

Newsletter October 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.stmichaelsv.org



See [St. Michaels Website](http://www.stmichaelsv.org) for Calendar

Saturday, Oct. 3 – 4:00 pm Catechumen & Inquirer's
†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Oct. 4 – Holy Apostle Quadratus
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Oct. 7 – Moleben to St. Michael
†6:00 pm

Saturday, Oct. 10 – Concerts on the Farm @ Chase &
Monica Baker's †10:00am – 3:00pm

Saturday, Oct. 10 – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Oct. 11 – St. Chariton the Confessor
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Monday, Oct. 12 – Church Board Meeting 6:00pm

Tuesday, Oct. 13
†6:00 pm Vespers for Protection of the Theotokos

Wednesday, Oct. 14 – **Protection of the Theotokos**
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Saturday, Oct. 17 – 2:00 pm Petty/Mahafza Wedding @
Greek Church

Sunday, Oct. 18 – Holy Martyr Charitina
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Oct. 21 – Moleben to St. Michael
†6:00 pm

Saturday, Oct. 24 – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Oct. 25 – Martyrs Probus, Tarachus &
Andronicus
†8:45am Orthros;
†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Oct. 28 – Moleben to St. Michael
†6:00 pm

Saturday, Oct. 31 – †6:00 pm Vespers
(St. John of Kronstadt)

Coffee Hour: (* Nativity Fast)

Oct 4 – Fontane/Adams	Nov 1 – Hogan/Schultz
Oct 11 – Haddock	Nov 8 – Jones
Oct 18 – Hartley/Brennan	Nov 15 – Kaiser
Oct 25 – Harwell	Nov 22 – Patronal Feast
	* Nov 29 – Kendall

Oct. Birthdays:

2nd – Chloe Jones
3rd – Samuel Novak
8th – Ivan Sievers
11th – Timothy Harwell
14th – Vincent Novak
16th – Mila Traylor
26th – Benjamin Huch
27th – Sophia Harwell
29th – Canyon Sage

Oct. Anniversaries

7 – David & Cheryl Brown
15 – Charles & Anastasia Malmède
16 – Bob & Mary Zarzaur
16 – Justin & Lisa Novak
23 – Peter & Timea Veres

Many Thanks to: *Tatiana Shadrino* for her labor of love in removing candle wax from the sanctuary carpet due to the many baptisms lately. *David Hogan* for getting a trailer to remove the piano and other Church school furniture. *Chase Baker, Matthew Hartley, Luke Harrison and Pavel Sievers* for helping to remove the piano and furniture out of the Church school building. *Becky Brennan* for allowing us to store the piano at her home.

Save the Date: Saturday, Oct. 10th, 10am-3pm,
Concerts on the Farm @ Chase & Monica Baker's

September 2020 Photos



Baptism
of Lidia Veres
on
Sunday,
September 13



September Photos 2020



Liturgy for the
Feast of the
Nativity of the
Theotokos on
Monday,
September 21



September Photos 2020



Liturgy and Procession
For the Feast of the
Exaltation of the Cross
On
Sunday, September 27, 2020



The News at St. Michael's –October 2020

Feasts & Fasts: We celebrated the **Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos** with a vespers service on September 20th and Matins & Divine Liturgy on September 21st. Then we also celebrated the **Feast of the Elevation of the Cross** September 26th & 27th.

Work Party: On Saturday, September 26th, a work party was held at St. Michael's Church on Spartacus Drive. Now that the building next door has been sold, we've been getting things cleaned up and gradually moving our things out. With a new tenant about to move in, we needed to be moved by the end of September. Thanks also to our crew of hearty volunteers: Chase Baker, Luke Harrison, Matthew Hartley, Pavel Sievers and thanks also to David Hogan for providing a trailer for the day.

Baptism: On September 13th Lidia Agnes Veres was baptized into the Orthodox Church. Benjamin and Stephanie Litter served as godparents. Thanks also to Becky Brennan for sewing the baptismal robe.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Upcoming Feasts & Fasts: We will celebrate the **Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos** with a Vespers Service on Tuesday, October 13th at 6:00pm and Matins/Divine Liturgy on October 14th at 8:45am and 10:00am respectively. It is also the Feast Day of the **Glorification of St. John of Kronstadt** the weekend of October 31st/November 1st.

Catechumen & Inquirers Class: Classes are being held on Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm, except for Sat. Oct. 10th & 17th (due to concert & wedding).

St. Michael Moleben & Akathist Services: These services will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm (*with the exception of Wednesday, October 14th*). Our purpose is to ask the divine intercession of our Patron: St. Michael the Archangel, as we develop our new property.

Concerts on the Farm: Saturday, Oct. 10th—10:00am to 3:00pm at Chase & Monica Baker's—2941 Maple Hill Rd., Arab, AL. Bring your lawn chairs and a picnic lunch and enjoy some live music and beautiful surroundings!

New Property: After many delays and various setbacks, the contractors are set to finish Phase 2 (utilities, stormwater system, grading & paving on driveway and parking area) this month. Please keep this project in your prayers. Remember what it says in I Peter 5:8: "*Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walketh about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*" I'm pretty sure that advice applies to anyone trying to build a Church! Nevertheless, though we are weak, Christ's strength is made perfect through our weakness!

The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos

October 1/14 (from an article by Fr. Justin Patterson)

This feast of the Protection of the Theotokos is neither one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Church nor is it a commemoration of any events in the earthly lives of our Lord or His Mother. So why does the Orthodox Church—here in 21st century North America—keep this feast?

The city of Constantinople fell under barbarian attack (c. 860AD). The massive gates of the city were closed. The port was sealed off. The people manned the defenses and prayed. The attackers (*pre-Christian Russians reputed for their great brutality*) descended with a fleet that threatened to overwhelm the defenses of Constantinople. The first assaults on the city went badly for the defenders. During one of the lulls in the fighting, the people of the city were able to gather together for prayer inside the Church of the Virgin at Blachernae where the veil of the Virgin Mary was kept and venerated.



While a service was being sung in the church, the Fool-for-Christ's sake, St. Andrew and his disciple Epiphanius, saw the Theotokos in a vision. As she was carrying her veil, she stretched it out over the city and over all the people defending it. As part of the veil that the Theotokos was carrying was dipped in the waters of the Bosphorus, an incredible storm began to brew. The attacking Russians, allowed to see the Theotokos, were accordingly disturbed by both her appearance and the dramatic change in the weather. Depending on the account one reads, the Russians were either scared off or overwhelmed by the storm. Regardless, the people of Constantinople believed that the Lord, through the prayers of His Mother, had preserved their city from certain destruction. The Orthodox faithful preserved in their memory this specific intervention of the Theotokos in the affairs of God's people; thus the feast entered into the liturgical life of the Church.

Today, Orthodox Christians still remember this event. The Russians, particularly, have a deep love for this feast. A surprisingly large number of churches throughout Russia, in fact, bear the name Protection ("*Pokrov*") of the Theotokos. The great irony of the Feast of the Protection is that those who most faithfully keep this feast are the biological descendants of those pre-Christian Russians who were scattered at the gates of Constantinople! (In the ninth century, of course, the Russians were still pagans and constituted, most likely, the Byzantine Empire's greatest foes. It was not until 988 that the Slavs of Rus were permitted to hear the Gospel and be baptized.)

What might the Feast of the Protection mean to us today here in America? First, we are reminded that the prayers of the Theotokos avail much. As the Mother of our Lord who sits at His right hand in the kingdom of heaven, her closeness to Him is a comfort and a support to us. When we cry out to her, "Most Holy Theotokos, save us!" we proclaim that she who remained at the foot of the Cross can help us as we make our Christian journey by the Way of the Cross.

This feast also reminds us that, like our Orthodox fore-bearers, we are to remember and cherish the good things that have been done for us. Our Divine Liturgy exhorts us to remember: "*remembering this saving commandment and all those things which have been done for us...*" We recall all the things He has done and then we thank Him. We thank Him for the intercessions of His Mother, remembering what she has done. We thank Him for the testimony of His saints—those glorified and those known only to Him—and remember their deeds.

On this feast, let us be encouraged that the Lord, through the prayers of His Mother, is quick to help us. Asking for her intercessions, let us also give thanks for all the good things that the Lord has done for us.

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.; Kathy Couch, Vicki Kendall, Becky Brennan, Pat Darzi's speedy recovery from surgery. **Friends of Members:** Anne Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros

Reposed: Carl Brennan, 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, Joe Bergantz,
Hal Pastrick & Anthony Freude
Choir Director—Ray Kendall
Ass't Choir Director—Matushka Ann
Readers/Acolytes—Leonard Adams, Steve Cox,
Matthew Hartley, David Hogan, Rick Kaiser, Ray
Kendall, Benjamin Litter, Charles Malmede
& Eric Morgan
Sisterhood President—Iryna Haddock
Sisterhood Treasurer—Michele Platt
Sunday School Director—Matushka Ann
Sunday School Teachers—Serena Harwell, Pavel
Sievers
Sunday School Teaching Assistants—Stephanie Litter
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.