



# ST. MICHAEL

## THE ARCHANGEL

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER



St. Michael's is an Eastern Orthodox Christian church.

We celebrate the ancient Orthodox liturgies in English:

**Vespers** at 6:00 p.m on Saturdays

**Martins** at 8:45 a.m. on Sundays

**Divine Liturgy** at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays

We offer classes about Orthodoxy on Saturdays starting at 4:00 p.m.

Check **Highlights** on the next page for this month's schedule.

Please feel welcome to attend our classes and liturgies!

#### St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church

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[www.facebook.com/stmichaelshuntsvilleal](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelshuntsvilleal)

[www.stmichaelshsv.org](http://www.stmichaelshsv.org)

## Highlights

See also St. Michael's website for calendar.

**Aug 2 Wednesday:** †6 p.m. Moleben to St. Michael

**Aug 5 Saturday:**

†4:00 p.m. Catechumen and Inquirer's Class

†6:00 p.m. Vespers

**Aug 6 Sunday of Martyr Christina of Tyre:**

†8:45 a.m. Orthros

†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - **School Year Blessing**

†1:00 pm **Meet and Greet Homeschooling Meeting**

**Aug 9 Wednesday:** †6 p.m. Moleben to St. Michael

**Aug 12 Saturday:**

†4:00 p.m. Catechumen and Inquirer's Class

†6:00 p.m. Vespers

**Aug 13 Sunday of Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia:**

†8:45 a.m. Orthros

†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**Aug 14 Monday: Procession of the Cross; Beginning of the Dormition Fast**

**Aug 16 Wednesday:** †6 p.m. Moleben to St. Michael

**Aug 18 Friday:** †6 p.m. Vespers for the Transfiguration

**Aug 19 Saturday: Transfiguration of Our Lord:**

(No Catechumen and Inquirer's Class)

†6 p.m. Vespers

**Aug 20 Sunday: Synaxis of the Saints of the Valaam Monastery:**

†8:45 a.m. Orthros

†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**Aug 23: Wednesday:** †6 p.m. Moleben to St. Michael

**Aug 26 Saturday:**

†4:00 p.m. Catechumen and Inquirer's Class

†6:00 p.m. Vespers

**Aug 27 Sunday of the Forefeast of the Dormition:**

†8:45 a.m. Orthros

†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

†12:30 pm Vespers for the Feast of Dormition

**Aug 28 Monday: Dormition of the Theotokos**

†8:45 a.m. Orthros

†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**Aug 30 Wednesday:** †6 p.m. Moleben to St. Michael

## Coffee Hour

Aug 06: Phillips

Aug 13: Platt/Cox

Aug 20: Ramirez

Aug 27: Sievers

Sep 03: Tanner

Sep 10: Veres

Sep 17: Zarzaur

Sep 24: Braun, Sue & Sarah

Oct 01: Fontane/Gordon

## Birthdays

Aug 01: Wendy Morgan

Aug 06: Joseph Mahafza

Aug 10: Mark Novak

Aug 11: Uliana Sievers

Aug 14: David Hogan

Aug 19: Benjamin Litter

Aug 29: Tatiana Shadrina

## Anniversaries

Aug 09: Jordan & Sierra Dawson

Aug 19: Nathan & Logan Hay

## Save the Date

**Sunday, August 6** after Liturgy – **Annual School Year Blessing**  
– all our children can come to the front of the sanctuary for a blessing by Fr. Gregory.

**Sunday, August 6 at 1:00 p.m.** is a **Meet and Greet Homeschooling Meeting** for anyone interested in homeschooling. Fr. Gregory will make an introduction and Mat. Ann will moderate. The purpose is for people to become aware of who is already homeschooling, who has raised homeschool children and who is interested in homeschooling in the future. This includes moms with new infants. It's always good to prepare for the education of our children whether it is at home, Church or in public or private school.

**Sunday, September 10**, following Liturgy, The Sisterhood of St. Sophia will meet.

## Announcements

Erin Terry has volunteered to be the Assistant Bookstore Manager. Please see her about purchasing orders and making sales. If Erin is not available, Matushka Ann can fill in for her.

Also, officially, Stephanie Litter is the Sunday School Director, Benjamin Litter is the Choir Leader Coordinator and Emma Pscolyar is the Choir Director.



## PARISH NEWS

### FEASTS

This past month, we celebrated the **Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul** with Vespers on Tuesday, July 11th and Matins/Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, July 12th. This Feast concluded the **Apostles Fast** which began on Monday, June 12th. We also continued the Moleben/Akathist services on Wednesday evenings to ask for heavenly intercession and support in the building of our new church.

### BAPTISMS

On Sunday, July 23rd, St. Michael's was honored to receive two new members when Serena (Irene) Azalea Yelland (parents Tommy & Lizzy Yelland) and Malakai David Terry (parents Tanner & Madi Terry) were baptized following the Divine Liturgy. Then on July 30th, Stephen Paul Ballew was baptized (parents Brian & Mary Catherine).

**CATECHUMEN & INQUIRERS CLASSES** continued on Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm.

### NEW PROPERTY UPDATE

We had a meeting with our bank on Monday, July 17th to discuss getting our new construction loan to build the church. Bob Zarzaur, Michele Platt, Caleb Eversole & Father Gregory attended the meeting on behalf of St. Michael's.

The meeting was very productive and clarifying. Among other things, the bank asked that we lower our construction costs by \$250k (which we've done through several deferred expenses).

We asked the diocese to guarantee up to \$250k of the loan (which Bishop Longin has agreed to) and asked some of our individual parishioners to 'guarantee' up to \$250k of the loan (we have 20 'guarantors' so far who are willing to guarantee up to \$10k each; there are still 5 spots available).

Please contact Fr. Gregory if you are able to help in this way. It's like 'co-signing' a loan. No funds need be accessed, but in the unlikely event that St. Michael's was ever unable to make a monthly loan payment, we would ask all our parishioners to help chip in first, but the guarantors would come to the rescue if it ever came to it.

The water utilities installation has stalled until our utilities contractor gets the green light on locating a fiber optic cable that runs alongside Madison Blvd.

We are very much hoping to get the new loan approved and break ground by the end of August. Please keep praying!

**(See the Miracle of Tithing story on the next page.)**

## LOOKING AHEAD

**DORMITION FAST** begins on Monday, August 14th and ends on Monday, August 28th. This is a strict fast similar to Great Lent, with wine and oil permitted on the weekends and fish on the Feast of the Transfiguration.

**FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION** There will be a Vespers service at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, August 18th and on Saturday, August 19th, Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. Despite the Dormition Fast, fish, wine and oil is allowed on Saturday in celebration of the Feast.

**FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD** will be celebrated with a Vespers service after coffee hour on Sunday, August 27th and then on Monday, August 28th, Matins at 8:45 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m.

**CATECHUMEN & INQUIRERS CLASSES** Classes will continue on Saturday afternoons at 4 p.m .

**MOLEBEN & AKATHIST SERVICES** These services will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.





## **The Miracle of Tithing**

Fr. Bless!

I wanted to tell you about some things that happened to us recently you may find interesting.

We had to have all of our electrical boxes and meter box rewired recently on our house, which cost \$3500. That was all the money we had set aside for our vacation in Aug, and we were getting behind also.

I questioned whether or not we should skip tithing because we didn't have the money.

We decided to do it anyway and trust that God would provide.

Last week I received \$5900 excess in tuition reimbursement for school (which I plan to use next semester). Then Anna received \$1300 for Ezra's SSI for no good or apparent reason. Then a guy stopped by and offered to buy my broken down Suburban for \$2000.

Suffice it to say I had over \$14k in my bank account the week after we decided to trust God and tithe to the Church and building fund even when we didn't have it.

I believe God is really doing wonderful things through St. Michael's in this age of apostasy, and we receive nothing but blessings from attending and supporting the Church. The past couple of years it seems like the more we give the more we have received.

We are praying for the bank meeting today--I hope all goes well!

John Jones



## ON USING TIME WISELY

*“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven” (Ecc. 3:1)*

The end of the Liturgical Year this month offers an opportunity to reflect on our use of time. The Kingdom of Heaven is eternal and infinite, but in this fallen world we have time and space. Our Lord commands us to use our time wisely. The Lord admonished the foolish rich man who thought he had plenty of time to enjoy himself, *‘Thou fool, this night shall thy soul be required of thee and then whose shall those things be which thou has provided?’ (Luke 12:20)*



### **Advice from St. Ignatius Brianchaninov:**

The holy apostle Paul, warning us not to spend time in vain, lawfully instructs us to use each minute of our life wisely: *“See then, – he says, – that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”* (Ephesians 5:15-16) In talking about *“redeeming the time”* the apostle makes us aware that time is used to purchase true blessings, just as money is used to acquire all that we need for physical life, and that, consequently, the proper use of time is very similar to the use of money in good hands. A wise master does not spend foolishly, totals up his assets properly, and assigns a special purpose to each sum of money. We should handle time in a like manner: assign hours and minutes for one or another good purpose; redeem each day by doing good deeds for ourselves or others; make each step on the way to spiritual perfection equal to the number of days in a year, and not waste a single hour needlessly, doing nothing, and least of all in using it for sinful deeds.

The day usually begins with our awakening from sleep. How should we look upon the moment of awakening? Just as we would look upon the moment of being born into the world or upon resurrection from the dead, because there is a great similarity between awakening from sleep and being born. When we are asleep, it is as though we do not exist. When we wake up from sleep, it is as though we are being born anew, we are coming alive, we are being resurrected.

The time immediately following sleep should, first of all, be spent in prayer. Each morning brings us the pious joy of glorifying God for the Creator’s having allowed us yet again to see His world, so beautifully designed for us. In beginning the day we are beginning a new life, and in life there are so many grounds for temptation and sin that a weak person absolutely cannot do without the help of God, which is acquired only through prayer. And secondly, time should be spent in reading the word of God: it is the book of life, it contains everything we need to know, to do, to hope for. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, it is God’s letter or epistle to mankind. Whoever does not nourish his soul with this celestial gift – starves his soul.

Afterwards comes the time for activity, time for work. Everyone has his own duties, his own affairs, his own job, his own diverse needs. But whatever they may be, there is one cardinal rule for all of them: *“Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is,”* (Ephesians 5:17) i.e.; at the beginning of each deed ask yourself whether or not it conforms to the will of God.

How should we spend the time of leisure or rest? In fulfilling the following words of the apostle’s instruction: *“Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”* (Ephesians 5:19) That is, if you like to read in your free time – read that which reveals to you the wisdom of God. Do you like to go out in society? Do so, but keep to pious discussion, wise conversation, good counsels and discourses. Do you like singing and music? Do sing, but particularly those songs which contain the outpourings of pure and lofty souls. Worldly songs can sometimes corrupt the soul by glorifying passions, vices, and human folly. In other words, do what you always do, but in reverse: exchange the sensual for the spiritual, the body for the soul, the secular for the religious.

May these words of wisdom help us as the Liturgical (Church) Year draws to a close and may they help guide our lives in the coming Church Year! Glory be to God!



## Around the Parish





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Caelan was made catechumen on Sunday, July 9th.



## Sisterhood of Sophia Meeting





## Baptisms of Malakai David Terry and Serena Irene Yellend





## Our Newest Catechumens: The Rivera Family





## Baptism of Stephen Paul Ballew





## Prayers for the Living

### Church Members and Orthodox Friends

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, Rob Christiansen, Scot Dill, Logan & Nathan Hays, Caelan and Tallys Heiss, Sam Johnson, David Reid, Julio, Sheilyn and Marcos Rivera.

## Prayers for the Reposed

### Orthodox

Alevtina Shirov, 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.

## 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 a.m.

## Committees / Chairpersons

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

**Choir Leader Coordinator:** Benjamin Litter

**Choir Leader Director:** Emma Pscolyar

**Choir Leaders:** Benjamin Litter, Charles Malmede, Emma Pscolyar, Matushka Ann

**Readers / Acolytes:** Steve Cox, Steve Gordon, David Hogan, Rick Kaiser, Benjamin and Jude Litter, Charles Malmede, Eric Morgan, Ivan and Nikolai Sievers

**Sisterhood President:** Stephanie Litter

**Sisterhood Vice President:** Kim Gilbert

**Sisterhood Treasurer:** Anya Sievers

**Sisterhood Secretary:** Emma Pscolyar

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

**Sunday School Director:** Stephanie Litter

**Flower Arranging Coordinator:** Christine Ramirez

**Bookstore Manager:** Matushka Ann

**Assistant Bookstore Manager:** Erin Terry

**Library:** Bill Tanner

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

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

**Facebook, Instagram:** Stephanie Litter

**Newsletter, Annual Calendar:** Steve Gordon

**Candles, Supplies:** Rick Kaiser

## Church Council: 2022 to 2023

**Parish Administrator:** Father Gregory Schultz

**Retired Clergy:** Archpriest Michael Boyle

**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, Hal Pastrick

**Church telephone number: 256-881-2449.**

**Please contact Fr. Gregory concerning any pastoral needs.**

