



# Newsletter June 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

**Saturday, June 3rd** – Moleben to St. Michael  
†6:00 pm Vespers

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

**Sunday, June 7th** – **Pentecost**  
†8:45am Orthros  
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, June 10th** – NO VESPERS

**Thur - Sat, June 11-13 St. Michael's 6th Annual  
Retreat on Monte Sano.**

**Saturday, June 13th** – NO VESPERS  
†6:00 pm Vespers

**Sunday, June 14th** – **Sunday of all Saints**  
†8:45am Orthros  
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, June 17th** – Moleben to St. Michael  
†6:00 pm Vespers

**Saturday, June 20th** – Vespers  
†6:00 pm Vespers

**Sunday, June 21st** – **Martyr Theodore Stratelates**  
†8:45am Orthros  
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, June 24th** – Moleben to St. Michael  
†6:00 pm

**Saturday, June 27th** – **Vespers**  
†6:00 pm Vespers

**Sunday, June 28th** – Prophet Amos  
†8:45am Orthros  
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Save the Date: June 11-13 St. Michael's 6th Annual  
Retreat on Monte Sano. For cabins or other sites call  
Patty at Monte Sano 256-534-3757 Call Matushka Ann  
if you have any questions: 608 334-1086. Bob Zarzaur  
and Iryna Haddock are coordinating food and fund-  
raising; Kathy Couch is coordinating food set up on  
Thursday-Saturday, June 11-13.**

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

June 7 – PENTECOST Potluck	July 5 – Kaiser
June 14 - Fontane/Adams	July 12 – Kendall
* June 21 – Hogan/Schultz	July 19 - Litter
* June 28 – Jones	July 26 Malmede

### 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 – Cooper Murray  
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

3 – Hal & Vivienne Pastrick  
12 – Joe & Helen Bergantz  
18 – Becky & Carl Brennan  
25 – Marc & Kathy Couch  
25 – Jim & Neli Manley

**In-kind Donations:** *Thanks to Patrease Traylor and her  
Family for donating flowers for the Feast of Ascension.*

**Prayers:** Please pray for our pregnant moms; *Timea Veres  
due in May 30; Monica Baker due June 20 and Stephanie Litter  
due in August 2020.*

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

**Feasts:** Christ has Ascended! Glory be to God, we were finally able to re-open our Church on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> -- the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. Many of our parishioners said how glad they were to be able to come to Church! On Wednesday 5/27 & Thursday 5/28, we celebrated the joyous Feast of the Ascension of Christ with Vespers, Matins and Liturgy!

**New Property Update:** The heavy rains, coronavirus and construction issues have slowed things down a bit, but we're still moving forward with PhaseTwo! In case you've wondered why the parking lot in front of the church has a twenty-foot trench, that's because a leak developed in our water line. While the plumbers have since installed a new water line, they don't do concrete work, so we are in the process of having this repaired soon.

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

**Feast of Pentecost:** On Sunday, June 7, we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. This Feast is the culmination of the Paschal Cycle and after a fast free week following the feast, we enter the Apostles Fast on Monday, June 15.

**6th Annual Retreat:** We will have our annual retreat June 11-13 this year at Monte Sano State Park Campground. This year's guest speaker will be Archimandrite Serafim Baltic, Abbot of New Gracanica Monastery and Archdiocesan Secretary. He will be giving several talks about how lay ascetic spiritual life leads to Orthodox missionary outreach. Several emails have gone out to our members requesting meal sign-ups and asking for financial support to help with the retreat expenses. If every household/family attending the retreat could to make a gift of \$75, that would cover the meal costs and guest speaker expenses.

**Catechumen & Inquirers Class:** Classes are being held on Saturday afternoons at 4pm with the exception of June 13<sup>th</sup> due to the retreat and July 4 due to Independence Day.

**Moleben & Akathist Services:** These services will continue on most Wednesday evenings (except Wed. June 10<sup>th</sup> due to retreat preparations).

## Pentecost: The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Having gone through the whole season of Great Lent and Holy Week, we experienced a small taste of asceticism and repentance. This in turn helped strengthen our spiritual lives. On Pascha, we celebrated Christ's Resurrection and in some small way, experienced a taste of that Paschal Joy! After 40 days of keeping festival, we then celebrated Christ's Ascension into heaven. We might wonder sometimes, what is the point of all this? And the answer is: Pentecost!

On the day of Pentecost, the One, Holy, Ecumenic and Apostolic Church was born on earth. Our Holy Church has been through many ups and downs over the long centuries, but as our Lord promised, the gates of hell have not prevailed against it! The Holy Church is the repository of the Holy Spirit for us on earth. It is meant to be an image of the heavenly Church on high. The Grace of the Holy Spirit is made available to us through the sacraments, prayer, fasting, holy relics, icons, divine services and all that the Church directs us to do..



And what did the disciples do, having received the gifts of the Holy Spirit? They became bold witnesses for Christ. The Apostles preached and established the Holy Church all over the world and before they finished their course, they passed on their precious legacy to their disciples. This process has continued down to our present times and now, it is we who must take up the high calling to serve as witnesses for Christ. Yet, when we read the Scriptures and the Lives of the Saints, and then consider our own state, we wonder what kind of witnesses we can be? After all, most of us are not great saints who have been given the great wonderworking gifts to raise the dead, cast out devils and heal the sick. Yet, in every time and place throughout the history of the Church, ordinary people just like us were given whatever gifts God was pleased to bestow upon them, even if they were not strong. When St. Paul was unable to overcome some struggle that he called '*a thorn in my flesh sent by Satan to buffet me,*' the Lord spoke to him and told him that '*My Grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in your weakness.*'

We Orthodox Christians are a small minority here in America. Yet, the Lord once told us that a small amount of leaven can leaven the whole lump of dough. A little bit of salt flavors the whole dish and when it's dark, even a small light shines very brightly. In other words, the Grace of the Holy Spirit can work very powerfully through us and benefit others, even though it might seem like we are very small in spiritual stature. When we make even a little bit of effort to come to Church, confess our sins, receive Holy Communion, practice prayer and fasting both at home and at Church, study the Scriptures and Holy Fathers, the Grace of the Holy Spirit comes to us and abides in us! We may not even always be fully aware of this, but it can make an impact on someone who is searching for a deeper Christian faith! By continuously working on improving our spiritual lives with Christ's help, struggling against the sinful passions and acquiring the heavenly virtues, we can truly become witnesses to the Grace of God, because the Holy Spirit will be active in our lives! In a way, we are like candles with wicks that must be lit in order to give out its light. Each day we must work to keep that flame of the Holy Spirit lit so that it is never extinguished. And if it should get blown out, we must re-light it and keep repeating this process over the course of our lives. The Holy Spirit has Descended: from Heaven to Earth!



## May 2020 Photos



Above left & right: April Petty was made Catechumen. Her sponsor, Stephanie Litter is on her right.



Next three above photos:  
Thursday, May 28,  
Feast of the Ascension Liturgy  
Above Left: Flowers donated by  
Patrease Traylor & Family



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

**Reposed:** 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 & 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

*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.