

Newsletter June 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](#)

Saturday, June 1st— †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, June 2nd – Sunday of the Blind Man

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Monday, June 3rd – Wednesday, June 5th

9:00 – 12 noon **Summer Church Camp**

Tuesday, June 4th – 6:00pm Church Council

Thursday, June 6th – Ascension of our Lord

†6:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, June 8th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, June 9th – Fr's of the 1st Ecumenical Council

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, June 12th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, June 15th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, June 16th– Trinity Sunday. Pentecost

Father's Day!

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Thursday, June 20th – Saturday, June 22nd

St. Michaels 5th Annual Retreat at Monte Sano

Sunday, June 23rd – Sunday of All Saints

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, June 26th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, June 29th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, June 30th – Martyrs Manuel, Sabel, Ismael

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour: (*Fast)

June 2nd – Kaiser

June 9th – Kendall

June 16th – Litter

June 23rd – Malmede

*June 30th – Pastrick

*July 7th – Phillips

July 14th – Pickle

July 21th – Platt

July 28th – Novak

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 – Father Gregory Schultz

3rd – Angela Gafton

5th – Keela Ainsworth

6th – Chris Sweeney

7th – Helen Bergantz

8th – Patrick Faulkner

11th – Robbie Cox

11th – Vivienne Bowling

11th – John Duda

15th – Tamara Huron

17th – Eric Huch

19th – Chase Baker

20th – Kalani Traylor

21st – David Queener

24th – Justin Novak

26th – Vicki Kendall

28th – Hal Pastrick

28th – Serena Harwell

29th – Peter Veres

Anniversaries:

3rd – Hal & Vivienne Pastrick

12th – Joe & Helen Bergantz

25th – Marc & Kathy Couch

25th – Jim & Neli Manley

Thanks: To Adrienne Bowling for the donation of a table for the Children's Program



The News at St. Michael's

Baptisms: On Sunday, May 12th, St. Michael's welcomed a new member with the baptism of **Ryan (Michael) Agee**. Ryan's Sponsor, Chase Baker, was on hand to help. Ryan is a student at the University of North Alabama in Florence, Alabama. May God grant Ryan many, many years!

Graduations: Congratulations and many years to **Charles Malmede** who graduated this month from Troy University with a Bachelor's in Computer Science and to **Monica Baker** who graduated from the University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa with a Doctorate in Piano Performance.

Children's Education Program: Matushka Ann did two teacher training sessions this past month in a special watercolor technique that will be used for this year's upcoming Children's Summer Camp program. Focusing on the Six Days of Creation, this program will help our children learn and experience the Creation through these beautiful watercolor drawings.

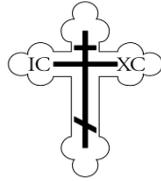
Church Library: Thank you to newly-illuminated **Eric Morgan** for his willingness to take on the role of librarian. Mat. Ann has been 'holding the fort down' with the library for some time and is very happy to pass this important job on to Eric. We are continuing to add new books and periodicals slowly but surely and our library is in constant use by St. Michael's parishioners. While there is no statistical evidence for this, our church members are surely among the most well-read amongst the Orthodox churches!

Coming Up:

Feasts: This month is going to be a very rich month for us. The **Feast of the Ascension of the Lord** will be celebrated with a Vespers service on Wednesday, June 5th at 6:00 pm and on Thursday, June 6th, Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. Ten days later, we will celebrate the **Feast of Pentecost** with a Vespers service on Saturday, June 15th at 6:00pm and on Sunday, June 16th with Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. After a short break, we will do the service of the traditional kneeling prayers at 12:30pm. After all this feasting, the **Apostle's Fast** begins Monday, June 24th.

Children's Summer Camp: This year's Summer Camp Program will be held from Monday, June 3rd through Wednesday, June 5th from 9:00am to 12:00pm each day. There will be a short prayer service to begin each day with some spiritual instruction geared for the children. Mat. Ann and the other teachers will lead the group through the special watercolor program about the Six Days of Creation. On the last day, there are plans to visit Monte Sano State Park (weather permitting) for some fresh air and fun!

Fifth Annual Retreat: This year's annual retreat will be held again at Monte Sano Campground from Thursday, June 20th through Saturday, June 22nd. Our Guest Speakers this year are Hieromonk Serafim Baltic and Taylor Hostetter. This year's theme will be how we as individuals and how the very structure and setup of our church can serve as a witness to the Orthodox Christian Faith. On 6/20, there will be Vespers at 6pm, Dinner at 6:45pm and a Lecture at 7:30pm. On 6/21 there will be a Matins service at 7:00am, breakfast at 8:00am and lectures from 9am – 11:30am. In the evening, there will be a Vespers service at 6pm, Dinner at 6:45pm, Lecture at 7:30pm and then hanging out around the campfire afterwards. On 6/22, Matins will begin at 8:45, Divine Liturgy at 10am and BBQ picnic following. Please consider camping either in one of the cabins, an RV or bring your tent. It's really the best way to fully experience the retreat!



The Acquisition of the Holy Spirit

Having just completed the forty-day celebrations of Christ's Resurrection at Pascha, we now look forward to celebrating the Great Feasts of Ascension and Pentecost this month. Let's keep in mind the real purpose of Christian life: the acquisition of the Holy Spirit. In November 1831, a pious Orthodox Christian named Nicholas Motovilov met with St. Seraphim of Sarov and wrote down their conversation. Following are a few excerpts from this talk.

St. Seraphim: ...However [good] prayer, fasting, vigil and all other Christian practices may be, they do not constitute the aim of our Christian life. Although it is true that they serve as an indispensable means of reaching this end, the true **aim** of our Christian life consists in the **acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God...** fasts, vigils, prayer, almsgiving and every good deed done for Christ's sake, are the only means of acquiring the Holy Spirit of God...only good deeds done for Christ's sake brings us the fruits of the Holy Spirit. All that is not done for Christ's sake, even though it be good, brings neither reward in the future life nor the grace of God in this life. That is why our Lord Jesus Christ said: *He who does not gather with Me scatters* (Luke 11:23)...

Motovilov: "What do you mean by acquiring?" I asked St. Seraphim. "Somehow I don't understand that."

St. Seraphim: Acquiring is the same as obtaining...Do you understand what acquiring money means? Acquiring the Spirit of God is exactly the same. You know very well what it means to acquire in a worldly sense...The aim of ordinary worldly people is to acquire or make money; and for the nobility, it is in addition to receive honors, distinctions and other rewards for their services to the government. The acquisition of God's Spirit is also capital, but grace-giving and eternal, and it is obtained in very similar ways, almost the same ways as monetary, social and temporal capital...In other words, make the most of your time getting heavenly blessings through earthly goods. Earthly goods are good works done for Christ's sake that confer the grace of the All-Holy Spirit on us...

Motovilov: "Father," said I, "you speak all the time of the acquisition of the grace of the Holy Spirit as the aim of the Christian life. But how and where can I see it? Good deeds are visible, but can the Holy Spirit be seen? How am I to know whether He is with me or not?"

St. Seraphim: At the present time, owing to our almost universal coldness to our holy faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and our inattention to the working of His Divine Providence in us...we have gone so far that...we have almost abandoned the true Christian life. The testimonies of Holy Scripture now seem strange to us; when, for instance, by the lips of Moses the Holy Spirit says: '*And Adam saw the Lord walking in Paradise*' (Gen. 3:10) or when we read the words of the Apostle Paul: '*We went to Achaia, and the Spirit of God went not with us; we returned to Macedonia, and the Spirit of God came with us.*' More than once in other passages of Holy Scripture the appearance of God to men is mentioned...Then on the day of Pentecost He solemnly sent down to them in a tempestuous wind the Holy Spirit in the form of tongues of fire which alighted on each of them and entered within them and filled them with the fiery strength of divine grace which breathes as with dew and acts with gladness in souls who partake of its power and operations (Acts ch. 2). And this same fire-infusing grace of the Holy Spirit which is given to us all, the faithful in Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, is sealed by the Sacrament of Chrismation on the chief parts of our body as appointed by the Holy Church, the eternal keeper of this grace. It is said, "*The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

May 2019 Photos



May Graduations!

*Charles Malmede graduated from Troy University and
Monica Baker graduated from the University of
Alabama—Tuscaloosa.*



Two Night-time Sessions of Teacher Tutorials

The classes were to prepare for the wet paper watercolor method for the summer children's Church Camp.

Participants were: *Serena Harwell, Stephanie Litter, Anya Sievers (not shown) Patrease Traylor and Timea Veres*



May 2019 Photos



Ryan Agee was baptized on Sunday, May 12
Though he was a few weeks later he joined his fellow newly-baptized
(below)



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, Pat Darzi's granddaughters: Lorelei, Adina & Juliana, Fr. Dcn James Hughes, Martin Gureasko. **Friends of Members:** Barb Evridge, Anne Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros

Reposed: Eli Grba, Fr. Athanasius Shaw, 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

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,

Adrienne Bowling and Pavel Sievers

Sunday School Teaching Assistants—Stephanie

Litter and Patrease Traylor

Library—Eric Morgan

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.*