



Newsletter January 2023

Christ is born!

St. Michael the Archangel Serbian Orthodox Parish

Saturday Vespers 6:00 PM & Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

www.stmichaelshsv.org

See also **St. Michael's Website for Calendar**

1 Sunday: Sunday of the Holy Fathers

†8:45 am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Jan 4 Wednesday: NO MOLEBEN service

Jan 6 Friday: Eve of the Nativity of the Lord

†9:00 am Royal Hours

†6:00 Vespertal Liturgy for the Nativity of our Lord

Jan 7 Saturday: Nativity of the Lord

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy (potluck following Liturgy)

†6:00 Vespers

Jan 8 Sunday: Holy Righteous Ones

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Jan 11 Wednesday: NO MOLEBEN service

Jan 13 Friday: Nativity Party at the Schultz Home

6:00—10:00 pm Open House **FAST FREE WEEK**

Jan 14 Saturday: Circumcision of the Lord

†6:00 Vespers

Jan 15 Sunday: Holy Prophet Malachi

†8:45 am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Jan 18 Wednesday: †6 pm Vespertal Liturgy for the

Theophany of the Lord

(indoor blessing of the waters)

Jan 19 Thursday: Theophany of the Lord

†8:45 am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

(Blessing of Outdoor Waters)

Jan 21 Saturday:

†4:00 pm Catechumen/Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vespers

Jan 22 Sunday: St. Gregory of Nyssa

†8:45 am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Jan 25 Wednesday: †6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Jan 28 Saturday:

†4:00 pm Catechumen/Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vespers

Jan 29 Sunday: Zacchaeus Sunday

†8:45 am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

COFFEE HOUR (Fast)

Jan 01: Jones

Jan 08: Kaiser

Jan 15: Litter

Jan 22: Mahafza

Jan 29: Malmade

Feb 05: Morgan

Feb 12: Novak

Feb 19: Pcsolyar

Feb 26: Phillips

Mar 05: Ramirez

Mar 12: Sievers

Mar 19: Tanner

Mar 26: Veres

BIRTHDAYS

3rd: Olesya Phillips

3rd: Bill Tanner

12th: Anna Jones

17th: Pavel Sievers

17th: Heather Tanner

18th: Ivan Fontane

26th Steve Cox

SAVE THE DATE

Schultz Annual Christmas Party on Friday, January 13, 2023, 6—10 pm.

Watch for the Sign-Up Genie notices for the potlucks on Jan. 7 and for the party on Jan. 13.

PRAYERS FOR: *Shannon (Brigid) McBride* who reposed on December 24, 2022. Memory Eternal! We thank *Jordon Dawson, Josh Demerin, Pavel Sievers and Caleb Eversole* for being pallbearers.

THANK YOU: *Serena Harwell, Bill Tanner and Anna Jones* helped decorate the Church on Dec. 10; *Rick Kaiser, Josh Demerin and Caleb Eversole* cut up the two pews in the hall and put them in Rick Kaiser's Truck to haul away on Dec. 10 creating room to decorate the hall for Christmas.

On Monday, December 12, *Dan Stanic*, former founder of St. Michael's, drove with *Fr. Boyan* from St. Petka Church in Nashville to deliver a donation of \$500 to the building fund and to visit our new property.

Thanks to *Bob Zarzaur* for creating a new bishop's hat for the St. Nicholas costume. Thanks to *Steve Gordon* for creating the 2023-2024 St. Michael's Calendar which will be ready in January 2023.

Thanks to *Officers Dominique Blue and Brendan Hampton* who have protected our Church for four years.

The News at St. Michael's –January 2023

Feasts & Fasts: In December, we celebrated the *Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple* with Vespers on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 6pm and on Sunday, Dec. 4 with Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10am. We also celebrated the *Feast of St. Herman of Alaska* with Vespers at 6pm on Dec. 24th and on Dec. 25th with Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10am.

Catechumen & Inquirers Class: Classes were held on Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm on December 5th, 12th, and 19th.

St. Nicholas Visit: On Sunday, Dec. 18, St. Nicholas made a visit to St. Michael's. Once again, we heard about the life of St. Nicholas and treats were handed out to the children. It is our hope that this will help our children learn about the REAL Santa Claus!

St. Michael Moleben Services have continued on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. Our purpose is to ask the heavenly intercession of our Patron St. Michael the Archangel, as we develop our new property.

Nativity Spiritual Study Group met on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm throughout December in preparation for the upcoming Feast of the Nativity.

Funeral: On Wednesday, December 28th, Funeral and Burial Services were held for our sister in Christ, Shannon (Brigid) McBride. She reposed on the evening of December 24th after a long struggle with cancer. May her memory be eternal!

LOOKING AHEAD...

UPCOMING FEASTS: The *Feast of the Nativity of our Lord* will be celebrated on **January 6th** with *Royal Hours at 9:00am* and the *Vespertal Liturgy service on Friday, January 6 at 6:00pm*. On **Saturday, January 7,** we will celebrate *Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am* followed by a festive potluck meal. *Please note: if you plan to receive Holy Communion on Friday, Jan. 6th, please fast after lunchtime on Friday.*

The *Feast of Theophany* will be celebrated with a *Vespertal Liturgy service at 6:00pm* followed by the *Indoor Blessing of the Waters*. Then on **Thursday, January 19** we will celebrate *Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am* followed by the *Outdoor Blessing of the Waters* at Brahan Spring Park.

Schultz Annual Christmas Celebration: will be held on Friday, January 13 from 6pm to 10pm. Please RSVP to Mat. Ann at mrs.ann.schultz@gmail.com.

Catechumen & Inquirers Class: following a holiday break, classes will resume Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm beginning **January 21st.**

The Feasts of the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord

From the Synaxarion: In remembrance of the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, this feast day was established by the Church. Its very origin is related to the times of the Apostles. In the Apostolic Constitutions it says: "Brethren, observe the feast days, and among the chief, such as the day of the Birth of Christ, which make ye celebration of on the 25th day of the tenth month" (from March, which in those days began the year). [i.e.; December 25th]

However, during the first three centuries, when persecutions hindered the freedom of Christian Divine-services, in certain places in the East -- in the Churches of Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria and Cyprus -- the feast day of the Nativity of Christ was combined together with the feast day of the Baptism of Christ on 6 January, under the in-common term "Theophany" ["Bogoyavlenie" -- which both in the Greek and the Slavonic means "Manifestation of God"].

The reason for this, actually, was from the view, that Christ was baptized at a later time on His birthday...Saint John Chrysostom in one of his sermons on the Nativity of Christ, says: "it is not that day on which Christ was born which is called Theophany, but rather that day on which He was baptized." It is also possible to consider a nuance in the words of the Evangelist Luke who, speaking about the Baptism of Jesus Christ, testifies, that then "Jesus being incipient upon His thirtieth year" (Lk. 3:23).

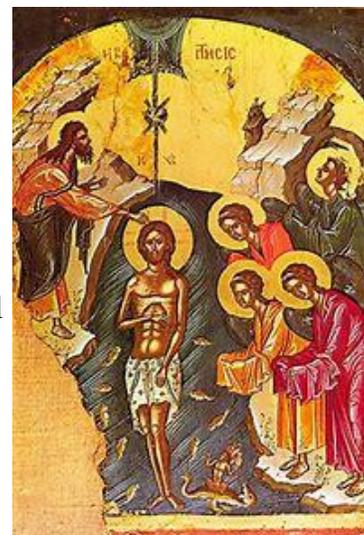
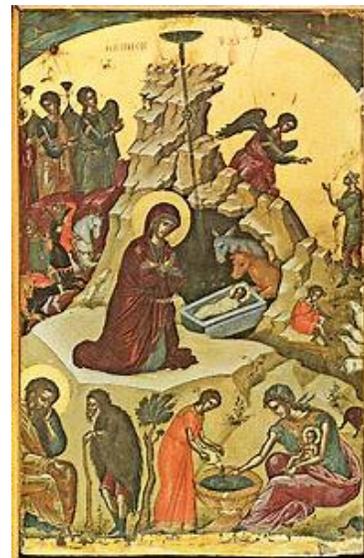
The celebration of the Nativity of Christ conjointly with Theophany in certain of the Eastern Churches continued to the end of the IV Century, and in some -- until the V or even the VI Century. Remembrance of the ancient conjoining of the feasts of the Nativity of Christ and Theophany at present enters into the making of the order of services in the celebration of these feasts. For both -- on the eve-day preceding the feast, there is a similar tradition among the people, that on the festal eve-days the fast ought to be kept until the stars appear. The order of Divine-services on the eve of both feast days and the feast days themselves is done the same.

"The two feasts of Christ's birth and of His baptism are so closely linked together as to form in reality one single and undivided observance. The Church's Year contains accordingly two great moments, two 'poles': the first is Pascha; the second Nativity and Theophany." (Bishop Kallistos Ware — Festal Menaion)

Nativity Kontakion: *Today the Virgin gives birth to Him who is above all being, and the earth offers a cave to Him whom no man can approach. Angels with shepherds give glory, and Magi journey with a star. For unto us is born a young Child, the pre-eternal God.*

Theophany Troparion: *When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness unto Thee, calling Thee the beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed His word as sure and steadfast. O Christ our God who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.*

These two Great Feasts have deep significance for our spiritual lives. At the Nativity, Bethlehem serves as an image for "The Church." Christ is to be born within us...we shall become Bethlehem, the humble place of His Nativity. At the Theophany, we affirm our faith in the mystery of the Holy Trinity, the Three Persons of the One God. At Theophany, we become renewed by the power of the Grace of the Holy Spirit which illumines and purifies our sinful nature.



Around the Parish

Dawson House Blessing and the Baptism of John Driver



Fr. Boyan from St. Petka Church in Nashville, and Dan Stanic, visiting our new church property in Madison.

Around the Parish



Officer Dominique Blue of the Huntsville Police Dept.

St. Nicholas' Visit



Feast of St. Herman of Alaska



Shannon McBride Funeral



PRAYER LIST

LIVING

Church Members and Orthodox Friends

Ray & Vicki Kendall, Ashley Zarzaur, Shawn & 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.

REPOSED

Orthodox: 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

May be heard Saturdays after Vespers; Sunday 9:40—10 am 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

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

Newsletter Bulletin: Steve Gordon

Candle/Supplies: Rick Kaiser

Facebook/Instagram: Stephanie Litter

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

Please note: the Church telephone number is:
256-881-2449

Office hours at Church are not available at this time.

Please contact Fr. Gregory concerning any
pastoral needs.

