

Newsletter December 2021

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](http://www.stmichaelshsv.org) for Calendar

Wednesday, Dec. 1 – 6 pm Moleben to St. Michael
†7:00 pm—Advent Study Group & fasting meal

Friday, Dec. 3 – †6:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, Dec. 4 – **Entry of the Theotokos**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, Dec. 5 – **Apostles Philemon & Archippus**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Dec. 8 – 6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

†7:00 pm—Advent Study Group & fasting meal

Saturday, Dec. 11 – †4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, Dec. 12 – **Martyr Paramon & 370 others**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Dec. 15 – 6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

†7:00 pm—Advent Study Group & fasting meal

Saturday, Dec. 18 – †4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, Dec. 19 – **St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

12:00 pm [St. Nicholas comes to visit Please RSVP](#)

Wednesday, Dec. 22 – 6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

†7:00 pm—Advent Study Group & fasting meal

Friday, Dec. 24 – †6:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, Dec. 25th – **St. Herman of Alaska**

(Western Christmas)

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy—Potluck following

Sunday, Dec. 26 – **Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Dec. 29 – NO SERVICE OR STUDY GROUP

Coffee Hour: *(Nativity Fast)

*Dec 5 – Tanner

*Dec 12 – Tedford

*Dec 19 – Veres

*Dec 26 – Zarzaur

*Remember Fish is allowed

*Jan 2 – Fontane/Adams

Jan 9 – Eversole/Harrison

Jan 16 – Haddock

Jan 23 – Hartley/Brennan

Jan 30 – Harwell

December Birthdays:

6th – Marc Couch

10th –Andrew Haddock

11th – Crayson Sage

12th – Pat Darzi

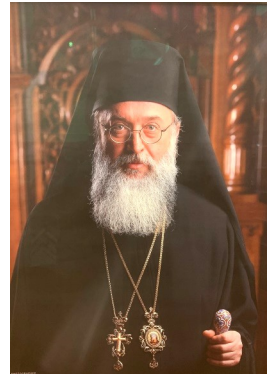
22nd –Jude Litter

28th – Peyton Zarzaur

Anniversaries:

19—Phil & Serena Harwell

Thank You: Charles Malmede for donating the framing costs of pictures of Bishop Longin and Patriarch Porfirije for our Church Hall.



Stephanie Litter for coordinating the **St. John Craft Fair** on November 20. \$948 was raised for the building fund. We thank Anna Fontane, Steve and Monette Gordon, Serena Harwell, Mary Catherine Ballew, Mat. Ann, Justin Novak, Becky Brennan, Emma Pscolyar, Christine Ramirez, Kim Gilbert, and Wendy & Eric Morgan for their donations and time.

Bob Zarzaur for coordinating the **8th Annual Turkey & Rib Roast fundraiser** assisted by Rick Kaiser, Matthew Hartley and Charles Malmede.

Matushka Ann & Anna Fontane for coordinating the **St. Michael Slava and Patronal Potluck** attended by His Eminence Bishop Longin. We are grateful for everyone's help: Rick Kaiser, Caleb Eversole, Josh Demerin & Luke Harrison who loaded and unloaded tables and chairs. For the help of Michelle Kaiser for hosting the Edgewater Clubhouse and all the people who helped with the potluck.

Save the Date! **St Nicholas Visit—Sunday, December 19 at 12 pm. Annual Schultz Christmas Party** on Friday, January 14, 2022, 6—10 pm

The News at St. Michael's—December, 2021

Hierarchical Visit by our Bishop Longin: St. Michael's was blessed with a visit from our dear Bishop Longin on Sunday, November 21, 2021 to celebrate our **Patronal Feast Slava for St. Michael**. Bishop Longin arrived on Saturday, November 20th with Rev. Protodeacon Milovan Gogich and Sub-Deacon Stefan Radovich and served the Vespers service. On Sunday morning, Bishop Longin celebrated the **Hierachical Divine Liturgy**. Following the Liturgy, everyone went to the Edgewater Clubhouse, (St. Michael's *home away from home*) for the Slava celebration. After serving the Slava service on Sunday afternoon, Bishop Longin and company returned to Chicago. Following a wonderful festive meal, St. Michael's held its **Annual Assembly meeting** which included the 2020 financial report and highlights from the past year. After the Assembly meeting, dessert was served while the St. Michael Bluegrass band performed traditional Gospel and Bluegrass songs. As it says in Psalms 133:1 "*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*"

Spiritual Education at St. Michael's: The Wednesday night Moleben Service, Meal and Spiritual Survival Course continued each Wednesday in November (except 11/24) We will resume Wednesday January 26th. In the meantime, the Nativity Spiritual Study Group began on Wednesday, December 1st and will continue through Wednesday, December 22nd. Catechumen & Inquirer classes continued on most Saturdays at 4pm (except for holidays and Feast Days).

New Property Update: The work on the new property is moving forward slowly, but surely and the property development work (utilities, stormwater system & paving) is expected to be finished by the end of this year. The architects are currently working on the plans for the new Church & Fellowship Hall building. With God's help, we hope to break ground next Spring.

St. Michael's Craft Guild: Once again, St. Michael's Craft Guild members participated in the Annual St. John's Craft Fair on Saturday, November 20th. Total funds raised were \$944 in support of St. Michael's Building Fund. This was nearly double the funds raised last time! As an added bonus, there are some very nice craft items still remaining that would make nice Christmas gifts for your family and friends. Please check out the kiosk at St. Michael's, purchase some great gifts and help support St. Michael's! Truly a win-win situation!

2021-22 Nativity Fast: The Nativity Fast began this year Sunday, November 28th and will continue through Thursday, January 6th. This fast is sometimes called "Little Lent" or "Advent," yet is not quite as strict a fast as Great Lent. Fish, Wine and Oil is allowed on every Saturday and Sunday as well as certain other days because of honoring various Saints, etc. However, the Sunday before Nativity, January 2nd, is a Wine & Oil day in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ on Friday, January 7th.

Coming Up:

The Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple will be celebrated with a Vespers Service on Friday, December 3rd at 6pm and then on Saturday, December 4th, there will be a Matins service at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00am.

St. Nicholas will be visiting the children of St. Michael's after Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, December 19th**. St. Nicholas is the REAL Santa Claus and it's important for our kids to learn about him! There may even be some gifts for the children who come to church that day!

St. Herman of Alaska, America's first Orthodox Saint, will be honored with a Vespers **Service on Friday, December 24th at 6pm** and on **Saturday, December 25th with a Matins Service at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am** followed by a festive potluck meal.

The Nativity of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ will be celebrated with **Royal Hours at 9am on Thursday, January 6th**, and on **Friday, January 7th, Matins at 8:45 and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am** followed by a potluck feast meal. There is a fast free period until January 18th.

Annual Schultz Christmas Celebration will be held on Friday, January 14th from 6pm to 10pm. Everyone is invited for a delightful evening of Christmas cheer, fellowship and music!

The Nativity Season

The Nativity Fast which began on November 15/28 is sometimes called “Little Lent” since it too is a forty-day fast just like Great Lent. However, when we compare these two fasting seasons, there are some significant differences. Liturgically, Great Lent has four weeks of preparation even before the fast begins. The Sundays of Great Lent all have a specific theme to help prepare us through spiritual repentance. Holy Week is a spiritually rich, intense week that brings us to the Feast of Feasts: the Pascha of our Lord.

The Nativity Fast at first glance does not seem to include anything special to help prepare us for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. However, if we pay close attention, we find that this is not truly the case. The Feast of the **Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple**, positioned within the first week of the Nativity Fast, marks a turning point in the Liturgical Year. During the Matins Service for this Feast announces the coming Nativity with the “Katavasia” verses of Christmas:



“Christ is born, give glory, Christ comes from heaven, go to meet Him. Christ is on earth, be exalted. Sing to the Lord, all the earth, and sing hymns in gladness, O people, for He has been glorified.”

We learn from Holy Tradition that when Mary was only three years old, her parents gave her as an offering to God to be raised in the Temple in Jerusalem. The High Priest at that time was Zachariah (future father of St. John the Baptist) and being inspired by the Holy Spirit, Zachariah led the young child Mary into the Holy of Holies, a place in the Temple so sacred, that only the High Priest was permitted to enter and that only once a year to atone for the sins of the people. As Archimandrite Vassilios writes in *Meditations for Advent*, “*Why was Mary the exception to the rule? Because she would become the true Holy of Holies, the human Ark that would bear the Word of God made flesh. Now the human body becomes the holiest thing on earth, for the Virgin’s womb will become God’s throne. The middle wall of partition that separated God and man (represented by the veil that divides the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies) will be torn down, for the Word will become flesh and live among us –John 1:14)...All of this reminds us that God’s true temple is the human being. Every one of us is, as St. Paul says, a temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19)...From the moment we celebrate the Mother of God’s preparation to become the true Ark of the Word of God, we are reminded of the preparation of our own bodies as temples of God. This is one of the purposes of our fasting during Advent. We must prepare the temple of the soul to receive Jesus: “Christ comes from heaven, go to meet Him.”*

There is a deep spiritual mystery for us to contemplate as we prepare for the Incarnation of the Son of God, the Feast of Christ’s Nativity. Pascha is of the most striking and dynamic of all the Feasts with great earthquakes and the sky becoming dark at Christ’s Crucifixion and then the great stone being cast aside by the Angel. Christ Himself appears in His Resurrected Body many times to His disciples, passing through closed doors and He Ascends into heaven forty days later. The Nativity by contrast takes place quietly in a humble cave, out of the view of most of the world. Only those who were counted worthy: the shepherds and the Magi, St. Joseph the Betrothed and the Mother of God herself and a few others were witnesses to Christ’s birth.

The Prophet Elijah was led by God’s Providence into the wilderness to escape the malice of Ahab who wanted to kill him. He was first visited by an Angel of the Lord who strengthened him. Then as it says in Kings 19:11-12: “*And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.*” In preparing for Christ’s Nativity, let us keep the fast, attend to our prayers and spiritual reading and come to the Church Services as often as possible that we too might hear that still small voice and that Christ may be spiritually born in us!

November 2021 Photos



Above Left: Framed picture of Patriarch Porfirje
Above Right: Framed picture of Bishop Longin
They were donated by *Charles Malmade* & hung in the Church Hall



Group picture with H.E. Bishop Longin
Sunday, November 21, 2021
Patronal feast of St. Michael the Archangel

November Photos 2021



St. John's Craft Fair
Left: Craft meeting at Stephanie Litter's house on November 13

Right & Bottom: Selling homemade crafts at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on Saturday, November 20, 2021





8th Annual Turkey & Rib Roast

***Friday—Saturday,
November 19 & 20, 2021***

This year, Bob Zarzaur smoked whole turkeys since turkey breasts were in short supply at the stores.







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, Mary Catherine Ballew, David Reid, Tanner & Madi Terry.

Reposed: 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 & Anthony Freude
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—2020 to 2021

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.