



Newsletter July 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 for Calendar](#)

Friday, July 2 – St. John Maximovich

Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco

Saturday, July 3 – †4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class

Sunday, July 4 – Sunday of All Saints of America

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, July 7 – Moleben to St. Michael

†6:00 pm

Saturday, July 10 – †4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class

†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, July 11 – Sts. Sergius & Herman of Valaam

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Monday, July 12 – Apostles Peter and Paul

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, July 14 – Moleben to St. Michael

†6:00 pm

Saturday, July 17 – †4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class

†6:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, July 18 – St. Athanasius of Mt. Athos

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, July 21 – Moleben to St. Michael

†6:00 pm

Saturday, July 24 – †4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, July 25 – Martyrs Proclus & Hilary

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, July 28 – Moleben to St. Michael

†6:00 pm

Saturday, July 31 – †4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class

Coffee Hour: (*Fast)

*July 4 – Tanner Aug 1 – Fontane/Adams

*July 11 – Tedford Aug 8 – Eversole/Harrison

July 18 – Veres Aug 15 – Haddock

July 25 – Zarzaur Aug 22 – Hartley/Brennan

Aug 29 – Harwell

July Birthdays:

1st – Inna Barth

4th – Vivienne Pastrick

7th – Inna Teasley

7th – Whitney Somerville

10th – Charles Teasley

21st – Nikolai Sievers

23rd – Adam Phillips

24th – Madeline Harwell

June Anniversaries:

19th – Rick & Michele Kaiser

31st – Whitney & Morgan Somerville

Thank You to our Guest Speaker, Bishop James Corazza, and to everyone who pitched in and helped with the Retreat: Bob Zarzaur, Iryna Haddock, Vicki & Ray Kendall, Nadene Tedford, Anna Fontane, Eric & Wendy Morgan, Serena Harwell, Pavel & Anya Sievers, Joseph & April Mahafza, Josh Demerin, David Hogan, Matthew Hartley, Charles Malmede, Rick Kaiser, Bill Tanner, Caleb Eversole, to Steve Cox for loaning us his trailer and to everyone who contributed financially to help offset the costs.

The News at St. Michael's –July 2021

Feasts & Fasts: We celebrated the **Feast of the Ascension** with a Vespers service on Wednesday, June 9th and Matins/Liturgy on June 10th. The **Feast of Pentecost** celebrations included a Vespers service on Saturday, June 19th, Matins & Liturgy on Sunday, June 20th followed by the Kneeling Prayers. The Apostles Fast began on Monday, June 28th

Spiritual Education: Inquirer/Catechumen classes were held on the Saturdays in June (except 6/26 during the Retreat).

7th Annual Retreat: This year's retreat was held from June 24th-26th and was the best one yet with some 80 parents and children in attendance. Our guest speaker, Bishop James Corazza gave a series of spiritual talks including a film about the Shroud of Turin. As an added bonus, Bishop James also served the Divine Liturgy at our church on Sunday, June 27th. The food was great and we want to thank Bob Zarzaur and Iryna Haddock for their assistance in preparing it! The children's program was also a hit and we want to thank Serena Harwell, April Mahafza, Pavel & Anya Sievers and Caleb Eversole for their help as well! Also, thanks to David Hogan for arranging the trailer to haul everything up to the campground, to Steve Cox for loaning us his trailer and thanks to all those who helped set up the chapel, food serving area and children's activities area and those who helped load up and put everything away at the end on Saturday!

LOOKING AHEAD...

Upcoming Services & Fasts: We will celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Apostles** on Monday, July 12th with a Matins Service at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. The Moleben services will continue throughout this month on Wednesday evenings in order to request heavenly intercessions from our Patron St. Michael the Archangel for our new church!

Catechumen & Inquirers Class: Classes will continue on Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm throughout the month of July.

New Property & Phase 3 Capital Campaign: The end of Phase 2 is near and will hopefully be completed by the end of July. So far, 30 households have contributed pledges toward the new church building. While this is great news, we still need the remaining 24 households who have not yet sent in their pledge forms to do that as soon as possible! Then we can go to the bank and get approved for the construction loan to build the new church/fellowship hall building! With your support, it's possible that we could be moved into our new church & fellowship hall before the end of next year, 2022! Please see Matthew Hartley, Church Treasurer if you have any questions or need another copy of the pledge form.



...This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting... (Matt. 17:21)

We have been observing the Apostles Fast that began at the end of June and will come to a close on the Feast of the Apostles on July 12th (civil calendar date). It's a good opportunity for us to revisit the subject of fasting. There is sometimes a misunderstanding about the spiritual practice of fasting. Even today, some Orthodox Christians feel that there is no need to fast, that perhaps this is a practice reserved only for monastics and clergy. Yet, fasting is of tremendous spiritual benefit for us. The Lord passed on this practice to His disciples, not as a suggestion, but as a commandment.

In Matthew 9:14-15, we read *"Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not? And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and **then shall they fast.**"*

As Archbishop Averky wrote in his book The Struggle for Virtue, *"Could it be that God created monks and laypeople separately? Could it be that God breathed the breath of life only into the faces of monks, leaving laypeople like mute animals? Could it be that only the spirits of monks strive for God, seeking communion with Him, while laypeople are not called to a life in God? Could it be that only monks have inherited a nature damaged by the ancestral sin and therefore must battle against sinful habits? Could it be that the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, came to earth only for monks, and not for everyone? Could it be that He founded His Church, in which grace-filled power is given for overcoming the law of sin and evil habits, for monks alone? Could it be that the Gospel was written only for monks alone? Could it be that the Lord calls them alone, and not everyone, to His eternal, blessed Kingdom to come? Who would dare claim this?...It is clear that everyone, if he desires to save himself from evil must enter the path of spiritual life—that is to become an ascetic struggler to some extent."*

St. John Chrysostom once gave a homily from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 17, when the Lord healed the possessed boy: *"This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."* St. John said *"And yet, if faith be requisite,"* one may say, *"what need of fasting?"* *Because together with our faith, that also brings no small power. For it both implants much strictness, and of a man makes one an angel, and fights against the incorporeal powers: yet not by itself, but prayer too is needed, and prayer must come first. See, at any rate, how many blessings spring from them both. For he that is praying as he ought, and fasting, hath not many wants, and he that hath not many wants, cannot be covetous; he that is not covetous, will also be more disposed for almsgiving. He that fasts is light, and winged, and prays with wakefulness, and quenches his wicked lusts, and propitiates God, and humbles his soul when lifted up. Therefore even the apostles were almost always fasting."*

St. Nikolai Velimirovic once wrote: *"Fasting and prayer are two pillars of faith; two living fires that burn up the evil spirits. Through fasting, all bodily passions are calmed and destroyed, especially immorality; through prayer, all other passions of soul, heart and mind are calmed and destroyed: evil intentions and evil deeds, revenge, envy, hatred, malice, pride, ambition and the others. By fasting, the vessels of body and soul are cleansed of their filthy contents of worldly passions and vices; by prayer, the grace of the Holy Spirit is drawn down into the empty, cleansed vessel—and the fullness of faith consists in the abiding of God's spirit in man."*

Brothers and Sisters, let us contemplate these beneficial words from our Holy Fathers. And let us do our best to keep the Apostles Fast as the Holy Church has established for our spiritual benefit, that we may be prepared to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Glory be to God!

June 2021 Photos

Pentecost Procession





**Justin Novak's
surprise birthday party
at the
Monrovia Fire Department**

***The Grand
Entrance!***



7th Annual St. Michael's Retreat



7th Annual St. Michael's Retreat



7th Annual St. Michael's Retreat



Spiritual Talks & Presentations



7th Annual St. Michael's Retreat



7th Annual St. Michael's Retreat



**Bishop James serving
Liturgy at St. Michael's**



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.; **Friends of Members:** Anne Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros & Bob Zarzaur.

Reposed: 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.

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, 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

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.