

ST. MICHAEL

THE ARCHANGEL

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 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

4319 Spartacus Dr., Huntsville, Alabama 35805

frgregory@stmichaelshsv.org | 256-881-2449

www.facebook.com/stmichaelshuntsvilleal

www.stmichaelshsv.org

Highlights

See also St. Michael's website for calendar.

Sep 2 Saturday:

†4:00 p.m. Catechumen and Inquirer's Class
†6:00 p.m. Vespers

Sep 3 Sunday: Synaxis of the Saints of Moscow

†8:45 a.m. Orthros
†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Christian Ending Meeting following Liturgy

Sep 5 Tuesday: 7 p.m. Catechumen Class

Sep 6 Wednesday: †6 p.m. Moleben to St. Michael

Sep 9 Saturday:

†4:00 p.m. NO CATECHUMEN CLASS
†6:00 p.m. Vespers

Sep 10 Sunday: Synaxis of the Saints of Nizhny-Novgorod

†8:45 a.m. Orthros
†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
St. Sophia Sisterhood Meeting following Liturgy

Sep 11 Monday: Beheading of the Baptist John

Sep 13 Wednesday: †6 p.m. Moleben to St. Michael

Sep 14 Thursday: Church New Year

Sep 16 Saturday:

†4:00 p.m. NO CATECHUMEN CLASS
†6:00 p.m. Vespers

Sep 17 Sunday: Synaxis of the New Martyrs and Confessors of Kazakhstan

†8:45 a.m. Orthros
†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Sep 19 Tuesday: Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossal

†7:00 p.m. Catechumen and Inquirer's Class

Sep 20 Wednesday: Nativity of the Theotokos

†6:00 p.m. Vespers

Sep 21 Thursday: Nativity of the Theotokos

†8:45 a.m. Orthros
†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Sep 23 Saturday:

†4:00 p.m. Catechumen and Inquirer's Class
†6:00 p.m. Vespers

Sep 24 Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross

†8:45 a.m. Orthros
†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Sep 26 Tuesday:

†6:00 p.m. Vespers for Elevation of the Cross

Sep 27 Wednesday: Elevation of the Cross

†8:45 a.m. Orthros
†10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Sep 30 Saturday:

†4:00 p.m. Catechumen and Inquirer's Class
†6:00 p.m. Vespers

Coffee Hour

Sep 03: Tanner/Portillo

Sep 10: Veres

Sep 17: Zarzaur

Sep 24: Braun, Sue & Sarah

Oct 01: Sisterhood of St.

Sophia Slava

Oct 08: Fontane/Gordon

Oct 15: Eversole

Birthdays

Sep 03: Ashley Zarzaur

Sep 03: Landon Zarzaur

Sep 07: Bob Zarzaur

Sep 08: Leeza Haddock

Sep 14: Monica Schultz Baker

Sep 14: Dylan Phillips

Sep 22: Anna Fontane

Anniversaries

Sep 03: Olesya & Adam Phillips

Sep 09: Brian & Mary Catherine Ballew

Sep 10: Fr. Gregory & Matushka Ann Schultz

Sep 12: Steve & Monette Gordon

Sep 27: John & Anna Jones

Save the Date

Sunday, Sept. 3 after Liturgy – Christian Ending Burial Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 10 after Liturgy – St. Sophia Sisterhood Meeting

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

Sunday, Oct. 8 after Liturgy – Baptisms of Hector, Katie,

Leilani, Laila and Elijah Portillo

Announcements

Taylor and Erin Terry have all the icons itemized on a tablet for sale from the donation by Matthew Hartley. Please see them for purchases.

Thanks

Mary Catherine Ballew for flower decorations for the Feast of the Transfiguration and for coordinating the feast coffee hours.

Anya Sievers for flower decorations for the Feast of Dormition and for contributing to the photo pages.



PARISH NEWS

FEASTS

This past month, we completed the Church Year (Liturgical Year) with the celebrations of the **Feast of the Transfiguration** on August 6/19 and the **Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos** on August 15/28. 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 Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION There was 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. was celebrated.

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

NEW PROPERTY UPDATE

We received some very good news on Friday, August 25th: our construction loan has been approved!

Before we celebrate this, we still need to meet some conditions which we are working on. This includes some financial information from the Diocese and the confirmation of our 25 Individual Guarantors, all of which is well underway.

We hope to close on the loan in the next couple of weeks and schedule the groundbreaking.



LOOKING AHEAD

CHRISTIAN ENDING BURIAL GROUP

On Sunday, September 3 after Liturgy, Nadine Tedford agreed to demonstrate 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. We will meet in the sanctuary.

We will need a volunteer to be the person being turned over. Nadine suggested having an older child assist us since we will do it on one of the long folding tables and weight is a factor. Please contact Matushka Ann if you have someone who can help us. As a nurse, Nadine will answer any medical questions on attending the preparations of a person who has recently passed away. She has experience with death and dying.

We hope you will be able to come since Nadine is driving an hour and half from Tuscumbia to be with us. Please let Matushka Ann know if you can attend and If you have any questions.

ST. SOPHIA SISTERHOOD MEETING

The meeting will take place Sunday, September 10th following Coffee Hour at the church.

FEASTS

We will celebrate two of the Twelve Great Feasts in September: **The Nativity of the Theotokos** on September 8/21 and **The Exaltation of the Cross** on September 14/27. (please see the September calendar for service times).

CATECHUMEN & INQUIRERS CLASSES

Classes will continue on Saturday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. and Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. (please see the September calendar for more information).

MOLEBEN & AKATHIST SERVICES

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

ST. SOPHIA SISTERHOOD SLAVA

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

Our Homeland is in Heaven

This September, we begin a whole new spiritual cycle: the Church New Year which begins on September 1/14. As St. Herman of Alaska once said, *“The true Christian is a warrior fighting his way through the regiments of the unseen enemy to his heavenly homeland.”* According to the word of the Apostle, our homeland is in heaven. About the warrior he says: *“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph.6: 12).”*

While we know that we will leave this earthly life one day, it's easy to forget how temporary it really is. After all, the kingdom of heaven is mostly invisible to our physical senses. However, the Holy Church is literally an image of the heavenly church and the heavenly kingdom. Through the Holy Sacraments, Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving, and all the rest, we can catch a glimpse of the kingdom of heaven. Many of us have had the opportunity to venerate the relics of an incorrupt saint or experience a miracle working or myrrh-streaming icon. We have heard of other miraculous things like the miracle of the Holy Fire that takes place each year at Pascha in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.



As Orthodox Christians here in America, we live in difficult times. During the first three centuries, Christians were persecuted and martyred in great numbers, so in many respects, the issues we see today: apostasy, unbelief, immorality and so forth are nothing new. The challenge then is one of “Spiritual Survival” as Blessed Seraphim Rose called it. To survive spiritually, Fr. Seraphim said that we need to develop an Orthodox Worldview. His Spiritual Survival Course provided an outline that traced the downward spiritual direction of western culture from the time of the Great Schism, when the church of Rome broke away from the Orthodox Church. How then can we Orthodox Christians practice our faith and continue to grow spiritually in such an adverse environment today? The answer to this question is the One, Holy, Ecumenic (catholic) and Apostolic Church. No matter how crazy things get in the world around us, when we come to the church services and practice our faith with God's help, we find the spiritual strength and support that we need to survive. St. Nikolai Velimirovic offers the following “Commandments of the Church” in which every Christian ought:

1. To go to church for public worship every Sunday, and on great holy days, besides the every-day prayers
2. To keep the fast periods and fast days as prescribed
3. To respect the priests as spiritual fathers
4. To confess sins with repentance before a priest
5. To avoid association with unbelievers and to read no atheistic, vulgar books
6. To pray for the living and the dead
7. To keep special fasts and prayers when they are ordered by the Church authorities in times of emergency such as war, pestilence, hunger, drought, etc.
8. To support the maintenance of the church, Church servants and Church institutions
9. To educate children by the Faith of our Fathers, and to admonish sinners to return to the Faith
10. To help in every respect the Orthodox Church's mission in this world.

Let these be our “New Year's Resolutions” for this coming Church New Year. By practicing these “Commandments of the Church” we will draw down the Grace of the Holy Spirit into our lives!

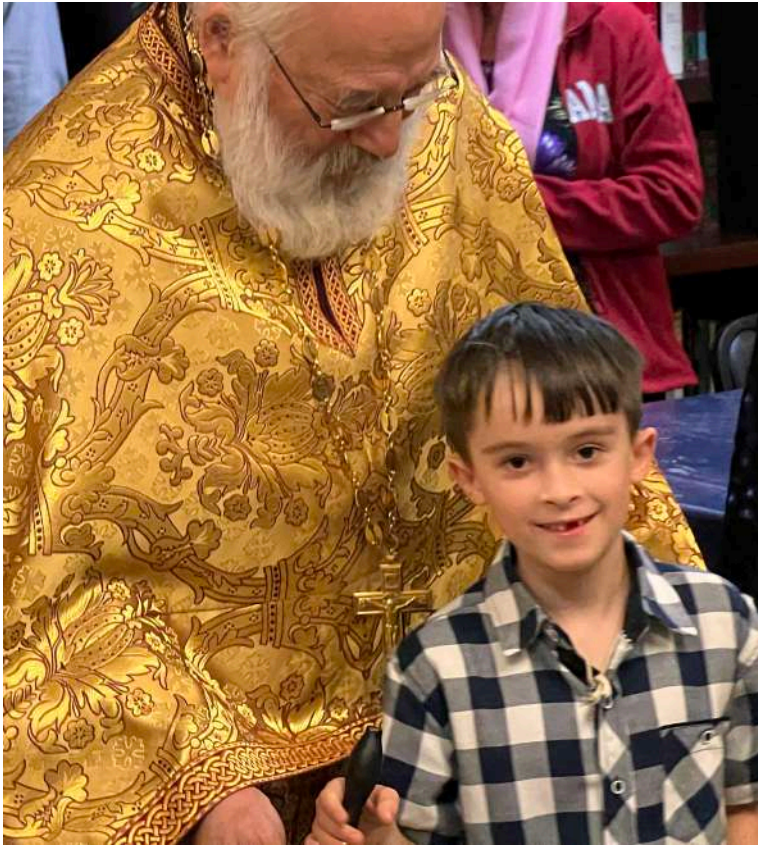
Around the Parish



Blessing of the Students at the start of the School Year.



Around the Parish



Taylor and Erin Terry helping sell the icons that Mathew Hartley donated to the bookstore.

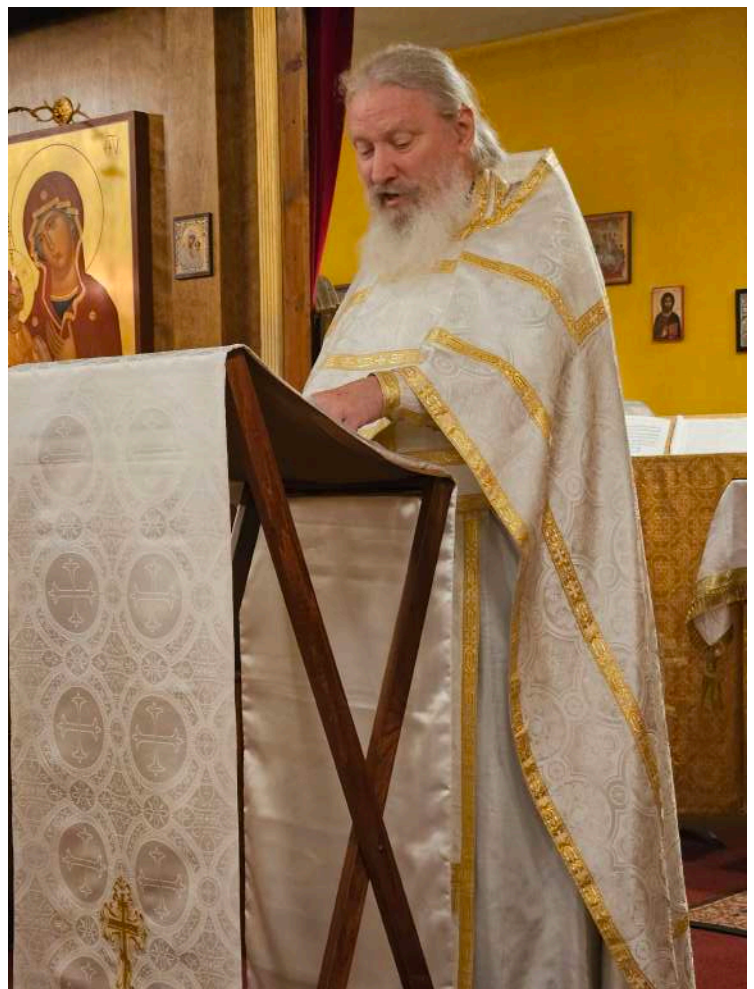


Sunday School following Liturgy, August 20th.

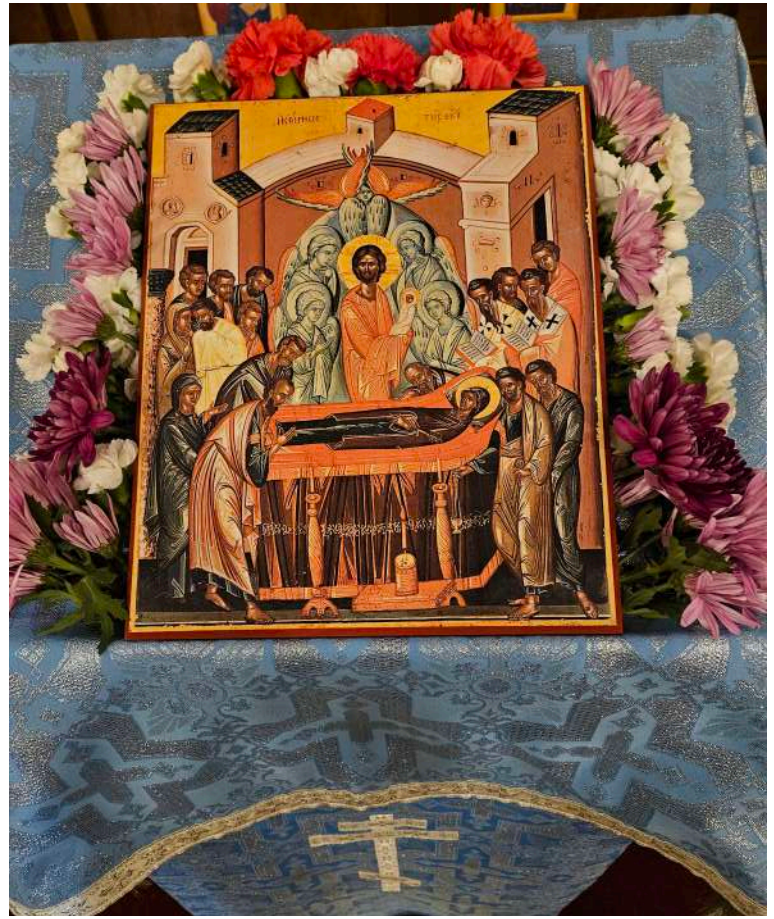


Baby Shower for Emma Pscolyar, hosted by Hal and Vivienne Pastrick, August 26th

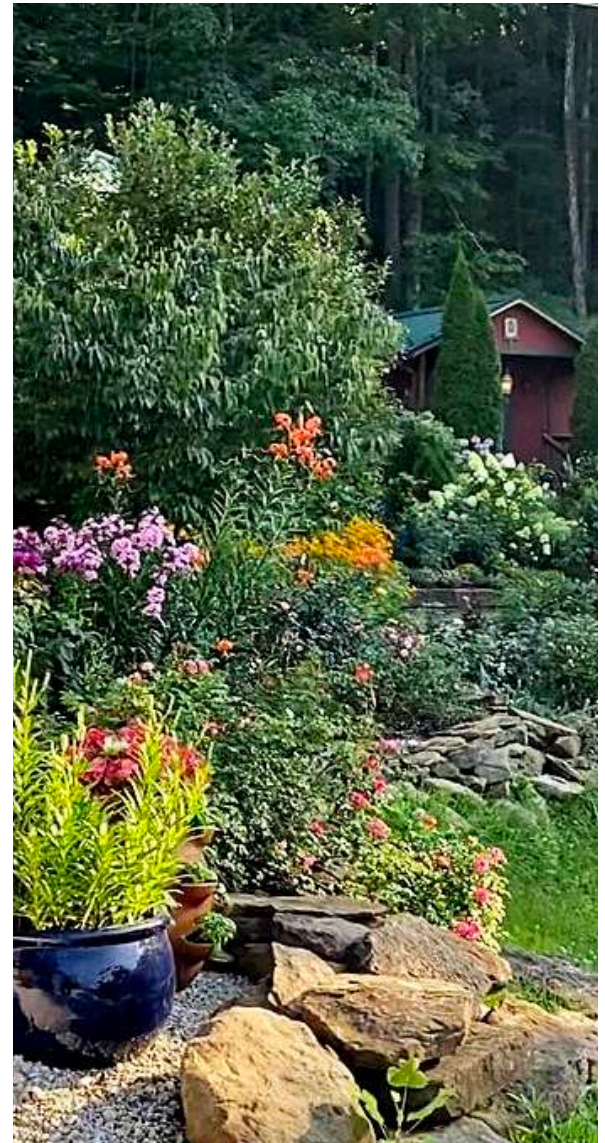
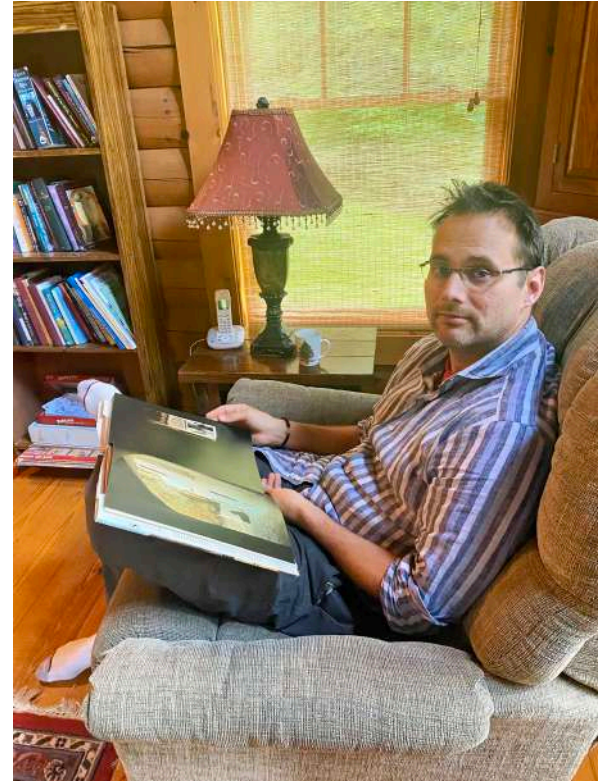
Feast of the Transfiguration



Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God



The Sievers Visit Holy Cross Monastery in Wayne, West Virginia.



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 Pscolyar, 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 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.

