



Newsletter Jan. 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/

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

Saturday, Jan. 4th – †3:00 Inquirer's Class
4:30 Choir Practice 6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Jan. 5th – Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Monday, Jan. 6th – Eve of the Nativity of Christ
†9:00am Royal Hours
†6:00pm Compline Service
†7:00pm **Christmas Eve Supper**

Tuesday, Jan. 7th – Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy followed by Potluck celebrating
Birth of Christ—break the fast

Friday, Jan. 10th – Open House Nativity Celebration & Potluck at Schultz's 6:00 pm—10:00 pm.

Saturday, Jan. 11th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Jan. 12th– Righteous Joseph
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, Jan. 14th– 12:30pm Craft Guild mtg.
6:00pm Church Board Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 15th– †6:00 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, Jan. 18th – Eve of Theophany
†6:00 pm Vespers
†7:00 pm **Indoor blessing of the waters.**

Sunday, Jan. 19th– Theophany of the Lord
†8:45am Matins
†10:00am Divine Liturgy
†12:30pm **Outdoor Blessing of waters (location TBD)**

Wednesday, Jan 22nd –†6:00 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, Jan 25th – †6:00 pm Vespers
Sunday, Jan 26th – Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonikus
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Jan. 29th– †6:00 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Coffee Hour:

Jan 5 th – Sievers	Feb. 2 nd – Zarzaur
Jan 7th – Nativity Potluck	Feb. 9 th – Ainsworth
Jan 12 th – Traylor	Feb. 16 th – Baker
Jan 26 th – Veres	Feb. 23 rd – 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:

3rd – Olesya Phillips
17th – Pavel Sievers
18th – Ivan Fontane
20th – Leonard Adams
21st – James Manley
24th – Cassandra Sage
26th – Steve Cox
30th – Neli Manley

Anniversaries:

14 – Anthony & Anya Freude
21st – Ryan & Patrease Traylor

Save the Date:

* 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

Thanks to Pavel & Anya Sievers for donating wood table & bench for church school; Timea Veres for donating book "Wounded by Love" by Elder Porphyrius to the Library

St. Michael News – January 2020

Feasts: The month of December has been a spiritually rich time for St. Michael's. In addition to the Nativity Fast, we celebrated the **Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos** with a Vespers service on Tuesday, Dec. 3rd and Orthros/Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, Dec. 4th. On December 24th & 25th, we honored our father among the saints, **Saint Herman the Wonderworker of Alaska** with a Vespers, Matins & Divine Liturgy. Those who attended were anointed with holy oil from the relics of St. Herman!

St. Nicholas Visit: On Sunday, December 15th, St. Michael's was visited by **St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**. Following the Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas came to the Sunday School room next door and was greeted by all the children who sang a hymn in his honor. He told them about his life and explained the difference between the modern-day 'Santa Claus' and himself. Afterwards, he passed out chocolate gold coins and oranges to all the children. Later that evening, some 45 members of St. Michael's went through the Galaxy of Lights and had a great dinner at the Terranova Restaurant.

Charitable Outreach: In the spirit of the Nativity Season, on Sunday, December 22nd, members of St. Michael's performed a lively set of Christmas carols for the memory care residents at the Thrive Retirement Home following a recital by Monica's piano students.

Nativity Study Group & Daytime Bible Study: The Nativity Study Group has been meeting on Wednesday evenings after the St. Michael Moleben/Akathist service as part of our preparation for the coming Feast of the Nativity of Christ. The book **"Meditations for Advent"** by Archimandrite Vassilios has served as our guide for these sessions and has been helping us deepen our understanding of Christ's Nativity. The soup, salad and bread meal has also provided some very enjoyable time for fellowship as well. A 'brown bag' Bible Study group also met on Wednesdays at lunchtime, focusing on the Nativity Gospel passages

Annual Pledge Campaign: If you have not yet filled out your pledge form for 2020, please do so as soon as possible. The church council is asking everyone to project what financial contributions they can make in this coming year: both for the annual operating fund and the capital campaign for the new church property development. We need to "stretch" a little toward the construction of our new Fellowship Hall/Church building. If everyone at St. Michael's will do their part, God will help us the rest of the way!

Coming Up:

Feast of the Nativity: On Monday, January 6th, we will have Royal Hours at 9:00am; a Compline service at 6pm, followed by the Holy Supper meal. Then on Tuesday, January 7th, the Orthros service for Nativity will begin at 8:45am followed by the Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. There will be a festive potluck meal afterward. Please note that every day is fast free until Saturday, January 18th.

Annual Nativity Celebration at the Schultz's: On Friday, January 10th from 6:00pm to 10:00pm, there will be an Open House Nativity Celebration and Potluck at the Schultz's. Come and join us for some traditional English wassail and plum pudding and lots of Christmas cheer!

Feast of Theophany: After the Vespers service on Saturday, January 18th at 6:00pm, we will celebrate the Indoor Blessing of the Waters. Plan to bring a small container (preferably 8 to 12 oz) to take some Holy Water home with you. Then on Sunday, January 19th following coffee hour, we will proceed to a location TBD for the Outdoor Blessing of the Waters. For anyone who has not yet experienced an outdoor blessing of the waters (since Theophany is usually on a weekday), now is your chance to experience the Grace of the Holy Spirit in this powerful service!



Why the Savior Was Born in a Cave by *St. Nikolai Velimirovic*

Meekness is the first virtue which Christ recommended to people in His Sermon on the Mount. And by His example, that was the first virtue that He showed, by being born not in a royal palace but in a cave for sheep. The next very important practical lesson, which the Lord showed the world with his birth in the cave is this: to remove oneself in order to make room for others; to be content only with the most necessary things. As God's Apostle teaches, "And when we have food and clothing, let us be content with this." Is this not a good lesson for today's world in crisis?

The important lesson is also in that a place does not give meaning to a man, but a man to a place. A man is more valuable than anything on earth. Neither do riches and outward glitter increase the value of a man, nor does poverty decrease it. You know what He said about John the Baptist, a man without a home – "What did you come out to see? A man dressed in fine raiment? Behold, those who wear expensive robes live in pleasures and dwell in royal palaces." King Herod lived in a royal palace and in soft robes but he was not a man, but a fox. Pilate also did, but he was not a man but a Roman wolf. So did the Pharisees, but they were not men but a generation of vipers. And the homeless John was greater than all those in the palaces – no one born of woman was greater than John the Baptist.

Here is one more lesson. The Kingdom of Heaven is more important for a man than anything in the world. One can obtain that kingdom regardless of where he is born and where he lives; in a city, or in the village, or in the desert, or in the cave. The Lord wanted to give a lesson to the world which sought the light only in big cities by showing them that the true light can appear from a lowly cave. This was later proved also by countless cave dwellers, the great spiritual figures and true beacons of light.

In my opinion there is another, not small reason, that Christ was born in a cave. In the Holy Land, four important caves stand until this day. They stand as they were at that time of Christ's coming into the world. One is the stone cave in Bethlehem where He was born. Another is a cave on the mountain of the temptation, where He was tried by Satan. The third is the cave at Golgotha, where He was crucified, where He was buried, and where He resurrected. And the fourth is the cave on the Mount of Olives from which He ascended into the heavens. So, the four most important events from the life of the Savior are connected to four immovable caves. The house where He lived in Nazareth does not exist, nor does the one in Capernaum. Of all the buildings that He visited, not one stands today—the court of Herod, or Pilate's house, or even the Temple of Solomon. Everything that was built by human hands has been ruined by time. But those four caves, made by God, stand now as they did then, so that no one could doubt that He really was born, that He was tried as a man, that He was crucified for people's sins but that He also resurrected, and that he ascended into the heavens in glory into His eternal motherland where He awaits His righteous ones. The Omniscient One knew the stone heart of man and the doubting reason of man, and this is why He in His wisdom tied those great events to four immovable caves. Had Christ been born in a house in some city or village would that house still be standing and witnessing? Not only the house but the whole city in which Alexander the Great was born does not exist anymore. The city and even the state in which the great Homer was born is unknown. But Christ's holy cave in Bethlehem stands. It stands and testifies.

Know this also: as His body, the home of His soul was not of man but of God the Holy Spirit, so also was the home of His body, the cave of Bethlehem, not made by human hands but by God the Creator and Providence. He created it before He created people on earth and when He created it He pre-determined it for His temporary stay when He would come down to visit the offspring of Adam and Eve. And He also made it to be the permanent witness of his coming to earth. Do not marvel because God has chosen such poor habitation for himself. What is exalted by man is an abomination before God. The King's palace in Rome was an abomination before God because it truly was a cave of thieves and criminals and of debauchery. But that which is despised and insignificant in the eyes of man, is what God often chooses and exults. This is the method of the all wise one. According to that method He chose the fishermen to be Apostles and the cave to be his cradle.

December 2019

Right: Celebrating the “Entry of the Theotokos” on Wednesday, December 4.

Bottom Center and Bottom Right: Celebrating St. Herman of Alaska’s Feast on Wednesday, December 25







Above: Dinner at *Terranova's Italian Restaurant* after visiting *The Galaxy of Lights* on Sunday, December 15.

Below: Christmas Caroling at *Thrive Retirement Home* with St. Michael's Church school children and Monica



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.*