

# Newsletter December 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)



### See [St. Michaels Website for Calendar](#)

**Wednesday, Dec. 2** – +6:00 pm Moleben to St. Michael  
+7:00 pm—Meal & Spiritual Study Group

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

**Friday, Dec. 4** – **Entry of the Theotokos**

+8:45am Orthros

+10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, Dec. 5** – +4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class

+6:00 pm Vespers

**Sunday, Dec. 6** – +8:45am Orthros

+10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Tuesday, Dec. 8** – +6:00 Church Board Meeting

**Wednesday, Dec. 9** – +6:00 Moleben to St. Michael

+7:00 pm—Meal & Spiritual Study Group

**Saturday, Dec. 12** – +4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class

+6:00 pm Vespers

**Sunday, Dec. 13** – +8:45am Orthros

+10:00am Divine Liturgy

+12:30pm Matthias Litter Baptism

**Wednesday, Dec. 16** – +6:00 pm Moleben to St. Michael

+7:00 pm Meal & Spiritual Study Group

**Saturday, Dec. 19** – +6:00 pm Vespers

**Sunday, Dec. 20** – +8:45am Orthros

+10:00 am Divine Liturgy

+12:00pm St. Nicholas visit after Liturgy

**Thursday, Dec. 24** – +6:00 pm Vespers for St. Herman

**Friday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** – **St. Herman of Alaska**

(*Western Christmas*)

+8:45am Orthros

+10:00am Divine Liturgy—**Potluck following**

**Saturday, Dec. 26** – +6:00 pm Vespers

**Sunday, Dec. 27** – +8:45am Orthros

+10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, Dec. 30** – NO SERVICE OR STUDY GROUP

### Coffee Hour: (\*Nativity Fast)

\*Dec. 6 – Malmède

\*Dec. 13 – Litter

\*Dec. 20 – Mahafza

\*Dec. 27 – Phillips

\*Jan. 3 – Platt

Jan. 10 – Sievers

Jan. 17 – Veres/Freude

Jan. 24 – Zarzaur

Jan. 31 – Ainsworth

### Dec. Birthdays:

4 – Peter Ainsworth

6 – Marc Couch

10 – Andrew Haddock

11 – Cayson Sage

12 – Pat Darzi

22 – Jude Litter

24 – Anthony Freude

28 – Peyton Zarzaur

### Dec. Anniversaries

19 – Phil & Serena Harwell

19 – Greg & Inna Barth

30 – Nathan & Keela Ainsworth

Save the Date: **Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 6 pm**

**Compline, 7 pm, Svyaty Vechir -12 Dish Supper—See Anna Fontane to help set-up and cook.**

**Thursday, January 7, Nativity of our Lord, 8:45 Matins, 10:00 Liturgy followed by Potluck, see Matushka Ann.**

**Friday, January 8, 6 pm—10 pm Christmas Open House at Schultz's, see Matushka Ann, RSVP per Sign-up Genie.**

Thanks to: Iryna Haddock for sending Sign-Up Genie for Nov. 22 for the **St. Michael Slava and Annual Members Meeting**, but especially to Anna Fontane for all her work physically setting up and planning potluck. Michelle and Rick Kaiser reserved Edgewater Clubhouse and moved chairs and table from St. Michael storage and all the other helpers: Serena Harwell, April and Joseph Mahafza.

Bob Zarzaur organized a successful BBQ fundraiser of smoked turkey and pork ribs with his assistants: Matthew Hartley, Rick Kaiser, and Charles Malmède on November 20 & 21 just in time for Thanksgiving.

Justin and his son, Samuel Novak repaired the support under one of our pews in the Church hall. Ray Kendall repaired some of the fluorescent lights in the Church. **Thank you all!**



## November 2020 Photos



*Above Left:* Drawing of prospective Church building presented at Slava/ Annual Members Meeting on November 22.

*Above Right:* Slava Table  
*Center:* Fr. Gregory serving St. Michael Slava ceremony

*Bottom:* Samuel and Justin Novak repair support for under Church Hall pew.



## **The News at St. Michael's –December 2020**

**Feasts & Fasts:** We celebrated our patronal **Feast of St. Michael and the Bodiless Hosts** with a vespers service on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and Matins & Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> followed by a Slava Service and potluck feast meal. Moleben & Akathist services were held throughout November on Wednesday evenings. Several Inquirer & Catechumen classes were also held on Saturday afternoons in November.

**Annual Assembly Meeting:** Following the Slava service and meal, our Annual Assembly meeting was held on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. After going through the usual reports, a presentation was given about “Phase 3” of our new property development: the actual construction of the Church & Fellowship Hall. Thanks to our architectural consultant, Taylor Hostetter, we unveiled a beautiful new concept drawing of a church with a basement fellowship hall underneath. A rough estimate is that this might cost about \$1.5 million. While generous one-time gifts are always welcome, our campaign strategy will focus more on financial pledges over a five-year period. We need approx. \$7,747/mo. in order to make the payments on a bank loan. If 4 people can make a \$25,000 pledge over five years (\$97/wk. per household), if 20 people can make a \$10,000 pledge over five years (\$39/wk. per household) and 33 people can make a \$5,000 pledge over five years (\$19/wk. per household), we can get this built and move over there! Please consider at which level you might be able to make a stretch gift. If we all do our best, with God’s help, we will get there!

**New Librarian:** We are grateful to the past efforts of former Librarian, *Eric Morgan*, who is passing the torch to *Bill Tanner*. Bill will be entering new books into our Readerware software and inserting physical address labels in new books. He will follow up on overdue books. Thank you Bill!

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

**Upcoming Feasts & Fasts:** **Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple** will be celebrated with Vespers on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 6pm and on Friday, Dec. 4 with Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10am. We will also celebrate the **Feast of St. Herman of Alaska** with Vespers at 6pm on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> with Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10am.

**Catechumen & Inquirers Class:** Classes will be held on Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm on December 5th, 12th, and 19th.

**St. Michael Moleben Services** will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm (*with the exception of Wednesday, December 30th*). Our purpose is to ask the heavenly intercession of our Patron St. Michael the Archangel, as we develop our new property. Following the Moleben, there will be a simple fasting meal after which we will begin the **Nativity Spiritual Study Group** in preparation for the **Feast of the Nativity of our Lord on January 7, 2021**. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the cost of the meal. Please let Fr. Gregory know if you will be coming so we can make sure to have enough soup for everyone!



## The Nativity Season

Someone once observed that one significant difference between Western Christianity and Eastern Orthodox Christianity is that in the Western churches, Christmas is the predominant feast that is emphasized. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the predominant feast is Pascha. This observer noted that Christ's humanity is of primary importance in the West, whereas Christ's Divinity is of greater importance in the Orthodox Christian East. It can be observed that in many Western churches today, "Easter" is almost an afterthought, with relatively little attention, while Christmas is celebrated with tremendous fanfare such as special musical presentations, midnight 'candlelight' services and so forth. In addition, the whole "Christmas Season" has now been turned into the most important commercial time of the year in our consumer-centered society. We often see retail stores putting out Christmas decorations and displays as early as September! There is tremendous hustle and bustle with endless "holiday" parties, shopping for gifts, putting up decorations, in addition to many traditional "holiday" performances like the Nutcracker Ballet, Christmas Carol play, Handel's Messiah and others. While these are all well and good as far as they go, what often is missing in all this celebration, is the great mystery of the Incarnation of Christ.



This is why the Holy Fathers of the Orthodox Church, since ancient times, wisely appointed a forty-day fast in preparation for the Great Feast of the Incarnation (Nativity) of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Many western converts to Orthodoxy find it challenging to fully enter into the spirit of the Nativity Season, having been raised with the familiar western Christmas carols and the generally secular approach to this Holy Season. It's even quite common now for people to "celebrate" Christmas with all the fun, outward activities, and not even attend a Christmas service at a church at all. Our Lord once taught us to "*seek the Kingdom of Heaven first, and all these [other] things will be added to you.*" In order to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, we need to start by ordering our priorities and that means putting God first!

Our Serbian Orthodox Church has continued to observe the traditional "Julian" or "Old" Calendar with regard to the liturgical life of the church. Therefore, the feast of the Nativity is celebrated on January 7th each year (according to the "new" or 'civil' calendar). Once December 25th has passed, most of the hubbub dies down—the shopping season is done, decorations are taken down and no more concerts and shows, etc. While this might seem to leave us Orthodox Christians with a rather drab and boring celebration of the Nativity, the opposite is actually true! Instead, we are able to celebrate the spiritual feast of the Nativity of Christ with less distraction by all the worldly activities!

We all know that we tend to '*reap what we sow*' when it comes to most things in life. If we study hard in school, we get good grades. If we work hard at building our career, we're more successful and make a better living. The same is true of our spiritual life! If we will invest our time and effort into observing the Nativity Fast, attending the church services, studying the Holy Scriptures and Holy Fathers, we will reap a rich reward, because we will have treasure in heaven as well as being enriched spiritually even in this present life! Let us take advantage of the wonderful spiritual opportunities our Holy Church provides for us during this Holy Season of the Nativity Fast.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Most Holy Theotokos and the Saints and Angels be with us and help us to enter more deeply into the great mystery of His Incarnation, that He may find a place worthy to lay His head within our hearts and souls and that He may be born anew in our lives!

## Prayer List:

**Living:** **Church Members & Orthodox Friends:** Please pray for God's help with building of the future Church and hall on our new property on Madison Blvd.; Kathy Couch, Vicki Kendall, Becky Brennan, Pat Darzi's speedy recovery from surgery. **Friends of Members:** Anne Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros

**Reposed:** 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.

**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, Joe Bergantz,

Hal Pastrick & Anthony Freude

*Choir Director*—Ray Kendall

*Ass't Choir Director*—Matushka Ann

*Readers/Acolytes*—Leonard Adams, Steve Cox, Matthew Hartley, David Hogan, Rick Kaiser, Ray Kendall, Benjamin Litter, Charles Malmede & Eric Morgan

*Sisterhood President*—Iryna Haddock

*Sisterhood Treasurer*—Michele Platt

*Sunday School Director*—Matushka Ann

*Sunday School Teachers*—Serena Harwell, Pavel Sievers

*Sunday School Teaching Assistants*—Stephanie Litter

*Bookstore*—Matushka Ann

*Library*—Bill Tanner

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

*Welcoming Committee Coordinator*—Charles Malmede

*Live-streaming & 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 cancelled at this time.

Please contact Fr. Gregory concerning any pastoral needs.