

Newsletter February 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](#)

Sunday, Feb. 3rd – St. Maximus the Confessor

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, Feb. 5th – Church Board Meeting

†6:00pm

Wednesday, Feb. 6th

†6:00pm Vespers

Sunday, Feb. 10th – Zaccheus Sunday

†8:45am Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Feb. 13th

†6:00pm Vespers

Thursday, Feb. 14th – Eve of Meeting of the Lord

†6:00pm Vespers

Friday, Feb. 15th – Meeting of the Lord

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, Feb. 17th – Sunday of the Publican & The Pharisee

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Feb. 20th

†6:00pm Vespers

Sunday, Feb. 24th – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Feb. 27th

†6:00pm Vespers

As is customary after Theophany, Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment.

Coffee Hour:

Feb. 3rd – Pickle

Feb. 10th – Platt

Feb. 17th – Sievers

Feb. 24th – Traylor

Mar. 3rd – Veres

Mar. 10th – Zarzaur

Mar. 17th – Ainsworth

Mar. 24th – Bergantz

Mar. 31st – Bowling

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:

1st – Joe Bergantz

7th – Michele Platt

9th – Alexandra Pickle

9th – MaryAnn Lee

14th – Eszter Veres

15th – Charles Malmède

18th – Greg Barth

19th – Timea Veres

21st – Kurt Weber

28th – Eric Morgan

Anniversaries:

22nd – Pavel & Anya Sievers

27th – Sandy & Roger Ellis

Thanks: To Vicki Kendall for donating a curio glass cabinet for the Church bookstore;

to Bob Zarzaur for the Super Bowl BBQ Fundraiser on Saturday, February 2.



News at St. Michael's

Nativity of Christ: This past month was one of the richest months of the Liturgical Year. On Sunday, January 6, we began celebrating Christ's Nativity with the evening Compline service, followed by the Russian Holy Supper. Monday morning, January 7, we celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of Christ with the Matins and Divine Liturgy services, followed by a festive potluck meal. Once again, *Joe Bergantz* brought out the tubular bells to play traditional Christmas carols. A good time was had by all!

Open House Celebration: Later that week on Friday, Jan. 11, the *Schultz's* Annual Nativity Celebration and Open House was held. This year, there was old English flaming plum pudding and wassail as well as a lots of tasty food and drink. The kids enjoyed watching the movie "Up" on the big screen at the Schultz Theater. The antique pump organ was again used to accompany everyone for some traditional Christmas carols. Catechumen *Leonard Adams* brought his flute this year and he and *Fr. Gregory* provided some delightful chamber music.

Theophany of Christ: Then, on January 18th, we celebrated the *Feast of Theophany* with the Vespers service, followed by the Indoor Blessing of the Waters. The following morning, January 19th, we celebrated Theophany with Matins & Divine Liturgy followed by the Outdoor Blessing of the Waters. This year was one of the most blustery we've had, with wind gusts of around 30mph and quite a bit of rain. Hats off to the hearty St. Michael's parishioners who brave the elements to help bring God's blessing to our community!

Coming Up

Feast of the Meeting of the Lord: One of the Twelve Great Feasts, we will be serving a Vespers service on Thursday, February 14th at 6:00pm. Then on Friday, February 15th there will be a Matins service at 8:45am followed by the Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord commemorates when Joseph and Mary brought the infant Jesus to the Temple on the 40th day after His Nativity to fulfill the Law. Like all the Great Feasts, this has important spiritual significance for us. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this Feast by attending as many of the services as possible.

Countdown to Great Lent: This February 10th is "*Zaccheus*" Sunday. The Holy Church taps us on the shoulder, so to speak, and says, 'Pay attention—Great Lent is just around the corner. The following Sunday, February 17th is the *Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee* which officially begins the great cycle of the Lenten Triodion. The week following is always a fast-free week, to help teach us not to rely only upon our outward correctness as the proud Pharisee did, but rather acknowledge our sinfulness as the Publican did so that we too may be justified! February 24th is the *Sunday of the Prodigal Son*. This in turn, is followed by the *Sunday of the Last Judgement* or "*Meat Fare Sunday*" on March 3rd and Sunday, March 10th is *Forgiveness* or "*Cheese Fare*" Sunday with Monday March 11th marking the beginning of Great Lent.

January 2019 Photos



12 Dish Holy Supper on Eve of Nativity January 6

And

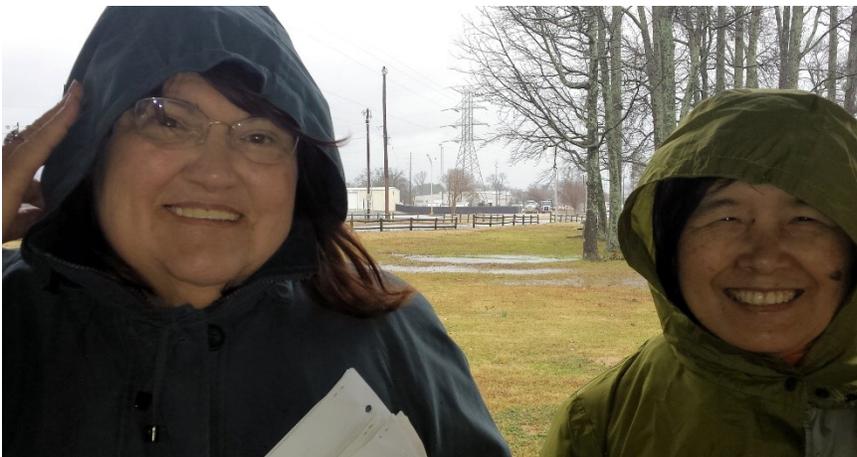
Potluck on Nativity, Monday, January 7



Schultz Annual Christmas Party with Plum Pudding on Friday, January 11, 2019

AND

Theophany Outdoor blessing of the waters at Brahan Spring Park on January 19, 2019



January Photos 2019



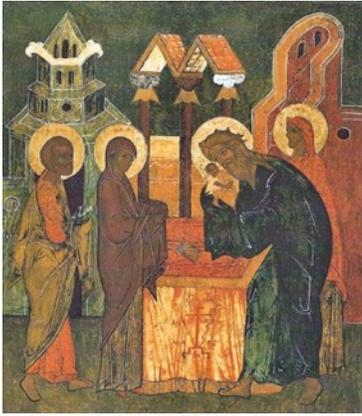
Catechuman *Rebecca Brennan*
and Sponsor *Iryna Haddock*

Catechumens: *Ryan & Patrease,*
Makai, Kalani and Mila Traylor
Sponsors: *Hal & Vivienne Pastrick*



Blessing of hand written Archangel
Michael Icon by *Vicki Kendall* (our
very own iconographer who donated
her time and materials)

The Meeting (Presentation) of the Lord



The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord celebrates the event when Joseph and Mary brought the infant Jesus to the Temple forty days after His Nativity. There the Righteous Prophet Simeon held the Divine Infant in his arms and famously proclaimed: “*Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace...*” This Feast is one of the most ancient Feasts and has been commemorated from the earliest Christian times. However, it was not counted one of the Twelve Great Feasts until the reign of the Emperor Justinian (6th Century). In the year 544AD, the plague was desolating Constantinople and the surrounding region. For some a period of about three months, as many as five to ten thousand people were perishing daily. At the same time, Antioch was suffering not only with this pestilence, but great earthquakes caused much harm, even to the point of huge fissures in the earth opening up and swallowing many people. It was then revealed to a certain holy man that the Meeting of the Lord was to be celebrated as splendidly as the other feasts of the Lord and the Theotokos. At his urging, the All-Night Vigil was served everywhere in the realm on the eve of February 2nd. Processions were held and the plague and earthquakes immediately ceased by the Lord’s mercy and intercessions of the Theotokos.

While this is all well and good, we might ask what importance this Feast has for us who now live in the 21st Century? As we look around us today, we see a similar situation. Natural disasters of all kinds have been occurring with increasing frequency and consequences. Terrible hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, wildfires, earthquakes and tsunamis have been occurring all around the world in recent years. The Kontakion for this Feast asks the Lord to “...*grant peace in the midst of wars to Thy community and strengthen the Church which Thou has loved...*” Do we not see many wars and threats of wars around the world today? Armed conflicts, terrorist attacks, mass shootings, rampant violence and threats are literally occurring all around the world and even in our local communities right now. We are surrounded by frightful outbreaks of epidemics and diseases.

Yet the Holy Church has been given this miraculous Feast which was blessed by so much Grace, that those horrible afflictions of pestilence and disaster were stopped back in the 6th century. Can anyone think that the Omnipotent and Almighty God Who created Heaven and Earth and all mankind is unable to send His Grace down upon us even in our present times? Of course He is capable, and has always been capable to do this! However, as we see back in the days of those terrible afflictions during St. Justinian’s time, God asked His faithful people to gather together in the Holy Church to celebrate the Holy Feast of the Meeting of the Lord so that He might send down His all-powerful Grace upon us.

We Orthodox Christians have been given such a powerful means of bringing the Grace of the Holy Spirit into the world, but sometimes it seems that we are too busy to come and participate in a Great Feast such as this. Perhaps we don’t feel this is really necessary. Would that we could travel back in time and ask the citizens of Constantinople if they thought it was important to celebrate this Feast of the Meeting of the Lord! And we know the answer to that question: with fear of God and great faith, they showed up and prayed fervently that the Lord would have mercy on them and in His great mercy, He put an end to those horrible afflictions. If it is impossible for you to come for the Divine Liturgy on Friday, Feb. 15th, perhaps you can at least attend the Vespers service on Thursday evening, Feb. 14th? Let us all invest a little extra effort to observe this upcoming Feast and pray that the Lord will grant us His Grace, that our Church may be strengthened and that He will deliver us from the evils that surround us!

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, Fr. Dcn James Hughes, Martin Gureasko. **Friends of Members:** Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros

Reposed: Eli Grba, 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
Readers/Acolytes—Steve Cox, Matthew Hartley, David Hogan, Rick Kaiser, Ray Kendall, Charles Malmede & Hal Pastrick
Sisterhood President—Iryna Haddock
Sunday School Director—Matushka Ann
Sunday School Teachers—Adrienne Bowling, Serena Harwell, Pavel Sievers and 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 Malmede
Website—Charles Malmede
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 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 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.*