



Newsletter March 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](#)

Wednesday, March 2 – 6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, March 5 –†4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class
†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, March 6 – Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese Fare)
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy
†12:30pm Forgiveness Vespers

Monday, March 7 – **Beginning of Great Lent**
†6:00 pm Canon of St. Andrew

Tuesday, March 8 –†6:00 pm Canon of St. Andrew

Wednesday, March 9 –†6:00 pm PreSanctified Liturgy
7:30 pm Lenten Study Group & fasting meal

Tuesday, March 10 –†6:00 pm Canon of St. Andrew

Saturday, March 12 –†4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class
†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, March 13 – **Sunday of Orthodoxy**
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00am Divine Liturgy
†6:00 Vespers **with Holy Cross/St. Constantine & Helen**
Followed by a potluck at St. Michael's—See Timea Veres

Wednesday, March 16 –†6:00 pm PreSanctified Liturgy
7:30 pm Study Group & fasting meal

Saturday, March 19 –†4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class
†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, March 20 – **St. Gregory Palamas**
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 23 –†6:00 pm PreSanctified Liturgy
7:30 pm Study Group & fasting meal

Saturday, March 26 –†4:00 Inquirers/Catechumen Class
†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, March 27 – **Veneration of the Holy Cross**
†8:45am Orthros
†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 30 – **St. Patrick's Day (OC)**
†6:00 pm PreSanctified Liturgy
7:30 pm Study Group & fasting meal

Coffee Hour: *(Great Lent)

Mar 6—Litter

*Mar 13—Mahafza

*Mar 20—Malmede

*Mar 27—Morgan

*April 3—Novak

*April 10—Pcsolyar

*April 17—Phillips

April 24—**Pascha!**

March Birthdays:

3rd—Iryna Haddock

7th—Stephanie Litter

7th—Zion Hamby

18th—Jeremy Harwell

19th—Lucas Novak

22nd - Neal Ballew

22nd—David Brown

23rd—Tanner Terry

29th—Shaw Duda

Anniversaries:

16th—Steve & Robbie Cox

Save the Date: *Emma Pcsolyar* will be singing with the Huntsville Chorus on Friday, March 4, 7 pm at First Baptist Church –THECHORUS.ORG for tickets.

Sunday of Orthodoxy—6 PM March 13 we will host Holy Cross/St. Constantine & Helen with a potluck reception following Vespers. A sign-up genie will be sent out. See Timea Veres if you have questions: ctmi16@gmail.com

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. Any volunteers for being the coordinator see Matushka Ann.

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:** Bill Tanner for coordinating the take down of Christmas decorations when a lot of us were sick.

The News at St. Michael's—March 2022

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS: The Feast of the Meeting of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ was celebrated with Vespers February 14th and Matins and Divine Liturgy on February 15th.

Spiritual Education: After taking a break during the Nativity & Theophany season, the **Spiritual Survival Course** continued on February 2nd and finished up on February 23rd. These last four sessions provided a look at the major philosophical & cultural developments of the 20th century and offered a preview of future events (i.e.; the Second Coming of Christ) from the Orthodox Christian view. The **Moleben & Akathist Service to St. Michael** was also held each Wednesday evening in February. In addition, the **Catechumen/Inquirer classes** continued on Saturdays at 4:00pm.

House Blessings: Many parishioners of St. Michael's requested house blessings in February. These are joyful occasions and bring the Grace of the Holy Spirit more fully into our homes!

New Property Update: We met with our General Contractor, Utility Contractor and Paving Contractor in February to better coordinate our efforts. Although we've had some weather delays, the utility contractors have been working on installing the water and sewer lines in February and are expected to finish up soon. We've also been in contact with both of our architects on the design for the new church and fellowship hall. A **new drawing** is posted on the white board in the church hall which shows the initial floor plan of the church and the placement on the site. At the recommendation of our architect, we had some **test borings** done where the footers for the new church will go as well as the future cemetery site. So far, the results have been positive, though we are waiting for the final report. Once the utilities are installed, the paving contractor can do the paving and curb/gutter work. Hopefully by the end of March, Phase 2 will be complete and we will have a set of blueprints to show prospective contractors in order to gather the necessary bids. Having recently received an anonymous donation of \$15,000 toward the **cemetery development**, the Church Board voted to move forward with the preliminary steps needed to establish the cemetery.

COMING UP: Great Lent: On **"Forgiveness" Sunday, March 6th**, there will be a **Vespers Service at 12:30pm** following Coffee Hour. **Monday, March 7th** marks the **beginning of Great Lent 2022**. St. Michael's will be observing the First Week of Great Lent with the **Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete** on **Monday, March 7th at 6:00pm**, **Tuesday, March 8th at 6:00pm**, **Thursday, March 10th at 6:00pm**. On **Wednesday, March 9th at 6:00pm**, there will be the **Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts**, followed by a simple fasting meal and the **Lenten Spiritual Study Group**. *(Those who wish to receive Holy Communion at the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, should fast from food & drink after lunch time).*

The Sunday of Orthodoxy: On **Sunday, March 13th at 6:00pm**, St. Michael's will host Holy Cross/Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Church for the **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vesper Service.** *(You may bring an icon of your patron saint or a favorite icon to hold during the procession).* Following the Vespers Service, St. Michael's will provide a Lenten Meal.



Spiritual Reading as a Lenten Practice

“When we pray, we speak to God; but when we read, God speaks to us.” St. Jerome

Most people today agree that education is very important in order for us to get ahead and find success in life. At the start of each school year, getting our textbooks for class was a routine that no one questioned. Many classes involved additional reading outside of class. However, when we hear about the practice of spiritual reading, it is often considered superfluous and unnecessary, unless perhaps someone is getting a degree in theology or attending a seminary.

Just as reading was an essential part of our education in our younger days, so spiritual reading should be an essential part of our spiritual education and growth now. Many American converts to the Orthodox faith have discovered the vast treasury of spiritual writings that have only recently been translated into English. One convert who became Orthodox back in the early 1970's, remarked that at that time, there were only a handful of books that were available in English. Today, we can find thousands of ancient writings of Saints and Holy Fathers that have been translated into English. In addition, with each new generation of Orthodox converts, more original books are coming out all the time.

Here are a few excerpts from some Holy Fathers about spiritual reading:

St. John Chrysostom: ***“He who does not read spiritual books cannot save his soul.”***

Elder Ephraim of Katounakia: *“The holy fathers knew very well what they meant by saying that the eyes of our soul can be opened. That is why we should read both the patristic texts and the Scriptures. **Do you think that you don’t have time to do it? Try and read even for a few minutes every day.** The purification and enlightenment you will gain by reading the Holy Scriptures will remain with you day and night.”*

St. Theophan the Recluse: *“...One must read, for this is an ascetical activity...The best time for reading the Word of God is in the morning, Lives of saints after the mid-day meal, and Holy Fathers before going to sleep. Thus you can take up a little bit each day.”*

St. Basil the Great: *“If we read the Sacred Scripture with faith, we will feel that we see and hear Christ Himself. What is it we need, an actual voice or the One Who speaks to us through the Scriptures? It is all the same. In Sacred Scripture, God speaks with us just as truly as when we speak with Him through prayer.’ For this reason, prayer and the reading of sacred books must be our continuous occupation. Pray or read continually if you want to be with God at all times.”*

Archimandrite Amilianos: *“In order for our spiritual reading to “echo in our soul” we have to be diligent and prayerful, for understanding comes from the Holy Spirit.”*

Blessed Fr. Seraphim Rose: *“A person reading [spiritual] books, preferably keeping a journal of extracts from them, is building a real world of Orthodox Christianity. This is perhaps our main weapon against worldliness which surrounds us.”*

Some Suggested Spiritual Reading for Great Lent:

The *Holy Scriptures*, *Lives of Saints* (Great Collection of St. Dimitri of Rostov, Prologue of Ochrid: St. Nikolai Velimirovic, *The Northern Thebaid*, Optina Elders) Orthodox Commentaries on Scriptures (Archbishop Averky, Blessed Theophylact) *Wounded by Love*: Elder Porphyrios, *Thirty Steps to Heaven*: Vassilios Papavassiliou, *The Desert Fathers* (Abba Dorotheos, et. al.), *My Life in Christ*: St. John of Kronstadt, *The Struggle for Virtue*: Archbishop Averky, *Unseen Warfare*, *Path to Salvation*, *The Spiritual Life & How to be Attuned to It*: St. Theophan the Recluse, *On the Prayer of Jesus*: St. Ignatius Brianchaninov, *Our Thoughts Determine our Lives*: Elder Thaddeus, *The Forgotten Medicine*, *The Meaning of Suffering*: Archimandrite Seraphim Aleksiev, *With Pain & Love*, *Spiritual Awakening*, *Spiritual Struggle*, *Family Life*: St. Paisius the New of Mt. Athos, *The Deification as the Purpose of Man’s Life*: Archimandrite George

February, 2022 Photos



**The Feast of
The Meeting of the Lord**
Tuesday, February 15

*Below: Anya and Uliana
Sievers decorate the feast
icon with white roses.*



February 2022 Photos



Left & Bottom: House blessing
at Marc & Kathy Couch on
Thursday, February 10



Above & Right:

House blessing at Benjamin & Stephanie Litter's home on Thursday, February 17.

Brian & Mary Catherine Ballew were invited to attend.



February 2022 Photos

House Blessings!

Right: Hal & Vivienne Pastrick
on Friday, February 18

Below Middle: Pavel & Anya
Sievers on Monday, February
21

Bottom: Peter & Timea Veres
on Monday, February 21



February 2022 Photos



House Blessings!

Above: Josh & Emma Pcsolyar on Tuesday, February 22

Middle & Bottom Right: Rick & Michele Kaiser on Thursday, February 24.



Left Bottom: John and Anna Jones & family
Friday, February 25.

February 2022 Photos

Pilgrimage to The Monastery of the Glorious Ascension

113 acre property in Resaca, GA under the ROCOR church with one nun residing was visited by a young adult group from St. Michaels: *Monica Baker, Josh Demerin & Caleb Eversole* shown at right.

Jordan & Sierra Dawson visited as well, but not shown.



Congratulations to Rob and Mandy Christianson!

Franklin was born on Sunday, January 30th.

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.