



Newsletter April 2019

Christ is in our midst!

St. Michael the Archangel

Serbian Orthodox Parish

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

Website: www.stmichaelshsv.org/

[Click here for St. Michaels Website Calendar](#)

Tuesday, April 2nd – 6:00pm Church Council

Wednesday, April 3rd – †6:00 pm PreSanctified Liturgy
7:30 pm Study Group w/soup, salad and bread

Saturday, April 6th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, April 7th Annunciation of the Theotokos

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy FISH allowed!!

Saturday, April 13th – No Vespers due to Father traveling

Sunday, April 14th – St. Mary of Egypt

†10:00am Typica Service - Fr. Gregory in Chicago

Wednesday, April 17th – †6:00 pm PreSanctified Liturgy

7:30 pm Study Group w/soup, salad and bread

Saturday, April 19th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, April 20th –

†10:00am Divine Liturgy- **Baptism of the Catechumens**

Followed by Potluck celebration—Please bring dish

†6:00 pm Vespers **Lazarus Saturday**

Sunday, April 21st – Palm Sunday

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Mon/Tue, April 22th & 23th – Great Mon/Tue

†6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 24th – Great Wednesday

†6:00 pm Unction Service

Thursday, April 25th – Great Thursday

†10:00am Vespertal Liturgy

†6:00pm Service of the 12 Gospels

Friday, April 26th – Great Friday

†9:00am Royal Hours

12:00pm *Need volunteers to help Vicki w/flowers*

†5:00pm Vespers & Procession w/Epitaphion

Saturday, April 28th – Great Saturday

†10:00am Vespertal Liturgy

†11:30pm Paschal Vigil & Liturgy

Sunday, Mar. 24th – The Bright Resurrection of Christ!

†2:30pm* Pascha Vespers & Celebration at Edgewater Clubhouse, 111 Edgewater Dr., Madison

**(Vesper service is earlier this year)*

Coffee Hour:

Apr. 7th – Cox (fish)

Apr. 14th – Darzi/Baker

Apr. 21st – Ellis/Fontane

Apr. 28th – Pascha potluck at Edgewater Club House

May 5th – Haddock

May 12th – Hartley

May 19th – Harwell

May 26th – Hogan/Schultz

Note: *If you cannot be at church on your Sunday, please arrange to trade places with someone from the coffee hour list that can.*

Birthdays:

2nd – Maryna Hamby

10th – Jeremy Haddock

10th – Veronica Johnson

14th – Mat. Ann Schultz

14th – Becky Brennan

17th – Elena Lee

17th—Elena Lee

18th—Anna Queener

19th—Elena Huch

20th—Sandy Ellis

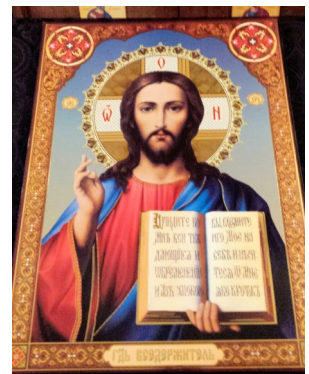
27th—Zoe Zarzaur

27th—Weston Letson

Thanks: To Peter & Timea Veres for bringing us an icon of Christ from Romania.

To Olga & Adam Phillips for the exquisite set of wooden prosfira seals from Russia.

To Bob & Alexandra Pickle for 6 small St. Michael icons from Russia to sell in the bookstore.



Activities This Month: Sign up for Baptism celebration Potluck Apr. 20 Easter Lily Memorials, Easter Potluck on April 28. *Volunteers needed* for flowers on tomb Holy Friday April 26—See Vicki

Save the Date: Orthodox Church Camp June 3—5; Annual Retreat June 20—22 in Monte Sano State Park

News at St. Michael's

Great Lent: On March 10th, we celebrated *Forgiveness Sunday* with the ceremony of mutual forgiveness after the Vespers service. This year, the 'line,' of those who forgive and those forgiven, stretched around the entire circumference of our chapel which is a new record for St. Michael's. As the traditional Paschal hymns were sung, and everyone asked forgiveness of one another, there was a real spirit of joy and lightness amidst us. Then during the first week of Great Lent, we did the *Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete* every night which is a profound meditation on repentance with many reflections on Holy Scripture. On that Wednesday, we served our first *Pre-Sanctified Liturgy*, one of the most powerful and spiritually uplifting services of the year!

Lenten Study Group: Beginning Wednesday, March 13th, we began our Lenten Study Group after Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. Everyone enjoyed a simple Lenten meal of soup, salad and bread. Then we had a spiritual feast from the *Sayings and Discourses of Abba Dorotheos*, a 6th century saint. Although Abba Dorotheos was an ascetic monk, he wrote about the spiritual life in a very moderate way that is easily accessible for us lay people. He often shares amazing stories that illustrate how to practice a spiritual way of life.

Sunday of Orthodoxy: On the First Sunday of Great Lent, the *Holy Cross/Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church* invited us to celebrate the Vespers service for the Sunday of Orthodoxy at their church, followed by a Lenten meal. Some forty-three parishioners from St. Michael's attended the celebration and we are very grateful to the Greek church for hosting us this year.

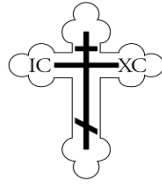
Coming Up:

Feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos: On Sunday, April 7th, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Annunciation—when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary with the news that she was chosen to be the Mother of the Lord. It is a great consolation that during the midst of our Lenten Fast, we are given the opportunity to celebrate one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Liturgical Year.

Baptism of the Catechumens: On Lazarus Saturday, April 20th, St. Michael's is honored to welcome our new catechumens to the Holy Orthodox Church. We will begin with the Divine Liturgy at 10am, followed by the Baptismal services. This group will include Leonard Adams, Becky Brennan, Benjamin, Stephanie & Jude Litter, Eric Morgan, and Ryan, Patrease, Makai, Kalani and Ma'ila Traylor. Please sign up for a potluck meal on the sign-up genie or tell Mat. Ann, mrs.ann.schultz@gmail.com.

Decorating the Tomb: On Holy Friday, April 26, Vicki Kendall will be supervising the decorating of the tomb at 12:00 noon after the Royal Hours. Please contact her if you would like to help; [windowartist@gmail.com](mailto>windowartist@gmail.com).

Holy Week & Pascha: Beginning with Palm Sunday on April 21st, we have included the schedule for the Holy Week services on the April Calendar. Please try to attend as many of these as possible! This year, the Paschal Agape Vespers will begin at **2:30pm** at the Edgewater Community Building at 111 Edgewater Drive in Madison, Alabama, followed by our traditional potluck feast.



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.”*

In just a few short weeks, we will complete the season of Great Lent and Palm Sunday and Holy Week will arrive, culminating in the joyous Paschal services—the spiritual high point of the whole liturgical year! The additional fasting and prayer that the Holy Church gives us throughout the Lenten Season, can seem burdensome and tedious at times. As Orthodox Christians in 21st century America, we are a very small religious minority, which means that all around us, hardly anyone pays attention to Great Lent. Everywhere we go: shopping, at the workplace, 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! 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 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 gives us new commandments that we must observe if we wish to be saved. In Matthew 22:37-39 the Lord said: *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”* These and other commandments the Lord gave us are ‘non-negotiable, and we must do our utmost to obey them.

However, there were other times when the Lord 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 mind 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!

March 2019 Photos

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Hosted by

Holy Cross-Saints
Constantine and Helen
Greek Church

Priests Concelebrating:

Fr. Paul & Fr. Gregory

On

March 17 at 5:30 pm



43 Members of St.
Michael's Orthodox
Church were in
Attendance at Holy
Cross



Holy Cross-Saints Constantine
and Helen

Served everyone a tasty Lenten
Dinner

March Photos Continued



Lenten Supper and Study Group

At 7:30 PM

On Wednesdays

Wednesday, Presanctified Liturgy

6:00 PM



Prayer List:

Living: **Church Members & Orthodox Friends:** Please pray for God's help with building the future Church and hall on our new property on Madison Blvd.; Lisa Craft, Ivan Fontane, Loren Capsopoulos, Leslie Hargrave, Phil Harwell & family, Weston Letson, Tim Waskerwitz, Kurt Weber, Fr. Parthenios, Sean Perry, Pat Darzi's granddaughters: Lorelei, Adina & Juliana, Martin Gureasko. **Friends of Members:** Barb Evridge, Anne Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros

Reposed: Eli Grba, Fr. Athanasius Shaw, Gennadiy Zhmaylo, Fr. Chris Williamson, Gregory Hughes, Ron Waskerwitz, Christopher Pamfilis, Alexa & Hayden Hannig, Nicolae Caracalean, Valentina, Vangie Pamfilis, Milan Petrovic, Boris and Mary Kochoff, Fryni McCreary, Nelia Friedman, Natalie Elliott.

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-deacon—Bob Zarzaur
Choir Director—Sandy Ellis
Ass't Choir Director—Matushka Ann
Readers/Acolytes—Steve Cox, Matthew Hartley, David Hogan, Rick Kaiser, Ray Kendall, Charles Malmède & Hal Pastrick
Sisterhood President—Iryna Haddock
Sisterhood Treasurer—Michele Platt
Sunday School Director—Matushka Ann
Sunday School Teachers—Serena Harwell, Adrienne Bowling, Pavel Sievers & Timea Veres
Sunday School Teaching Assistants—Stephanie Litter and Patrease Traylor
Library & Bookstore—Matushka Ann
Building Maintenance—Sub-deacon Bob Zarzaur & Rick Kaiser
Welcoming Committee Coordinator—Charles Malmède
Website—Charles Malmède
Newsletter Bulletin—Rick Kaiser
Candle/Supplies—Rick Kaiser

Church Council—2018 to 2019

Father Gregory Schultz—Parish Administrator
Sub-deacon Moses (Bob) Zarzaur—President
Michele Platt—Vice President
Matthew Hartley—Treasurer
Pavel (Elliot) Sievers—Secretary

Members at Large—Chase Baker, Joe Bergantz, Rick Kaiser, Charles Malmède and Hal Pastrick

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

Office hours at the Church are as follows.*

Tues: 10:00 am—4:00 pm; Wed: 12 noon—6:00 pm; Thurs: 10:00 am—4:00 pm

**Please note: while Fr. Gregory will normally be at the Church during these times, pastoral needs are given priority (ie.: when someone is ill, etc.) If you need to see him, please call ahead.*