



Newsletter May 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](#)

Tuesday, May 2nd – Church Council Mgt.

Wednesday, May 3rd – Vespers

†6:00pm

Sunday, May 7th– The Paralyzed Man

†8:45am Orthos

†10:00am Liturgy

Wednesday, May 10rd – Vespers

†6:00pm

Sunday, May 14th– The Samaritan Women

†8:45am Orthos

†10:00am Liturgy

Wednesday, May 17th – Vespers

†6:00pm

Sunday, May 21st– St. John the Theologian

†8:45am Orthos

†10:00am Liturgy

Wednesday, May 24th – Vespers for Ascension

†6:00pm

Thursday, May 25th– Ascension of our Lord

†8:45am Orthos

†10:00am Liturgy

Sunday, May 28th– Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

†8:45am Orthos

†10:00am Liturgy



**[Save the Date! – June 2nd & 3rd
Church Retreat @ Monte Sano.](#)**

[Coffee Hour:](#) (* Apostles Fast)

May 7th – Pickle

June 4th – Bergantz

May 14th – Platt

June 11th – Cox

May 21st – Sievers

*June 18th – Darzi/Baker

May 28th – Zarzaur

*June 25th – 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:](#)

8th – Ray Kendall

11th – Anya Pickle

12th – Cheryl Brown

23rd – Alexandra Chaynikova

29th – Phil Harwell

29th – Lisa Novak

30th – Amelia Sievers

31st – Mary Zarzaur

[Anniversaries:](#)

12th – Vicki & Ray Kendall

14th – Iryna & Jeremy Haddock

29th – Michelle & Don Platt

[Many Thanks for a memorable Pascha!](#)

Pascha flower arrangements & Easter lilies were donated by: Mathew Hartley, Sandra Ellis, Vivienne and Hall Pastrick, Mary and Bob Zarzaur, Helen and Joe Bergantz in honor of Anne Kobasa and in memory of Kobasa/Bergantz family, Vicki Kendall in memory of Ksenia, Michele Kochoff Platt in memory of Elena, Mary, Dorothy, Alice, and Florence, Serena Harwell, Tamara and James Huron in loving memory of the Flamik and Huron families, Kathy Thomas, Tamara Savina, Steve and Robbie Cox, Svetlana Jovanov, and Iryna Haddock in memory of Dmitriy.

Also, we would like to thank Vicki Kendall for making new Pascha altar covers and curtains for the Royal Doors.

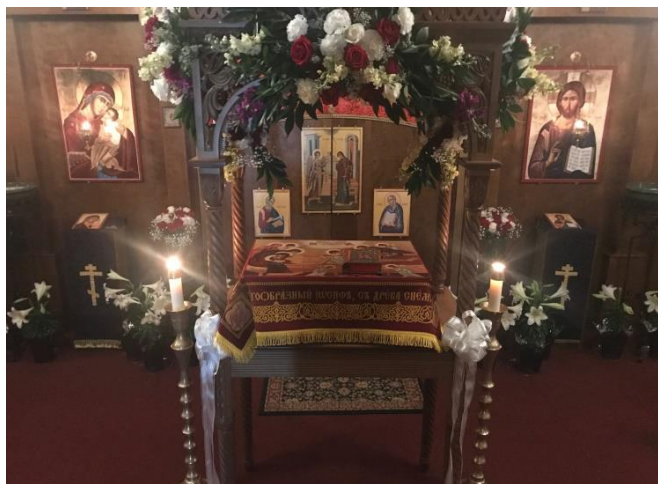
[Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment](#)

– Luke 10:5 “Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’”

St. Michael's News



2017 Annual Assembly Delegates



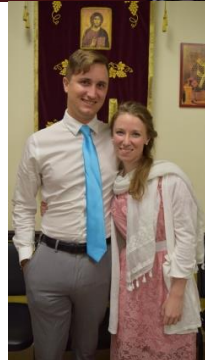
Holy Friday



Palm Sunday Procession: *Today the Grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together; And we all take up our cross and say, Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!*



Christ is Risen!



Baptism of Maryna Hamby's new baby boy, Zion (John)



Baptism of Inna & Gregory Barth's children: Alexandra & Gregory

Activities in May 2017

Nature Club Hike: On Saturday, May 13th, we will meet at 10am at the church and drive up to Green Mountain park to go on a 1.5 mile nature hike. The Green Mountain Nature trail is truly one of Huntsville's most beautiful places. It's a forest surrounding a lake and features a covered bridge, historic log cabin structures, an outdoor chapel and wildlife. Marc Couch and Fr. Gregory will lead the hike and will also provide a couple of short talks on nature and God's creation. Following the hike, we will plan to have a brown bag picnic lunch.

Wednesday Night Vespers Series: By popular request, we will be serving vespers on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. This is a good opportunity to 'recharge your spiritual batteries' by taking a little time out of your busy week for prayer. Depending on interest level, we could also include an optional fasting meal and Bible Study or Spiritual Chat Group after Vespers.

Feast of the Ascension: Forty days after Christ's Resurrection, He gathered His disciples together, gave them some final instructions and then ascended into heaven, bringing great joy. We will celebrate this year's Feast of the Ascension with a special Vespers service on Wednesday, May 24th at 6pm and on Thursday, May 25th, the Orthros service will begin at 8:45am and the Divine Liturgy at 10:00am.

St. Michael's Annual Retreat & Picnic: Please mark your calendars for the Annual St. Michael's Retreat and Picnic at the Monte Sano Campground Pavilion. This year, we will be serving a Vespers service around sunset on **Friday evening, June 2nd** followed by a seafood dinner. Then on **Saturday, June 3rd**, the Orthros service will begin at 8:45am and the Divine Liturgy at 10am. This will be followed by our BBQ potluck picnic. Many of St. Michael's parishioners will be camping in cabins, RV's and/or tents at Monte Sano campground and park. This is really the best way to experience the retreat and you should contact the park to make reservations as soon as possible, as they tend to fill up. Go to their website: <http://www.alapark.com/Monte-Sano-State-Park-Camping> or call 256-534-6589. If possible, please consider reserving campsites near the Pavilion. If you're not able to camp out, please come to as many of the services and meals as possible!

Thank You's: To **Rick Kaiser** and **Aubrey Stuart** for making a beautiful new cross out of steel. And thanks to **Bob Zarzaur** and **Charles Malmede** for their help in installing the new cross on the roof (plus a copper wire going down to a copper grounding rod in the event of a lightning strike). Thanks also to **Iryna Haddock**, **Michelle Platt**, **Anna Fontane**, **Vivienne Pastrick**, and the other members of the **St. Sophia Sisterhood** for organizing the wonderful Paschal dinner at the Edgewater Clubhouse. Thanks to the **St. Sophia Sisterhood** and **Vicki Kendall** for the beautiful new white Paschal altar cloths, chalice veils and analogion covers and for the new red curtain and rod for the Royal Doors! Also thanks to **Sandy Ellis** for her help with organizing the Lenten and Paschal services and to **David Hogan** for making the delicious roast lamb and to everyone who helped make this such a wonderful celebration! And thanks to **Vicki Kendall**, **Serena Harwell**, **Iryna Haddock**, **Anna Fontane** and **Vivienne Pastrick** for helping with the beautiful flowers for the Holy Week & Paschal services.

Thanks to **Matthew Hartley** for his help in polishing the brass candleholders. Also to **Anya Sievers**, **Serena Harwell** and **Mat. Ann Schultz** for all their hard work in organizing the egg decorating workshop and Children's Program activities. And to **Bob Pickle** for creating a "Four Square" court by the playground for the kids to use. Thanks to **Kathy Couch** and **Christopher Murphy** for lending their advice and expertise with the engineering and construction work on the new property development. *If we missed anyone, please forgive us first and then let us know so that we can make it up in the next newsletter!*

Welcome to new St. Michael's member, **Matthew Hartley**. If you haven't met Matthew yet, please make his acquaintance. He's recently moved to Huntsville from Pell City, Alabama to begin a new job. Matthew was newly baptized this past January in Anniston, Alabama and has been very involved in helping St. Michael's, serving as an acolyte and helping with the new property.

Congratulations to **Maryna Hamby's** new infant son **Zion (John) Alexander**, who was baptized on Holy Saturday. And Congratulations also to **Inna and Gregory Barth** whose 5-month old son, **Gregory**, and 20-month-old daughter, **Alexandra**, were baptized on Thomas Sunday!

The Paschal Season: An Exercise in Faith

Each year when the Holy Church calls us to prepare for Pascha with the forty-day fast of Great Lent, the Sundays before and during Great Lent are all connected to a central theme: Repentance. Ever since Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Paradise and the subsequent Fall of Mankind, repentance has been the way back to that original spiritual state of grace that we had before the Fall. This is so clearly described in the parable of the Prodigal Son. When he's spent all his money and has been deprived of everything, he suddenly "comes to himself" and remembers his former state when he lived in his Father's house. Recognizing his sinful state, he makes up his mind to repent and begins the journey back. In our spiritual lives, this is the first step that's required for us to make any progress.

Having completed the course of the Lenten fast and Holy Week, we celebrated Holy Pascha and experienced the joy of Christ's Resurrection: the triumph over hell, death and sin! The way to Paradise that was barred to man after the Fall, has now been opened to us. Yet, even this is not an automatic process, but requires effort on our part. It's as though our human race was imprisoned in a big prison with guards, bars and high walls. Suddenly, our Redeemer entered, caused a great explosion and the very gates of hell were blown apart forever. Even then, the prisoners must still get up and walk out on the road to freedom. The Redeemer will help us escape, but He will not force a stubborn prisoner to walk through the open gate. The prisoner has to WANT to leave and be WILLING to get up and walk out! This

requires faith on our part: not just abstract faith where we agree that we could leave at any time, but faith put into action where we actually get up and walk out!

In this season of Pascha, the Holy Church now calls us to Faith and the Sundays following are devoted to this theme. On the first Sunday after Pascha, Thomas Sunday, the Apostle Thomas serves as our proxy. He needs physical proof that Christ rose from the dead and so Christ provides that by showing him His wounds from the nails and the spear. Then Thomas confesses belief in Christ, but Christ tells him they are more blessed who have *not* seen the physical proof and yet believe. Then follows Sundays of the Myrrhbearing Women, Paralytic, Samaritan Woman, Blind Man, Ascension, and the Sunday of the First Ecumenical Council where the Nicene Creed, the very Symbol of Faith was given. Each of these Sunday Gospel readings contain a powerful message of faith for us.

In today's modern world, many people SAY they believe in God, but that is not enough. As it says in the Epistle of St. James 2:19-20: *"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"* As St. James writes, we must also put our faith into action in order for us to have the real faith that the Lord calls us to. Let's use this time the Holy Church has given us in this season of Pascha to ask God's help to strengthen our faith. Just as we need physical exercise for our bodies to be healthy and strong, so we must exercise our faith through practice in order to strengthen our souls!

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, 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, 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.*