



# Newsletter August 2015

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/)

### Aug: Important Church Dates:

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Holy Prophet Elias (Elijah)

**Sun. Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>--Church Picnic/Fundraiser following Divine Liturgy. "BBQ Bob" will be making world class BBQ pork sandwiches!**

**Tue. 18<sup>th</sup>— 6pm Vespers**

**Wed. 19<sup>th</sup>—9am Orthros/10am Liturgy for The Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ**

**Thur. 27<sup>th</sup>— 6pm Vespers**

**Fri. 28<sup>th</sup>—9am Orthros/10am Liturgy for The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>– Queener's Church Wedding and Reception after Divine Liturgy @1:00**

**Announcement:** The Church Council has decided to try a new arrangement for cleaning the church. One of our church members, Angela Sage does cleaning professionally and has offered to clean the church twice a month for an extremely reasonable fee, so we will need to organize volunteer cleaning parties.

**News Items –** Please send church news items to the Newsletter Editor: Rick Kaiser at [rkmk2012@gmail.com](mailto:rkmk2012@gmail.com)

### Coffee Hour: (\*Dormition Fast)

Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sisterhood

Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> – Platt

Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> – Church Picnic

Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Wolf/Standifer

\*Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> – Harwell

Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> – Zarzaur

\*Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Kaiser

Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> – Bergantz

Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> – Pastrick

*Note: If you cannot be at church on your Sunday, please arrange to trade places with someone from the coffee hour list that can.*

### Birthdays:

12<sup>th</sup> – Dragan Vukosavljevic

14<sup>th</sup> – David Hogan

14<sup>th</sup> – Carol Wolf

16<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Thomas

24<sup>th</sup> – Michele Jokich

26<sup>th</sup> – Catrina Thomas

**Supplies Needed:** Please consider donating the following:

- Olive Oil (not extra virgin)
- Disposable Coffee Cups

**If you can donate it would be greatly appreciated!**

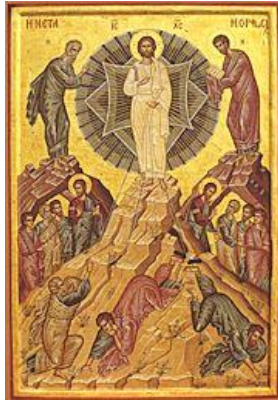


Several families have moved this year, leaving some gaps in our coffee hour list! Please talk to Fr. Gregory, Mat. Ann or one of the board members about having your name added to the list. It's a simple way to get involved, a great venue to greet newcomers that come to visit, and the more responsibility we share, the better it is for all. Thanks!

## St. Michael's Summer Camp 2015







## Finishing Our Course

*Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. (I Corinthians 9:24-25)*

Anyone who has ever run a race (or watched one) knows that the ending is very important, for in order to complete the race, we must cross the finish line. Each year on September 1/14, we begin our spiritual race: the Church's Liturgical Year. A whole spiritual cycle starts which we follow from beginning to end. During the month of August the Church celebrates the last two Great Feasts of the Church Year: The Transfiguration of the Lord and the Dormition of the Theotokos.

Just as the goal of our lives is to work out our salvation with God's help, we also hope to draw as close to God as possible in this life. The Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6/19) is for us an image of the Divine Uncreated Light shining through the humanity of the Incarnate God upon Mt. Tabor. Just as our Lord said 'These things I do, so shall ye do...' many saints and righteous ones have experienced this Uncreated Light.

St. Seraphim of Sarov is one of the most well-known in this regard. When his disciple Motovilov asked St. Seraphim how he could know whether he was truly in the Grace of the Holy Spirit, St. Seraphim prayed, placed his hands on Motovilov's shoulders and told him to look at him. Motovilov beheld a strange sight: St. Seraphim had become brighter than the sun! He could not bear to look at him. Then St. Seraphim said to him, 'How do you feel now?' And Motovilov answered, 'Extraordinarily well...I feel such calmness and peace in my soul that no words can express it.' Although we may not have quite the same experience that St. Seraphim and Motovilov had, we can receive inspiration from the Lives of the Saints and the Divine Services of the Church.

St. John Maximovitch once said that the Liturgical Year begins with the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8/21) and ends with the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos (August 15/28). Not only are Orthodox Christians called upon to honor the Most Holy Mother of God on this occasion of her translation from this earthly life to the heavenly life; but there is a great mystery for us to contemplate.

"...the Mother of God receives the glory which belongs to God and is the first among human beings to participate in the final deification of the creature. *God became man, that man might become God. (St. Athanasius the Great)*...The glory of the age to come, the last end of man, is already realized, not only in a Divine Hypostasis made flesh, but also in a *human* person made God." (from *The Meaning of Icons*) Our Lord promised us "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3

The Mother of God offers us a glimpse of her ineffable glory and the first-fruit of the Church's eschatological consummation that is the spiritual heritage which awaits all faithful Orthodox Christians when Christ returns in His Second Coming.

**Thank you to:** All those who helped organize this year's Summer Camp: Anya & Pavel Sievers, Alexandra & Bob Pickle, Iryna Haddock, Serena Harwell, Sandy Ellis & Mat. Ann and to all those who participated this year! Also to Steve & Gary Cox for their hard work on Phase 2 of the HVAC system in insulating the attic; and to Christopher Sweeney & Allen Morgan for their help in installing new shelving in the closet.

**Confessions:** may be heard Saturdays after Vespers; also Sunday mornings before Divine Liturgy between 9:40 & 10 am or contact Fr. Gregory to arrange a time. Please come early on Sunday mornings so we may start Divine Liturgy on time.

**House Blessings:** Please contact Fr. Gregory to schedule your house blessing at: (church) 256-881-2449; (home) 256-325-4401 or (email) frgregory1@gmail.com

**Prayer List:**

**Please keep in your prayers**

**Living:** **Church Members:** Jim Cesari, Kathe Hoyer, Brad Zarzaur, Ashley Zarzaur. **Friends of Members:** Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Corey Robinson, Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne Karas, Glen, Catrina Thomas.

**Reposed:** Vangie Pamfilis, Milan Petrovic, Jim Smith (Lisa Crafts' father), Larry Smith (Lisa Craft's Uncle), Anna Scoggins (mother of Kathy Hoyer), Mary Kochoff, Mary, Sam, Frances, Joe, Anne, Stan, Daniel, Anna, Fryni, Nelia, Natalie, Brandie Cesari (Jim Cesari's wife).

**Committees/Chairpersons:**

Choir Director – Sandy Ellis  
Ass't Choir Director – Matushka Ann  
Sisterhood President – Shellie Kioutas  
Sunday School Director - Matushka Ann  
Church Supply Coordinator – Loren Capsopoulos  
Library & Bookstore – Matushka Ann  
Building Maintenance - Bob and Rick  
Welcoming Committee Coordinator – Charles Malmede  
Capital Campaign – Hal Pastrick and Joe Bergantz  
Website – Charles Malmede  
Newsletter Bulletin – Rick Kaiser  
Candle Supplies – Michele Kaiser

**Church Council – 2014 to 2015**

Father Gregory Schultz – Parish Administrator  
Bob Zarzaur – President  
Michele Platt – Vice President  
Joe Bergantz – Treasurer  
Marshal Standifer – Secretary

**Members at large** – Sandy Ellis, Mike Jokich, Rick Kaiser, Shellie Kioutas, Charles Malmede, Hal Pastrick

Please note: the Church telephone number is:  
**256-881-2449**

Office hours at the church are as follows.\*  
Tuesday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Wednesday: 12 noon – 6:00 pm  
Thursday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

*\*Please note: while Fr. Gregory will normally be at the church during these times, pastoral needs are given priority (i.e.; when someone is ill, etc.). If you need to see him, please call ahead.*