



# Newsletter March 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/)

### March Important Church Dates:

*\* Please check calendar for details*

**Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare).

†9:00am Proskomedie/Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** – The Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare).

†9:00am Proskomedie/Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – Beginning of Great Lent.**

**Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy\***

**Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** – Triumph of Orthodoxy.

†9:00am Proskomedie/Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**6:00pm Vespers with Greek Church followed by potluck meal**

**Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy\***

**Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 4pm: Public lecture by Dr. Ruzica Maric on newly glorified American Saints Sebastian & Mardarije.**

**Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** – St. Gregory Palamas the Archbishop of Thessalonica.

†9:00am Proskomedie/Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy\***

*\*6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy (those wishing to receive Communion should not eat or drink anything after lunchtime)*

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

Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> – Sisterhood

Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> – Queener/Sievers

\*March 20<sup>th</sup> – Wolf/Standifer

\*March 27<sup>th</sup> – Zarzaur

\*April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sisterhood

\*April 10<sup>th</sup> – Bergantz

\*April 17<sup>th</sup> – Capsopoulos

\*April 24<sup>th</sup> – Darzi/Baker

*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:

3<sup>rd</sup> – Iryna Haddock

18<sup>th</sup> – Bob Pickle

18<sup>th</sup> – Jeremy Harwell

21<sup>ST</sup> – Brad Chynoweth

### Anniversaries:

16th – Steve & Robbie Cox

### Supplies Needed –

- Communion Wine. Preferably Manischewitz.
- Paper Towels

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

### Announcements:

**Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment.**



February was a busy month at St. Michael's. 'BBQ Bob' worked his magic again this year with his smoker in the second annual Super Bowl BBQ pork roast fundraiser. The new Mary & Boris Kochoff memorial bench was officially installed and is available for weary mothers while the kids burn off all that unlimited energy on the playground! Once again, the St. Michael's Maslenitsa Team manned a food both at this year's festival at Heritage Elementary School in Madison. Many people became acquainted with our church and our hard-working but very jolly parish members.





**GUEST SPEAKER: DR. RUZICA MARIC**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 4:00PM**

Dr. Presbyteria Ruzica Maric earned her Ph.D. at the University of Sarajevo and has served as a Professor at the St. Sava School of Theology in Libertyville, Illinois for 20 years. She has authored three books and is currently working on a documentary film on the lives of Sts. Sebastian & Mardarije. Both of these newly-glorified saints are now numbered among the ranks of the Saints of America. Professor Maric will present a slide show and talk about these righteous saints who played such an important role in building the Orthodox faith in America.

**Donations:**

The St. Michael's monthly newsletter will now include a Donations section to recognize those individuals and families who have generously made a contribution to our Church for some special event or occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, a birth, in memory of a loved one, a graduation, and so on. If you wish, you may designate that your donation be earmarked for a specific purpose, such as the building fund; otherwise, donations will be deposited to the Church's general fund. Of course, your donations are tax-deductible and a record of your donations will be maintained and included in your end-of-year statement.

Examples:

The John Doe Family  
 Barbara Smith

In Memory of Fred Doe  
 In honor of son Robert's graduation from  
 The University of Alabama

**Thanks to:** Serena Harwell for helping with Sunday School; to Phil Harwell for his help with website content; to Charles, his sister & Ashley for the 2016 calendar; to Bob Zarzaur, Rick Kaiser, Michele Platt & Charles Malmede for the Super Bowl BBQ fundraiser; to the Maslenitsa fundraiser Team: Iryna Haddock, Bob Zarzaur, Hal Pastrick, Michelle Platt, Charles Malmede, Kathy Thomas and her finance Mark, Anna Fontane and Sandy Ellis; for the Kochoff Memorial Playground Bench donated by Michele Don & Nikita Platt; for Bob Pickle in installing the bench; to Fr. Seraphim Joa for donating a set of Pentecost Vestments.





## Lenten Reflections

The Lenten season begins Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> this year and our Holy Fathers have provided us with some powerful examples of repentance for us to contemplate: the Sunday Gospels on Zaccheus, the Publican and the Pharisee, the Prodigal Son, the Last Judgement and the Sunday of Forgiveness. While it's true that we will set aside our favorite meat and dairy dishes for the six-week fast, Great Lent offers us the possibility of spiritual renewal and transformation. How is this possible? After all, we lay people have many responsibilities to attend to. It would seem that spiritual life is more appropriate for the monastics on Mt. Athos to practice.

Fr. Ambrose Young once recounted how he was giving a talk about the life of St. John Maximovitch to a group of Orthodox parishioners. After he finished the talk, one of the parishioners asked a question: "Father, it's all well and good that Archbishop John was such a holy person that he never slept in a bed for forty years as an ascetic practice, but surely you can't expect us to imitate such a practice!" Fr. Ambrose replied, "No, but you could start by coming to church on time!"

In Luke 16:10, the Lord said, *"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."* It is tempting to think of our lives in terms of great accomplishments and not pay much attention to the things which seem 'least' important. Today many people are striving for fame and wealth, to be important in the eyes of the world. Yet it is often happens that even when various celebrities achieve great wealth and fame, they still do not find happiness and peace. All too often we read the sad news of tragic endings, scandals and bad behavior by the rich and famous. Fr. John Krestiankin (a well-respected Russian elder) once received a letter from an older woman who asked his advice about taking upon herself some seemingly heroic task and he said the following: *"We long to do great works, because the minor good deeds do not feed our pride, for they go unnoticed, are hidden, and are salvific precisely for that reason. Large-scale plans do not allow us to do what is essential and necessary for the soul."*

Coming to church on time might seem like a small thing, but it is important to be faithful in such small things. We would all like to see St. Michael's Church grow and help others discover the Orthodox Faith, but it is very important for us to set a good example. Once someone brought their family to visit our church and made a great effort to get them there on time. Yet, when the Divine Liturgy began at 10:00 am, there were only a few people present. Over the next 20 to 30 minutes more parishioners arrived. The person's spouse whispered, 'I thought you said it was important for us to be here on time, but it seems that other people don't arrive on time, so why should we?' This discouraged the family and they have not visited our church since that time.

In Romans 3:23, St. Paul wrote, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* In other words, we have not yet achieved perfection and there is still room for improvement. Even the greatest saints who lived holy lives and worked miracles considered themselves the greatest of sinners because they understood this saying of St. Paul as an image of our fallen state. Fortunately for us, God became Incarnate, suffered the Cross for us and rose from the dead in order to offer us freedom from that poverty by showing us how to acquire heavenly riches. Let's take the opportunity during this Lenten Season to practice our faith more deeply, through prayer, fasting, confession of our sins, good deeds and spiritual reading. Let's pray that God will bless our efforts so that our church can reap a rich harvest of inspiration and joy when we come to Holy Pascha that will be of help to many in these challenging times!

In Christ,

*Fr. Gregory*

**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 & Orthodox Friends:** Jim Cesari, Lisa Craft, Anna Fontane, Leslie Hargrave, Harris family, Phil Harwell, Kathe Hoyer, Veronika Johnson, Weston Letson, Sean Perry & family, David & Cate Queener, Catrina Thomas, Ron Waskerwitz, Tim Waskerwitz, Kurt Weber, Adam & Brittini Zarzaur and Brad Zarzaur. **Friends of Members:** Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Corey Robinson, Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne Karas, Glen, Todd McCaffery, Kate McCaffery.

**Reposed:** Nicolae Caracalean, 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, Clyde Ennis (Leslie Hargrave's grandfather), Brandie Cesari (Jim Cesari's wife).

**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

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.*