

Newsletter March 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](#)

Sunday, March 4th – 2nd Sunday of Lent. St. Gregory Palamas the Archbishop of Thessalonica

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, March 6th – Church Council

†6:00pm Meeting

Wednesday, March 7th – †6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy & 7:30 pm Study Group w/soup, salad and bread

Saturday, March 10th – †9:00 am—4:00 pm Work Party (lunch provided)

Sunday, March. 11th – 3rd Sunday of Lent. Adoration of Cross

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 14th – †6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy & 7:30 pm Study Group w/soup, salad and bread

Sunday, March 18th – 4th Sunday of Lent. Saint John Climacus of the Ladder of Divine Ascent

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

***Tuesday, March 20th †6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy & 7:30 pm Study Group w/soup, salad and bread**

Friday, March 23rd & Saturday March 24th Annual Diocesan Assembly at Grayslake, Illinois

Sunday, March. 25th – 5th Sunday of Lent. Venerable Mary of Egypt

†8:45am Orthros

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March. 28th – †6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy & 7:30 pm Study Group w/soup, salad and bread

*We moved Presanctified Liturgy to a Tuesday on March 20th because we will be driving to the Annual Archdiocesan Assembly and according to the calendar, it is possible to do Presanctified on Tues, Wed, Thurs or Fri for the fourth week of Great Lent.

Coffee Hour: (*Lenten Fast)

*Mar. 4th – Ellis/Fontane

*April 1st – Hartley

*Mar. 11th – Haddock

April 8th – Pascha—potluck

*Mar. 18th – Hogan/Schultz

April 15th – Huron

*Mar. 25th – Harwell/Couch

April 22nd – Kaiser

April 29 – Kendall

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:

3rd- Iryna Haddock

8th – Adrienne Bowling

9th – Zion Hamby

11th – Rick Bowling

18th - Bob Pickle

18th - Jeremy Harwell

19th – Lucas Novak

22nd – David Brown

Anniversaries:

16th—Steve & Robbie Cox

Houses For Sale by Parishioners: Please email Chris Culberson c2.culberson@gmail.com Or call Tim Waskerwitz 256-503-2609 Please see St. Michael News p.2 for more information.

Thanks: from Iryna Haddock: “I would like to mention those who helped with the potluck meal, setting up, serving food, and cleaning up on Sunday of Orthodoxy: Helen Bergantz, Pat Darzi, Sandy Ellis, Anna Fontane, Serena Harwell, Vicki Kendall, Marina Kuranova, Charles Malmede, Chris Murphy, Michelle Platt, and Cate Queener.”

Thanks to Anna Fontane for donating wooden table & chairs to Sunday School and Cate Queener’s donation of folding table & chairs, colored pencils & sharpeners for Sunday School.

Thanks to our work crew on our new property on Feb. 24; Sam Braun, Ken Fracks, Chris Murphy, Justin Novak & Peter Veres.

Thanks to Vicki Kendall for “Pearly White” paint donation to paint the wooden table for Sunday School room.

St. Michael's News

Daniel Cox's Baptism, Sunday, February 4: We congratulate the newly baptized *Daniel Cox* whose sponsors are his grandparents, *Steve and Robbie Cox*. God grant you many years!

Work Party at Madison Blvd. on Saturday, February 17: Seven hearty souls braved the rain and worked on our new property to put in a driveway turnaround and gravel pad for the porta-pot relocation. Fortunately, God was merciful and the rain stopped once we began and didn't start up again until after we were finished at 12 noon! Many thanks to *Chris ("Bobcat") Murphy* who moved tons of gravel with the Bobcat; *Sam Braun*, *Ken Frack*, *Peter Veres* and *Justin Novak* who raked and shoveled tons of gravel, and to *Mat. Ann* for providing the 'chuckwagon' lunch!

St. Michael Nature Club, Saturday, February 24: We visited Wheeler Wildlife Refuge at Beaverdam Boardwalk and it was well attended. We saw the beginning of Spring with wildflowers and many birds. The tupelo tree swamp was full of clear, gelatinous water.

The Sunday of Orthodoxy, February 25: This year, we celebrated Vespers with Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church at our hall at St. Michael's which was very well attended (see photos). The Sisterhood of St. Sofia organized a wonderful potluck.

Dean's Visit on Monday, February 26: We received our first visit from our Dean, *Fr. Aleksandar Bugarin* who represents our *Bishop Longin's* office. *Fr. Aleksandar Vujkevic* drove him from Nashville and St. Petka's shared the cost of his trip with our Church. They both had an opportunity to see our Church and the new property on Madison Blvd. and met Subdeacon Bob Zarzaur and Michelle Platt who represented our Church Board.

Coming up:

Church Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 6 at 6:00 pm.

Work Party on the New Property, Saturday, March 10 9:00 am—4:00 pm: 8122 Madison Blvd, Madison, AL; We will work on cleaning up some of the limbs left from logging and cutting wood for a future firewood fundraising sale. Lunch will be provided.

St. Michael's Nature Club, Saturday, March 17 at 10:00 am: Rock Bluff Trail goes around the Burritt Mountain, a .7 mile walk with a cave and cement cross along the way. See the link below: Bring a snack or lunch. <https://www.hikingproject.com/trail/7004815/rock-bluff-trail>

Archdiocesan Assembly in Grayslake, Illinois, March 23—24: Several Church Council members are planning to attend and represent St. Michael's at this wonderful opportunity to have fellowship with our sister Churches throughout the Midwest diocese and receive our Bishop Longin's blessing.

Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays March 7, 14 & 28 (One on Tuesday, March 20 instead of March 21): Prepare by fasting after lunch. Begins at 6:00 pm followed by study group at 7:30 pm on St. John Climacus' "*The Ladder*" with fasting dinner of soup, salad and bread.

Houses for Sale: Two of our parishioners, *Tim Waskerwitz* and *Chris Culberson* would like to ask our prayers and any assistance in getting their houses sold. Many of you remember Tim's father, *Ron Waskerwitz* who passed away last year. He left his house to Tim and despite valiant efforts, the house has not sold yet. It's at 303 Creekwood Dr. Union Grove, AL and is listed at \$225,000. This is a 2,506 sq ft, 3 bd, 3ba home. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Tim at Waskerwi@yahoo.com or 256-503-2609.

Chris Culberson works for the military and has been asked to take a new job in Washington DC. He hasn't been given very much time, but would like to sell his house in the Five Points neighborhood in Huntsville at 804 McCullough Ave. It's a 1,404 sq. ft., 3 bd., 1.5 ba. home and lists for \$190,000. Chris might consider a rental arrangement if necessary in the \$1,200/mo. Range. You can contact Chris at c2.culberson@gmail.com.

February 2018 Photos

Participants:

Marc & Kathy Couch

Matthew Hartley

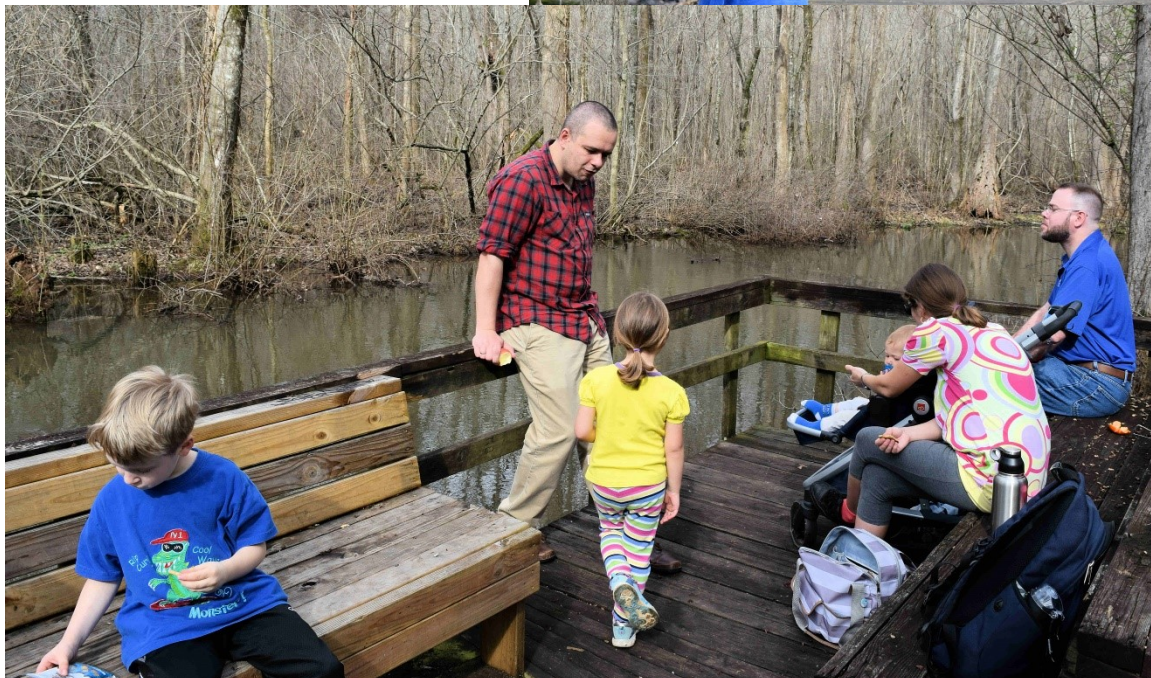
Serena, Madeline,
Jeremy, Sophia &
Timothy Harwell

Fr. Gregory &
Matushka Ann

Peter, Timea, Ezther
& Aron Veres



**Wheeler Wildlife Refuge
Beaverdam Walk**
*(largest tupelo tree
grove in Alabama)*



February 2018 Photos (cont.)



Sunday of Orthodoxy

**Celebrated with Sts. Constantine
& Helen—Holy Cross Greek
Church at St. Michael's**

*Fr. Kevin Millsaps & Fr. Gregory Schultz
Presiding*



February 2018 Photos (cont.)



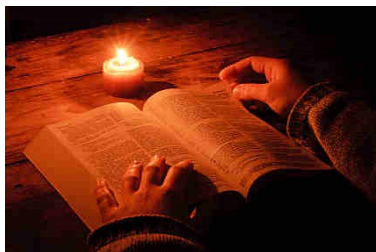
Dean's Visit on Monday, February 26, 2018

Left to Right: Fr. Gregory, Mat. Ann; Fr. Aleksandar Vujkovic from Nashville, Fr. Aleksander Bugarin (Dean) from Kansas City, MO; Subdeacon Bob Zarzaur; and Michelle Platt

Baptism of Daniel Cox
On Sunday, February 4, 2018

Wooden Table & Chairs
Donated by Anna Fontane
(to be painted with "Pearly
White" paint donated by
Vicki Kendall)
Below↓





Spiritual Reading as a Lenten Practice

*“When we pray, we speak to God; but when we read, God speaks to us.”
St. Jerome*

Most Americans today have attended school and many have attended at least some college. Everyone is in agreement that education is very important in order for us to get ahead and find success in life. At the start of each school year, getting our textbooks for class was a routine that no one questioned. Many classes involved additional reading outside of class. Nevertheless, when we hear about the practice of spiritual reading, it is often considered superfluous and unnecessary, unless of course someone is getting a degree in theology or attending a seminary.

However, just as reading was an essential part of our education in our younger days, so spiritual reading should be an essential part of our spiritual education and growth now. Many American converts to the Orthodox faith have discovered the vast treasury of spiritual writings that have only recently been translated into English. One convert who became Orthodox back in the early 1970's, remarked that at that time, there were only a handful of books that were available in English. Today, we can find thousands of ancient writings of Saints and Holy Fathers that have been translated into English. In addition, with each new generation of Orthodox converts, more original books are coming out all the time.

Here are a few excerpts from some Holy Fathers about spiritual reading:

St. John Chrysostom: *“When you immerse your mind and heart in spiritual books, you will always be filled, for spiritual reading gives you a foundation in God.”*

Elder Ephraim of Katounakia: *“The holy fathers knew very well what they meant by saying that the eyes of our soul can be opened. That is why we should read both the patristic texts and the Scriptures. **Do you think that you don't have time to do it? Try and read even for a few minutes every day.** The purification and enlightenment you will gain by reading the Holy Scriptures will remain with you day and night.”*

St. Theophan the Recluse: *“...One must read, for this is an ascetical activity...The best time for reading the Word of God is in the morning, Lives of saints after the mid-day meal, and Holy Fathers before going to sleep. Thus you can take up a little bit each day.”*

St. Basil the Great: *“If we read the Sacred Scripture with faith, we will feel that we see and hear Christ Himself. What is it we need, an actual voice or the One Who speaks to us through the Scriptures? It is all the same. In Sacred Scripture, God speaks with us just as truly as when we speak with Him through prayer.’ For this reason, prayer and the reading of sacred books must be our continuous occupation. Pray or read continually if you want to be with God at all times.”*

Archimandrite Amilianos: *“In order for our spiritual reading to “echo in our soul” we have to be diligent and prayerful, for understanding comes from the Holy Spirit.”*

Prayer of St. John Chrysostom—Before Spiritual Reading

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit: O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart, that I may hear Thy word and understand and do Thy will, for I am a sojourner upon the earth. Hide not Thy commandments from me, but open my eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of Your law. Speak to me the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom. On Thee do I set my hope, O my God, that Thou will enlighten my mind and understanding with the light of Thy knowledge, not only to cherish those things which are written, but to do them, that in reading the lives, works and sayings of the Saints I may not sin, but that such may serve for my restoration, enlightenment and sanctification, for the salvation of my soul, and the inheritance of life everlasting; For Thou art the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and from Thee comes every good deed and every gift. Amen.

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, Cate, David, Anna & Joseph Queener, 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

Reposed: 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 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 Bob Zarzaur—President
Michele Platt—Vice President
Matthew Hartley—Treasurer
Pavel (Elliot) Sievers—Secretary

Members at Large—Joe Bergantz, Kathy Couch, 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.*