



Newsletter Sept 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](#)

Sunday, Sept. 1st – Holy Martyr Andrew Stratelates

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Sept. 4th – †6:00 pm St. Michael Moleben

Saturday, Sept. 7th – †6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Sept. 8th – Holy Martyr Adrian and Natalia

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, Sept. 10th – 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 11th – †6:00 pm St. Michael Moleben

Saturday, Sept. 14th – †6:00 pm Vespers.

Church New Year

Sunday, Sept. 15th – Holy Martyr Mamas

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Sept 18th – NO VESPERS

Friday, Sept 20th – †6:00 pm Vespers for Nativity

Saturday, Sept 21st – Nativity of the Theotokos

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, Sept. 22nd – Holy Joachim and Anna

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Sept. 25th – †6:00 pm St. Michael Moleben

Thursday, Sept. 26th – †6:00 pm Vespers for Exaltation

Friday, Sept. 27th – Exaltation Of The Cross

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Saturday Sept 28th – 9:00 am—4 pm Work Party

†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, Sept. 29th – Great Martyr Euphemia

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

11:30 am St. Sophia Slava & Annual Assembly Potluck

Coffee Hour:

Sept. 1st – Bergantz

Sept. 8th – Bowling

Sept. 15th – Chizhikov

Sept. 22nd – Cox

Sept. 29th – **Potluck**

Oct. 6th – Darzi/Baker

Oct. 13th – Ellis/Fontane

Oct. 20th – Hartley

Oct. 27th – Harwell

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 – Ashley Zarzaur

3rd – Landon Zarzaur

3rd – Joseph Queener

7th – Bob Zarzaur

8th – Leeza Haddock

11th – Esther Huch

14th – Monica Schultz Baker

14th – Dylan Phillips

22nd – Anna Fontane

Anniversaries:

3rd – Olesya & Adam Phillips

10th – Fr. Gregory & Mat Ann Schultz

18th – Rick & Adrienne Bowling

24th – Eric & Wendy Morgan

Thanks: To Tamara “Cooper” Huron—Murray for the flowers from her wedding. Anya Sievers for flowers on the Feast of Dormition.

Vicki Kendall for painting and donating the Mother of God icon for our Iconostasis (the gold leaf alone cost \$600). Serena Harwell donated coffee table & Timea Veres donated a coffee table and end table for our preschool Atrium. Nathan Ainsworth, Caleb Eversole, Matthew Hartley, Emil Jovanov, Rick Kaiser, Benj Litter, Justin Novak and Peter Veres helped with work party on Saturday, August 24.

Save the Date: Work Party Saturday, Sept 28 and St. Sophia Slava and Annual Assembly Potluck on Sunday, September 29.



The News at St. Michael's

The month of August brought the Church year to a close. A rich month liturgically, we celebrated two of the Twelve Great Feasts: the *Transfiguration of the Lord* on August 19th and the *Dormition of the Mother of God* on August 28th. These two feasts have great significance for us, in that the Transfiguration gives us a glimpse of what we are called to: the acquisition of the Holy Spirit to the extent that we are capable. The Dormition is for us a foreshadowing of our hope in the future life: to enter the kingdom of heaven when we leave this earthly life behind. Yet, none of this is possible without God's help! As we begin a new liturgical cycle, let us turn to the Mother of God in prayer and she will quickly come to our aid.

Congratulations: To *Tamara "Cooper" and Paul Murray* who were united in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, August 3rd. Following the marriage sacrament, many friends, family and St. Michael's parishioners joined Tamara and Paul for a delicious lunch at Ruth's Chris steakhouse in downtown Huntsville. May God grant them Many Years!

The New Property Work Party: We want to thank all those who helped with this month's work party on Saturday, August 24th: *Nathan Ainsworth, Caleb Eversole, Matthew Hartley, Emil Jovanov, Rick Kaiser, Benjamin Litter, Justin Novak, David Reid and Peter Veres*. Although it was an extremely hot day, we accomplished a great deal—repairing the silt fence, turning more limbs into wood chips, spreading them around the future church area, moving stumps up the hill in preparation for the future parking lot and cutting the very tall grass down using the walk-behind brush cutter.

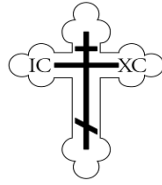
The Capital Campaign: Since the new property update in July, we've been receiving pledges and are nearly at the \$3,000 per month mark. However, this only represents 15 households. St. Michael's has some 60 households, so for everyone who has not made a pledge yet, please do so as quickly as possible. In order for us to complete Phases 2 and 3, we would need \$8,000 per month in pledges. If it turns out that we are only able to come up with \$4,300 per month, we can begin Phase 2 (all the driveway, roadway, parking and utilities). However, we've been experiencing how small our chapel and hall are lately. Sometimes when there are 80-90 people on a Sunday, it's getting hard to find a place to sit! Remember, the new building will be twice the size of our present one and the location is stunningly beautiful! Just think, if all the other households who have not made their pledge yet, could stretch and give even \$100 per month, we would be able to move into our new building and start holding worship services there!

COMING UP:

Church Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sep. 10th at 6pm.

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos will be celebrated on Saturday, Sep. 21st with Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. **Feast of the Elevation of the Cross** will be celebrated with Vespers at 6pm on Thurs. Sep. 26 and on Fri. Sep 27 with Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am.

Annual Assembly meeting and St. Sophia Sisterhood Slava (with potluck meal) will be held after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Sep. 29th. Stay tuned for more information!



The Liturgical Year

When the Lord stood before the Governor Pontius Pilate, having been delivered up by the Jews, Pilate asked Him whether or not He was the King of the Jews. Jesus answered, “*My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*” (John 18:33,36)

Ever since the Fall of mankind, we and all our ancestors before us have lived in this fallen world. One of the properties of the fallen world is that here, we are hemmed in by time and space. In heaven, there is no time and space: only eternity and infinity. Yet, when our Lord Jesus Christ became Incarnate as a man, He brought heaven and earth together. After His Resurrection from the dead, and Ascension into heaven, He raised up human nature to heaven. He promised that He would build His church upon the rock (of the apostles) and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it. Our Holy Orthodox Christian Church was founded on the Day of Pentecost and ever since, has served as a bridge between heaven and earth.

When we participate in the Fasts and Feasts, the Divine Services and Sacraments of the Church; heaven and earth are united together. Angels serve with us at the Divine Liturgy. The Holy Spirit is present as are the Mother of God and all the Saints. It is as though a portal opens up for us between heaven and earth at those times. Many have observed that time itself seems to be suspended during the Divine Liturgy and other times. With the help and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Fathers continued strengthening and building the Holy Church after the original Apostles departed this life. Everything in the life of the Church is designed to help us draw closer to Christ and His heavenly kingdom.

While the Liturgical Year or Church New Year begins on September 1/14, spiritually, the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God is really when things get started. As Bishop Alexander Milleant once said, “*Holy feast days are not just to remember the past. By participating in these feasts each believer draws closer to the experience of the Holy Church, and follows its leadership. Each Christian soul **relives** the great events of the Gospels and of Church history, and in this way goes through a school of spiritual growth.*”

By contrast, a Christian who does not participate in the life of the Church because they are too preoccupied with worldly cares, does not receive the spiritual and life-giving benefit of all that our Lord Jesus Christ has given us through His sacrifice on the Cross. It would be much like a student who never showed up for class, never studied, and was not present for the required exams. When it was time for the graduation ceremony, the non-participating student is left out. The whole of our life is much like this image of a school in which we are meant to learn and grow spiritually. The graduation then is when we are at the point of death and leave this worldly life. If we have not prepared ourselves, then we would be like the unprofitable servant who buried his talent in the earth. When the Lord came to collect the profit, there was none and so the Lord commanded that the unprofitable servant be cast out and his talent given to the another servant who would use it profitably.

As we begin this new church cycle, let us renew our commitment to ‘show up at class,’ in other words, to participate as much as possible in the whole cycle of Fasts and Feasts and all of the Sacraments, that we might be found worthy to enter the Kingdom of Heaven when we depart this life!

August 2019 Photos



Blessing of Mother of God Icon

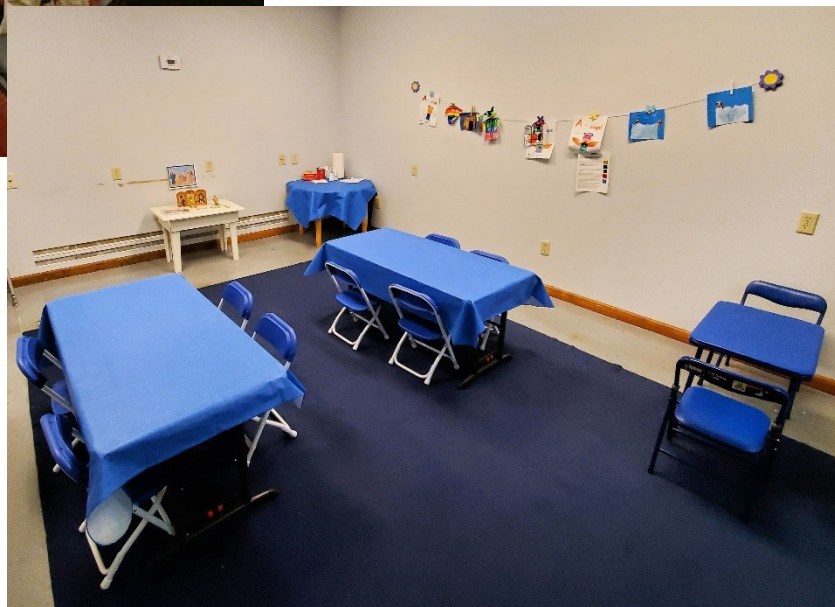


Above: August 3 wedding of Tamara "Cooper" Huron and Paul Murray



Left: Blessing of school children on Sunday, August 11 and beginning of 2019-20 Church School

Right: Developing the Atrium Church School for ages 3—6 (Everything is child size—notice white prayer table at the back wall)



Feast of Transfiguration

Monday, August 19, 2019

(right & below)



Feast of Dormition of the Mother of God

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

(right)



**Monica's Studio
Song Workshop**

With Guest Musician:
Benj Litter

On Saturday, August 24
Participating students from
St. Michaels Church

*A donation to St. Michael's is made
towards the use of the space*



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, Anne 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, Lola 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—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

Church School Director—Matushka Ann

Church School Teachers—Serena Harwell, Timea Veres, Pavel Sievers

Sunday School Teaching Assistants—Stephanie Litter and Patrease Traylor

Library & Bookstore—Eric Morgan

Building Maintenance—Sub-deacon Bob Zarzaur & Rick Kaiser

Welcoming Committee Coordinator—Charles Malmede

Website—Charles Malmede

Newsletter Bulletin—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

Rick Kaiser—Secretary

Members at Large—Chase Baker, Joe Bergantz, 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.*