

Newsletter June 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](http://www.stmichaelsv.org) for Calendar

Wednesday, June 1 – †6 pm Ascension Vespers

Thursday, June 2 – **Ascension of Our Lord**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

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

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, June 5 – **Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, June 7 – **Church Council Meeting**

Wednesday, June 8 – †6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, June 11 – †4:00pm Catechumen/Inquirer Class

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, June 12 – **Pentecost - Trinity Sunday**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, June 15 – †6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Thursday, June 16 – **Saturday, June 18** – **St. Michael's 8th Annual Retreat on Monte Sano**

Saturday, June 18 – †4:00pm Catechumen/Inquirer Class

Class

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, June 19 – **Sunday of All Saints**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Monday, June 20 – **Beginning of the Fast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**

Wednesday, June 22 – †6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Saturday, June 25 – †4:00pm Catechumen/Inquirer Class

Class

†6:00 Vespers

Sunday, June 26 – **Sunday of All Saints of America**

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, June 29 – †6 pm Moleben to St. Michael

Coffee Hour: *(Apostles Fast)

June 5 – Zarzaur

June 12 – Fontane/Gordon

June 19 – Eversole/Harrison

* June 26 – Haddock

* July 3 – Brennan

* July 10 – Braun/Harwell

July 17 – Hogan/Schultz

July 24 – Jones

July 31 – Kaiser

Birthdays:

1st – Father Gregory Schultz

6th – Chris Sweeney

7th – Helen Bergantz

8th – Patrick Faulkner

9th – Logan Hay

11th – Robbie Cox

11th – John Duda

15th – Cooper (Tamara) Murray

16th – Hermione Ramirez

17th – Eric Huch

19th – Chase Baker

20th – Constantine Baker

24th – Justin Novak

28th – Hal Pastrick

28th – Serena Harwell

29th – Peter Veres

Anniversaries:

3 – Hal & Vivienne Pastrick

12 – Joe & Helen Bergantz

25 – Marc & Kathy Couch

Save the Date:

St. Michael's Annual Retreat on Monte Sano—Thursday, June 16—Saturday, June 18, 2022. Our speaker will be *Abbess Gabriella* from Holy Dormition Monastery in Michigan. See *Matushka Ann* for campsite reservations.

Meal Committee: *Bob Zarzaur*—BBQ Lunch. *Nadine Tedford*—Lead Food Coordinator; *Serena Harwell and Kathy Couch*—Food Assistants. *Stephanie Litter* is 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

News: *Caleb Eversole* is the new Church Treasurer. We thank *Matthew Hartley* for his years of service as former Treasurer. *Christine Ramirez* is coordinating flower arranging and decorating for Church feasts. See her if you would like to help—christinimarie@gmail.com; 714-287-1369

Donation: A new incenser & stand in memory of Elizabeth Toth-Schultz.

The News at St. Michael's—June 2022

Feasts & Church Services: Having celebrated the Bright Resurrection of Christ, we've been enjoying the post-Paschal season and preparing for the upcoming Feasts of Ascension and Pentecost. The Moleben Services have resumed on Wednesday evenings as we ask for much-needed help from the Archangel Michael with our new property and church development.

New Catechumens: *Brian, Mary Catherine, Julian and Neil Ballew* were blessed as Catechumens following the Divine Liturgy on May 22nd. May God grant them many years!

Spiritual Education: The Inquirer and Catechumen classes have continued on Saturday afternoons.

Choir Leaders: The Choir Leaders met on Monday, May 16th to work on organizing a new service schedule and to share resources for the Divine Services preparation.

New Property Update: The utilities work has been progressing in between rain showers and other than some rock that will need to be broken up, should be completed in the next week or two. Please pray that God will help the workers with this, just as He sent an angel to roll away the stone from Christ's tomb. As soon as the utilities are in, the paving sub-contractor can come in and do his part, with the exception of the very final layer of asphalt. That will wait until the building is built, since the extremely heavy cement trucks, etc., would ruin the freshly poured asphalt. However, once the heavy equipment has completed their work, we will do the final paving. Meanwhile, our architect team forwarded us some tentative building floor plans on May 16th and on May 24th and we sent them some revisions. We are hoping to have the completed building "blueprint" drawings in the next few weeks, at which point, we will forward those drawings to the Contractors so they can get us their estimates. We'll also forward those to the City of Madison for approval. As soon as we have chosen the best contractor, we'll then go to the bank to work out the financing. Once the plans have been approved by the City of Madison and the contractor has been engaged, we look forward to breaking ground, hopefully this summer. If you have not yet made your pledge to support the new church construction, please do so as soon as possible! See Church Treasurer *Caleb Eversole* to get a pledge form.

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 continue on Wednesdays except for June 1st and June 15.

Spiritual Education: Catechumen & Inquirer Classes will be on Saturdays. **NO CLASSES JUNE 18.**

Church Board Meeting: will be held on June 7th at 6pm

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.'

Save the Date: Baby shower for *April Mahafza* on Sunday, July 10. See *Stephanie Litter*, stphlitter@gmail.com

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 Apostle's Fast

Following the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Church grants us a 'fast-free' week as we celebrate the joy of receiving the Holy Spirit. One week from the Monday after Pentecost, we begin the Apostle's Fast, one of the four fasting seasons of the year. The following are some excerpts about the Apostle's Fast:*

The fast of the Holy Apostles is very ancient, dating back to the first centuries of Christianity. In his letter to Emperor Constance, St. Athanasius the Great (†373) writes: *"During the week following Pentecost, the people who observed the fast went out to the cemetery to pray."*

"The Lord so ordained it," says St. Ambrose (†397), *"that as we have participated in his sufferings during the Forty Days, so we should also rejoice in his Resurrection during the season of Pentecost. We do not fast during the season of Pentecost, since our Lord Himself was present amongst us during those days ... Christ's presence was like nourishing food for the Christians. So too, during Pentecost, we feed on the Lord who is present among us. On the days following his ascension into heaven, however, we again fast."*

St. Leo the Great (†461) says: *"After the long feast of Pentecost, fasting is especially necessary to purify our thoughts and render us worthy to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit ... Therefore, the salutary custom was established of fasting after the joyful days during which we celebrated the resurrection and ascension of our Lord, and the coming of the Holy Spirit."*

St. Symeon of Thessalonica (†1429) explains the purpose of this fast in this manner: *"The Fast of the Apostles is justly established in their honor, for through them we have received numerous benefits and for us they are exemplars and teachers of the fast ... For one week after the descent of the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the Apostolic Constitution composed by Clement, we celebrate, and then during the following week, we fast in honor of the Apostles."*

Keeping the fasts that the Holy Church has handed down to us, is a way of practicing our Orthodox Faith and demonstrating our obedience to God. It is a way to strengthen our spiritual life and help us in the ongoing struggle against the passions. In our modern times, the individual will of each person is elevated to almost 'godlike' status. Many people today take great pride in not submitting to anyone or anything, thinking that by doing whatever they want, whenever they want, this will bring them freedom, peace and happiness. However, the Lord told us that "... You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free." He also instructed us to pray the "Our Father" as a model of prayer. Remember the lines "Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven." Our goal as followers of Christ is to do God's will, not our own will.

When we give up a little bit of our own will by observing the fasting times, it helps strengthen our ability to obey God's will through the Holy Church that He has given us. Saying 'no' to meat and dairy products puts the higher part of our will into action, when our stomach tries to push us to satisfy itself. May our Lord grant us His great mercy as we begin the season of the Apostle's Fast, that we too may be blessed to fulfill His Holy Will, just as those first Apostles and Disciples. Glory be to God!

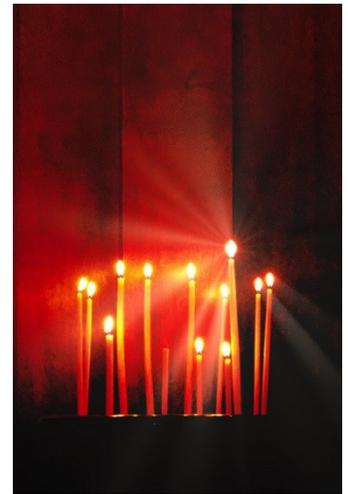
May 2022 Highlights



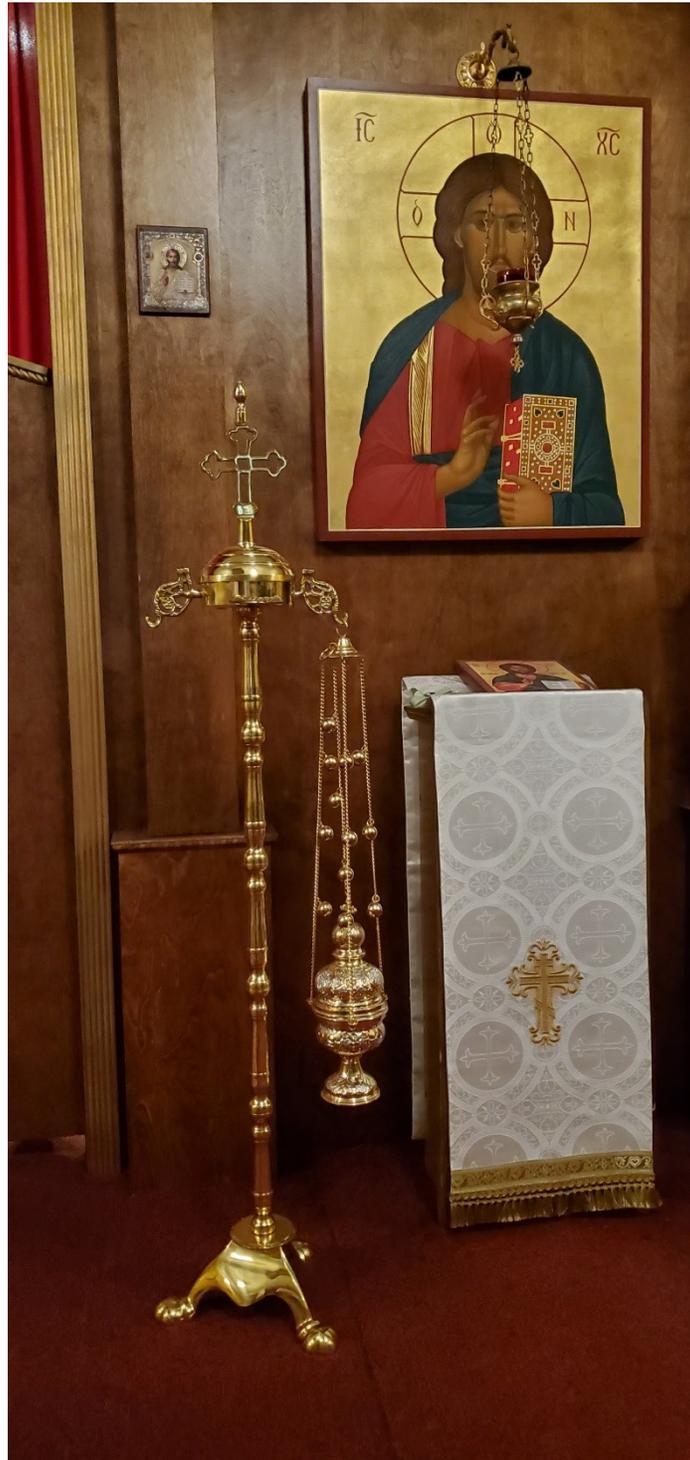
Above:
Malmeade House Blessing

Left:
New Catechumens Mary Catherine
and Brian Ballew and Family

Below:
Ballew House Blessing



May, 2022



We were recently blessed with a donation of a new censer and stand in memory of *Elizabeth Schultz-Toth*, Father Gregory's mother. Please remember her in your prayers.

Prayer List:

Living: **Church Members & Orthodox Friends:** Ray & Vicki Kendall, Ashley Zarzaur, Shawn & Oksana Falconbury, Wanda (Christine) Gilbert, Pat Darzi, Brigid McBride. 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), Rob Christiansen, Brian & Mary Catherine Ballew, David Reid, 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.

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

Choir Leader Coordinator—Matushka Ann

Choir Leaders—Leonard Adams, Benjamin Litter, Charles Malmede, Emma Pcsolyar & Mat. Ann

Readers/Acolytes—Leonard Adams, Matthew Hartley, David Hogan, Rick Kaiser, Benjamin Litter, Charles Malmede

& Eric Morgan

Sisterhood President—Iryna Haddock

Sisterhood Treasurer—Michele Platt

Sunday School Director—Matushka Ann

Sunday School Coordinator—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/Steve Gordon

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

Caleb Eversole—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.