



Newsletter April 2016

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:

* Please check calendar for details

Sunday, April 3th – Adoration of Cross.

†8:45am Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Thursday, April 7th – Annunciation of the Most Holy

Theotokos

†8:45am Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 17th – St. Mary of Egypt

†8:45am Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 24th – The Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday!

†8:45am Matins

†10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 27th – Holy Unction Service

†10:00am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

† 6:00pm Holy Unction Service

Thursday, April 28th – Matins & 12 Gospels

†10:00am Vespers Liturgy

† 6:00pm Matins & 12 Gospels

Friday, April 29th – Great and Holy Friday

†9 AM - Royal Hours

† Set up tomb around noon – please come help!

† 5 PM - Vespers with Procession

Saturday, April 30th – Great and Holy Saturday

†10 AM - Vespers Liturgy

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

Sunday, May 1st – PASCHA - 3 PM Agape Vespers Service and Parish Picnic at Edgewater Clubhouse (111 Edgewater Dr. in Madison, AL)

Coffee Hour: (*Lenten Fast)

*April 3rd – Sisterhood

May 1st – Pascha!

*April 10th – Bergantz

May 8th – Ellis/Fontane

*April 17th – Capsopoulos

May 15th – Gulas

*April 24th – Darzi/Baker

May 22nd – Haddock

May 29th – Hargrave

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:

10th – Jeremy Haddock

14th – Mat. Ann Schultz

15th – James Huron

18th – Anna Queener

19th – Mike Jokich

20th – Sandy Ellis

27th – Zoe Zarzaur

Anniversaries:

27th – Ted & Debbie Gulas

Supplies Needed –

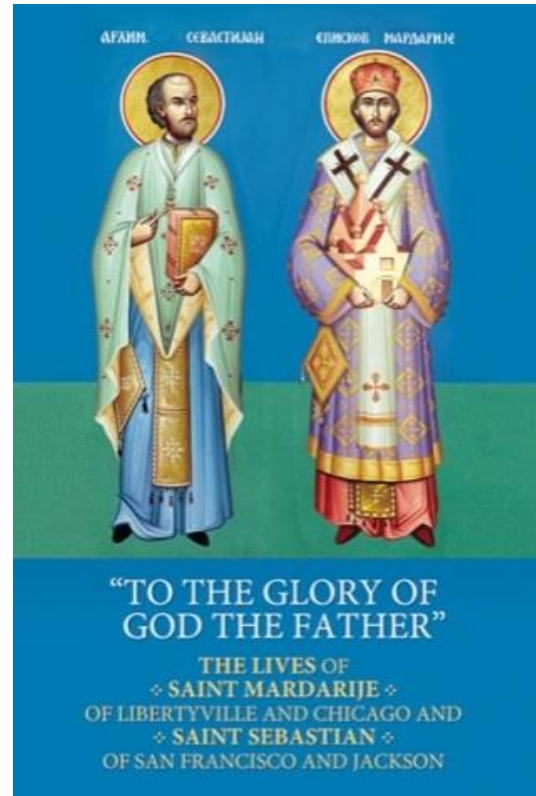
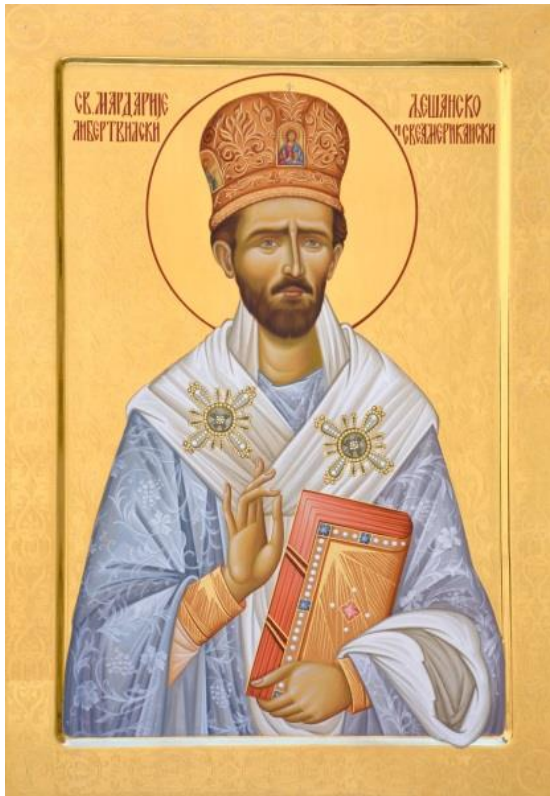
- Communion Wine. Preferably Manischewitz.
- Paper Towels

News Items – Please send church news items to the Newsletter Editor: Rick Kaiser at rkmk2012@gmail.com

Announcements:

Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment.

On Saturday, March 26th St. Michael's hosted guest speaker, Dr. Ruzica Maric of the St. Sava Theological School in Libertyville, Illinois. The subject of her presentation was the newly canonized Saint Mardary, a righteous missionary bishop who organized the Serbian Orthodox Church in America. Dr. Maric presented St. Michael's library with a beautiful gift: two copies of her new book on Sts. Mardary and Sebastian of Serbia and America (one version in English and the other in Serbian). For those of our church members who were unable to attend this presentation, you can learn about these two new saints by checking out the book from our lending library. Dr. Maric also presented her talk at St. Petka's Serbian Orthodox Church in Nashville, Tennessee on Sunday, March 27th. This was an historic first, in that our two churches jointly sponsored Dr. Maric's presentation.





*This month, we celebrate one of the 12 Major Feasts of the Holy Church: The Annunciation. In the midst of the extra prayers and fasting of the Lenten season, the Feast of the Annunciation provides a great consolation for us and helps provide an image of what we all hope to aspire to in some small way: to receive God's calling and to obey that call to serve Him as good and faithful servants. The following is a brief article from *The Orthodox Study Bible* concerning the Mother of God.*

For 2,000 years the Church has preserved the memory of the Virgin Mary as the prototype of all Christians—the model of what we are to become in Christ. Mary was truly pure and unconditionally obedient to God. The tradition of the Church holds that Mary remained a virgin all her life. While lifelong celibacy is not a model for all Christians to follow, Mary's spiritual purity, her wholehearted devotion to God, is certainly something to be emulated.

Mary is also our model in that she was the first person to receive Jesus Christ. As Mary bore Christ in her womb physically, all Christians now have the privilege of bearing God within them spiritually. By God's grace and mercy we are purified and empowered to become like Him.

The honor we give to Mary also signifies our view of who Jesus is. From early times the Church has called her Mother of God (or *Theotokos*, literally "God-Bearer), a title which implies that her Son is both fully man and fully God. As His Mother, Mary was the source of Jesus' human nature; yet the One she bore in her womb was also the eternal God.

Therefore, because of her character and especially because of her role in God's plan of salvation, Christians appropriately honor Mary as the first among the saints. The Archangel Gabriel initiated this honor in his address to her: "*Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!*" (Luke 1:28) This salutation clearly indicates that God Himself had chosen to honor Mary. Her favored status was confirmed when she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was then six months pregnant with John the Baptist. Elizabeth greeted Mary with these words: "*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?*" (Luke 1:42, 43) And Mary herself, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, predicted the honor that would be paid her throughout history: "*For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.*" (Luke 1:48)

In obedience to God's clear intention, therefore, the Orthodox Church honors Mary in icons, hymns, and special feast days. We entreat her, as the human being who was most intimate with Christ on earth, to intercede with her Son on our behalf. We ask her, as the first believer and the Mother of the Church, for guidance and protection. We venerate her—but we do not worship her, for worship belongs to God alone.

In Matins, Vespers, and all the services of the hours of prayer, we sing this hymn, which expresses Mary's unique place in creation:

It is truly right to bless you, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word: True Theotokos, we magnify you.

Donations:

The St. Michael's monthly newsletter will now include a Donations section to recognize those individuals and families who have generously made a contribution to our Church for some special event or occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, a birth, in memory of a loved one, a graduation, and so on. If you wish, you may designate that your donation be earmarked for a specific purpose, such as the building fund; otherwise, donations will be deposited to the Church's general fund. Of course, your donations are tax-deductible and a record of your donations will be maintained and included in your end-of-year statement.

Examples:

The John Doe Family: In Memory of Fred Doe

John & Mary Smith: In honor of son Robert's graduation from The University of Alabama

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

Committees/Chairpersons:

Choir Director – Sandy Ellis
Ass't Choir Director – Matushka Ann
Sisterhood President – Iryna Haddock
Sunday School Director - Matushka Ann
Church Supply Coordinator – Loren Capsopoulos
Library & Bookstore – Matushka Ann
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 – 2015 to 2016

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, Charles Malmede, Hal Pastrick

Prayer List:

Living: **Church Members & Orthodox Friends** Jim Cesari, Lisa Craft, Ivan Fontane, Angela Gafton, Martin Gureasko, Leslie Hargrave, Harris family, Phil Harwell, Kathe Hoyer, Mat. Julie Joa, Allen Morgan, Justin Novak, Sean Perry & family, Queener Family, Chris Sweeney, Catrina Thomas, Ron Waskerwitz, Tim Waskerwitz. **Friends of Members:** Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros, Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne Karas, Glen, Todd McCaffery, Steve McCreary.

Reposed: Karen Ennis (Leslie Hargrave's mother), Nicolae Caracalean, Vangie Pamfilis, Milan Petrovic, Larry Smith (Lisa Craft's Uncle), Mary Kochoff, Mary, Sam, Frances, Joe, Anne, Stan, Daniel, Anna, Fryni, Nelia, Natalie.

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.*