

Newsletter March 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, Mar. 2nd

†6:00 pm Vespers

**Sunday, Mar. 3rd Sunday of the Last Judgment
(last day of meat.)**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, Mar. 5th – Church Council

†6:00pm Meeting

Wednesday, Mar. 6th – Baptismal Candle Workshop!

†4:30 pm—6:00 pm See Mat. Ann to make candles to sell

†6:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, Mar. 9th – Baptismal Candle Workshop!

†4:30 pm—6:00 pm See Mat. Ann to make candles to sell

†6:00 pm Vespers

**Sunday, Mar. 10th – Forgiveness Sunday (last day of
cheese)**

†8:45am Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Monday, Mar. 11th – Great Lent begins—Canon of St.
Andrew at 6 pm Mon, Tues & Thursday**

**Wednesday, Mar. 13th – †6:00 pm PreSanctified Liturgy
& 7:30 pm Study Group w/soup, salad and bread**

Saturday, Mar. 16th

†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Mar. 17th – Sunday of Orthodoxy

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

†5:30 pm Vespers at Holy Cross/Sts Constantine & Helen
A supper hosted by their Church following. Please RSVP-
with Iryna Haddock if you plan to attend.

**Wednesday, Mar. 20th – †6:00 pm PreSanctified Liturgy
& 7:30 pm Study Group w/soup, salad and bread**

Saturday, Mar. 23rd

†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Mar. 24th – Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, Mar. 27th – †6:00 pm PreSanctified Liturgy
& 7:30 pm Study Group w/soup, salad and bread**

Saturday, Mar. 30th

†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Mar. 31st – Adoration of the Cross

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour:

Mar. 3rd – Veres

Mar. 10th – Zarzaur

Mar. 17th – Ainsworth

Mar. 24th – Bergantz

Mar. 31st – Bowling

Apr. 7th – Cox

Apr. 14th – Darzi/Baker

Apr. 21st – Ellis/Fontane

**Apr. 28th – Pascha potluck
at Edgewater Club House**

*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- Iryna Haddock

7th – Stephanie Litter

7th – Zion Hamby

8th – Adrienne Bowling

11th – Rick Bowling

18th - Bob Pickle

18th - Jeremy Harwell

19th – Lucas Novak

22nd – David Brown

29th – Shaw Duda

Anniversaries:

16th - Steve & Robbie Cox

Thanks: To Charles Malmede and Dasha for moving the
donated Curio cabinet from the Kendalls. Our crew of
Church school teachers and assistants: Adrienne Bowling,
Serena Harwell, Pavel Sievers, Timea Veras and Stephanie
Litter and Patrease Traylor. Rick Kaiser and Bob Zarzaur
for maintenance of our building and Rick Kaiser for repairing
the vacuum cleaner.

Activities This Month: Baptismal Candle Workshop (See
Mat. Ann); Wednesday Lenten Study Group (See Fr.
Gregory); Sunday of Orthodoxy on March 17 (hosted by
Holy Cross/Sts Constantine & Helen).

**Save the Date: Registration forms are available for St.
Michael's Annual Orthodox Church Camp—June 3—5,
2019 (See Mat. Ann).**

The News at St. Michael's

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord: On Thursday, February 14th, we served Great Vespers and on the Feast itself, Friday, February 15th, Matins and Divine Liturgy were served. Just as in ancient times, the Faithful, who attended the service, went in procession around the Church singing the Troparion of the Feast: *“Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, Mother of God and Virgin, for from thee arose the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, to give light to those in darkness. Rejoice thou also, righteous Elder, who didst take in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also gives us the Grace of Resurrection.”* Truly, the Grace of the Holy Spirit was with us and went out into the world as a blessing, help and protection from evil!

New Property Update: In August 2018, we met with the staff of the City of Madison and our Architect, General Contractor and Civil Engineers to determine the next steps. The Site Plan that hangs on our bulletin board, is only a “Preliminary” Site Plan and the City of Madison explained the various components that would need further work in order to get our “Final Approved Site Plan.” We went back and forth for several months working out all the details to everyone’s satisfaction. The Capital Campaign Update that was presented at our Annual Assembly on September 30th, 2018, included a quote of \$132,000 for the driveway, storm water and parking lot (the most reasonable and lowest bid we’ve received to date). Our plan was to take this next step as soon as the Final Site Plan was approved. However: As it says in Proverbs 19:21 *“There are many plans in a man’s heart, nevertheless the Lord’s counsel—that will stand.”* Put another way, man proposes, but God disposes!

In December 2018, the 3-acre parcel of land to the west of our property was suddenly sold. Since we are obligated to share driveway access with this neighboring property, it presented some new challenges. We met with the new owner who plans to put in some retail/commercial space along the frontage road and he was interested in sharing the cost of the sewer line that needs to be put in under Madison Blvd. This is good news, since it will cut the cost in half—saving the church some \$17,000 to \$20,000. However, we had to go back to the drawing board and obtain new estimates that include installing the various utilities—something that we had planned to work on later as part of the next phase. With all the construction going on in Madison County, contractors have more work than they can handle, so they tend to give priority to larger, more profitable projects. While our project is very important to us, it is a relatively modest one, so we’re finding that it sometimes takes longer to obtain reasonable estimates. Our Final Site plan was approved at the beginning of February, 2019, and we now expect to have our bids for both the grading and storm water, as well as the utilities in early March, 2019. Considering the torrential rains we’ve had in February, this does seem Providential, as we would not have made much progress on the dirt work with such inclement weather! Stay tuned for further updates!

COMING UP!

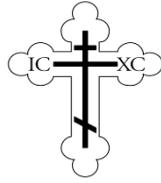
Great Lent Schedule: Sunday, March 3rd is “Meat-Fare Sunday”, where we say ‘farewell’ to meat until Pascha. From Monday, March 4th through Sunday March 10th is Cheesefare Week. During this week, we are permitted to use dairy products and fish. Not only is Sunday, March 10th “Cheesefare Sunday,” it is also called “Forgiveness Sunday.” St. Michael’s will observe the Lenten Tradition of Forgiveness Sunday Vespers after Coffee Hour (around 12:15 pm) on March 10th. We change the light-colored altar coverings and vestments to the dark Lenten colors and at the end of the Vespers is the Service of Mutual Forgiveness, in which we sing the Paschal hymns and forgive one another. This is a very important part of our Lenten observance, so please plan to attend! The first week of Great Lent begins on Monday, March 11th. On Monday 3/12, Tuesday 3/13 and Thursday 3/15 at 6pm, we will do the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete. On Wednesdays during Great Lent at 6pm, we will serve the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts.

Lenten Study Group: At 7:30pm on the Wednesday evenings during Great Lent, (following the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy), we will be having a Lenten Study Group which will include a soup, salad and bread meal (\$5 suggested donation). We will use writings of the Holy Fathers, Divine Services and Scriptures to guide us through the journey of Great Lent.

Sunday of Orthodoxy: The Greek Church has invited us to celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers service on Sunday at 5:30 pm on March 17th. There will be a Lenten meal afterwards. Please check with Iryna Haddock for details. We will also announce any new information as we receive it.

Baptismal Candle Workshop: On Wednesday, March 6 and Saturday, March 9 from 4:30—6:00 pm, there will be a workshop to make baptismal candles for sale in our bookstore. Please see Matushka Ann if you would like to help.

Save the Date: Registration forms are available, RSVP deadline, May 1, 2019, for St. Michael’s Orthodox Church Camp on Monday, June 3 to Wednesday, June 5; 9:00 am—12:30 pm. The Theme is: *“The Days of Creation and Mankind’s Stewardship of the Earth.”* See Matushka Ann for details.



Great Lent: Our Spiritual Journey

At this time we have just begun the journey of Great Lent. As with any journey, we anticipate arriving at our destination: in this case, the Bright Resurrection of Christ—the Feast of Feasts: Pascha! The Feast of Passover (*Pesach* as it's called in Hebrew, and *Pascha* in Greek), signifies the “crossing-over” from the worldly life to the spiritual life. Just as the people of Israel were led out of the bondage of Egypt and followed Moses in the wilderness for 40 years on their journey to the Promised Land, so the 40-day fast of Great Lent is intended to be for us a means of spiritual purification and renewal to prepare us to enter more deeply into that spiritual Promised Land on the Feast of Pascha.

Many Holy Fathers have seen in Moses, a prefiguring of Christ. Moses gave the Commandments of the Law to the chosen people of Israel and Christ fulfilled that Law and calls us to an even higher standard of spiritual life to repent of our sins, forgive one another and love one another. Moses fasted for 40 days on Mt. Sinai and received the covenant of the Law; Christ fasted for 40 days in the wilderness, overcame the temptations of the world, the flesh and the Devil, and began His saving ministry for us all.

Archbishop Andrew Rymarenko once referred to the fast of Great Lent as a kind of “spiritual academy which will reveal to us the laws of life and the laws of our heart which we need so much.” When one is a student and attending school, in order to learn the lessons properly and pass the tests, we must attend the classes, pay attention and study the textbooks. So it is with the spiritual academy of Lent. In order to derive the spiritual benefit that we very much need, it is not enough to simply avoid meat and dairy products alone. There are those who do not even believe in God and yet observe a vegan diet for other reasons.

In the Gospel of Matthew 5:20 the Lord said, “...*Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*” This was because the scribes and Pharisees fulfilled only the outer, moral aspects of the commandments, but neglected the inner spirit of them. This is why during Great Lent, we should make an effort to attend as many of the church services as possible, give confession, pay attention to the Lenten prayers and readings, and take time to study the Scriptures and writings of our Holy Fathers about the spiritual life. This is why the book “*The Ladder of Divine Ascent*” by St. John Climacus is appointed to be read each year during Great Lent.

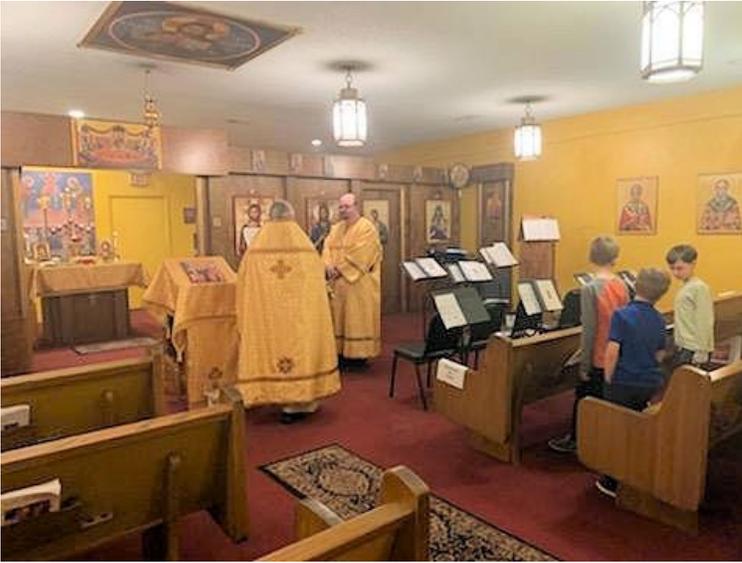
We're all familiar with recordings of ‘the greatest hits’ of popular bands or classical composers. Great Lent, in a sense, could be considered ‘the greatest hits’ of the spiritual life! The Sundays before Lent remind us to repent of our sins: Zacchaeus the tax collector who repented by giving away all his wealth to those he had wronged and to the poor; the Publican and the Pharisee who demonstrated how we must not be proud in our outward accomplishments, but that we must be humble and confess our sins before God if we wish to be justified; the Prodigal Son, who acknowledged his sinfulness and made up his mind to return to his Father in repentance; the Sunday of the Last Judgment that admonishes us with a vision of the dread Day of Judgment that we will each encounter, and Forgiveness Sunday that teaches us to forgive one another, so that God will forgive us.

Then, the Sundays of Lent teach us about the Triumph of Orthodoxy and the proper veneration of Holy Icons; St. Gregory Palamas who confirmed the importance and practice of spiritual prayer; The Adoration of the Cross in which we see how we must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ; St. John Climacus and the Ladder of Divine Ascent which teaches us how to struggle against the passions/sins with God's help to acquire the virtues; and St. Mary of Egypt who gave us great consolation by showing us that no matter how great our sins are, if we repent, there is nothing that God cannot forgive.

We have been given this time of spiritual renewal and our Holy Church calls us to do all we can to take advantage of this opportunity. Our merciful God knows how weak we are, and yet He calls us to make our best effort to be obedient to His commandments. Let us keep the fast, attend as many Church services as possible and pray at home as well, do good deeds, come to Holy Confession and receive absolution for our sins, participate in Holy Communion and forgive and love one another. Then Pascha will be for us a true crossing over to the blessings of the spiritual Promised Land! May God bless you!

+Fr. Gregory

February 2019 Photos



Liturgy for Feast of the Meeting of the Lord
Friday, February 15, 2019



Procession around the Church



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, Anna 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 & 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.*