

Newsletter May 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.stmichaelsv.org



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

Sunday, May 1 – Sunday of St. Thomas

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, May 4 – †6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, May 7 – †4:00pm Catechumen/Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, May 8 – Sunday of the Myrrh-bearers

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, May 11 – †6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, May 14 – †4:00pm Catechumen/Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, May 15 – Sunday of the Paralytic

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Monday, May 16 – 6 pm Choir Leaders Meeting

Wednesday, May 18 – †6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, May 21 – †4:00pm Catechumen/Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, May 22 – Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, May 25 – †6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, May 28 – †4:00pm Catechumen/Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, May 29 – Sunday of the Blind Man

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy



Congratulations!

Leigh Tedford graduated
from High School

2022

Coffee Hour: *(Apostles Fast)

May 1– Ramirez

June 5 – Zarzaur

May 8 – Sievers

June 12 – Fontane/Gordon

May 15 –Tanner

June 19 – Eversole/Harrison

May 22 – Tedford

* June 26 – Haddock

May 29 – Veres

Birthdays:

4th – Caleb Eversole

Anniversaries:

12th – Vicki & Ray Kendall

6th – Ryan Agee

14th – Iryna & Jeremy Haddock

8th – Ray Kendall

29th – Michele & Don Platt

29th – Phil Harwell

30th – Benjamin & Stephanie

29th – Lisa Novak

Litter

30th – Amelia Sievers

31st – Mary Zarzaur

Save the Date:

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 Food Coordinator*; Serena
Harwell and Kathy Couch —*Food Assistants*. There
will be a Children's Program Coordinator. Anyone,
who can help or volunteer, please contact Matushka
Ann. Setup is Thursday, June 16 at 9 am—See Fr.
Gregory

Thanks: *Palm Sunday Choir leader:* Emma Pcsolyar
Choir leaders for Holy Week: Leonard Adams, Benj
Litter, Charles Malmede & Eric Morgan. *Tomb
decoration on Good Friday:* Becky Brennan, Serena
Harwell, Miguel & Christine Ramirez, Kathy Couch,
Nathan & Logan Hays, Christine Bazala & Abigail,
Anna Fontane and Galina Dukes. *Pascha Potluck:*
Serena Harwell, Stephanie Litter, Christine Ramirez,
Logan & Nathan Hays & flowers by Anna Fontane.

Edgewater Clubhouse hosts: Michele & Rick Kaiser
Load & Pickup chairs & tables: Rick Kaiser, Luke
Harrison, Tanner & Madi Terry & Bill Tanner

Easter Lily Donation: Becky Brennan & Galina Dukes

The News at St. Michael's—May 2022

Feasts: **The Feast of the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to the Theotokos:** was celebrated with Vespers and Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday, April 9th and with Matins & Divine Liturgy on Thursday, April 7th. **The Feast of Palm Sunday** was celebrated with Vespers on April 16 and Matins, Divine Liturgy and a Festal Procession on April 17th. **Holy Week** began on April 18th and a total of 12 Church services were held including Pascha. **Pascha/The Bright Resurrection of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ** was celebrated with the traditional Paschal Vigil services on April 23rd. Then on Sunday, April 24th, we served the **Paschal Agape Vespers** on Sunday, April 24th at the Edgewater Clubhouse followed by a potluck meal and Easter egg hunt for the children.

Baptism: Catechumens Steve Gordon, Tanner Terry and Madi Terry received Holy Baptism and Chrismation on Lazarus Saturday, April 16th, following the Divine Liturgy. May God grant them many years!

Spiritual Education: The final Lenten Spiritual Study Group was held on Wednesday, April 13th. Also, the Inquirer and Catechumen classes have continued on Saturday afternoons up to Lazarus Saturday.

Choir Leader's Meeting: will be held Monday, May 16th. This is by invitation only and will be set aside to organize

New Property Update: We currently have three excellent General Contractor candidates. Our architect team expects to have the drawings for the new building completed by the end of this month. At that point, we will forward those drawings to the Contractors so they can get us their estimates. After that happens, we will select the best one. In the meantime, we will also send the drawings to the City of Madison for approval. Once approved and the contractor has been engaged, we look forward to breaking ground, hopefully this summer. In the meantime, the other contractors are completing the work on the utilities and paving.

COMING UP:

The Feast of the Ascension: will be celebrated with Vespers on **Wednesday, June 1st at 6pm** and on **Thursday, June 2nd, Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am.**

Moleben Service: will resume on Wednesday, May 4th and continue on each Wednesday during the month of May.

Spiritual Education: Catechumen & Inquirer Classes will resume on Saturday, May 7th at 4:00pm and will continue through the month of May.

Feast of Pentecost: will be celebrated this year on Sunday, June 12th.

Apostle's Fast: will begin on Monday, June 20th and end on the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul on Tuesday, July 12th.

St. Michael's 8th Annual Retreat: will take place from Thursday, June 16th through Saturday, June 18th. Our Guest Speaker this year will be Abbess Gabriela from the Holy Dormition Romanian Monastery in Rives Junction, Michigan. The Retreat Schedule will be posted soon, but will be similar to previous years with Prayers, Lectures & Meals. Keep an eye on your email for the soon to come 'sign up genius.'

Annual Diocesan Assembly and St. Mardarije Celebration: will be held on Friday, July 15 through Sunday July 17. Anyone who is interested may attend the St. Mardarije Celebrations, which would be held on Saturday and Sunday. This should be seen as a Pilgrimage and an opportunity to venerate the relics of an incorrupt saint. However, concerning the Annual Assembly itself, delegates from St. Michael's are usually limited to 2 or 3 with current church board members being given first priority. If you are interested in attending the Assembly as a delegate, please let Fr. Gregory know.

The Resurrection of Christ

Christ is Risen! In Truth He is Risen! Everyone who kept the Lenten fast, participated in the Holy Week services and who attended the beautiful and glorious Paschal Services, experienced the joy of Christ's Resurrection. Partaking once again of the favorite foods we deprived ourselves of during Lent, serves as a visible image of this great Feast.

According to a poll conducted by the BBC in England in 2017, only 46% of Christians believe that Jesus died and rose again as described in the Scriptures. In 1st Corinthians 15, St. Paul talks about those who would deny Christ's Resurrection. He talks about how it was prophesied in Holy Scripture that Christ would die and rise again. He shows that the Risen Lord was seen first by the Apostles and then by more than five hundred brethren at once. St. Paul goes on to say that if there is no resurrection of the dead, then is not Christ raised: and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins...But now is Christ risen from the dead...for since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

The Resurrection of Christ is a great mystery that mere words alone cannot fully reveal. As Fr. Ambrose Young once said "Whether they are aware of this or not, most Christians today are functional Deists." In other words, many believe in God (in an abstract sense), but also insist that God is a mystery that cannot be comprehended or experienced, and that Christians are obliged to lead good moral lives according to God's Law as seen in the Ten Commandments and, if we have been morally good, then when we die, we will be given the understanding and experience of God.

The problem with this line of thinking is that it represents more of a Jewish than a Christian view of this life and the life to come. If this idea was true, then why did Christ become Incarnate, suffer the Crucifixion and then emerge victorious over death and hell by His Resurrection? Why did He say 'these things I do, so shall ye do and greater things than these? Why did the Martyrs suffer for Christ if all that was needed for our salvation was to just get through our lives without killing anyone?

No, the truth is that God is with us: right here, right now. Christ said that if we want to be His Disciples, we must deny ourselves, take up our cross and come and follow Him. While He did not call all Christians to literally shed their blood for Christ, He does call all of us to a life of martyric sacrifice. When we say the Lord's Prayer, we pray that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. This means that we are to make the effort to always do the things that God has commanded us to, that is to do His will; not our own will. If we will make the effort to do this, with God's help, then we can truly enter into the real meaning of the Resurrection. We might say that as Christ's disciples, we enter into a life of martyrdom so to speak. We must crucify the old man (our fallen nature) so that Christ will grant us the Resurrection. This literally means our transformation and renewal. All true Christians are called to this. But we might ask 'how is this possible?' As Christ once said, *'with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'*

Each time we say the Nicene Creed, we affirm our belief that we *"look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come."* St. Nikolai Velimirovic says that this means that *God, by His limitless power, will make not only our souls immortal but our bodies as well. And it also means that every immortal soul shall be clothed in an immortal body according to its deeds."* This will occur after Christ's Second Coming and the Final Judgement. For all of those Christians who have been faithful to Christ by practicing their faith, repented of their sins and followed all that the Holy Church commands, Christ promises, *"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father."* (Matt. 13:43)

This is the purpose of our Christian spiritual life: as St. Seraphim of Sarov says, *"...to acquire the Grace of the Holy Spirit."* The Holy Fathers have taught us much about the process of purification, sanctification and deification (theosis). Each time we celebrate Great and Holy Pascha, confess our sins, receive Holy Communion, keep the fasts and feasts, we participate in Christ's Resurrection as far as we are capable! And in this way, we are being prepared for that day when we will depart this life and with the hope that we will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Christ is Risen!

April 16, 2022 Lazarus Saturday Baptisms



Newly Baptized
Steve Gordon &
Tanner & Madi Terry



April, 2022 Photos



*Above left: Emma Pcsolyar leads Palm Sunday Liturgy
Above right: Bridegroom Matins
Left middle & below: Galina Dukes donates & arranges Easter lilies.*

April, 2022 Photos



**Decorating the Tomb for Good Friday
April 22**

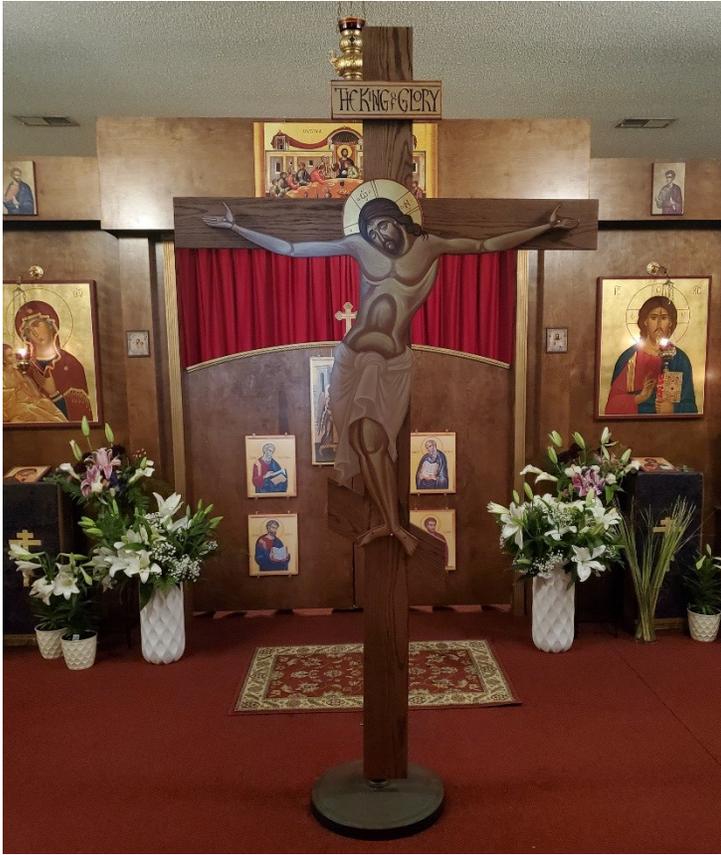
Above left: You can see the back of Kathy Couch's head. She took the pictures below, but did not include herself, and she really helped with the decorating.

Center: Christine & Hermione Ramirez and Christine & Abigail Bazala

Below: *Coordinator:* Becky Brennan with Serena Harwell, Miquel Ramirez, Anna Fontane, Nathan & Logan Hays



Good Friday
April 23, 2022



Transition of black cloths to white in preparation for Pascha Liturgy at Midnight, April 24 happened at Vespers Liturgy on Holy Saturday morning.





Pascha, April 24, 2022

Midnight Paschal Matins and Liturgy which ended at 2:00 am with the blessing of the Paschal baskets



**Paschal Potluck
Edgewater Clubhouse
Sunday, April 24, 3 pm**



*Above left & right: Paschal Potluck
Below left: Agape Vespers at 3 pm
Below right: Easter Egg Hunt*



Prayer List:

Living: **Church Members & Orthodox Friends:** Ray & Vicki Kendall, 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.