



Newsletter August 2018

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](#)

Wednesday Aug. 1st – Prophet Elijah

†6:00pm Vespers Service

Sunday, Aug. 5th – Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus.

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday Aug. 8th – St. Panteleimon

†6:00pm Vespers Service

Sunday, Aug. 12th – Ven. Mother Angelina of Serbia.

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy **Sunday School Begins**

Tuesday, Aug. 14th – Dormition Fast Begins

Wednesday, Aug. 15th – Transfer of the Relics of the Archdeacon Stephen

†6:00pm Vespers Service

Sunday, Aug. 19th – Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

†8:45am Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Aug. 22nd – Holy Apostle Matthias and Holy Martyr Anthony

†6:00pm Vespers Service

Sunday, Aug. 26th – Holy Martyr Hyppolitus

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, Aug. 28th – Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour: (*Dormition Fast)

Aug. 5th – Hartley

Aug. 12th – Harwell/Couch

*Aug. 19th – Hogan/Schultz

*Aug. 26th – Huron

Sept. 2nd – Kaiser

Sept. 9th – Kendall

Sept. 16th – Malmede

Sept. 23rd – Pastrick

Sept. 30th – Pickle

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 – Aleksandra Barth

10th – Mark Novak

11th – Uliana Sievers

14th – David Hogan

Anniversaries:

15th – David & Cate Queener

16th – Kathy Couch

29th – Tatiana Shadrina

Thanks: To *Rick Kaiser* and *Bob Zarzaur* for spraying roundup around the 4319 Spartacus property and for repairing the swing on the playground equipment.

Sunday School Resumes: Sunday, August 12 after Liturgy. If you know you are coming on Sundays, it would help Matushka Ann, mrs.ann.schultz@gmail.com to let her know so she can prepare materials.

St. Michael's News

St. Mardarije Celebration: Last year at this time, a number of St. Michael's members traveled to the Chicago area to participate in the Glorification (canonization) of St. Mardarije. While that was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, our Bishop Longin has decided to celebrate the Translation of the Relics of St. Mardarije each year at this time. Fr. Gregory and Matthew Hartley attended the celebration this year, 2018, and it was a very grace-filled and uplifting event! There were three Serbian bishops present: Bishop Longin, Bishop Mitrophan and Bishop Sava and two hierarchical liturgies were served—one on Saturday morning July 14th and one on Sunday morning July 15th. In addition, there was a full vigil service on Saturday evening which included both Vespers and Matins. The choir was led by a professional choir director and the singing was absolutely beautiful! Best of all, we were able to venerate the incorrupt relics of St. Mardarije many times and brought back some blessed oil. There were also several picnic meals of traditional Serbian food and we were received very warmly by the folks there!

Baptism of Isaac Gannett: On Sunday, July 22nd, Chase Baker's longtime friend, Isaac Gannett, was received into the Orthodox Church by Holy Baptism. Isaac has long been interested in becoming Orthodox and the occasion of Chase's upcoming wedding provided an opportunity for this. The immersion part of the baptism took place at Ditto Landing at Isaac's request. It was an absolutely beautiful day and we think that the great blue heron who 'attended' Isaac's baptism may have been present at some of our other baptisms as well. As it says in the Psalms "*...and the heron is chief among them!*" It was a very joyous occasion for everyone!

New Catechumen: On that same Sunday, Chase Baker also sponsored Ryan Agee to become a catechumen. Ryan lives in Florence where he attends North Alabama University as a pre-med student. He's been attending catechumen classes for several months now. Ryan's patron saint is St. Michael! May God grant him many years!

Wedding: We want to congratulate Monica and Chase Baker on their recent wedding on Saturday, July 28th! The marriage service was held at the Holy Cross-Sts Helen and Constantine Greek church because of the expected, large attendance of family members and friends. We had nearly 150 people—much more than our chapel at St. Michael's could accommodate. While Monica and Chase would have loved for all the members of St. Michael's to attend the wedding and reception, they were forced to reduce the number of those invited due to the limited capacity of the church, reception hall, and financial resources. At the reception, Monica and Chase expressed their gratitude to St. Michael's for bringing them together and they made a \$200 donation toward the new property. Following their honeymoon, they'll be living here in Huntsville and attending St. Michael's!

Coming up

Tuesday, August 14th—Dormition Fast begins

Sunday, August 19th-- Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Saturday, August 25th—Work Party at St. Michael's (4319 Spartacus). We'll be working on some playground repairs and some new parking configurations.

Tuesday, August 28th—Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos



The end of our Liturgical Year in this month of August gives us the opportunity to reflect on our use of time. While the Kingdom of Heaven is eternal and infinite, in this fallen world we have been given the constraints of time and space, with seasons, days, weeks, months and years. Our Lord commands us to use our time wisely. The Lord admonished the foolish rich man who thought he had plenty of time to enjoy himself, 'Thou fool, this night shall thy soul be required of thee and then whose shall those things be which thou has provided?' Luke 12:16-21

On using time wisely

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven" (Ecc. 3:1)

The holy apostle Paul, warning us not to spend time in vain, lawfully instructs us to use each minute of our life wisely: "See then, – he says, – that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." In talking about "redeeming the time" the apostle makes us aware that time is used to purchase true blessings, just as money is used to acquire all that we need for physical life, and that, consequently, the proper use of time is very similar to the use of money in good hands. A wise master does not spend foolishly, totals up his assets properly, and assigns a special purpose to each sum of money. We should handle time in a like manner: assign hours and minutes for one or another good purpose; redeem each day by doing good deeds for ourselves or others; make each step on the way to spiritual perfection equal to the number of days in a year, and not waste a single hour needlessly, doing nothing, and least of all in using it for sinful deeds.

The day usually begins with our awakening from sleep. How should we look upon the moment of awakening? Just as we would look upon the moment of being born into the world or upon resurrection from the dead, because there is a great similarity between awakening from sleep and being born. When we are asleep, it is as though we do not exist. When we wake up from sleep, it is as though we are being born anew, we are coming alive, we are being resurrected.

The time immediately following sleep should, first of all, be spent in prayer. Each morning brings us the pious joy of glorifying God for the Creator's having allowed us yet again to see His world, so beautifully designed for us. In beginning the day we are beginning a new life, and in life there are so many grounds for temptation and sin that a weak person absolutely cannot do without the help of God, which is acquired only through prayer. And secondly, time should be spent in reading the word of God: it is the book of life, it contains everything we need to know, to do, to hope for. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, it is God's letter or epistle to mankind. Whoever does not nourish his soul with this celestial gift – starves his soul. Afterwards comes the time for activity, time for work. Everyone has his own duties, his own affairs, his own job, his own diverse needs. But whatever they may be, there is one cardinal rule for all of them: "Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is," i.e. at the beginning of each deed ask yourself whether or not it conforms to the will of God.

How should we spend the time of leisure or rest? In fulfilling the following words of the apostle's instruction: "Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." That is, if you like to read in your free time – read that which reveals to you the wisdom of God. Do you like to go out in society? Do so, but keep to pious discussion, wise conversation, good counsels and discourses. Do you like singing and music? Do sing, but particularly those songs which contain the outpourings of pure and lofty souls. Worldly songs can sometimes corrupt the soul by glorifying passions, vices, and human folly.

In other words, do what you always do, but in reverse: exchange the sensual for the spiritual, the body for the soul, the secular for the religious.

Saint Ignatius Brianchaninov

July 2018 Photos



Top Left: Liturgy at St. Sava’s Monastery July 15; **Top Right:** Relics of St. Mardarije; **Middle Left:** Ryan Agee is a catechumen with sponsor, Chase Baker **Bottom:** Attendees of catechumen Ryan



July Photos Continue



Top & Left: Isaac Gannett's baptism with sponsor, Chase Baker
Bottom Right: Monica and Chase express gratitude by presenting check to St. Michael's Orthodox Church for support of marriage.



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.; Lisa Craft, Ivan Fontane, Loren Capsopoulos, Leslie Hargrave, Phil Harwell & family, Weston Letson, Tim Waskerwitz, Kurt Weber, Fr. Parthenios, Sean Perry, Fr. Dcn James Hughes, Martin Gureasko. **Friends of Members:** Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros, Ben Hogan

Reposed: Florence Vlahos Matsos, Gennadiy Zhmaylo, Fr. Chris Williamson, Gregory Hughes, Ron Waskerwitz, Christopher Pamfilis, Alexa & Hayden Hannig, Nicolae Caracalean, Valentina, Vangie Pamfilis, Milan Petrovic, Boris and Mary Kochoff, Fryni McCreary, Nelia Friedman, Natalie Elliott.

Confessions: May be heard Saturdays after Vespers; Sunday 9:40—10 am before Divine Liturgy or contact Fr. Gregory to arrange a time. Please come early Sunday morning so we can begin Liturgy by 10:00 am.

Committees/Chairpersons:

Sub-deacon—Bob Zarzaur
Choir Director—Sandy Ellis
Ass't Choir Director—Matushka Ann
Readers/Acolytes—Steve Cox, Matthew Hartley, David Hogan, Rick Kaiser, Ray Kendall, Charles Malmede & Hal Pastrick
Sisterhood President—Iryna Haddock
Sunday School Director—Matushka Ann
Sunday School Teachers—Serena Harwell, Adrienne Bowling and Pavel Sievers
Library & Bookstore—Matushka Ann
Building Maintenance—Sub-deacon Bob Zarzaur & Rick Kaiser
Welcoming Committee Coordinator—Charles Malmede
Website—Charles Malmede
Newsletter Bulletin—Rick Kaiser
Candle/Supplies—Rick Kaiser

Church Council—2017 to 2018

Father Gregory Schultz—Parish Administrator
Sub-deacon Moses (Bob) Zarzaur—President
Michele Platt—Vice President
Matthew Hartley—Treasurer
Pavel (Elliot) Sievers—Secretary

Members at Large—Joe Bergantz, Rick Kaiser, Charles Malmede and 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 (ie.: when someone is ill, etc.) If you need to see him, please call ahead.*