



# Newsletter January 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](http://www.stmichaelshsv.org)

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

**Saturday, Jan 1** – †6:00 Vespers

**Sunday, Jan 2** – **Sunday of the Holy Fathers**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, Jan 5** – **NO MOLEBEN SERVICE**

**Thursday, Jan 6** – **Christmas Eve**

†9:00am Royal Hours

†6:00pm Vespers Liturgy

**Friday, Jan 7** – **Nativity of the Lord!**

†6:00 Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

(Followed by Christmas Potluck & Christmas Caroling)

**Saturday, Jan 8** – †6:00 Vespers

**Sunday, Jan 9** – **Holy Righteous Ones**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, Jan 12** – **NO MOLEBEN SERVICE**

**Friday, Jan 14** – **Schultz Christmas Party**

6 pm – 10 pm Christmas Open House at Schultz's  
See Matushka Ann, RSVP per Sign-up Genie.

**Saturday, Jan 15** – †6:00 Vespers

**Sunday, Jan 16** – **Prophet Malachi**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

**Tuesday, Jan. 18** – **Theophany Vespers** †6:00 Vespers

**Wednesday, Jan 19** – **Theophany of the Lord!**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

†12:30pm Outdoor blessing of waters

**Saturday, Jan 22** – †4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class

†6:00 Vespers

**Sunday, Jan 23** – **St. Gregory**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, Jan 26** – 6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

**Saturday, Jan 29** – †4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class

†6:00 Vespers

**Sunday, Jan 30** – **St. Anthony the Great**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

**Coffee Hour:** \*(Nativity Fast)

\*Jan 2 – Fontane/Adams

Feb 6 – Hogan/Schultz

Jan 9 – Eversole/Harrison

Feb 13 – Jones

Jan 16 – Haddock

Feb 20 – Kaiser

Jan 23 – Hartley/Brennan

Feb 27 – Kendall

Jan 30 – Harwell

**January Birthdays:**

3rd – Olesya Phillips

3rd – Bill Tanner

12th – Anna Jones

17th – Pavel Sievers

17th – Heather Tanner

18th – Ivan Fontane

26th – Steve Cox

**Thank You:** Anna Fontane, Anna Jones, Serena Harwell and Bill Tanner for helping to decorate the Church for Christmas. John and Anna Jones for donating a wreath and garland. **Flowers:** Anna Fontane arranged and donated flowers for our Patronal Slava to St. Michael. Wendy Morgan donated and arranged flowers for The Feast of Entry of the Theotokos and the Liturgy for St. Herman of Alaska. She, also brought poinsettias.

**Save the Date!** Annual Schultz Christmas Party on Friday, January 14, 2022, 6 – 10 pm

**Coffee Hour Helpers** Jax Tedford & his girlfriend, Alyse Zilleruelo took care of coffee hour for Nadine Tedford because she had to work on December 12.



# The News at St. Michael's—January, 2022

**Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple** was celebrated with a Vespers Service on Friday, December 3rd and Saturday, December 4th, with a Matins service and Divine Liturgy.

**St. Nicholas** visited the children of St. Michael's after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 19th. As you know, St. Nicholas is the REAL Santa Claus and it's important for our kids to learn about him! Charitable saint that he is, St. Nicholas handed out gifts for the children who were at church that day!

**St. Michael Carolers** were "allowed" to sing this year at The Neighborhood Assisted Living on Sunday, December 12. We were required to wear masks and up to 10 people. This has been a tradition of St. Michael's to sing at a nursing home, but we missed last year because of Covid. We went from the Assisted Living to sing for Wanda Gilbert and the Ramirez's at Kim Gilbert's house which was nearby.

**St. Herman of Alaska**, America's first Orthodox Saint, was honored with a Vespers Service on Friday, December 24th and Matins and Divine Liturgy on Saturday, December 25th followed by a festive potluck meal.

**Moleben & Akathist Services to Archangel Michael** continued on Wednesday evenings throughout the month of December to ask for heavenly intercession for the work on our new property.

**The Nativity Study Group** met on Wednesdays (after the Moleben Services) throughout the month of December. In the midst of all the western and secular Christmas celebrations, the aim of the study group was to work on developing an Orthodox worldview as regards Christ's Nativity. Drawing from the Holy Scriptures and Holy Fathers, the focus was primarily on the themes of the spiritual and theological significance of the Incarnation of Christ, the challenges of entering into the spiritual side of the Nativity, the process of spiritual rebirth (deification/theosis) and repentance and exploring the various spiritual images and characters depicted in the Icon of the Nativity.

**New Property Update:** On December 16<sup>th</sup>, we received the very good news that the utility construction work was scheduled to begin again on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Excavation work has since been initiated around the 'bore pit' and we are hopeful that this portion will be completed over the next few weeks. In addition, the paving has also been scheduled to begin the first week of January. All in all, it looks like Phase 2 could be completed by the end of January. In the meantime, our architect is now working on the actual building plans. As soon as that's completed, we can get contractor bids for the Phase 3 construction. Once we've selected a contractor, we are already 'pre-qualified' for a construction loan. Following the necessary final civil engineering and City of Madison approvals, we should be in position to break ground on the new Church building and Fellowship Hall this coming Spring. Please keep praying!

## **Coming Up:**

**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!

**Feast of Theophany:** will be celebrated with a Vespers service on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Following Vespers, there will be the **Indoor Blessing of the Waters**. Then on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, Matins will begin at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. Following the Liturgy, we will head to Brahan Springs Park for the traditional **Outdoor Blessing of the Waters**.

**House Blessings:** Please contact Fr. Gregory for your annual Theophany House Blessing. We have already begun scheduling these following the Feast of Theophany.

## A Divine Rebirth

*"O Lord my God, I will sing a birthday hymn, a song on the Forefeast, to Thee who by Thy Nativity givest me a divine rebirth and leadest me up to my first excellence."* (Ode 1 from Canon of the Forefeast at Compline)

The Scriptures and the Holy Fathers have taught us much about this divine rebirth. In the Gospel of John, Chapter 3, there is the conversation between Christ and Nicodemus. When Christ says, 'Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God', Nicodemus asks, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Christ replies, 'Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.'

St. John Chrysostom says, *"It is impossible, says Christ, for one not so born to see the Kingdom of God; in this pointing to Himself and declaring that there is another beside the natural sight, and that we have need of other eyes to behold Christ..."*

In the book *Meditations for Advent*, Fr. Vassilios says: *"...Christ is to be born within us: in our mystical celebration we shall become Bethlehem, the humble place of His Nativity, and so we must prepare ourselves in order that our Lord may make His dwelling within us...It is not enough to celebrate Christmas. We need to be changed and shaped by what we are celebrating. If our spiritual life is no better in spite of all our praying, fasting and church services, then we have not yet begun to fully respond to the significance of Advent and of the Nativity. The Church's invitation to prepare for the Nativity is above all a command to us to open the gates of repentance, that Christ may enter our very being and be born anew in our hearts, and to offer our virtues to the new-born King. Instead of gold, we offer charity; instead of frankincense, prayer; instead of myrrh, repentance. Then, like the song of the angels and the adoration of the shepherds, our worship will be pure and our love without pretense."*

We have heard this before in sermons, spiritual reading and Holy Scripture. Yet, we may sometimes find ourselves in the same position as Nicodemus when he struggled to understand what Christ meant by 'being spiritually born again.' Or we may be tempted to feel that such things are only for spiritually advanced monastics, not for us lay people. However, as Archbishop Averky pointed out so clearly in his book *The Struggle for Virtue*, Christ did not become Incarnate, die on the Cross, destroy death and hell and rise from the dead just for monastics, but rather to offer salvation to all mankind.

For example, every time we participate in the Divine Liturgy, we experience deification/theosis '*as far as we are capable*.' Bread and wine are mystically transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If we will do our best to prepare to receive Communion worthily by observing all that the Church calls us to practice; then we will experience this spiritual rebirth to the degree that God is pleased to grant us. Weak and unworthy as we are, nevertheless, let us put our faith, trust and hope in God '*who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth*' (I Tim. 2:4); that in the coming Feasts of Christ's Nativity and Theophany, we may be transformed and draw closer to Christ!



## December 2021 Photos



*Left, right and below: The Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos on Saturday, December 4, 2021 followed by a procession.*



*Left: The baptism of **Theodora Sievers** at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church at Brookside, AL  
Fr. Paul is officiating*



**St. Michael Christmas Carolers  
Sunday, December 12**



*Top Left & Right:*  
St. Michael's Carolers sang at "The Neighborhood" Assisted Living on Hughes Road on Sunday, December 12. They required masks and not more than 10 people.

*Middle & Bottom Right:*  
We went to Kim Gilbert's house after singing at the Assisted Living so we could sing for Wanda Gilbert and the Ramirez family.





## St. Nicholas' Visit on Sunday, December 19





**St. Herman's Day  
Saturday, December 25, 2021**



**Liturgy**



**Potluck Lunch**

## 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

*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.