



**St. Michael the
Archangel
Serbian
Orthodox
Parish
Newsletter
December 2014**

Christ is in our Midst!

Saturday Vespers 6:00 PM
Sunday Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Website: www.stmichaelshsv.org

*“Just as a lamp lights up
a dark place, in the same
way precisely the fear of
God, when it comes into
the heart of man,
illuminates him and
teaches him all of the
virtues and
commandments of God.”*

Abba Iakovos

December: Important Church Dates:

(Please check calendar for Divine Liturgy Schedule)

Fri. Nov. 28th – Beginning of the Nativity Fast.

Wed., Dec. 3rd – Forefeast of Entry of Theotokos

† **Vespers at 6:00pm**

Thurs, Dec. 4th – Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple

† **Divine Liturgy at 10:00am**

Sunday, Dec. 7th – **Galaxy of Lights:** at 5:30pm we'll meet at Winchell's Oyster House, car pool to Galaxy of Lights & return for dinner (*see Joe Bergantz for more information*)

Sunday Dec. 21st – After Divine Liturgy we will have a visit by none other than St. Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra.

Wednesday 25th – St. Herman, Wonderworker of Alaska.

† **Divine Liturgy at 10:00am**

Save the Date:

Tuesday, January 6th – Eve of Nativity of Christ

† **Royal Hours at 9:00am**

† **Compline at 6:00pm**

(Followed by a potluck fasting meal)

Wednesday, January 7th – Nativity of our Lord; 9:00 am Orthros, followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00.

Friday, January 9th – Christmas open house, 6-10pm at the Schultz's; RSVP please.

Church Cleaning: The next cleaning will be held on **Dec. 12th at 9:00AM.** Shelly Kioutas will open the church for cleaning. December 12th cleaning duty list:

1. Craft
2. Darzi/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: (* Nativity Fast: fish, wine & oil)

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| *Dec. 7 nd – Sisterhood | *Jan. 4 th – Sisterhood |
| *Dec. 14 th – Ellis/Fontane | Jan. 11 th – Hansen |
| *Dec. 21 th – Gulas | Jan. 18 th – Hoyer |
| *Dec. 28 th – Haddock | Jan. 25 th – Huron |

Birthdays and Anniversaries

God Grant Them Many Years!

Birthdays:

- 1st – Lana Vukosavljevic
- 11th – Ron Waskerwitz
- 12th – Pat Darzi
- 12th – Adam Zarzaur
- 28th – Peyton Michael Zarzaur
- 29th – Olga Hansen
- 31st – Aleks Vukosavljevic

Anniversaries:

- 6th – Alexandra & Bob Pickle
- 30th – Charles & Inna Teasley

Sisterhood Meeting: Thurs., Dec. 8th, 6pm
(please RSVP to Shellie Kioutas)

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.

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

Prayer List:

Please keep in your prayers

Living: **Church Members:** Kathe Hoyer. **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 Crafts' Uncle), Anna Scoggins (mother of Kathy Hoyer), Mary Kochoff, Mary, Sam, Frances, Joe, Anne, Stan, Daniel, Anna, Fryni, Nelia, Natalie, Olga Hansen's father, Dragan.

Committees/chairpersons:

Parish Council – Hal Pastrick
Choir Director – Sandy Ellis
Ass't Choir Director – Matushka Ann
Sisterhood President – Shellie Kioutaas
Sunday School Director - Matushka Ann
Church Supply Coordinator – Loren Capsapoulos
Events - Olga Hansen
Library – Matushka Ann
Bookstore - Matushka Ann
Building Maintenance - Bob and Rick
Welcoming Committee Coordinator – Charles Malmede
Capital Campaign - Hal and Joe
Website – Charles Malmede
Newsletter Bulletin – Rick Kaiser
Candle Supplies – Michele Kaiser

Church Council – 2014 to 2015

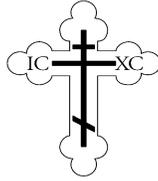
Father Gregory Schultz – Parish Administrator
Bob Zarzaur– President
Michele Platt – Vice President
Joe Bergantz – Treasurer
Marshal Standifer – Secretary
Members at large – Sandy Ellis, Mike Jokich, Rick Kaiser, Shellie Kioutas, Charles Malmede, Hal Pastrick

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 will be given priority (i.e.; when someone is ill, etc.). If you need to see him, it is recommended that you call ahead.*



St. Michael Slava November 23, 2014



The Ten Drachmas *by St. Nikolai Velimirovic*

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:8-10

The mystery of the universe is revealed in this simple parable. If we take it literally, it evokes bewilderment. The woman lost only one drachma. But even ten drachmas do not represent a great sum; in fact, a woman who has only ten drachmas must be very poor indeed...How is it that if she is such a poor woman she lights lamps and sweeps the house and – strangest of all – calls in all her friends and neighbors to share her joy? And all because of one drachma! ...But then, if she invites her neighbors, according to Eastern custom, she is obliged to offer them something to eat and drink, no small expense for a poor woman. ...She invited many friends and neighbors, and even if she entertained them modestly, the expense would far exceed the value of the drachma she found...

So let us try to find [the parable’s] hidden meaning. Who is the woman? And why is it a woman and not a man...Whose house is it?...Who are her friends and neighbors?...The Lord said, Seek and you shall find!...

The woman represents Jesus Christ Himself, the Son of God. The ten drachmas are His. It is He Who has lost one of them and sets out to look for it. The drachmas are not coins of gold or silver. According to Orthodox theology, the number ten represents fullness. The nine unlost drachmas are the nine orders of angels. The number of angels is beyond the grasp of mortals, for it exceeds our power of calculation. The lost drachma represents mankind in its entirety. Therefore, Christ the Saviour came down from heaven to earth, to His house, and lit a candle, the light of the knowledge of Himself. He cleaned out the house – that is, He purified the world of diabolic impurity – and found the lost drachma: erring and lost humanity. Then He called His ‘friends and neighbors’ (after His glorious Resurrection and Ascension) that is to say, all the countless hosts of the Cherubim and Seraphim, Angels and Archangels, and revealed to them His great joy...That means: I have found men to fill the void in the Kingdom of Heaven caused by the fall of the proud angels who apostasized from God. At the end of time, the number of these found and saved souls will have grown to billions, or in the language of Scripture, will be as countless as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore.

Our Lord described Himself as a woman because women are more careful than men in looking after property, in keeping the house in order and in receiving guests. If this short parable, which consists of only two sentences, is explained in this way, whose heart will not be touched? For it contains the whole tragedy of the world, visible and invisible. It explains why the Son of God came to earth. It sheds a bright ray of light on the history of mankind and the tragedy of every separate individual’s existence. It confronts us with an urgent decision, because our life is swiftly passing – a decision as to whether we want to be the lost drachma found by Christ or not. Christ is looking for us. Are we going to hide from Him or let ourselves be found by Him before death hides us from Him, from the world and from life? It is a vital question and it lies within our will to accept or reject Him. After death it will cease to be an open question, and then no one will expect an answer from us.