



Newsletter Nov. 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/

Friday, Nov. 1st – Repose of St. John of Kronstadt

Saturday, Nov. 2nd – 4:30 Inquirer's class

+6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Nov. 3rd – St. Hilarion The Great

+8:45am Orthros

+10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Nov. 6th – +6:00 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, Nov. 9th – NO INQUIRER'S CLASS

+6:00 pm Vespers - Fr. Seraphim Joa Visiting

Sunday, Nov. 10th – Martyrs Terence & Neonilla

+8:45am Orthros

+10:00am Divine Liturgy—Fr. Seraphim Joa Serving!

Tuesday, Nov. 12th – 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 13th – +6:00pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, Nov. 16th – 4:30 Inquirer's Class

+6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, 17th – St. Michaels Patronal Feast

+8:45am Orthros

+10:00am Divine Liturgy

12 Noon Slava Celebration and POTLUCK after Liturgy at Edgewater Clubhouse, 111 Edgewater Dr., Madison

Wednesday, Nov 20th – No Vespers Service

Thursday, Nov. 21st – American Thanksgiving!

Saturday, Nov. 23rd – 4:30 Inquirer's Class

+6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Nov. 24th – Great Martyr Menas

+8:45am Orthros

+10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Nov. 27th – +6:00pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, Nov. 30th – 4:30 Inquirer's Class

+6:00 pm Vespers

Save the Date:

On Sunday, December 15, St. Nicholas will be visiting after Liturgy. *Please be sure to bring the children.* On Sunday, December 22 at 3:30 pm, St. Michael's children and adults will do Christmas caroling at Thrive Retirement Home in Jones Valley.

Coffee Hour:

Nov. 3 rd – Hogan/Schultz	Dec. 1 st – Litter
Nov. 10 th – Haddock	Dec. 8 th – Malmede
Nov. 17 th – Potluck	Dec. 15 th – Pastrick
Nov. 24 th – Kaiser	Dec. 22 nd – Phillips
	Dec. 29 th – Platt

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:

7 th – Gregory Barth Jr.	24 th – Constance Bowling
8 th – Luke Freude	27 th – Tim Waskerwitz
8 th – Anthony Freude	27 th – Richard Kaiser
9 th – Aron Veres	27 th – Jason Hamby
15 th – Anya Sievers	28 th – Matthew Hartley
24 th – Constance Bowling	30 th – Joy Ainsworth

Anniversaries:

30th – Charles & Inna Teasley

Thanks: To *Vicki Kendall* for sharing her talent as an iconographer and painting “*The Pantocrator*” for our iconostasis (see the photo page). To *Sandy Ellis* for donating a set of office furniture for Fr. Gregory's office (picture on the right). *Anya Freude* for flowers on Oct. 20 and *Anya Sievers* for flowers on Oct. 14. To *Caleb Eversole*, *David Hogan*, *Rick Kaiser*, *Benj & Stephanie & Jude Litter*, *David Reid* and *Peter Veres* for helping at the work party on Oct. 19. *Rick Kaiser* picked up the wood chipper and *Charles Malmede* returned it.



Activities This Month: On Sunday, Nov. 17 we celebrate our Patronal Slava to St. Michael with a Potluck at Edgewater Clubhouse. Also, on Sunday, Nov. 17 we will say goodbye to our dear choir director of 19 years, *Sandy Ellis*. She is moving back to the St. Louis area to be close to her family. Sandy has requested that any gifts be in the form of a donation to the St. Michael Building Fund.

The News at St. Michael's

October seems to have gone by very quickly! The Wednesday night **Moleben/Akathist services to St. Michael** have continued this month.

The **Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos** was celebrated with much joy this month. On Sunday, October 13th, we served Vespers after the Divine Liturgy and then on Monday, October 14th we celebrated Matins and Divine Liturgy.

On Saturday, October 19th, a **Work Party** was held at our new property. The trees have now been cleared from the future cemetery and parking lot areas, so the men of St. Michael's had a very full day of cleaning up limbs, moving stumps and cutting up some of the larger wood pieces with chainsaws. Many thanks to *Caleb Eversole, Jeremy Haddock, Rick Kaiser, Benjamin Litter, Bobby Phillips, David Reid and Peter Veres*. Our thanks also go out to Charles Malmede for returning the wood chipper with his truck and to Matthew Hartley for his help in setting up the woodchipper and helping load up all the tools and equipment.

Speaking of the new property: construction has begun on putting in the utilities! The Turpin Boring company (located near Atlanta, GA) began setting up their equipment October 22nd. They are boring a 16" hole 150 feet from our (north) side of the property under Madison Blvd. to the south side of Madison Blvd. to tie into the City sewer line. Our new neighbor to the west will be sharing the costs of this part of the project as he will be using the new pipes as well.

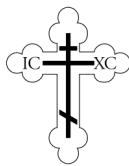
In honor of **St. John of Kronstadt**, a Vespers service was held on Thursday, October 31st.

Once again, thank you to **Vicki Kendall** for the beautiful icon of the Lord that now adorns our iconostasis. It matches the icon of the Theotokos that she did awhile ago. St. Michael's is very blessed to have such a talented iconographer!

Coming Up:

Patronal Feast: On Sunday, November 17th, St. Michael's will hold its **Patronal Feast and Slava** Service at the Edgewater Clubhouse following the Diving Liturgy. (111 Edgewater Drive, Madison, Alabama). This will also be the last Sunday at St. Michael's for our long-time choir director, **Sandy Ellis**, so we will be saying farewell and thank you for all of her hard work over the years! ***Sandy has requested that if anyone feels inclined to give a gift, that you make that gift in the form of a donation to the St. Michael's Building Fund!***

This year, the **Nativity Fast begins on Thursday, November 28th**. According to the liturgical calendar, it happens that this is a "Fish, Wine and Oil" day.



A long time ago in the Egyptian desert there lived a hermit monk. One day while walking to the city he asked himself the question, “Why does the Lord allow evil in people’s lives if He is Good, Just, and Almighty?” His mind was disturbed because he had seen so much unhappiness and sorrow when he was last in the city. Along the road he met another monk who was also going to Alexandria. They talked with each other, and he told his new travelling companion about his anguish. Seeing that the hermit was troubled, the monk comforted him and told him that the Lord will reveal the truth to him when they arrive at the city, but he will have to pray ceaselessly and never ask questions, no matter what happens.

The hermit promised to do as the monk said, and they continued along their way. They stopped at one home to spend the night. The householders received them with love and generously fed them. On the table was a beautiful silver vessel. Before they left to go to sleep, the monk surreptitiously took that vessel and put it in his rucksack. The hermit wanted to reproach his companion, but he remembered his promise and said nothing. In the morning they came to the river. The monk took out the vessel, made the sign of the cross over it, and put it into the river.

By lunchtime the travellers had arrived at another village. They were invited to one of the houses for a meal. When they were leaving the house, a dog was barking in the yard. The monk killed it. Immediately a boy ran out of the house and started screaming. The hermit’s travelling companion grabbed him by the right arm, yanked it and broke it, then calmly continued his way. The indignant hermit wanted to tell him what he thought, but remembering his promise he again kept silence.

When dusk fell, the monk and the hermit decided to spend the night in a ramshackle house, which turned out to be inhabited by some children. Their parents had died and they had no one to take care of them. The travellers spent the night there, but in the morning before leaving the monk took a firebrand out of the furnace and burned down the house. And again the hermit was indignant, but again he could say nothing.

They came to a third village. There they saw a ruined church, but it was still possible to go into it and pray. The monk took up a stone and flung it through the church window, shattering it. Then he took his bemused brother to a tavern. When he entered, the monk made three prostrations. The hermit by now had resigned himself to his companion’s strange behavior and just prayed.

On the last night the travellers were invited to spend the night in a house on the edge of a wood. There lived a young couple who had no children. In the morning the couple set out to work in the field, and the travellers went on their way. But suddenly the monk returned and burned down that house as well.

Finally they arrived at Alexandria. The hermit asked his companion, “Tell me after all, who are you?” “I am an angel,” the other replied. “You! An angel?!” the hermit scoffed disdainfully. “You are a real devil! Only a demon could do all those dreadful things you’ve done. Those good people showed you hospitality you repaid them all with black ingratitude. You were a thief, an arsonist, a murderer, and a sacrilegious desecrator. And you even wear monastic clothing!” “You are mistaken,” the travelling companion answered. “I really am an angel. And I was sent to you because the Lord saw your anguish and wanted to answer the questions that tormented you. I know that you want to know why I did all those things. I will start from the beginning.

“Why did I steal the vessel? I’ll answer you. Our host’s grandfather stole it from one monastery church, and because of that sacrilege his family was punished for three generations with illnesses and other problems. As a sign of gratitude for their hospitality I decided to deliver them from this punishment. I signed the vessel with the sign of the cross and put it into the river. Some monks will come there to wash their clothes, find it and return it to the monastery. I knew that the dog was already rabid. It would have bitten its owners and that is why I killed it. And I broke their son’s arm because I could foresee that when he grows up he would become a robber. But with a bad arm like that you can’t do much robbing.

“Why did I burn down the children’s house? Those children would soon have died without any care, and now in the place of their burned house they’ll find the silver their parents hid, and they can now go to Alexandria to their grandfather who is a bishop — he’ll take care of them. When they grow up, the boys will become priests and the girls will marry.

“I know that you are puzzled as to why I threw the stone through the church window and made prostrations in the tavern. I saw that the demons were dancing at the church window and I chased them away with that stone. That church will soon be repaired. In the tavern was a wealthy merchant who had promised the priest that he would pay the cost of repairing the church. That is why I bowed to him.

“And finally, about the last house. I burned it down in order to save the young couple from the curse of childlessness. The husband had made a dirty deal and built that house with the money he got from it. That is why they didn’t have any children. I saw that he is repenting of his deed and doesn’t know how to get rid of his house. Now he will build a more modest house but on honestly earned money. And the Lord will bless them with children.”

Do you understand? God’s mercy for people is shown in everything, but they don’t see it and can’t understand it. The Lord never commits evil. But people look at His works as misfortunes and sorrows, while the Lord does these things only for the sake of good and for their correction. Therefore do not look at the external side, but try to see God’s all-encompassing justice in everything.

October 2019 Photos



***Protection of the Holy Theotokos
Monday, October 14***





Promotion Ceremony
In honor of
Major Anthony E. Freude
To
Lieutenant Colonel



Brigadier General Walter T. Rugen, Anya, Anthony, Lt. Col. Anthony and Luke Freude, Juliana Freude, Marissa, a cousin and Matushka Donna and Father Don Freude



Flowers donated by Anya Freude



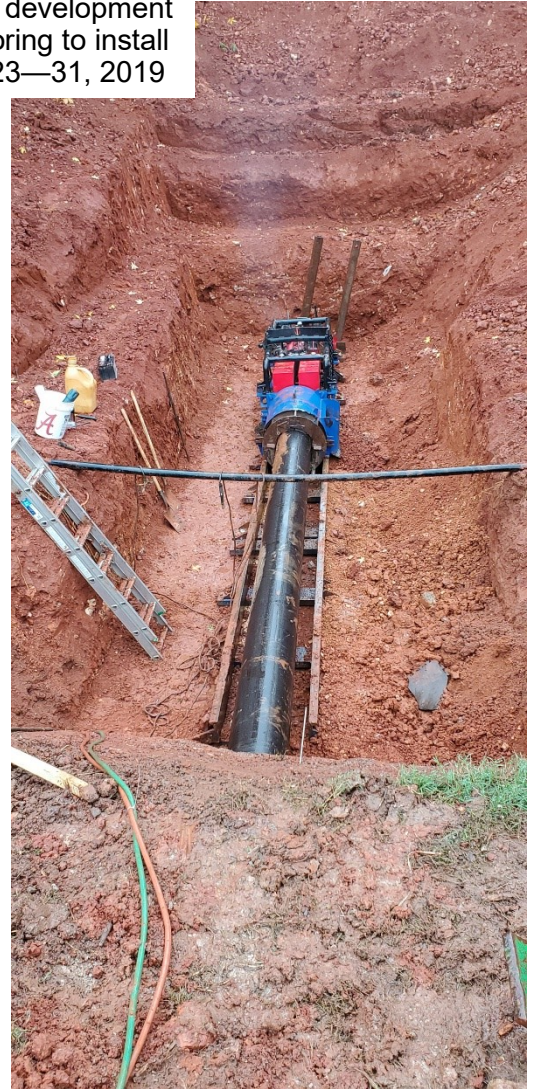
Pantocrator icon painted by Vicki Kendall



From left to right: Jeremy Haddock, Bobby Phillips, Caleb Eversole, Benj Litter, Peter Veres, Rick Kaiser and Father Gregory.
Work Party on Saturday, October 19, 2019

The Turpin Boring Company

This is a real step forward in the development of our new property to do this boring to install our utility line the week of Oct. 23—31, 2019



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, 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, 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—Sandy Ellis

Ass't Choir Director—Ray Kendall

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 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.*