



Newsletter April 2022

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

See [St. Michael's Website for Calendar](#)

Saturday, April 2 –†3:00pm Catechumen/Inquirer Class—
4:30 Paschal Choir Practice

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, April 3 – St. John Climacus

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 6 – †6:00 pm Annunciation Vespers
Followed by PreSanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 7 – **Annunciation Of The Theotokos**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Saturday, April 9 –†3:00pm Catechumen/Inquirer Class—
4:30 Paschal Choir Practice

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, April 10 – St. Mary of Egypt

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 13 – †6:00 pm PreSanctified Liturgy
7:30 pm Study Group & fasting meal

Saturday, April 16 – Lazarus Saturday

†10:00am Divine Liturgy with baptism of Steve Gordon

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, April 17 – Palm Sunday

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Great Monday, April 18 – †6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Great Tuesday, April 19 – †6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Great Wednesday, April 20 – †6:00 pm Unction Service

Great Thursday, April 21 – †10:00 am Vespersal Liturgy
6:00 pm Service of the 12 Gospels

Great Friday, April 22 – 9 am Royal Hours

5:00 pm Vespers & Procession w/Epitaphion

Great Saturday, April 23 – 10 am Vespersal Liturgy

11:30 pm Paschal Vigil

PASCHA! - 3:00 PM Vespers, Potluck & Easter egg hunt at
the Edgewater Clubhouse, 111 Edgewater Dr., Madison,
Al.

Coffee Hour: *(Great Lent)

*April 3 – Novak

May 1 – Ramirez

*April 10 – Pcsolyar

May 8 – Sievers

*April 17 – Phillips

May 15 – Tanner

April 24 – **Pascha!**

May 22 – Tedford

April Birthdays:

Anniversaries:

2nd – Maryna Hamby

7th – Bill & Heather Tanner

7th – Alexandra Jones

8th – Mary Catherine Ballew

10th – Jeremy Haddock

10th – Veronica Johnson

13th – Nathan Hay

14th – Mat. Ann Schultz

14th – Becky Brennan

18th – Helena Jones

19th – Elena Huch

21st – Brian Ballew

27th – Zoe Zarzaur

Save the Date: *Baptism of Steve Gordon* on April 16,
Lazarus Saturday. *Pascha*—celebration will be held at
the Edgewater Clubhouse on Sunday, April 24 at 3:00
pm. A sign-up genie will be sent out asking for help
set-up, clean-up. *Serena Harwell* has agreed to be the
coordinator and *Stephanie Litter & Christina Ramirez*
will assist.

St. Michael's Annual Retreat on Monte Sano—Thursday,
June 16—Saturday, June 18, 2022. Our speaker will be
Abbess Gabriela from Holy Dormition Monastery in
Michigan and Fr. Serafim Baltic will be attending. See
Matushka Ann for campsite reservations. *Meal*
Committee: Bob Zarzaur—BBQ. Nadine Tedford—Lead
Coordinator; Serena Harwell and Kathy Couch —
Assistants. There will be a Childrens Program
Coordinator. Anyone, who can help or volunteer,
please contact Matushka Ann. *Setup is Thursday, June*
16 at 9 am—See Fr. Gregory

Thanks: *Timea Veres* for her wonderful coordination
of the reception hosting Holy Cross/Sts. Constantine
and Helen after the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers on
Sunday, March 13.

The News at St. Michael's—April 2022

Great Lent: Cheesefare Week, the first week of March, was our final preparation for the Great Lenten Fast with 'Cheesefare' Week. On March 6th, we celebrated Forgiveness Sunday with the Vespers service after Liturgy and the ceremony of mutual forgiveness. Great Lent began in earnest on Monday, March 7th with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete that continued on March 8th & 10th. On Wednesday, March 9th, we celebrated the Presanctified Liturgy, followed by a fasting meal and spiritual study group.

Sunday of Orthodoxy: On Sunday, March 13th, we hosted Holy Cross/Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church for Vespers followed by a potluck meal. Many of guests commented on how inspiring and beautiful the was the Vespers service and how delicious was the potluck meal. After missing the past two years, it was good to be reunited with our brothers and sisters from the Greek church.

Spiritual Education: The Lenten Spiritual Study Group continued on Wednesday evenings following the Presanctified Liturgy with a fasting meal. Also, the Inquirer and Catechumen classes have continued on Saturday afternoons.

Man of God: Many of our church members attended a showing of the new film "*Man of God*" which tells the story of St. Nektarios of Aegina (d. 1920). This was truly a blessing in the midst of our Lenten struggles, since St. Nektarios was such a powerful and sublime example of virtue in the face of unjust slanders and persecution. Yet, God glorified him as a miracle working saint.

New Catechumens: Nathan and Logan Hay were blessed as Catechumens on Sunday, March 27th following the Divine Liturgy. May God grant them many years!

New Property Update: Things have been moving forward with our new property, despite some of the weather delays. The sewer line has been installed beneath Madison Blvd. and connected to the City of Madison line. In the meantime, trenching work, manhole & sewer installation has started moving up the hill, though a cable location conflict has caused a delay as the depth & angle of the line must now be recalibrated. We have met with two contractors so far and are negotiating with one or two more to determine if they are available and interested in helping build our new church and fellowship hall. We also met with our architect team and have been told we can expect the drawings to be ready over the next 6-8 weeks. A survey crew recently helped mark off the borders of our new cemetery in order to facilitate the necessary appraisal and development work.

COMING UP:

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to the Theotokos: will be celebrated with Vespers and Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on **Wednesday, April 9th at 6pm.** Then on **Thursday, April 7th, Matins will begin at 8:45am the Divine Liturgy at 10:00am.**

Baptism: Catechumen Steve Gordon will receive Holy Baptism and Chrismation on Lazarus Saturday, April 16th, following the Divine Liturgy. May God grant many years to Steve!

Palm Sunday: On April 17th, we will celebrate the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem.

Holy Week: There will be church services every day during Holy Week. Please see the April Calendar for details.

Pascha: The Bright Resurrection of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ will be celebrated with the traditional Paschal Vigil service on April 23rd beginning at 11:30pm. Compline, Matins and Divine Liturgy will follow. Paschal baskets will be blessed (and consumed!) afterwards. There will be a Paschal Agape Vespers on Sunday, April 24th at 3pm at the Edgewater Clubhouse (111 Edgewater Drive, Madison, AL) followed by a potluck meal and Easter egg hunt for the children.



From Repentance to Resurrection



We've passed the mid-point of Great Lent and are now fast approaching Holy Week and Pascha in just a few weeks. It's almost seems like a contradiction that while we are still observing the Great Lenten Fast, we begin to see the signs of Spring all around us. Flowers and leaves are starting to burst out everywhere, birds are joyfully singing and all creation is awakening to the renewal that Spring brings. Yet, our Holy Church continues to call us to fast, pray and repent.

If this seems like a contradiction, it's because it is: from a worldly point of view. However, God arranges things from His heavenly point of view which often turns everything upside down. The truth is that Great Lent is a time of spiritual transformation, not some gloomy process of beating our breasts and saying 'mea culpa.' Yes, we are called upon to repent of our sins, but this is a means to an end, not an end in itself! As we have often heard, the English word "*repentance*" is translated from the Greek word "*metanoia*." Metanoia is a combination of two words: "meta," meaning change or transformation and "noia" which refers to that higher part of our minds and hearts through which God reveals the spiritual world to us.

St. Diadochos of Photiki* once described what is meant by metanoia: "*He who loves God consciously in his heart is known by God. (1 Cor. 8:3), for to the degree that he receives the love of God consciously in his soul, he truly enters into God's love. From that time on, such a man never loses an intense longing for illumination of spiritual knowledge, until he senses its strength in his bones and no longer knows himself, but is completely transformed by the love of God. He is both present in this life and not present in it; still dwelling in the body, he yet departs from it, as through love he ceaselessly journeys towards God in his soul. His heart now burns constantly with the fire of love and clings to God with an irresistible longing, since he has once and for all transcended self-love in his love for God. As St. Paul writes: 'If we go out of ourselves, it is because of God; if we are restrained, it is for your sake.'* (2 Cor. 5:13)"

St. Diadochos lived in time when great saints and righteous ones were found in greater abundance than in our modern times today. Yet as has been observed by some Holy Fathers, although we may have arrived late to the banquet, yet we are still able to be nourished by the abundant scraps and crumbs that fell to the floor! May God bless us all to make good use of these last weeks before Pascha that we too may enter into the joy of Christ's Resurrection!

*St. Diadochos, (died c. 486AD), was bishop of Photiki in Epirus (northern Greece). He attended the Council of Chalcedon and fought against the Monophysite Heresy. He had a great influence on later saints, including St. Maximos the Confessor, St. John Climacus, St. Symeon the New Theologian and in general, the Hesychast movement of the 14th century. Some of his spiritual writings are found in *The Philokalia*, Vol. 1 (Feaver & Faber). His feast day is celebrated on March 29 according to the Julian Calendar.

March, 2022 Photos



Pilgrimage to St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church

In Roswell, Georgia

Matthew Hartley spent the first week of Lent, March 7—14 living with the monastic brotherhood which lives in the Church itself. St. Mary of Egypt is a ROCOR Church. He spent approximately 8 hours in prayer a day and participated in their daily life. Above left, Matthew is on the left wearing a cassock because he is a Reader and it is the Russian practice to wear a cassock at all services (*this is not a Serbian practice*).



Pilgrimage to Israel

Benjamin Litter visited Israel March 8—19 and was able to see Jerusalem from Mt. Olives (*above left*) and the Church of the Nativity (*right*). He, also, visited Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River and Caesarea Maritima where St. Paul stood on trial before Herod.



March 2022 Photos



Saint Kosmas Orthodox Education Conference at Gold Canyon, AR

Thursday, March 17—Saturday, March 19, 2022

St. Michael was represented by Pavel and Anya Sievers and Nicholai, Emelia, Ivan, Uliana and Theodora. Fr. Dcn. James Hughes is talking to them at the table above!



Left: Josh Demerin has his house blessed on Thursday, March 3.

Above right: Nathan & Logan Hays are made catechumens with sponsors; Becky Brennan and Joseph Mahafza on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

March 2022 Photos

Sunday of Orthodoxy

March 13, 2022

Concelebrated with Fr. Timothy

From

Holy Cross/Sts. Constantine
and Helen Orthodox Church

6:00 pm Vespers

Followed by
Potluck Reception



Above: Fr. Timothy & Fr. Gregory
Middle: Ray Kendall, choir director leads vespers service

Bottom Left: Icon of St. Peter and St. Paul

Bottom Right: Reception Potluck





Sunday of the
Veneration of the
Cross
March 27, 2022

Prostrations are made to venerate the
Holy Cross of our Lord



Church Activity at Cineplanet 15
Monday, March 28, 2022

Viewing of "Man of God" 2021 movie about the life of St. Nektarios of Aegina
(we filled two rows)



Prayer List:

Living: **Church Members & Orthodox Friends:** Ashley Zarzaur, Oksana Falconbury, Wanda (Christine) Gilbert, Pat Darzi, Ryan Agee, Monica Baker, Kathy Couch, Patrick Faulkner, Kurt Weber, Zora Govedarica, Brigid McBride, Bobby Phillips, Olysia Phillips & family, Please pray for God's help with building of the future Church and hall on our new property on Madison Blvd.; **Friends of Members & Inquirers & Catechumens:** Anne Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz) Steve Gordon, Shawn Falconbury, Rob Christiansen, Brian & Mary Catherine Ballew, David Reid, Tanner & Madi Terry, Logan & Nathan Hays.

Reposed: Madelyn Lloyd, John Leonforte, Larissa Newman, Tamara Savina, Jim Nordness, Patriarch Iriney, Metropolitan Amphiloque, Fr. James Barfield, 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.

Committees/Chairpersons:

Sub-deacons—Bob Zarzaur, Joe Bergantz & Hal Pastrick

Choir Director—Ray Kendall

Ass't Choir Director—Matushka Ann

Readers/Acolytes—Leonard Adams, 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—Bill Tanner

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—2021 to 2022

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

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.

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.