



# Newsletter August 2016

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/)

### Link - St. Michaels Calendar:

*\* Please check calendar for details*

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** – Dormition of the Righteous Anna, mother of the Most Holy Theotokos.

☞ **Liturgy will be followed by the annual BBQ Picnic.**

☞ **There will also be a Special Assembly Meeting to vote on the purchase of property for a new church!**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>** – Procession of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord. Dormition Fast begins.

**Thurs. 18<sup>th</sup> – Transfiguration Vespers 6pm**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – Transfiguration of our Lord.**

📖 **8:45am Orthros**

📖 **10am Divine Liturgy**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup>** – Translation of the Image Not-Made-by-Hands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Announcements:

Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment.

### Supplies Needed :

- Regular and decaffeinated coffee. Specialty coffee is always appreciated!
- Paper plates—luncheon sized

**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 7<sup>th</sup> – **BBQ picnic** (Sievers) Sept 4<sup>th</sup> – Capsopoulos

\*Aug 14<sup>th</sup> – Wolf/Standifer Sept 11<sup>th</sup> – Cox

\*Aug 21<sup>st</sup> – Zarzaur Sept 18<sup>th</sup> – Darzi/Baker

Aug 28<sup>th</sup> – Bergantz Sept 25<sup>th</sup> – Ellis/Fontane

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:

10th - Mark Novak

12th – Dragan Vukosavljevic

14th – David Hogan

14th – Carol Wolf

16th – Kathy Couch

24th – Michele Jokich

29th – Tatiana Shadrina

### Anniversaries:

None for August!

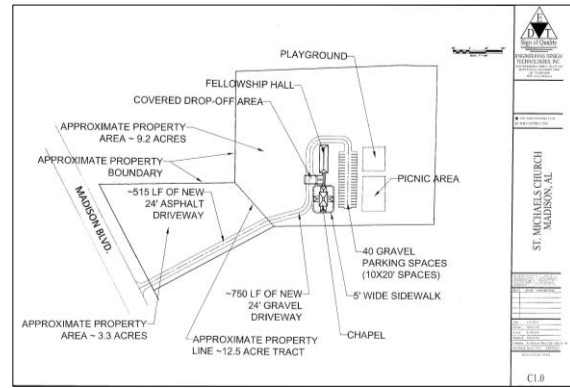
## IMPORTANT:

**Please come to the SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING on Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>! Our parish must vote on purchasing a piece of land on which to build a future hall and church. (see next page for more information)**

## Special Assembly Meeting, Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (following Divine Liturgy)



*Concept drawing of new Church*



*Preliminary site plan for new Church/Hall*

We've been hearing about the upcoming Special Assembly meeting for several weeks. As a parish in the Serbian Orthodox Church, St. Michael's is required to have one "Annual Assembly" each year—normally mid-to-late September. However, whenever an important decision needs to be made, we can ask the Bishop's blessing to hold a "Special Assembly" for that purpose—in this case to make a decision about acquiring a piece of property.

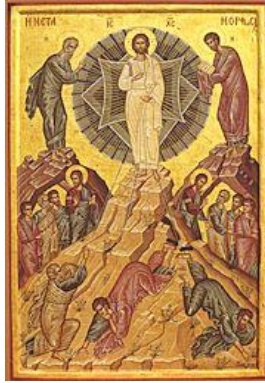
St. Michael's has been in its present location for nearly 10 years now. Thanks be to God, we have experienced quite a bit of growth during that time, and are now at the point where we really have outgrown our present facilities—especially our fellowship hall. Over the past couple of years, several church council members have been looking for potential property on which to eventually build a church and larger hall. Most of the existing church buildings or land that we've seen have been astronomically expensive or unsuitable due to seasonal flooding.

In general, commercial property in a reasonably good and accessible location costs upwards of \$100,000 per acre! This past Spring, we found a piece of land at 8100 Madison Blvd. and were able to work out an amazing deal so that we can get 9+ acres for only \$350,000 (which is around \$38,000 per acre)! In addition, our church is expecting a 'windfall' gift of approximately \$100,000 in the near future and we have also been offered a good loan possibility from a local bank. These factors have provided us with a window of opportunity. However, this window of opportunity will not necessarily stay open forever. There have already been three inquiries from various developers and companies interested in purchasing this piece of land. In other words, if we don't take advantage of this soon, someone else will. In addition, we believe that acquiring this property will be a good investment for the future of St. Michael's by increasing its visibility, expanding its facilities and helping foster more church growth!

True; we still have a ways to go in putting in the infrastructure: driveway, utilities, parking, and it may take us awhile to build a new hall and church. However, once we secure the land, we can begin developing it at a pace that we can handle. Hopefully, you received an email "packet" that included a detailed letter and several drawings to give a clearer picture of where this property is and how it could be laid out. Please take the time to read those materials in advance of the August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. We know how busy everyone is and that it might be a real sacrifice to make time to come to this meeting, but please understand the importance of this! We will be voting whether to move forward to acquire this property and absorb the additional expense. This is one of the most important decisions our church community will ever make! Your participation is absolutely crucial! May God's blessings be with you and we look forward to seeing you Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

In Christ,

Fr. Gregory and the Church Council



## The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

We have all heard that the Transfiguration is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of our Church. Yet, sometimes we can lose sight of the real meaning of this great event in the life of our Lord. After all, this happened nearly 2,000 years ago and only three of Christ's disciples (Peter, James and John) were there to witness it. By contrast, the Apostle Paul tells us in I Cor. 15:6 that the Risen Lord was seen by over 500 brethren at once.

*"On the mount Thou wast transfigured, and Thy disciples, as much as they could bear, beheld Thy glory, O Christ God; so that when they should see Thee crucified, they would know Thy passion to be voluntary, and would preach to the world that Thou, in truth art the Effulgence of the Father."* (Kontakion of the Feast)

This Kontakion contains two important messages for us: Firstly, that the disciples beheld the glory of the Transfigured Christ as much as they could bear; and Secondly, that having witnessed His glory, when they would later see Him crucified, they would remember that He went to His death on the Cross willingly, not as an ordinary man who was taken by force, but as the Almighty God Who accepted death on the Cross in order to save the human race.

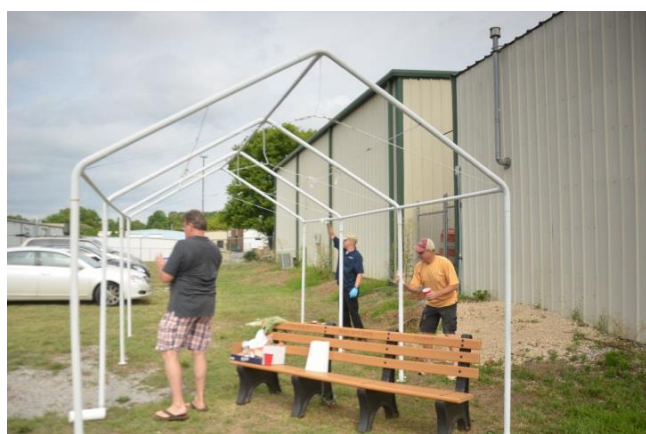
The limited spiritual state of the disciples was not for lack of trying. They had left behind their families and fishing business—all worldly attachments in order to follow Christ. They did everything the Lord asked of them, to the best of their ability. However, as St. Gregory Palamas taught us, our human minds are unable to fully comprehend God's Essence, for the Almighty God Who made the heavens and the earth is beyond our limited, rational abilities to encompass. Yet, God expresses through His Energies, and as our Holy Fathers have taught us, the very purpose of our life is to acquire this Grace of the Holy Spirit.

This is why we come to Church, to confess our sins and receive forgiveness; to prepare for and partake worthily of Holy Communion. Through the Sacraments and the other spiritual practices of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, studying the Holy Scriptures and other spiritually profitable writings, through overcoming the sinful passions and acquiring the virtues with God's help; all these things draw down the Grace of the Holy Spirit upon us, to the extent that we are able to bear it.

Having experienced this Divine Glory even to a small degree, strengthens our faith so that when temptations and doubts assail us (as they certainly will) we will be that much more prepared to rise above them. Each small victory over our own weakness and passions—even just getting to church on time or forgiving our brother or sister who has let us down—helps us to truly LIVE in Christ! Then we may become true disciples and witnesses to the *Effulgence of the Father*; in other words, an extreme brightness! It is this true Light of Christ that will shine forth and overcome the darkness of the evil one and this fallen world! May our Transfigured Lord Jesus Christ help us to enter more fully into the life of Grace! Glory be to our God!



**July Highlights at St. Michael's:** The canopy used for last year's picnic was ruined in a storm, but thanks to the Men of St. Michael's, it has been restored. A hearty THANK YOU on behalf of the parents and kids, to all those who volunteered their time and sweat. The old frame had to be modified to fit the new canopy and repainted, but the end result is that there is now a refuge from the hot sun out by the playground! After Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, St. Michael's welcomed Terry (Sava) Finley into our parish as a new Catechumen. Then during the last week of July, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. Michael's Summer Camp was held. This year, we had morning prayers, catechism class, crafts, stories from Lives of Saints, singing, acolyte classes for the older boys, and a charitable project of making dresses for poor girls in Africa. Thanks to all the parents and children who participated to make this our best Summer Camp yet!







### Donations in Memory or In Honor of:

This past month, the church, the sisterhood and several generous members donated \$1930 to the Pamfilis family through our special collections. Thank you all very much for your loving generosity during their time of need!

Many thanks also to the Jokich Family and CSB Publishing for their generous donation of books to the library!

**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.

### Committees/Chairpersons:

Choir Director – Sandy Ellis  
Ass't Choir Director – Matushka Ann  
Sisterhood President – Iryna Haddock  
Sunday School Director - Matushka Ann  
Church Supply Coordinator – Loren Capsopoulos  
Legal Advisor—Brad Chynoweth  
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 – 2015 to 2016

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, Charles Malmede, Hal Pastrick

### Prayer List:

**Living:** **Church Members & Orthodox Friends** Pat Darzi, Jim Cesari, Lisa Craft, Ivan Fontane, Angela Gafton, Leslie Hargrave, Harris family, Phil Harwell & family, Kathe Hoyer, Mat. Julie Joa, Weston Letson, Allen Morgan, Justin Novak, Sean Perry & family, Chris Sweeney, Catrina Thomas, Ron Waskerwitz, Tim Waskerwitz, Kurt Weber. **Friends of Members:** Pamfilis Family, Cheryl Brown, Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros, Martin Gureasko, Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne, Kara, Glen, Todd McCaffery, Steve McCreary.

**Reposed:** Christopher Pamfilis, Alexa & Hayden Hannig, Nicolae Caracalean, Valentina, Vangie Pamfilis, Milan Petrovic, Mary Kochoff, Mary, Sam, Frances, Joe, Anne, Stan, Daniel, Anna, Fryni, Nelia, Natalie.

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

Office hours at the church are as follows.\*

Tues: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Wed: 12 noon – 6:00 pm, Thurs: 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.*