

# ST. MICHAEL

## THE ARCHANGEL

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### OCTOBER 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 at 4:00 p.m. and Tuesdays at 7:00 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.

### **Oct 1 Sunday: Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross**

†8:45 a.m. Orthros

†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Sisterhood of St. Sophia Slava & Potluck following Liturgy

### **Oct 3 Tuesday: †7:00 p.m. Catechumen and Inquirer's Class**

### **Oct 4 Wednesday: †6:00 p.m. Moleben to St. Michael**

### **Oct 7 Saturday:**

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

†6:00 p.m. Vespers

### **Oct 8 Sunday: Repose of St. Sergius**

†8:45 a.m. Orthros

†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Baptisms of Hector and Katie Portillo and Family

### **Oct 9 Monday: Columbus Day**

### **Oct 10 Tuesday: †7:00 p.m. Catechumen and Inquirer's Class and Women's Book Study**

### **Oct 11 Wednesday: †6:00 p.m. Moleben to St. Michael**

### **Oct 12 Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Prospora Workshop**

### **Oct 14 Saturday: Protection of the Theotokos**

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

†4:00 p.m. Women's Book Study

†6:00 p.m. Vespers

### **Oct 15 Sunday: Hieromartyr Cyprian and Virgin Martyr Justina**

†8:45 a.m. Orthros

†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Orthodox Marriage Sacrament for the Zarzaurs, Litters, Harwells, and Terrys

### **Oct 17 Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. Prospora Workshop**

### **Oct 18 Wednesday:**

†6:00 p.m. Moleben to St. Michael

### **Oct 19 Thursday: †6:00 Church Board Meeting**

### **Oct 21 Saturday:**

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

†6:00 p.m. Vespers

### **Oct 22 Sunday: Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council; Holy Apostle James, Son of Alphaeus**

†8:45 a.m. Orthros

†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Baptisms of Julio, Sheilyn and Marcus Rivera

### **Oct 24 Tuesday: †7:00 p.m. Catechumen and Inquirer's Class and Women's Book Study**

### **Oct 25 Wednesday:**

†6:00 p.m. Moleben to St. Michael

### **Oct 28 Saturday:**

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

†4:00 p.m. Women's Book Study

†6:00 p.m. Vespers

### **Oct 29 Sunday: Martyr Longinus the Centurion**

†8:45 a.m. Orthros

†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

### **Oct 31 Tuesday: St. John of Kronstadt**

†6:00 p.m. Vespers

## Coffee Hour

Oct 01: Sisterhood of St.

Sophia Slava

Oct 08: Eversole

Oct 15: Fontane/Gordon

Oct 22: Haddock

Oct 29: Gilbert

Nov 05: Harwell/Sue Braun

Nov 12: Hogan/Schultz

## Birthdays

Oct 02: Chloe Jones

Oct 03: Samuel Novak

Oct 08: Ivan Sievers

Oct 11: Timothy Harwell

Oct 11: Hector Portillo

Oct 13: Mattie Litter

Oct 14: Vincent Novak

Oct 24: Steve Gordon

Oct 27: Sophia Harwell

## Anniversaries

Oct 07: David and Cheryl Brown

Oct 10: Tanner and Maddie Terry

Oct 15: Charles and Anastasia Malmeade

Oct 16: Bob and Mary Zarzaur

Oct 16: Justin and Lisa Novak

Oct 17: Joseph and April Mahafza

Oct 23: Peter and Timea Veres

## Save the Date

Sunday, Oct. 1 after Liturgy – St. Sophia Slava & Potluck

Sunday, Oct. 8 after Liturgy – Baptisms of Hector, Katie, Leilani, Laila and Elijah Portillo

Tuesday Oct. 10 – Women's Book Study at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 12 – Prospora Workshop at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Oct. 14 – Women's Book Study at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 17 – Prospora Workshop at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 22 after Liturgy – Baptisms of Julio, Sheilyn & Marcus Rivera

Tuesday Oct. 24 – Women's Book Study at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Oct. 28 – Women's Book Study at 4:00 p.m.

## Thanks

Thanks to Nadine Tedford and Mary Zarzaur for demonstrating body-turning for parishioners interested in learning about Christian burial preparation.

Thanks also to Sue Braun and Matushka Ann for contributing photos for this edition.



## PARISH NEWS

### FEASTS

This past month, we began the Church Year (Liturgical Year) with the celebrations of **The Nativity of the Theotokos** on September 8 (21) and **The Exaltation of the Cross** on September 14 (27). We also continued the Moleben/Akathist services on Wednesday evenings to ask for heavenly intercession and support in the building of our new church.

**CATECHUMEN & INQUIRERS CLASSES** continued on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm and Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm.

### ST. SOPHIA SISTERHOOD MEETING

The meeting of the Sisterhood took place Sunday, September 10th following Coffee Hour at the church.

### CHRISTIAN ENDING BURIAL GROUP

On Sunday, September 3 following Liturgy, Nadine Tedford and Mary Zarzaur demonstrated how to turn a body with the use of flat bed sheets on top of a table. This is a technique that is used in hospitals with patients without harming the backs of the caregiver.

### NEW PROPERTY UPDATE

We are now almost at the finish line! Our new General Contractor has initiated the process of obtaining a building permit. Our Bank is finishing up the all the loan documents. Once we have closed on the loan and signed off on the construction contract, we will officially be underway, probably within the next week or two. In the meantime, the water utilities are nearly completed and our Civil Engineer has been working with Huntsville Utilities to set up the electrical utilities. Please keep praying for this new church building that everything will continue to move forward without any obstacle!



## LOOKING AHEAD

### CATECHUMEN & INQUIRERS CLASSES

Classes will continue on Saturday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. and Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Please see the October calendar for more information.

### MOLEBEN & AKATHIST SERVICES

These services will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. (please see October calendar for service times).

### ST. SOPHIA SISTERHOOD SLAVA

Slava will be held after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Oct. 1st.

### PROSPHORA WORKSHOP

Matushka Ann is giving two workshops on prospophora baking on **Thursday, October 12 at 7 pm** at St. Michael's Church and on **Tuesday, October 17 at 7 pm** at my home, 290 Maplewood Dr, Madison, AL 35758. Please RSVP by email, which workshop time works best for you. St. Michael's parishioners are welcome to attend and learn how the Holy bread is made, but in order *to offer it to the priest for Liturgy, the person must be a baptized, Orthodox Christian & current in their confessions*. Thank you for being willing to serve the Church in this way.

**BAPTISMS:** On Sunday, October 8, the Portillo family will be baptized and on Sunday, October 22, the Rivera family will be baptized.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:** Since many of our parishioners are converts to the Orthodox Faith, some couples were married before becoming Orthodox. We are now in the process of scheduling those married couples to receive the marriage sacrament. On Sunday, October 15 following the Divine Liturgy, several couples including the Zarzaurs, Litters, Harwells and Terrys will receive the marriage sacrament. This will include the traditional 'crowning' but will not be a typical wedding with all the usual bridesmaids and reception, etc. Please contact Fr. Gregory if you were married in a heterodox church or civil ceremony so that we can schedule the marriage sacrament.

**WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY:** will be held 10/10/23 at 7pm, 10/14/23 at 4pm, 10/24/23 at 7pm and 10/28/23 at 4pm. Locations will be in various homes. Please check with Mary Catherine Ballew or Stephanie Litter for locations.

**VESPERS FOR ST. JOHN OF KRONSTADT:** will be served on Wednesday, October 31st at 6pm.





## THE HIEROMARTYR CYPRIAN AND JUSTINA THE VIRGIN (OCT. 2/15)

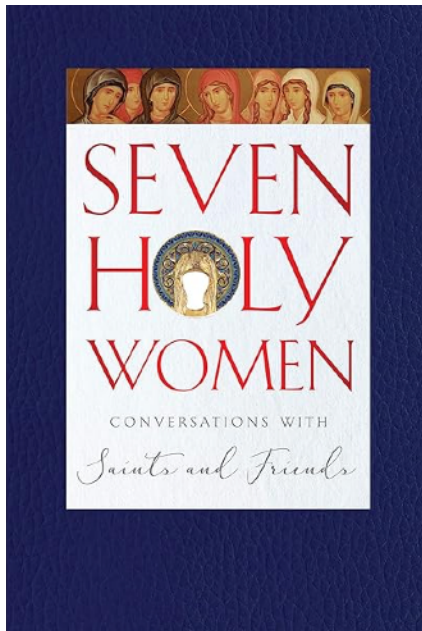
Cyprian moved from Carthage to Antioch, where Justina lived with her parents, Edesius and Cleodonia. Edesius was a idolatrous pagan priest, and his entire household was pagan. But when Justina, going round the Christian churches, came to know the true Faith, she brought both her father and mother to Christ the Lord and all three were baptised by the bishop, Optatus the bishop.

Cyprian, however was a sorcerer, and had links with unclean spirits and powers of divination. A certain dissolute pagan youth Aglaidas, tried to lead Justina astray, being enraptured by her beauty, and when the holy maiden firmly rejected him, sought Cyprian's help.

Cyprian invoked evil spirits, one after the other, on Justina, to set alight in her the passion of impurity towards Aglaidas, but they were totally unsuccessful in this, for St. Justina, with the sign of the Cross and prayer to God, drove out the evil spirits.

Then Cyprian came to know the power of the Cross and was himself baptized, in time becoming priest and then bishop. The wicked pagans seized both him and Justina, and they were sent for trial in Damascus; and then tortured, and beheaded in Nicomedia at the end of the third century.

## Women's Book Study



Hello ladies of St. Michael's Church!  
Christ is in our midst!

I pray you all are well and I am excited to announce that we will be starting the book study groups the first week of October! We will be meeting twice a month to go through the book **7 Holy Women-Conversations with Saints and Friends**. If you still need to purchase a book, please see Erin Terry at the church bookstore. The book is also available for free on Audible. Below are the options and I need some response to this email.

Book study:

When: The 2nd and 4th weeks of the month until the book is finished

Tuesdays--7pm

Saturdays--4pm

**Where:** Rotate homes of willing hosts. You are not required to host if you are not able, so please just communicate as a group! Feel free to bring treats to share or meet somewhere neutral if no one is able to host on a given week. Barnes & Noble, Panera Bread, a library, or even the church (with father's blessing) may be available to meet up.

**Who:** It would be helpful if each group had a **group leader**. Simply someone to communicate the when and where each time you meet so I am not trying to keep tabs on both groups. If you are willing to do this for the group you will attend, please let me know as soon as possible so I can let everyone know who to look to for scheduling.

**What:** Read a chapter before each meeting, giving yourself time to answer questions, think it over, pray about the topics at hand. Also, don't feel pressure to answer the questions about your friends or hand off your book like it suggests if this doesn't fit for your group. Many of us are new friends so this is to help us come together as sisters in Christ, to learn together, and to get to know one another. Stay flexible and willing to decide things as a group and don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions.

First meetings will be Tuesday, Oct 10th at 7pm and Saturday, Oct. 14th at 4pm

Please email me back on what day you will attend and if anyone can be a group leader! Thank you all so much and I look forward to learning with you.

May God bless you,  
Stephanie

[stephlitter@gmail.com](mailto:stephlitter@gmail.com)  
740.804.8145



## Around the Parish

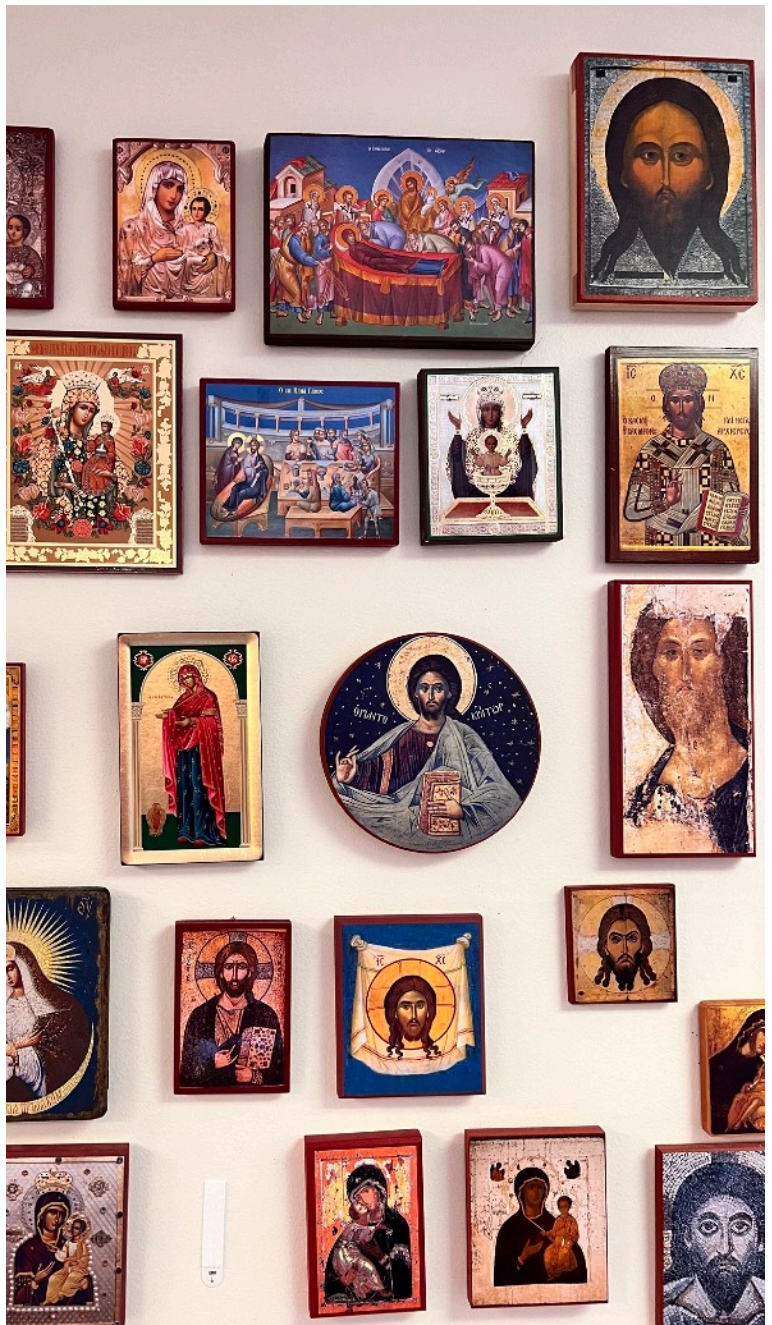


Nadine Redford and Mary Zarzaur demonstrating body preparation for parishioners and the Christian Ending Burial Group.

Nicholas & Alexandra Neve are proud parents of Genevieve Lucia, born on 9/27/2023.



## Around the Parish



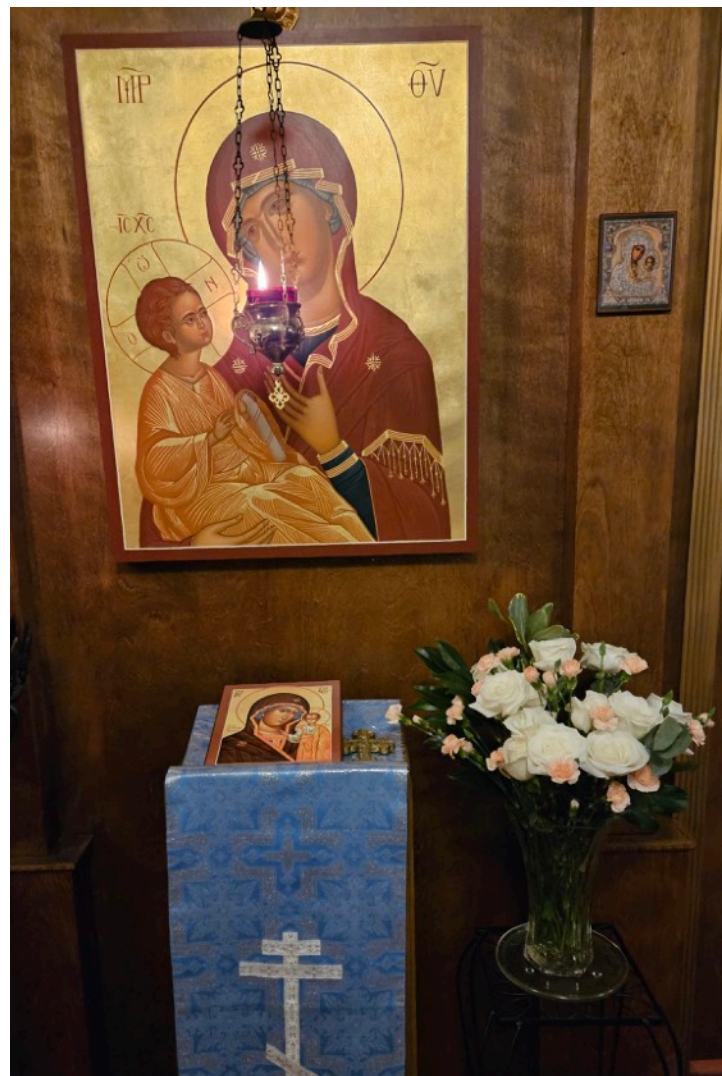


## Emma Pcsolyar's Baby Shower





## Nativity of the Theotokos & Exaltation of the Cross





## 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 Shiroto, 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.

**NON-ORTHODOX** Ted Darzi, Sylvia Gordon.

## 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 Pcsolyar, Matushka Ann

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

**Sisterhood President:** Stephanie Litter

**Sisterhood Vice President:** Kim Gilbert

**Sisterhood Treasurer:** Anya Sievers

**Sisterhood Secretary:** Emma Pcsolyar

**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

**Website:** Charles Malmede

**Facebook, Instagram:** Stephanie Litter, Katie Portillo

**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.**

