



Newsletter April 2015

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.stmichaelsv.org/

April: Important Church Dates:

Sunday 5th – Palm Sunday--Entry of Lord into Jerusalem.

Monday 6th—Vespers for Annunciation 6:00PM

Tuesday 7th – Annunciation of Most Holy Theotokos
10:00AM Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 8th—10:00AM PreSanctified Liturgy
6:00PM Holy Unction Service

Thursday 9th—10AM Divine Liturgy
6PM Matins & 12 Gospels

Friday 10th – Great & Holy Friday:

† 9 AM - Royal Hours

† Set up tomb around noon – **please come help!**

† 5 PM - Vespers with Procession

Saturday 11th – Great & Holy Saturday –
† 10AM - Vesperal Liturgy followed by **Baptisms**
(*Queener & Chynoweth families*)

† 11:30 PM - Matins followed by Paschal Divine Liturgy
(Bring your Easter baskets to be blessed)

Sunday 12th – PASCHA - 3 PM Agape Vespers Service
and Parish Picnic at Edgewater Clubhouse
(111 Edgewater Dr. in Madison, AL)

Sunday 19th – St. Thomas Sunday.

Saturday 25th—St. Michael's Panoply Booth 10am-1pm
(Help Wanted! Please see Pat Darzi for details re:
Pysanky egg demonstration)

Sunday 26th – The Myrrh-bearing Women.

Church Cleaning: The next cleaning will be held on
April 4th at 9:00AM. Bob Zarzaur will open the
church for cleaning. March cleaning duty list:

1. Craft
2. Baker
3. Ellis/Fontane
4. Gulas

Note: *If you can't make it to the cleaning, please arrange
to trade places with someone from the coffee hour list that
can.*

Coffee Hour:

April 5th – Sisterhood

April 12th – **Pascha!**

April 19th – Zarzaur

April 26th – Bergantz

May 3rd – Sisterhood

May 10th – Capsopoulos

May 17th – Cox

May 24th – Craft

May 31st – Darzi/Baker

Birthdays:

6th – Niko Kioutas

10th—Jeremy Haddock

14th – Matushka Ann Schultz

15th – James Huron

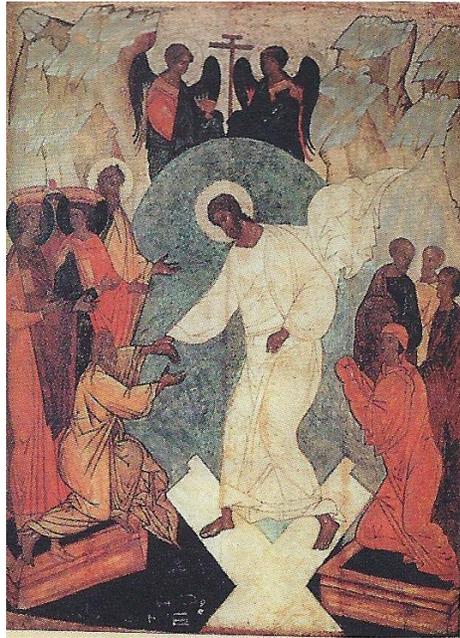
19th – Mike Jokich

20th – Sandy Ellis

27th – Zoe Zarzaur

Anniversaries:

27th – Ted & Debbie Gulas



Christ is Risen! *By St. John Maximovitch*

“Arise O God, judge the earth, for Thou shalt have an inheritance among all the nations,” we cried aloud yesterday, addressing the Judge of the universe, Who was condemned by an unjust judgment. “Arise, O God, judge the earth, for Thou dost reign unto the ages,” did we announce, prompting the slain King of Glory to rise from the tomb. And now Christ has already risen—the true Sun of Righteousness—illuminating and shining on all with the rays of His Bright Resurrection. The heavens are jubilant and the earth rejoices, the entire world celebrates, visible and invisible.

And again we sing out victoriously, “Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered.” Can it be that not everyone rejoices when the entire world is celebrating? Can it be that there still remain people fighting against God? But we hear further along, “...and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.” Yes, the light shining out from the tomb is no gladdening to all. “The Light of Christ shineth upon all,” but some it blinds. It gladdens all, but some it embitters. The Blood of Christ softens hearts; however, some it hardens. Why then, when Christ announces joy to everyone, do not all rejoice? When some take pleasure from the light of Christ, and exclaim as did Peter on Mount Tabor, “Lord, it is good for us to be here,” (Matt. 17:4) why do others run from this light as from a burning fire? Can it be that Christ did not suffer for all and by His Resurrection did not open the gates of eternal life and eternal bliss to everyone? No! Even for His enemies, betraying Him unto death, did the One newly-risen from the tomb pray to His Father.

He accepts all into His embrace, opens the gates of paradise to everyone, fills everyone with His blessedness. Who then remains His enemies? He who prefers the corruptible and carnal to the spiritual, who has come to love that which is against the will of God, is so greatly sinful that he cannot bear the very recollection of God and our duty to Him. For such, the Bright Day of the Resurrection is gloomy. But it is up to them themselves to make it bright. Let us now turn with all our hearts to the One Who did suffer for us and has risen. Let us try to realize that His invisible gifts, given by Him from the life-giving tomb, surpass all the best things of the visible world; that here on earth too, only that is truly wonderful which radiates His divine light.

Any cloud of sadness or sorrow will vanish, and our soul will be filled with joy. Our illnesses and the troubles of this life will be filled with joy. Our illnesses and the troubles of this life will become light, will seem as nothing before the light of eternal joy. We will rejoice for our relatives and dear ones that have fallen asleep, for they, already in the abodes on high, enjoy the eternal light of Christ and, even more than we, feel this life-bearing day of Pascha. And for ourselves, death and the coming justice will not be frightening, for Paschal joy is a foretaste of eternal joy in the approaching kingdom of Christ. “O come all ye faithful, let us worship Christ’s holy Resurrection!” Let sinners vanish from the face of the earth, and transgressors, as if they had never existed: worship ye the Sun of Righteousness and accept from Him a wealth of blessings! “This is the day which the Lord hath made: let us rejoice and be glad therein.”

Thanks: to Bob Zarzaur and Iryna Haddock for heading up the Mazlenitsa fundraising event and to Hal and Vivienne Pastrick, Sandy Ellis, Inna Teasley, Rob and Loren Capsopoulos and Anna Fontane who assisted that day. Also thanks to everyone who generously donated the supplies to make this event a success! Thanks also to Loren Capsopoulos for the pussywillows for Palm Sunday and to Michele Platt for arranging the Paschal celebration at the Edgewater Clubhouse.

Ride Share:

If you are unable to attend Divine Liturgy for lack of transportation, please give us a call and we will do our very best to find someone in your area that you can share a ride with. And if you are available to help us out by providing a ride for someone, please let us know that as well so that we can be sure that we have your contact information on file. Life's a journey, why not share it!

(256) 881-2449

Annual Diocesan Assembly



From left to right: Michele Platt, Bishop Longin, Fr. Gregory

On Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28, Michele Platt and Fr. Gregory represented our St. Michael Church at the Annual Diocesan Assembly at New Gracanica Monastery, in Grayslake, IL. In addition to the usual financial and administrative reports, this year's assembly included a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, oratorical presentations by our Serbian Youth plus a short film about their winter retreat (*coming soon to an Orthodox Theater near you!*) and a talk by Hieromonk Alexii Altschul about the new monastery in Missouri that he's organizing. Clergy and Lay Delegates from all over the Midwest Diocese were in attendance and it was a great blessing to celebrate another year with our brothers and sisters. One of the Kolo Sisterhood representatives and her son are huge Alabama fans, so they greeted us with a rousing "Roll Tide!"

"With us, [the Resurrection of Christ] is the feast of feasts and the celebration of celebrations; it excels all other festivals, as the sun excels the stars; and this is true not only of human and earthly feasts, but also of those belonging to Christ and celebrated for Christ."

St. Gregory the Theologian

Prayer List:

Please keep in your prayers

Living: **Church Members:** Kathe Hoyer, Brad Zarzaur, Ashley Zarzaur. **Friends of Members:** Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne Karas, Glen, Catrina Thomas.

Reposed: 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 and Clyde Ennis (Leslie Hargrave's grandfather).

Committees/chairpersons:

Choir Director – Sandy Ellis
Ass't Choir Director – Matushka Ann
Sisterhood President – Shellie Kioutas
Sunday School Director - Matushka Ann
Church Supply Coordinator – Loren Capsopoulos
Library & Bookstore – Matushka Ann & Leslie Hargrave
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 – 2014 to 2015

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, Shellie Kioutas, Charles Malmede, Hal Pastrick

Confessions: may be heard Saturdays after Vespers; also Sunday mornings before Divine Liturgy 9:40 am-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

Supplies Needed: Please consider donating the following:

- Paper Plates (large 'dinner' & medium 'lunch' size)
- Plastic Ware (forks)
- Small plastic beverage cups (8oz)
- Liquid Hand Soap for bathrooms
- Sugar Packets
- Coffee Creamer (non-dairy)

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.*