

# Newsletter April 2020

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/](http://www.stmichaelshsv.org/)



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

**Wednesday, April 1st** – +6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy  
*Live Stream on Facebook*

**Saturday, April 4th** – +6:00 pm Vespers *Live Stream on Facebook*

**Sunday, April 5th** – **St. Mary of Egypt** *Live Stream*  
+8:45am Orthros  
+10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Monday, April 6th** – **Vespers for the Annunciation**  
+6:00 pm Vespers *Live Stream*

**Tuesday, April 7th** – **Annunciation of the Theotokos**  
+8:45am Orthros  
+10:00am Divine Liturgy *Live Stream*

**Wednesday, April 8th** – +6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy  
*Live Stream*

**Saturday, April 11th** – **Lazarus Saturday**  
+6:00 pm Vespers *Live Stream*

**Sunday, April 12th** – **Palm Sunday**  
+8:45am Orthros  
+10:00am Divine Liturgy *Live Stream*

**Mon/Tue, April 13th & 14th** – **Great Mon/Tue**  
+6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins *Live Stream*

**Wednesday, April 15th** – **Great Wednesday**  
+6:00 pm Unction Service *Live Stream*

**Thursday, April 16th** – **Great Thursday** *Live Stream*  
+10:00am Vespers Liturgy  
+6:00pm Service of the 12 Gospels

**Friday, April 17th** – **Great Friday** *Live Stream*  
+9:00am Royal Hours  
+5:00pm Vespers & Procession w/Epitaphion

**Saturday, April 18th** – **Great Saturday** *Live Stream*  
+10:00am Vespers Liturgy  
+11:30pm Paschal Vigil & Liturgy

**Sunday, April 19th** – **The Bright Resurrection of Christ!**  
**+3:30pm Pascha Vespers** *Live Stream*

**Saturday, April 25th** – **Bright Saturday**  
+6:00 pm Vespers *Live Stream*

**Sunday, April 26th** – **St. Thomas Sunday**  
+8:45am Orthros  
+10:00am Divine Liturgy *Live Stream*

**Wednesday, April 29th** – Moleben to St. Michael  
+6:00 pm *Live Stream*

**Coffee Hour:** There will be no coffee hours until further notice. When we begin again, we will start with the family where we left off.

**Birthdays:**

2nd – Maryna Hamby  
7th – Alexandra Jones  
10th – Jeremy Haddock  
10th – Veronica Johnson  
14th – Mat. Ann Schultz  
14th – Becky Brennan  
18th – Helena Jones  
19th – Elena Huch  
27th – Zoe Zarzaur

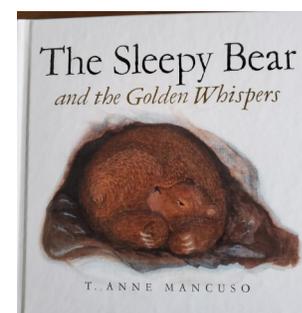
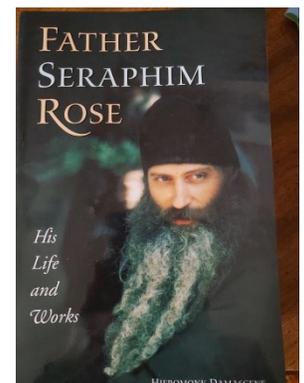
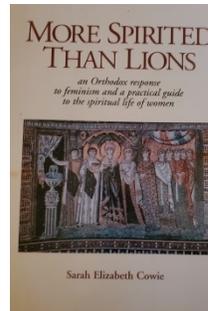
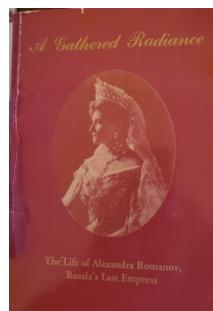
**Anniversaries**

7th – Bill & Heather Tanner

**Online Church School:** Is being offered by Stephanie Litter which consists of her telling a saint's life and offering a craft. She is working on a "zoom" classroom. Please contact her or check your Facebook page.

**Save the Date: June 11–13 St. Michael's 6th Annual Retreat on Monte Sano. RV site 78 A & B are still available to reserve. For cabins or other sites call Patty at Monte Sano 256-534-3757**

**New Library Books:**



## The News at St. Michael's – April 2020

**Feasts:** This past month, we began Great Lent in earnest with the celebration of the Service of Mutual Forgiveness on March 1 after the Divine Liturgy. This is the service when we change all the altar & analogion coverings and vestments from light colors to the dark Lenten colors. The following week, we did the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete on Mon., Tues., & Thurs. and the first Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday. This first week is the traditional way to begin the Great Lenten journey—by increasing our prayer and fasting. Much like when an airplane takes off from the runway, it must accelerate its speed in order to free itself from the earth and become airborne.

**Spiritual Study Group:** Following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wed. evenings, we began serving a Lenten meal followed by a spiritual study group using St. John Cassian's '*On the Eight Vices*' from the Philokalia. However, the has been cancelled since March 18.

**New Property Update:** In preparation for the upcoming "Phase 2" utility, stormwater and grading work, we had our contractor clear the remaining stumps and limbs from the future parking lot, cemetery and several other spots. The frequent rain has slowed down our progress, but we expect the Phase 2 work to be completed sometime this summer.

**Craft Fair:** After months of organization and preparing items for sale, the St. Michael's Craft Guild held its first craft sale fundraiser as part of the larger Craft Sale at St. John's Catholic Church in Madison, Alabama on Saturday, March 7th. Justin Novak's wife, *Lisa*, was one of the organizers and invited us to participate. After a long and busy day, our Craft Guild volunteers grossed around \$500 in sales which went towards the St. Michael's Building Fund. Thanks to *Mat. Ann, Stephanie Litter, Monica Baker, Anna Fontane, Serena Harwell, Anna Jones, and Becky Brennan* for their hard work in making this happen! There are still some craft items for sale in our church kiosk, so when we're able to re-open, please consider supporting our church by purchasing some of these items.

**Sunday of Orthodoxy:** On Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, it was St. Michael's turn to host the Sts. Constantine & Helen/Holy Cross Greek Church in Huntsville for the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers service. This was followed by a delicious Lenten fasting meal. Thanks to *Iryna Haddock, Michele Platt, Anna Fontane, Patrease Traylor, Vicki Kendall, and Wendy Morgan* and everyone else who helped make this happen!

**Parent Meeting:** On Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, we had a parent meeting to discuss a number of important issues regarding our church school. We discussed 'merging' the annual retreat with the children's summer this year, so plans are in the works to make that happen. An update was emailed out to our members on March 16<sup>th</sup> with highlights from this meeting.

### **LOOKING AHEAD...**

**Coronavirus Situation:** Our Bishops have been following the COVID-19 developments, especially as regards the civil authorities' directions. As you know, beginning around March 18<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Longin sent out a message that we forwarded to you with some guidelines for limiting some of our activities (such as study groups, Sunday School, coffee hour, etc.) As things progressed, we were directed to limit the church services to only the clergy and a few readers/acolytes. For the first time, St. Michael's began "live-streaming" our services, beginning Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. While we regret not being able to celebrate the Liturgy with everyone in person, many of our members and new friends have reported that they have appreciated being able to participate in this way for the time being. While no one knows for certain how long the quarantining restrictions will be in place, it seems likely that we may have to continue this practice at least until the end of April. Until we hear something different, it looks like we may be observing Holy Week and Pascha in our homes this year. If there is ANY change, we will contact you immediately and proceed accordingly.

**Online Church School Available:** *Father Gregory* blessed *Stephanie Litter* to coordinate a Church School lesson at 4:00 pm on Sundays. She will read the life of a Saint and talk about *Fr. Gregory's* Gospel sermon for that Sunday. She will offer a craft idea that when completed can be shown on her "zoom" classroom. Connect with *Stephanie* on Facebook.



This season of Great Lent will surely be one of the more memorable ones! The sudden coronavirus situation has turned our world upside-down in just a matter of a few weeks. Very few of us could have imagined not being able to come to church, especially facing the likelihood of not being able to celebrate Pascha as we usually do.

Many, if not all of us, have faced emergency situations before. Back in April 2011, we were hit with the largest and one of the most deadly tornado outbreaks ever recorded. Over a three-day period, 360 confirmed tornadoes ravaged through several southern states, including Alabama. A total of 348 people lost their lives during that time. Most of the Madison County area was without power for about a week. Many of us have experienced other natural disasters, accidents and tragedies in our lifetimes. Even though natural disasters and pandemic disease are different, they also have similarities. In each situation, people are often unprepared and many react out of fear and panic. Yet, we got through the crisis. It's important to remember that God is always with us, watching over us through these struggles. As it says in Psalm 33/34, "*Many are the tribulations of the righteous, but the Lord will deliver them out of them all.*"

When we call to mind the story of Righteous Job, God permitted Satan to tempt him, knowing that Job would be able to endure everything the Evil One tried to do to him. As St. Paul says in I Cor. 10:13: "*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;** but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*" Righteous Job gave us a powerful example of this by his life. All he had to do was patiently endure his hardships and in the end, Satan was defeated and Job was richly blessed!

In our modern times, it's easy to rely on all the 'experts,' technology, medical science, and media to solve every problem, keep us informed 24/7 and protect us from every difficulty or inconvenience. Yet, when we stop and think about it, our modern world is really unable to control everything. Despite all our modern scientific advances, we still have sin, sickness and death which have been with us since the Fall of mankind. Let's not forget though, God gave mankind these things as a penance, because He loves us. As St. Paul writes in I Tim. 2:3,4: "*...God our Saviour, Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*" While this may seem difficult for us to understand at times, like Job, we must never lose faith in God's love. The Holy Fathers have written, that in His love for us, God permits us to have various tribulations, knowing that it is precisely by having to deal with such struggles that helps us work out our salvation.

Above all, out of His love for us, God sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ to save us. He destroyed death by His death on the Cross, and by His rising from the dead opened the way to Paradise for us! As we finish the course of the Lenten fast and prepare to celebrate His Resurrection at Pascha, let's remember that NOTHING can separate us from the love of God! Certainly not even the coronavirus! There WILL be a great blessing for everyone who faithfully and patiently endures the struggles God permits us to have! May our Lord grant us the strength to endure to the end, that we may be saved!

# March 2020 Photo Page



**Forgiveness Sunday—March 1**



**St. John Craft Fair  
Saturday, March 7  
Fundraising for Building Fund**

March 2020 Photos



**Above:** Bill Tanner is made a catechumen with sponsor Ray Kendall on March 8, Sunday of Orthodoxy. St. Michael's hosted Sts. Constantine and Helen/Holy Cross Greek Church.



**Right:** Rick Kaiser and Charles Malmede replace the repaired cross on Church roof that was blown off



March 2020 Photos



**Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas,  
March 15**  
with our young acolytes,  
*Nicolai & Ivan Sievers*



**Sunday of the Adoration of the Cross,  
March 22**  
Our first live-streamed Liturgy

Another addition to our iconostasis of **Saint John the Baptist**, painstakingly handpainted by *Vicki Kendall*. We are so grateful for all she does to beautify our Church.

## 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.; Tim Waskerwitz, Pat Darzi's speedy recovery from surgery, Martin Gureasko. **Friends of Members:** Anne Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros

**Reposed:** 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.

**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 & Anthony Freude

*Choir Director*—Ray Kendall

*Ass't Choir Director*—Matushka Ann

*Readers/Acolytes*—Steve Cox, Matthew Hartley, David Hogan, Rick Kaiser, Ray Kendall, Charles Malmede & Hal Pastrick

*Sisterhood President*—Iryna Haddock

*Sisterhood Treasurer*—Michele Platt

*Sunday School Director*—Matushka Ann

*Sunday School Teachers*—Serena Harwell, Pavel Sievers and Timea Veres

*Sunday School Teaching Assistants*—Stephanie Litter and Patrease Traylor

*Bookstore*—Matushka Ann

*Library*—Eric Morgan

*Building Maintenance*—Sub-deacon Bob Zarzaur & Rick Kaiser

*Welcoming Committee Coordinator*—Charles Malmede

*Website*—Charles Malmede

*Newsletter Bulletin*—Rick Kaiser

*Candle/Supplies*—Rick Kaiser

*Facebook/Instagram*—Stephanie Litter

## Church Council—2019 to 2020

Father Gregory Schultz—Parish Administrator

Sub-deacon Moses (Bob) Zarzaur—President

Michele Platt—Vice President

Matthew Hartley—Treasurer

Rick Kaiser—Secretary

Members at Large— Joe Bergantz, John

Duda, Benjamin Litter, Charles Malmede 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 is available to 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.*