



Newsletter April 2017

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/

[Click here for St. Michaels Website Calendar](#)

Sunday, April 2nd – St. Mary of Egypt

Wednesday, April 5th – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy*

Friday, April 7th – Annunciation

†8:45am Orthos

†10:00am Liturgy

Sunday, April 9th – Palm Sunday

Mon/Tue, April 10th & 11th – Great Mon/Tue

†6:00pm Vespers

Wednesday, April 12th – Great Wednesday

†6:00pm Unction Service

Thursday, April 13th – Great Thursday

†6:00pm Vespers Liturgy

Friday, April 14th – Great Friday

†9:00am Royal Hours

†12:00pm Decorate Epitaphion with flowers

†5:00pm Vespers Winding Sheet of Christ

Saturday, April 14th – Great Saturday

†10:00am Vespers Liturgy

†11:30pm Paschal Vigil & Liturgy

Sunday, April 16th – Pascha of the Lord

†3:00pm Pascha Vespers & Meal at Edgewater Clubhouse

Sunday, April 23rd – St. Thomas

Sunday, April 30th – Myrrh-bearing Women

Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment – Luke 10:5 “Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’”

Supplies Needed!

- Olive Oil (regular, not virgin)

Coffee Hour: (* Lenten Fast)

*April 2nd – Kaiser

May 7th – Pickle

*April 9th – Kendall

May 14th – Platt

April 16th – Pascha

May 21st – Sievers

April 23rd – Malmede/Chynoweth

May 28th – Wolf/Standifer

April 30th – 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:

2nd – Maryna Hamby

10th – Jeremy Haddock

14th – Mat. Ann Schultz

15th – James Huron

17th – Elena Lee

19th – Mike Jokich

20th – Sandy Ellis

27th – Zoe Zarzaur

Anniversaries:

27th – Ted & Debbie Gulas

Children’s Program Saturday April 8th.

Parents and children are invited to participate in **egg decorating** on Saturday, April 8 from 9:30 – 11:30 am followed by a lunch at St. Michael’s fellowship hall. Anya Sievers, Serena Harwell and Matushka Ann will be leading the activities and dividing the children by ages. Please RSVP mrs.ann.schultz@gmail.com so that we have enough supplies. We need parents to stay with participating children to help assist. Please bring something to eat for lunch. Some of the decorated eggs will be given to residents at Windsor House where our Church member, Ron Waskerwitz resides.

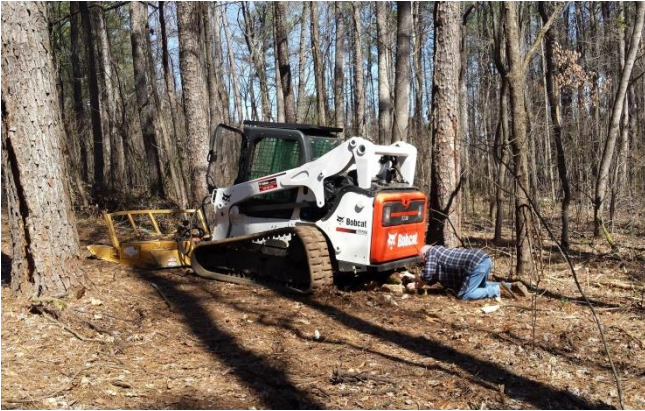
Diocesan Assembly:

Fr. Gregory, Matushka Ann, Bob Zarzaur, Charles Malmede and Rick Kaiser will be attending the Archdiocesan Assembly in Chicago – New Gracanica Friday, March 31 – April 1.

Photo Gallery of March 2017



Sunday of Orthodoxy at Holy Cross – St. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church



Rick Kaiser with Bobcat above and Bob Zarzaur with trencher to right



(l. to r.) Fr. Gregory, Jim Cesari, David Brown, Bob Zarzaur, Chris Murphy, Jeremy Haddock & Matthew Hartley



The Silt Fence Crew

Sisterhood News:

The Tomb

Vicki is in charge of decorating the Tomb this year. She will need some helpers on Thursday and Friday. Iryna will be sending out a sign up for those who would like to help with decorating the Tomb.

Donations

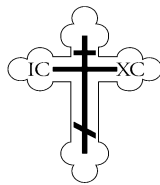
Also, the Sisterhood is asking for monetary donations for the Easter lilies and carnations for the Tomb. Those donations could be made in memory of our loved ones. Check or cash would be great!

Spring Cleaning

At the last Sisterhood meeting, we talked about a spring cleaning. I think we owe our church one. We did not clean up our church before Easter last year. Actually, we did but it was not as thorough as the years before. We thought it would be great for us to get together and clean the church. The best date for this would be **April 1st** since there is a lot going on the weekend before Easter. If you can help please contact Iryna.

Pascha Dinner

Iryna will be sending out a sign up for the 3:00 pm Pascha dinner at the Edge Water Club on Sunday, April 16.



"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...and God saw that it was good." (Genesis Ch. 1)

There is a connection between the natural world and the spiritual world. The natural world is really a reflection on earth of the spiritual world in heaven. The Lord used many references and metaphors from the natural world in His teaching. For example, when He came across a fig tree that only had leaves, but did not have any fruit, He cursed the fig tree and the Holy Fathers tell us that, in a way, this was an image of the Jewish people at that time, who although they had the Law and correct teaching—in a sense the "leaves," yet they didn't really produce any spiritual fruit because their hearts had grown cold.

Also the Lord says, *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."* If we look at the image of an apple tree we can see that this is true. The gardener has to take care of the tree, prune it and protect it from pests that would harm the tree. The tree also has to be planted in the right location, receive the proper nutrients, sunlight and water in order to be a healthy, fruit bearing tree. While we can understand something like this from a gardening perspective, when we look at our spiritual lives, we can see very similar elements at work. In other words, what is needed in order for us to bear spiritual fruit? The Lord tells us that, as Christians, we need to bear fruit but can we understand this in a meaningful way?

As St. Paul writes in the letter to the Galatians 5:22-23 *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* These virtues are the real spiritual fruit in our lives. As the Holy Fathers tell us, the virtues are the only things that we will take with us when we leave this world behind. How can we acquire these virtues? Isn't this the same thing as being "good Christians" and not doing anything bad? While living a good moral life is the first step toward acquiring the virtues, it is not enough in itself. Many people manage to get through life without killing anyone, yet this in itself is not a virtue. As Christ says, *"...Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment."* (Matthew 5:20-22)

The first thing we need to do is similar to planting a tree. We make sure everything is done properly. This is really an ongoing, daily practice of our faith: to come to church as often as possible, confess our sins and receive absolution, receive Holy Communion, and the Christian needs to pray, read the Scriptures and the Holy Fathers, keep the fasts, give alms and do good deeds. Fasting is very similar to pruning. We literally have the expression “to cut back” on something. Someone might say they’ve been drinking too much coffee and now they’re trying to “cut back.” Great Lent is all about “cutting back;” that is to minimize worldly activities, pleasures and comforts and instead increase our spiritual efforts. That’s why the Holy Church gives us extra prayers, the forty days of fasting...all in preparation for Holy Pascha.

We are now coming to the end of Great Lent. As we look back over the past four weeks, we should ask ourselves, “have we done our pruning?” That is, have we done our best to keep the fast? Have we fertilized and watered the tree by prayer and participation in the Divine Services? Have we attended any of the Pre-Sanctified Liturgies that the Holy Church offers us at this time? Have we worked on getting rid of “pests” that is, worldly cares and temptations that try to distract us from our spiritual efforts? In other words, have we been taking care of our spiritual lives and our souls during Great Lent? If we honestly reflect on this, some of us might find that there is still room for improvement.

The good news is that we still have time. We have one more week of Great Lent and then comes Holy Week. Let’s do all that we can to prepare ourselves for Christ’s glorious Resurrection in this coming Pascha within the time remaining, so that our souls can be raised up from worldly cares, passions and distractions, to a greater spiritual life in the Kingdom of Heaven with Christ our God!

Prayer List:

Living: **Church Members & Orthodox Friends** Please pray for God's help with building the future church and hall on our new property on Madison Blvd.; Loren Capsapoulos, Robbie Cox, Kathy Couch, Pat Darzi, Dolores Gelemny, Jim Cesari, Lisa Craft, Ivan Fontane, Angela Gafton, Olga Gulas, 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, Boris and Mary Kochoff, Mary, Sam, Frances, Joe, Anne, Stan, Daniel, Anna, Fryni, Nelia, Natalie.

Committees/Chairpersons:

Choir Director – Sandy Ellis
Ass't Choir Director – Matushka Ann
Sisterhood President – Iryna Haddock
Sunday School Director - Matushka Ann
Sunday School Teacher—Serena Harwell
Church Supply Coordinator – Loren Capsopoulos
Legal Advisor—Brad Chynoweth
Library & Bookstore – Matushka Ann
Building Maintenance – Bob Zarzaur & Rick Kaiser
Welcoming Committee Coordinator – Charles Malmede
Capital Campaign – Hal Pastrick and Joe Bergantz
Website – Charles Malmede
Newsletter Bulletin – Rick Kaiser
Candle/ Supplies – Rick Kaiser

Church Council – 2016 to 2017

Father Gregory Schultz – Parish Administrator
Bob Zarzaur– President
Michele Platt – Vice President
Joe Bergantz – Treasurer
Pavel (Elliot) Sievers – Secretary

Members at large – Kathy Couch, Rick Kaiser, Charles Malmede, Hal Pastrick

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.*