



Newsletter July 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

See St. Michaels Website for Calendar

Wednesday, July 1 – St. John Maximovich
†6:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, July 4 – NO VESPERS

Sunday, July 5 – Hieromartyr Eusebius
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, July 8 – Moleben to St. Michael
†6:00 pm

Saturday, July 11 – Vespers
†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, July 12 – **Feast of Apostles Peter and Paul**
End of Apostles Fast!
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, July 15 – Moleben to St. Michael
†6:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, July 18 – Vespers
†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, July 19 – **St. Sisoies the Great**
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

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

Saturday, July 25 – Vespers
†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, July 26 – Holy Archangel Gabriel
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

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

Coffee Hour: (*Fast Day)

*July 5 – Kaiser	Aug 2 – Pastrick
July 12 – Kendall	Aug 9 – Phillips
July 19 – Litter	Aug 16 – Platt
July 26 – Malmede	Aug 23 – Sievers
	Aug 30 – Traylor

Birthdays:

1st – Inna Barth
4th – Vivienne Pastrick
7th – Inna Teasley
7th – Whitney Somerville
9th – Anya Freude
10th – Charles Teasley
18th – Eve Marie Freude
18th – Leo Steven Freude
19th – Joseph Huch
21st – Nikolai Sievers
23rd – Adam Phillips
24th – Madeline Harwell
26th – Nathan Ainsworth

Anniversaries

19th – Rick & Michele Kaiser
28th – Chase & Monica Baker
31st – Whitney & Morgan
Somerville

Save the Date! Concerts in the Barn, hosted by Monica Baker at 2941 Maple Hill Rd, NE, Arab on Saturday, October 10, 3 pm—10 pm consisting of studio recital, two bands, hay rides, dancing and children's activities. Contact monica.baker.piano@gmail.com for more information.

Please Pray: For *Paul Murray* to recover from surgery on his Achilles heel. *Pat Darzi* to recover from knee surgery. Repose of *Carl Brennan*, husband of *Becky* and *Marlene Flamik*, mother of *Cooper (Tamara) Murray*.

Thanks to: *David Hogan* for trailer to set up chapel at Retreat. *Bob Zarzaur*, *Iryna Haddock*, *Kathy* and *Marc Couch*, *Serena Harwell*, *Pavel Sievers*, *Anthony Freude* and all the volunteers for food setup at the 6th Annual St. Michael's Retreat!

The News at St. Michael's – July 2020

6th Annual Retreat on June 11-13: The Retreat this year was a tremendous blessing and consolation! We served daily Vespers and Matins, culminating with the Divine Liturgy and picnic on Saturday, June 13. Our Guest Speaker, Fr. Serafim Baltic gave several spiritual talks about *Lay Ascetic Spiritual Life* and *Orthodox Missionary Witness*. We, also, watched the new film “*New Men*” about the Holy Cross Monastery in West Virginia and Fr. Gregory presented a talk about *Spiritual Fundamentals*. This year, we had 60 adults and children attending and of those, 38 camped in tents, RV’s and/or cabins. Thanks to *Bob Zarzaur, Iryna Haddock and Kathy and Marc Couch* for coordinating meals and *Serena Harwell, Pavel Sievers, Stephanie Litter and Anthony Freude* for helping with the children’s program!

Feasts & Fasts: We celebrated the *Feast of Pentecost* on Sunday, June 7th including the “Kneeling Prayers” after Divine Liturgy. After a fast-free week, we began the Apostles Fast on Monday, June 15th which will end with the *Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul* on July 12th.

New Babies: Congratulations to *Timea & Peter Veres* who welcomed their new daughter, *Lidia Agnes Veres* to their family on May 30th and to *Monica & Chase Baker* who welcomed their new son, *Constantine Leon Baker* on June 20th! Also, to correct the last June Newsletter announcement: *Benj and Stephanie Litter* are expecting a boy around October 19.

Baptisms: On Sunday, June 28th after the Divine Liturgy, Catechumens *Joseph Mahafza, Wendy Morgan, April Petty and Bill Tanner* were baptized and chrismated into the Orthodox Church! Many family members, friends and parish members were in attendance. It was a very joyous and blessed occasion and we congratulate the newly illumined ones and welcome them as Orthodox members of St. Michael’s!

Repose of Carl Brennan: As you probably heard, *Becky Brennan’s* husband, *Carl*, reposed on June 3rd. He had been ill for some time with mesothelioma, (a form of cancer caused by prolonged exposure to asbestos). On Monday, June 1st, *Carl* asked to be received into the Orthodox Faith through chrismation. It was truly miraculous that despite his great struggles with his illness, he was able to be conscious and alert so that we could administer the sacraments of chrismation, confession and Holy Communion. The funeral was held on Friday, June 5th at St. Michael’s Church and he was laid to rest the following week in Virginia where an Orthodox priest conducted the burial service. May his memory be eternal!

Repose of Marlene Flamik: Please keep *Cooper (Tamara) and Paul Murray* and Cooper’s mother Marlene Flamik in your prayers. *Marlene* reposed on June 23. Memory eternal.

LOOKING AHEAD...

No Vespers on Saturday, July 4.

On **Sunday, July 12**, we will celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**.

Catechumen & Inquirers Class: Classes are being held on Saturday afternoons at 4pm with the exception of July 4th (*due to Independence Day*).

St. Michael Moleben & Akathist Services: These services will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. Our purpose is to ask the divine intercession of our Patron: St. Michael the Archangel, as we develop our new property.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Christ is in our midst! Following are a few thoughts about the ongoing coronavirus situation.

Despite all the fear and turmoil around us, the Scriptures and Holy Tradition have stood the test of time in their advice to us.

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

(2 Timothy 1:7)

“He who has become the servant of the Lord will fear his Master alone, but he who does not yet fear Him is often afraid of his own shadow.” (Ladder of Divine Ascent, Step 21)

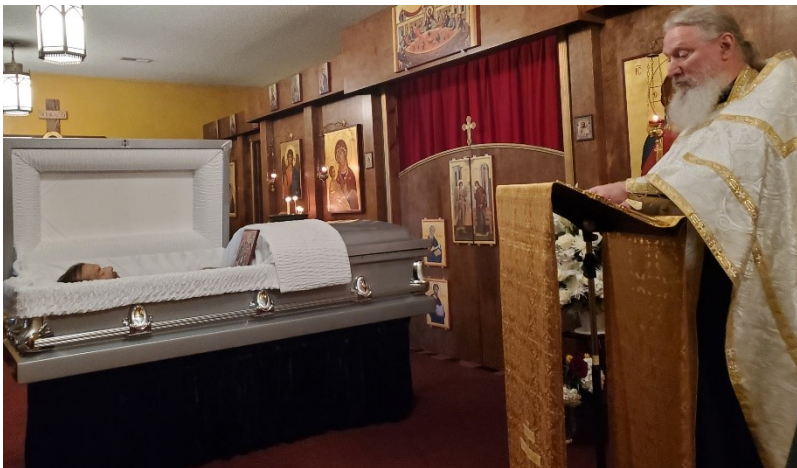
Archimandrite Gregorios Estephan, Abbot of Holy Dormition of the Theotokos Monastery, in Bkeftine, Lebanon recently wrote an article entitled *“The Suicidal Church: In Body or in Spirit.”* Check out this link: <https://orthodoxethos.com/post/the-suicidal-church-in-body-or-in-spirit>. He addresses the coronavirus situation from a spiritual perspective that is rooted in the Holy Scriptures, Sacred Tradition and the Holy Fathers. While this might seem to be a rather shocking title for an article, Arch. Gregorios is really talking about how it is like spiritual suicide for our Holy Orthodox Church to close during this time. He references ancient times when there have been other plagues (far worse than coronavirus) during which the Church did not close, but rather the faithful went to church in order to receive the Holy and Life Giving Body and Blood of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ! They went to Church to confess their sins so they could be healed and protected from all evil and also to pray for their loved ones and the world around us; asking God to protect them.

Just to put this into perspective: the “Black Plague” had a mortality rate of about 60% of those who were infected and it killed between 75 million to 200 million people worldwide. Let’s not forget that the world population in the year 1350 was only 370 million, whereas today it is nearly 8 billion. According to a recent CDC estimate, the coronavirus in the US has a mortality rate of about .26%. We must ask ourselves the question, if the Orthodox Church continued to serve the Divine Liturgy even in times of the Plague, how much more should we be committed to celebrating the Divine Liturgy when the risk is so much less? Don’t get me wrong, for someone who is in a high-risk situation (such as a serious medical condition), it makes sense to take reasonable precautions. However, we are seeing even Orthodox hierarchs and clergy closing church services today with the idea of ‘protecting people’s health!’ While I’m sure they mean well, the very purpose of the Holy Church and our life here on earth is to prepare ourselves spiritually for eternity. This means that our spiritual life is literally the most important thing we can focus on! For example, when someone is near the time of death, do we not hope that the dying person is able to confess their sins and receive Holy Communion rather than focus on trivial and worldly cares?

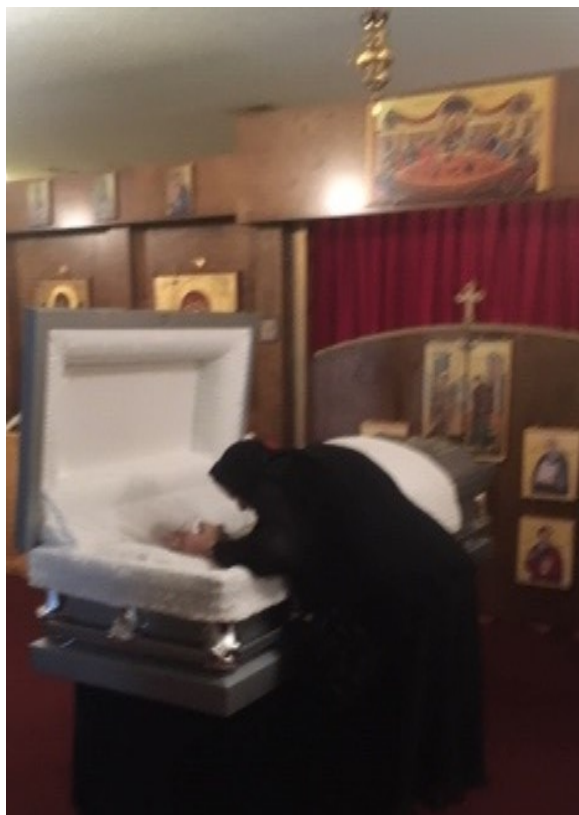
I encourage all Orthodox Christians to make their ‘spiritual health’ their Number One concern. No one knows when their last day on this earth will be, so we should spend as much time as possible preparing for the next life where we will be for all eternity! May our Lord bless you all and grant you the “peace that passes understanding!”

Yours in Christ,
Father Gregory

June 2020 Photos



Above: **On Friday, June 5**, Eulogy for Carl Brennan's repose
Right: Testimonial by grand-daughter, Alana



Above: Becky gives her husband a last kiss

Middle Right: Matt Hartley and Bill Tanner console Becky

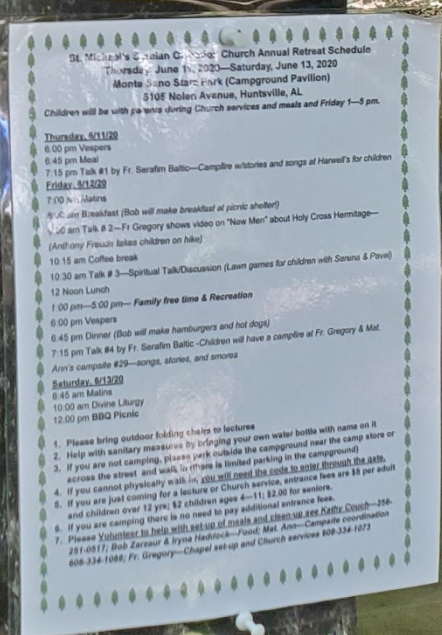
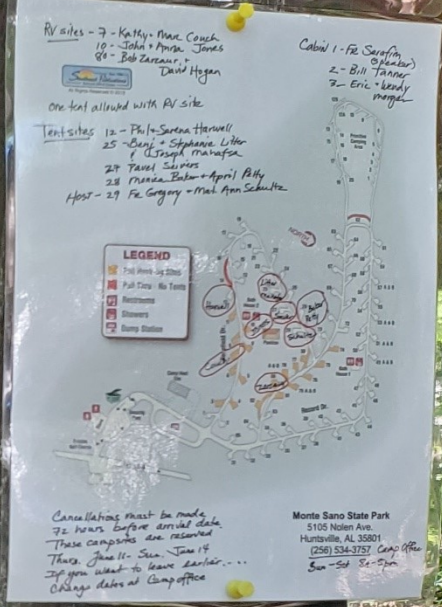
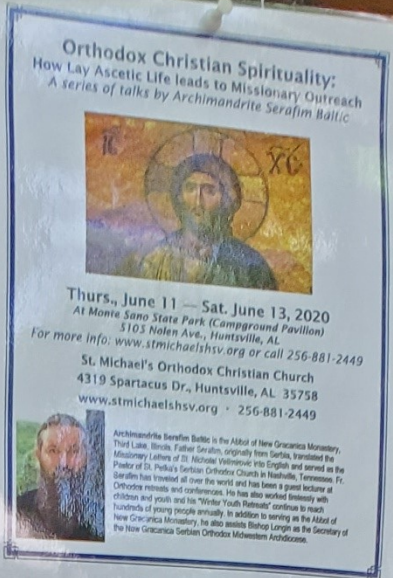
Bottom Right: Everyone sings "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal" as pallbearers take Carl away to be driven to Virginia for burial.



Pentecost Procession June 7, 2020



6th Annual Retreat—June 11-13, 2020



6th Annual Retreat—Continued





Above Left & Right: Liturgy on Saturday,
June 13
Bottom Left: Liturgy
Bottom Right: John Jones and Ezra in
foreground, Joseph Mahafsa behind
them.





Above Left: Lidia Veres born May 30, 2020

Above Right: Lidia with her mother, Timea

Bottom Left: 8th day naming ceremony for Constantine Leon Baker

Bottom Right: Constantine asleep, born June 20, 2020



Baptisms on Sunday, June 28, 2020



Let us congratulate our newly illumined *Bill Tanner, April Petty, Joseph Mahafza and Wendy Morgan.*

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

Reposed: Marlene Flamik, 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

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

Sunday School Teaching Assistants—Stephanie Litter

Bookstore—Matushka Ann

Library—Eric Morgan

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

by 10:00 am.

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.