



Newsletter Oct 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](#)

Wednesday, Oct. 2nd – †6:00 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, Oct. 5th – 4:30 Inquirer's class

†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Oct. 6th – **Conception of John the Baptist**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, Oct. 8th – 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 9th – †6:00 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, Oct. 12th – 4:30 Inquirer's Class

†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Oct. 13th – **Hieromartyr Gregory**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

†12:30 pm Vespers for **Feast of Protection of the Theotokos**

Monday, Oct. 14th – **Protection of the Theotokos**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Oct. 16th – †6:00pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, Oct. 19th – 9 am—4 pm **Work Party** at new property
(NO INQUIRER'S CLASS)

†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Oct. 20th – **Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Oct 23rd – †6:00pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, Oct 26th– 10:00 am **Outdoor Divine Liturgy** at New Property

4:30 Inquirer's Class

†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Oct. 27nd – **Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Oct. 30th – †6:00pm Moleben to St. Michael

Thursday, Oct. 31th – †6:00pm Vespers for the Repose of St. John of Kronstadt

Coffee Hour:

Oct. 6th – Darzi/Baker

Oct. 13th – Ellis/Fontane

Oct. 20th – Hartley

Oct. 27th – Harwell

Nov. 3rd – Hogan/Schultz

Nov. 10th – Kaiser

Nov. 17th – Kendall

Nov. 24th – Litter

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 – Samuel Novak

6th – Evan Bowling

8th – Ivan Sievers

11th – Tim Harwell

14th – Vincent Novak

16th – Mila Traylor

21st – Cate Queener

26th – Benjamin Huch

26th – Noah Bowling

27th – Trinity Bowling

27th – Sophia Harwell

29th – Canyon Sage

Anniversaries:

7th - David & Cheryl Brown

15th -Charles & Anastasia Malmede

16th - Bob & Mary Zarzaur

16th - Justin & Lisa Novak

23th - Peter & Timea Veres

Thanks: To *Patrease Traylor* flowers for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos and for the slava bread for St. Sophia's Feast Day. To *Greg Barth, Joseph Mahafsa, Bobby Phillips and Peter Veres* for helping with Sept. 28 work party and *Rick Kaiser and Charles Malmede* pick up and drop off of equipment.

Activities This Month: Saturday, October 19 Work Party; Saturday, October 28 Outdoor Liturgy at new Property; Thursday, October 31 Vespers for St. John of Kronstadt

The News at St. Michael's

The month of September began our new Church (Liturgical) Year. It's interesting that in August, we brought the previous Church Year to a close with two of the Great Feasts: the **Transfiguration of the Lord** and the **Dormition of the Theotokos**. Then, as we began the new Church Year, the month of September also has two of the twelve Great Feasts: **The Nativity of the Theotokos** (September 8/21) & the **Exaltation of the Cross** (September 14/27). In this way, the Church Year ends and begins with an abundance of Grace!

The **Inquirer's Class** continued meeting throughout September on Saturdays at 4:30pm (*except for 9/28 due to the work party*).

On Wednesday evenings at 6pm, we've been doing a **Moleben Service with Akathist** to petition our patron St. Michael the Archangel for help in developing our new property. Please come to these and help us pray for the help of our heavenly intercessor, St. Michael!

On Saturday, September 28th we held a **work party at the new property**. Many thanks to *Greg Barth, Joseph Mahafza, Bobby Phillips* and *Peter Veres* for their hard work—especially in the blistering heat! Also thanks to *Rick Kaiser* and *Charles Malmede* for picking up and returning the wood chipper. We created lots of new wood chips from tree limbs, mowed the tall grass and spread new wood chips all around the chapel area.

On September 29th, we celebrated the **St. Sophia Sisterhood Annual Slava**. Thank you to *Matushka Ann* and *Patrease Traylor* for making the beautiful Slava Bread and Koliva, and thank you to *Iryna Haddock, Anna Fontane, Michelle Platt* and the other Sisterhood volunteers for organizing the wonderful potluck and thanks to everyone who brought the delicious food and drink! Following the meal, we had our **Annual Assembly Meeting**. President *Bob Zarzaur* gave an update that St. Michael's now has 138 Adults and Children in 60 households. In calendar year 2019, St. Michael's has also welcomed 17 souls to the Orthodox Faith through baptism or chrismation. Treasurer *Matthew Hartley* gave an overview of our finances for the last complete year, 2018. Income for that year was \$135,283 against expenses of \$143,221. The \$8,000 difference included some additional expenses for the new property which was covered by our Building Fund. Matthew also explained that with 60 households in our parish, if we divide annual expenses of \$143k by 60, it comes out to about \$2,400 per household (or \$200/mo.). Also, 17 households have made Building Fund Pledges totaling \$3,867/mo. We only need \$430/mo. To reach our next goal of \$4,300/mo. so that we can complete Phase 2 of our property development (which includes everything but the building).

Coming Up:

Tuesday, October 8th: Church Council Meeting

Inquirer's Classes: Saturdays at 4:30pm (except on Oct. 19th due to work party)

Saturday, October 19th: Work Party at new property

Saturday, October 26th: Outdoor Divine Liturgy @ new property

Thursday, October 31st, Vespers in honor of St. John of Kronstadt



The following testimony offered by Hieromonk Synesios (from Greece) gives an amazing image of how struggles and suffering are actually beneficial for us:

“A few years ago, I was the parish priest of St. Vasileios church (Piraeus) and was called to hear the confession of a cancer patient, Xenophon, 42 years old. When I arrived, his days were numbered. This is what he told me about how he came to Faith, since he was a “hardened atheist” in his own words: ‘I arrived here about 35 days ago. Next to me was another patient, about 80 years old. He was suffering from cancer too, in his bones, and although he was experiencing excruciating pain, he was constantly praising the Lord “Glory to God for all things!” He also recited more prayers which I heard for the first time in my life since I was an atheist who had never set foot in church.

Often, all those prayers comforted him and he slept for a couple of hours. Then, after 2-3 hours, he woke up again from the pain, and he would start over “My Christ, I thank you! Glory be to Thy Name! Glory to God! Glory to God for all things!” I was moaning with my pain, and this patient at the next bed to mine was glorifying God. I was so rebellious and indignant at this! He was also partaking daily of Holy Communion, while I was throwing up in disgust. ‘Will you please shut up! Shut up and stop saying all the time ‘Glory to God’! Can’t you see that this God, Whom you are thanking and glorifying, this same God is torturing us with such cruelty? What kind of God this is? No, He does not exist!’

And the patient on the next bed would meekly answer me: ‘He does exist, my child, and He is also a most loving Father, because with all this illness and pain, He cleanses me from my many sins. If you had worked on some rough task, and your clothes and your body stank, would you not need a rough brush to clean all this dirt? Likewise, God is using this disease as a balm, as a beneficial cleansing for my soul, in order to prepare it for the Kingdom of Heaven’. I remember his last words: ‘Wait and you shall see with your own eyes how the soul of a Christian who believes is separated from his body. I am a sinner, but His Mercy will save me. Wait, and you will behold and will believe!’

So I watched him and he was glorifying God all the time and he would also make the sign of the Cross a number of times. Then...he raised both of his hands and said “Welcome, my Angel! Thank you for coming to take my soul!” He raised his hands a little bit more, he made the sign of the Cross, he crossed his arms on his chest and fell asleep in the Lord. Suddenly, the ward was filled with Light, like ten and more bright suns had risen all together, such was splendour of the light with which this ward was lit!” And not only was this ward lit, but a heavenly fragrance spread around, inside the ward, even outside the corridor, so powerful that those patients in the neighbouring wards who were not asleep and could get out of their beds, they came out and started walking up and down the corridor, trying to discern where this special fragrance was exuded from. Thus, my Father, I, the hardened atheist did believe and called for you to hear my Confession.’ Xenophon was firm and merciless with his old self, but the Mercy of our Lord was great, really great! He offered a clear confession, received Holy Communion a couple of times, and departed in deep repentance, in peace, a holy death, himself glorifying God!”

Brothers and Sisters, when God permits us to have some struggles or suffering, let us pray for His help to endure them. This is how we take up our cross! Then the Cross will be for us a triumphant banner that we will hold high as we make our way toward our heavenly homeland! Glory be to God!

September 2019 Photos



Baptism of
Alexander Clark

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross
On Friday, September 27





St. Sophia Slava
And
Annual Assembly of
Members
Sunday, Sept 29,



Trees being cleared for future cemetery & parking at new property

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: Eli Grba, Olga Gulas, 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—Anthony Freude & Bob Zarzaur
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 Siever 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

Church Council—2019 to 2020

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—John Duda, Joe Bergantz, Rick Kaiser, 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.*