



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SERBIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

March 2023

Saturday Vespers 6:00 PM

Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00

www.stmichaelshsv.org

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

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

Mar 1 Wednesday: †6 pm Presanctified Liturgy

†7:30 pm Fasting meal & Study Group

Mar 2 Thursday: †6 pm Canon of St. Andrew

Mar 4 Saturday:

†4:00 pm Catechumen / Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vesper

Mar 5 Sunday: Sunday of Orthodoxy

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

†5:00 Vespers at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church followed by Dinner

Mar 8 Wednesday: †6 pm Presanctified Liturgy

†7:30 pm Fasting meal & Study Group

Mar 11 Saturday:

†4:00 pm Catechumen / Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vespers

Mar 12 Sunday: St. Gregory Palamas

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

†1:30 pm *Baby Shower for Madi Terry*

Mar 15 Wednesday: †6 pm Presanctified Liturgy

†7:30 pm Fasting meal & Study Group

Mar 18 Saturday

†4:00 pm Catechumen / Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vespers

Mar 19 Sunday: Veneration of the Holy Cross

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

Mar 22 Wednesday: †6 pm Presanctified Liturgy

†7:30 pm Fasting meal & Study Group **with**

Fr. Michael Boyle

Mar 25 Saturday:

†4:00 pm Catechumen / Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vespers **with Fr. Michael Boyle**

Mar 26 Sunday: St. John of the Ladder

†8:45 am Orthros **with Fr. Michael Boyle**

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Mar 29 Wednesday: †6 pm Presanctified Liturgy

†7:30 pm Fasting meal & Study Group

COFFEE HOUR (Fast)

Mar 05: Platt

Mar 12: Ramirez

Mar 19: Sievers

Mar 26: Tanner

Apr 02: Veres

Apr 09: Zarzaur

Apr 16: PASCHA

Apr 23: Braun, Sam

& Sarah

Apr 30: Fontane/Gordon

BIRTHDAYS

3rd: Iryna Haddock

7th: Stephanie Litter

7th: Zion Hamby

18th: Jeremy Harwell

19th: Lucas Novak

22nd: Neal Ballew

22nd: David Brown

23rd: Tanner Terry

29th: Shaw Duda

ANNIVERSARIES

16th: Steve & Robbie Cox

SAVE THE DATE

March 12: Potluck and baby shower for **Madi Terry** at 1:30 PM at the church.

March 24-25: Priest meeting and Diocesan Convention at New Gracanica, Grayslake, IL

June 8-10: St. Michael's 9th Annual Retreat on Monte Sano State Park. A link for registration will be on the St. Michael's website. If you have questions, contact **Benj Litter** at bdlitter@gmail.com

PRAYERS FOR: Oksana Falkenbury to recover from back surgery. **Phil Harwell** for general health.

THANK YOU

To St. Sophia Sisterhood for the new tablecloths covering tables at coffee hour in St. Michael's hall. To **Mary Catherine Ballew** for flowers for the feast of "The Meeting of the Lord." To **Bob Zarzaur** and **Rick Kaiser** for problem-solving the flickering sanctuary lights. They found an electrician to help.

PARISH NEWS

Feasts

This past month, we celebrated the **Feast of the Meeting of the Lord** on Feb. 14th with Vespers and on Feb. 15 with Matins and Divine Liturgy followed by a festive potluck meal.

On Sunday, Feb. 19th, we celebrated **Meat-Fare Sunday**, followed by **Cheese-Fare Week** and on Feb. 26th, **Cheese-Fare Sunday**. **Great Lent** began on Monday, Feb. 27th.

Catechumen & Inquirers Classes will be continued on Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm. Moleben & Akathist Services to St. Michael continued on Wednesday evenings throughout February.

St. Sophia Sisterhood

The Sisterhood met on Saturday, February 18 at 2:30 pm at Sue Braun's house.

Study Group

"A Christian Ending" Book Club Study met on Feb. 8th and 19th, a number of parishioners met to discuss the formation of a **Burial Committee** which can be of help when an Orthodox parishioner reposes. Future plans include inviting a guest speaker and continued occasional meetings to work on this important ministry. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Mat. Ann Schultz (mrs.ann.schultz@gmail.com).

New Property Update

Having gotten our revised site plans approved and the construction drawings, we have requested construction estimates from three good contractors.

However, the engineering drawings for electrical, plumbing and mechanical (HVAC) are not yet complete.

Our architect has told us that he expects to have those prepared in the next week or two, at which time, we will get these to the prospective contractors.

We can expect to have construction estimates sometime in March and will plan a Church board meeting to choose a contractor at that time.

LOOKING AHEAD

1st Week of Great Lent

We will be doing the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete at 6:00PM on Monday, February 27; Tuesday, February 28; and Thursday, March 2. On Wednesday, March 1, we will be serving the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy beginning at 6:00PM. Those who wish to receive Holy Communion should fast from food and drink after lunchtime that day.

Sunday of Orthodoxy

St. Michael's has been invited to attend the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers service at 5:00pm on Sunday, March, 5th at the Holy Cross/Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Church. There will be a meal following.

Catechumen & Inquirer Class will be continue on Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm.

Lenten Spiritual Study Group

Beginning Wednesday, March 1st, (following the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy about 7:30pm we will begin our Lenten Spiritual Study Group.

After a simple fasting meal, (\$5 suggested donation) we will be drawing from Sacred Scripture & Holy Tradition to strengthen & deepen our spiritual lives during this Holy Season of Great Lent.

Baby Shower for Madi Terry will be held on Sunday, March 12th at 1:30PM. Please contact April Mahafza for details at alpetty3@gmail.com.



Lenten Reflections



Archbishop Andrew Rymarenko once said this about Great Lent: *“Now we are in the period of life which we call spiritual spring. If a farmer is late in sowing, then there will be no harvest, and therefore no bread. Likewise if a person is late in acquiring sobriety, attention to his inner man, his heart, then he will be left without spiritual nourishment, in spiritual hunger.”*

We are now entering the season of Great Lent and in a way, our task is to plant spiritual seeds that we pray will bear spiritual fruit in due time. Yet, the practice of keeping the fast, increasing our prayer life and attending the extra church services are sometimes challenging. We certainly can expect little or no support from the world around us. As Orthodox Christians in 21st century America, we are a very small religious minority, which means that hardly anyone pays attention to Great Lent. Everywhere we go: shopping, at the workplace or on the streets, worldly life goes on as usual. Non-fasting foods are advertised and offered to us. A thousand distractions come at us each day from all sides, making it more challenging to find time for prayer. Despite these challenges, when we come to church, everything is peaceful, light and in good order! By participating in the Divine Liturgy and other church services, our souls receive the spiritual nourishment that they need to survive.

The Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian reminds us of the essence of Great Lent: *“O Lord and Master of my life, a spirit of idleness, despondency, ambition and idle talking give me not. But rather a spirit of chastity, humble-mindedness, patience and love bestow upon me Thy servant. Yea O Lord King, grant me to see my failings and not condemn my brother, for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.”*

The Lord often encouraged us to do the right thing (for our benefit). In Matthew 6:24 the Lord says, *“**IF** any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”* At the end of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:24-27), Jesus says *“Therefore **WHOSOEVER** heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”* Notice that the Lord says *‘**If** any man...’* and *‘**Whosoever** heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them.* The Holy Fathers have observed that the Lord does not force us to love Him, but rather encourages us. However, the Lord does show us the difference between wisdom and foolishness!

The season of Great Lent offers us the opportunity for spiritual transformation and spiritual renewal. Yet, it is up to us to make use of this time. The world offers all kinds of ‘transformations:’ makeovers and new hairstyles, weight loss and fitness programs, positive thinking techniques, ‘self-help’ books and so forth. While there’s nothing wrong with self-improvement, often these kinds of worldly methods do not really help our souls. Consider what a great contrast those things are with the great spiritual transformations we see in the Holy Church: St. Paul who once persecuted Christians and St. Peter who once denied Christ were both transformed into great Apostles. St. Mary of Egypt was a great sinner, but through her repentance and God’s mercy, became a great saint! Let us do all we can to participate in the Lenten services, keep the fast and do good deeds, that the spiritual seeds we plant will bring us an abundant spiritual harvest in the coming Paschal Season!

AROUND THE PARISH



NEW CATECHUMENS



HOUSE BLESSINGS



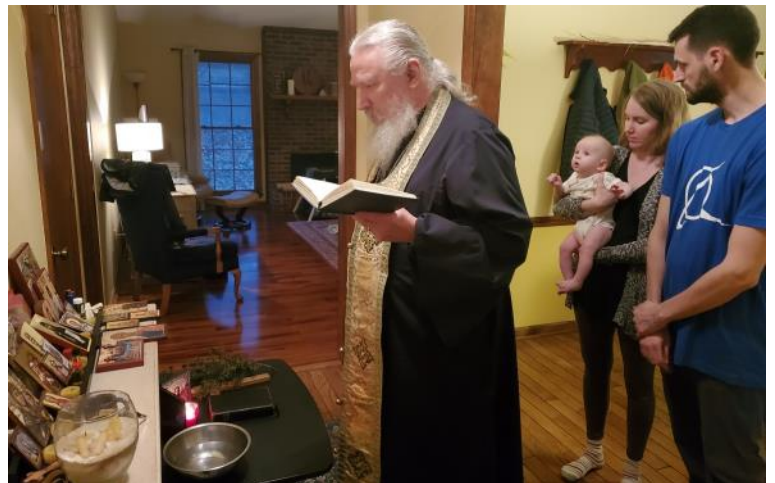
SOPHIA SISTERHOOD MEETING



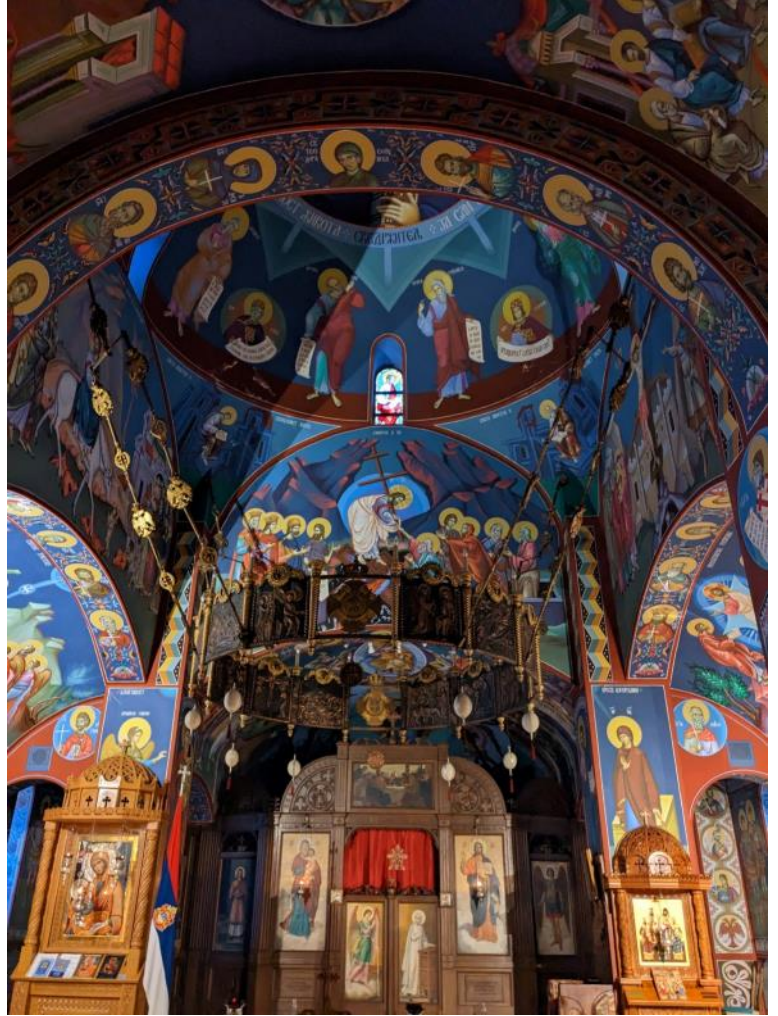
HOUSE BLESSINGS



HOUSE BLESSINGS



PATRIARCHAL VISIT



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.

REPOSED

Orthodox: Alevtina Shirovov, 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.