metropolitan Amphiloque, Fr. James Barfield, Carl Brennan, Fr. Michael Vanderhoef, Fr. Patrick Kinder, Bill McKenney, Eli Grba, Fr. Athanasius Shaw, Gennadiy Zhmaylo, Fr. Chris Williamson, Gregory Hughes, Ron Waskerwitz, Christopher Pamfilis, Alexa & Hayden Hannig, Nicolae Caracalean, Olga Gulas, Valentina, Vangie Pamfilis, Milan Petrovic, Boris and Mary Kochoff, Fryni McCreary, Nelia Friedman, Natalie Elliott. **Nonorthodox:** Doris Lee Rayfield Beck.

### CONFESSIONS

Confession may be heard Saturdays after Vespers, Sunday 9:40-10am before Divine Liturgy, or contact Fr. Gregory to arrange a time. Please come early Sunday morning so we can begin Liturgy by 10:00 am.

### COMMITTEES / CHAIRPERSONS

**Sub-deacons:** Bob Zarzaur, Joe Bergantz and Hal Pastrick

**Choir Leader Coordinator:** Matushka Ann  
**Choir Leaders:** Leonard Adams, Benjamin Litter, Charles Malmede, Emma Pcsolyar & Matushka Ann

**Readers / Acolytes:** Leonard Adams, Steve Cox, David Hogan, Rick Kaiser, Benjamin Litter, Charles Malmede, Eric Morgan, Tanner Terry

**Sisterhood President:** Stephanie Litter

**Sisterhood Vice President:** Kim Gilbert

**Sisterhood Treasurer:** Anya Sievers

**Sisterhood Secretary:** Emma Pcsolyar

**Auditors:** Sarah Braun, Christine Ramirez and Madi Terry

**Sunday School Director:** Matushka Ann

**Sunday School Coordinator:** Stephanie Litter

**Flower Arranging Coordinator:** Christine Ramirez

**Bookstore:** Matushka Ann

**Library:** Bill Tanner

**Building Maintenance:** Sub-deacon Bob Zarzaur & Rick Kaiser

**Live-streaming & Website:** Charles Malmede

**Facebook / Instagram:** Stephanie Litter

**Newsletter Bulletin:** Steve Gordon

**Candle / Supplies:** Rick Kaiser

### CHURCH COUNCIL: 2022 TO 2023

**Parish Administrator:** Father Gregory Schultz

**President:** Sub-deacon Moses (Bob) Zarzaur

**Vice President:** Michele Platt

**Treasurer:** Caleb Eversole

**Secretary:** Rick Kaiser

**Members at Large:** John Duda, Serena Harwell, Benjamin Litter, Charles Malmede and Hal Pastrick



The Church telephone number is: **256-881-2449**

Office hours at Church are not currently available.  
Please contact Fr. Gregory concerning any  
pastoral needs.