



Newsletter July 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/

Link - St. Michaels Calendar:

** Please check calendar for details*

Sunday 3rd – Russian St.'s Day

Thursday 9th – Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

Tuesday 12th – Holy All Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter & Paul. (fast ends)

Sunday 17th – Holy Royal Martyrs of Russia

Tues 7/26—Thurs 7/28—St. Michael's Summer Camp (9am-12noon each day)

Sunday 31st – Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the 1st Six Councils.

Announcements:

Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment.

Supplies Needed :

- Regular and decaffeinated coffee. Specialty coffee is always appreciated!
- Paper towels.

News Items – Please send church news items to the Newsletter Editor Rick Kaiser at:
rkmk2012@gmail.com

Coffee Hour:

July 3rd – Kaiser

July 10th – Malmede/Chynoweth

July 17th – Pastrick

July 24th – Pickle

July 31st – Platt

Aug 7th – Sievers

Aug 14th – Wolf/Standifer

Aug 21st – Zarzaur

Aug 28th – Bergantz

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:

1st – Debbie Gulas

4th – Vivienne Pastrick

7th – Inna Teasley

10th – Charles Teasley

21st – Nikolai Sievers

24th – Madeline Harwell

28th – Roger Ellis

Anniversaries:

19th – Rick & Michele Kaiser

26th – Brad & Karen Chynoweth



Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul (July 12)

“I believe...in One Holy, Ecumenical (catholic) and Apostolic Church...” (from the Nicene Creed)

After the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Church has established that the entire week be free from fasting (just as after Pascha and the Nativity). Then on the following Monday, we begin observing the Apostles’ Fast which culminates with the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul on July 12th.

The Holy Apostolic Church, the Mystical Body of Christ on earth, was founded on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and Disciples. While it might seem as though it was literally only the Twelve Apostles who founded our Holy Church, Sacred Tradition says that to fulfill the prophecy of Joel (Joel 2:28-29), the Holy Spirit descended not only on the twelve chosen Apostles, but also upon ALL those who were with them “with one accord and in one place” (Acts 2:1), that is on the whole Church. This is why on the icons for Pentecost are usually represented Apostles not belonging to the Twelve—Apostle Paul (sitting with Apostle Peter at the head of the circle of Apostles), and among the Seventy Apostles, Luke the Evangelist and Mark the Evangelist. (from *The Meaning of Icons* p. 208)

The Holy Church has always understood its “apostolicity” in a spiritual, rather than a literal or administrative sense since the very beginning. Our Lord Jesus Christ has always been and always will be the Head of the Church. He gave authority to the Apostles and their successors, the bishops of the church, and yet as He said before His Ascension “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” St. Ignatius the God-Bearer calls the Lord the “Invisible Bishop.” St. Paul refers to Christ as the eternal High Priest of His Church in his Epistle to the Hebrews.

When the Lord once said to St. Peter, ‘thou art Peter and on this rock I build My Church,’ Blessed Augustine says that it is the **CONFESSION** of St. Peter that is the rock, not Peter personally. His confession was the recognition of Christ, “*Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God.*” As Bl. Augustine also says, the rock of this confession does not come **FROM** Peter, but rather comes from Christ—just as the Christian is from Christ, and not Christ from the Christian.

As we observe the Apostle’s Fast and celebrate the Feast of the Holy Apostles, let us contemplate the truth of the ‘one Holy, Ecumenical and Apostolic Church’ that is established upon the rock of the confession of Christ. This is the way we must walk, as heirs of the Holy Apostles and all those who confess Christ. Amen!

June was a very blessed and active month. We celebrated the Feasts of the Ascension of our Lord and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Then on Friday and Saturday June 17-18, we had our Second Annual Retreat and Picnic. We were glad to welcome some of our parish members who had been unable to attend last year due to schedule conflicts! The church services of Vespers on Friday night and the Orthros and Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning were very Grace-filled and inspiring. God blessed us with beautiful weather again this year! There is something very special about praying outdoors surrounded by God's natural creation! President Bob's Seafood and BBQ ribs were a BIG hit this year both at the dinner Friday evening and the picnic on Saturday. Many thanks to everyone who helped set up everything and brought the delicious side dishes and beverages that made it such a wonderful event! Then on Saturday, June 25th, we celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage for Marc and Kathy (Thomas) Couch, followed by a great reception out at the Lake Forest Clubhouse in western Huntsville.







Donations in Memory or In Honor of:

(none to report this month)

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.

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
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

House Blessings: Please contact Fr. Gregory to schedule your house blessing.

Prayer List:

Living: **Church Members & Orthodox Friends** Jim Cesari, Lisa Craft, Ivan Fontane, Angela Gafton, Martin Gureasko, Leslie Hargrave, Harris family, Phil Harwell & family, Kathe Hoyer, Mat. Julie Joa, Allen Morgan, Justin Novak, Sean Perry & family, Queener Family, Chris Sweeney, Catrina Thomas, Ron Waskerwitz, Tim Waskerwitz, Kurt Weber. **Friends of Members:** Cheryl Brown, Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros, 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.*