



Newsletter Dec. 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/

Sunday, Dec. 1st – **Martyr Platon**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, Dec. 3 – †6:00 pm Vespers for the **Entry of Theotokos**

Wednesday, Dec. 4th – Entry of the Theotokos

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

†6:00pm Moleben to St. Michael

7:00 pm Advent Study Group

Saturday, Dec. 7th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Dec. 8th – Hieromartyr Clement

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Monday, Dec. 9th – 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 11th – 11:30am Bible Study

†6:00 pm Moleben to St. Michael

†7:00 pm Advent Study Group and Fasting meal

Saturday, Dec. 14th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Dec. 15th – Prophet Habakkuk

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy **St. Nicholas will be visiting after Liturgy**

4:45 pm Galaxy of Lights followed by 6:30 pm meet at Terranova's

Wednesday, Dec. 18th – 11:30am Bible Study

†6:00 pm Moleben to St. Michael

†7:00 pm Advent Study Group and Fasting meal

Saturday, Dec. 21st – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Dec. 22nd – Conception of the Theotokos

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy **11:30 am Children Choir Practice**

At 3:30 pm, St. Michael's children and adults will do Christmas caroling at Thrive Retirement Home in Jones Valley.

Tuesday, Dec. 24th

†6:00 pm Vespers

Wednesday, Dec. 25th – St. Herman of Alaska

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy – **Potluck following**

(Western Christmas)

Saturday, Dec. 28th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Dec. 29th – Prophet Haggai

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour:

Dec. 1st – Litter

Dec. 8th – Malmède

Dec. 15th – Pastrick

Dec. 22nd – Phillips

Dec. 25th – Wednesday Potluck

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:

4th – Peter Ainsworth

6th – Marc Couch

10th – Andrew Haddock

11th – Crayson Sage

12th – Pat Darzi

22nd – Jude Litter

24th – Anthony Freude

26th – Makai Traylor

28th – Peyton Zarzaur

Anniversaries:

6th – Alexandra & Bob Pickle

19th – Phil & Serena Harwell

19th – Greg & Inna Barth

30th – Nathan & Keela Ainsworth

Save the Date:

* Sunday, December 15 – 4:45 pm Galaxy of Lights followed by meeting at Terranova Restaurant in Madison – RSVP

Bob Zarzaur – bobz1957@yahoo.com

* Wednesday, December 25 – Liturgy for St. Herman and potluck following (see Mat. Ann).

* Monday, January 6th – Eve of Nativity of Christ

† Royal Hours at 9:00am

† Compline at 6:00pm

* Tuesday, January 7th – Nativity of our Lord; 8:45 am Orthros, followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00 and **potluck following (see Mat. Ann).**

* Friday, January 10th – Christmas potluck open house, 6-10pm at the Schultz's; please RSVP mrs.ann.schultz@gmail.com

The News at St. Michael's

Congratulations to **Wendy Morgan** on becoming a **catechumen** on Nov. 3rd! May God grant Wendy many years! Also, congrats to **Maryna Hamby** on her recent promotion to Investigator with the Huntsville Police Department!

St. Michael's celebrated it's **Patronal Feast** on Sunday, Nov. 11. Following the Divine Liturgy, we migrated over to the Edgewater Clubhouse where we celebrated the traditional Serbian **Slava Service** and enjoyed an extremely tasty potluck meal! This year's Slava marks the 17th Anniversary of St. Michael's Church.

St. Michael's Capital Campaign Update: Having completed the initial boring under Madison Blvd., we have now found a utility contractor who will be able to save us considerable expense on the rest of our utility installation. Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge to the capital campaign. We are looking forward to approval for a construction loan from our bank very soon so that we can continue installing the utilities.

Coming Up:

Having just begun the Nativity Fast on November 28th, we will be celebrating the Feast of the **Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple** with a Vespers service Tues. 12/3 at 6pm and then on Wed. 12/4: Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am.

Nativity Study Group & Daytime Bible Study: On Wed. 12/4 at 6pm, there will be a Moleben/Akathist service to Archangel Michael. Immediately following at 7pm, we'll plan to have a simple fasting meal and will begin our **Nativity Study Group**. We'll be continuing with "*Meditations for Advent*" by Archimandrite Vassilios Papavassiliou (available from Ancient Faith Publishing. Then on Wed. 12/11 at 11:30, we will begin a "*Brown Bag*" **Bible Study Group**. Bring your Bible, your lunch and take a break from work or whatever you're doing to spend a little time studying the Scriptures.

On Monday, Dec. 9th at 6pm, there will be a **Church Council** meeting

St. Michael's will be visited by **St. Nicholas** after Liturgy on Sun. 12/15. We'll meet at the parking lot of Morris Elementary School at 4801 Bob Wallace Ave. in Huntsville & then carpool through the **Galaxy of Lights**, followed by Dinner at Terranova Restaurant at 1420 Paramount Dr., Huntsville.

On Tues., Dec. 24th at 6pm, there will be a Vespers service and on Wed., Dec. 25th there will be a Matins service at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10am in honor of **St. Herman of Alaska** followed by a potluck meal.

For Consideration
on the Nativity of our Lord and God
and Saviour Jesus Christ

from the Prologue of Ochrid by St. Nicholai Velimirovic



The Lord Jesus, born in Bethlehem, was first worshipped by shepherds and wise men from the East—the simplest and the wisest of this world. In our day also, those who most sincerely worship the Lord Jesus as God and Saviour are the simplest and the wisest of this world. Twisted simplicity and crazed wisdom have always been the enemies of Christ's divinity and of His Gospel.

But who were these wise men from the East? This question was closely investigated by St. Dimitri of Rostov. He asserts that they were kings of small regions or groups of towns in Persia, Arabia and Egypt. At the same time,

they were greatly learned in astrology. The wonderful star that heralded the birth of the new King appeared to them. According to St. Dimitri, this star appeared to them nine months before the birth of the Lord Jesus, that is, at the time of His conception by the Most-holy Theotokos.

They spent nine months in studying this star, in preparing for the journey and in traveling. They arrived in Bethlehem shortly after the birth of the Savior of the world. One of them was called Melchior. He was old, with long white hair and beard. He offered the Lord the gift of gold. The second was called Caspar, of ruddy face, young and beardless. He offered the Lord the gift of frankincense. The third was called Balthasar, black-skinned and heavily bearded. He offered the Lord the gift of myrrh. After their deaths, their bodies were taken to Constantinople, from Constantinople to Milan, and from Milan to Cologne.

It can be added that these three wise men were representatives of the three main races of men that descended from Noah's three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. The Persian represented the Japhethites, the Arabian represented the Semites, and the Egyptian represented the Hamites. Thus it can be said that, through these three, the whole human race worshiped the Incarnate Lord and God.

November 2019 Photos



LEFT: Yuliya Zarembo and Maryna Hamby
ABOVE RIGHT: Mayor Tommy Battle observes the promotion of Maryna Hamby to *Investigator* in the Huntsville Police Dept. Nov. 1st
BELOW: First meeting of St. Michael's Crafter's Guild planning for a March 7, 2020 craft fair (Serena Harwell, Stephanie Litter, Patrease Traylor, Monica Baker and Mat. Ann Schultz).



November 2019 Photos Page 2



ABOVE LEFT: Wendy Morgan was made catechumen on November 3 with sponsor, Mat. Ann.

UPPER RIGHT: Fr. Timothy serving Vespers with Fr. Gregory on right and Fr. Barnabus on left.

BELOW RIGHT: Fr. Barnabus Powell gives lecture

BOTTOM LEFT: Joseph Mahafsa, April Petty and Stephanie Litter from St. Michael's attend lecture at Holy Cross/Sts Helen and Constantine Church on Friday, Nov. 15



November 2019 Photos Page Three
St. Moses Brotherhood 26th Annual Conference—November 8—10



LEFT: Leonard Adams attending conference.
RIGHT: Mother Katharine Weston is one of speakers.
BELOW CENTER: Dr. Carla Thomas and Fr. Jerome Sanderson lead some spiritual hymns.



LEFT; Fr. Gregory concelebrated with priests from various churches including Abbot Damascene Christiansen on Sunday, November 10.
BELOW: Some lovely children attentive to Liturgy at St. John the Wonderworker OCA Church in Atlanta



November 2019 Photos Page Three
St. Michael Slava and Farewell to Sandy Ellis, November 17



St. Michael the Archangel
Slava
Ceremony at
The Edgewater
Clubhouse

RIGHT CENTER: Wendy Morgan, Vivienne Pastrick, Monica Baker, Kathy Couch, Sandy Ellis, Matushka Ann and Becky Brennan saying goodbye to our dear Sandy!

BELOW: Bob Zarzaur helps Fr. Gregory with Slava bread while group sings.



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, Tim Waskerwitz, Kurt Weber, Pat Darzi's granddaughters: Lorelei, Adina & Juliana, Martin Gureasko. **Friends of Members:** Barb Evridge, Anne Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros

Reposed: 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.*