



Newsletter December 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.stmichaelshsv.org/

[Link - St. Michaels Calendar:](#)

* Please check calendar for details

Sunday 4th – The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

Wednesday 7th

† 6:00 pm – Akathist to Joy of All Who Sorrow. Soup & Bible study

Wednesday 14th

† 6:00 pm – Akathist for Nurturer of Children. Soup, Bible study.

Sunday 18th – [Visit from St. Nicholas!](#)

Wednesday 21st

† 6:00 pm. Akathist to St. Herman of Alaska. Soup, Bible study.

Sunday 25th – Feast of St. Herman of Alaska

Wednesday 14th

† 6:00 pm. Akathist to Sweetest Lord Jesus. Soup, Bible study.

[Save the Date:](#)

- **Friday, January 6th** – Eve of Nativity of Christ
† Royal Hours at 9:00am
† Compline at 6:00pm
(Followed by a potluck fasting meal)
- **Saturday, January 7th** – Nativity of our Lord; 8:45 am Orthros, followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00.
- **Saturday, January 7th** – Christmas open house, 6-10pm at the Schultz's; RSVP please.

[Coffee Hour:](#) (*Fast Day)

*Dec 4th – Kendall

*Dec 11th – Malmede/Chynoweth

*Dec 18th – Pastrick

*Dec 25th – Pickle

*Jan 1st – Platt

Jan 8th – Sievers

Jan 15th – Wolf Standifer

Jan 22nd – Zarzaur

Jan 29th – Bergantz

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:](#)

1st – Lana Vukosavljevic

6th – Marc Couch

10th – Andrew Haddock

11th – Ron Waskerwitz

12th – Pat Darzi

12th – Adam Zarzaur

28th – Peyton Zarzaur

30th – Monica Chynoweth

31st – Aleks Vukosavljevic

[Anniversaries:](#)

6th – Alexandra & Bob Pickle

19th – Phil & Serena Harwell

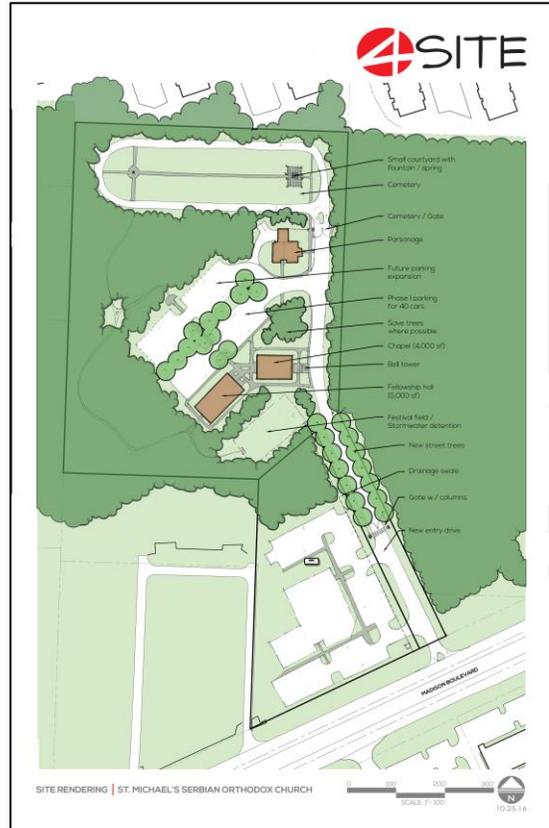
[Supplies Needed!](#)

- Olive Oil (regular, not virgin)
- Communion wine (preferably Manischewitz concord)
- Non-dairy creamer
- Sugar
- Dessert Plates
- Kleenex

NEWS AT ST. MICHAEL'S:

The New Property

On November 30th, 2016, St. Michael's officially closed on the property at 8122 Madison Blvd.! This is a very big step in what has been a long journey and marks the beginning of a new chapter for St. Michael's Church. We can now move forward in the next steps of doing the necessary planning for the driveway and utilities and getting the necessary permits from the City of Madison, which will pave the way (no pun intended!) toward eventually building the hall and church. Please remember to make your monthly pledge payments that you agreed to at the Special Assembly Meeting in August as we will need to make our first monthly mortgage payment on December 30. Fr. Gregory will have pledge forms available that you can use to confirm your building fund pledges. Stay tuned for more information! Glory and thanks be to God Who has so graciously given us this great opportunity!



Our November 15 Guest Speaker



Fr. Dcn. James Hughes, an ordained Deacon who serves at Holy Dormition Church in Santa Rosa, California, gave an excellent, in-depth presentation on Tuesday, November 15th at St. Michael's. As an educator and researcher, he's helped to start schools for kids, including "St. Michael's School" in Santa Rosa. Fr. James spoke about the Soul, Body and Orthodox Education. This is a perspective that is badly needed in today's world, which mostly deals only with the physical body and mind. The presentation was recorded and will be available soon for anyone who was unable to attend.

November: Thanksgiving Smoked Turkey Fundraiser

BBQ Bob has done it again! The 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Smoked Turkey Fundraiser was held on November 19th and helped raise over \$300 towards our Building Fund. Many thanks to Bob Zarzaur and Charles Malmede for their heroic efforts which began in the wee hours of the morning and lasted all day!



December: Nativity Scene Building Fundraiser

We are offering beautiful Outdoor Nativity Scenes for sale. They are approximately 4' tall by 4' wide (see attached picture). Purchase one for your yard. They would make great gifts for friends and family. We are selling on pre orders for \$75.

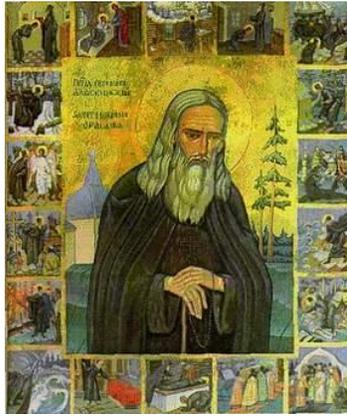
[Order Here!](#)



St. Michael's Nature Club

On a clear sunny day, Saturday, Nov. 26, the St. Michael's Nature Club held its first hike at Monte Sano State Park. The fall colors were beautiful and a good time was had by all. Marc Couch, a former Boy Scout Troop Leader, gave a short talk about the outdoors and Fr. Gregory gave a short talk about God and nature. At one point we crossed over a bridge and there was an enormous amount of leaves and Sophia Harwell remarked, "Look, it's a river of leaves!" There were some great views from some of the rock outcroppings along the ridge and the kids learned how to find the trail markers. Everyone is looking forward to the next one and in the future.





St. Herman of Alaska

On December 25th, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy in honor of St. Herman, the first Orthodox Saint of America. He was born near Moscow around 1756 to a pious merchant family, and entered monastic life at the age of sixteen, at the Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra near St Petersburg. While there, he was attacked by a cancer of the face, but the Mother of God appeared to him and healed him completely. He was tonsured a monk in 1783 with the name of Herman (a form of Germanos), and was received into Valaam Monastery on Lake Ladoga. After some time, he was allowed to withdraw to the life of a hermit in the forest, and only came to the monastery for feast days.

In 1793, in response to a request by the Russian-American Commercial Company for missionaries to Alaska, Valaam Monastery was told to select a company of its best monks to travel to America. Eight were chosen, of whom the hermit Herman was one. The company crossed all of Siberia and, almost a year later, first saw Kodiak Island in September 1794. The missionaries set about their work, and found the native Aleut people so receptive to the Gospel of Christ that in the first year about 7,000 were baptized and 1,500 marriages performed.

Eventually, St. Herman settled on Spruce Island near Kodiak, living the life of a hermit in a small cabin in the forest. He spent his days in prayer and mission work, and denied himself every fleshly comfort: he fasted often and lived on a diet of blackberries, mushrooms and vegetables (in Alaska!!). Despite these privations, he founded an orphanage and a school for the natives of the island, cared for the sick in epidemics, and built a chapel where he conducted divine services attended by many. (He was not a priest, but God made up the lack in miraculous ways: at Theophany, Angels descended to bless the waters of the bay, and the Saint would use the holy water to heal the sick). Asked if he was ever lonely or dejected in his solitude, and replied: "I am not alone; God is here as everywhere, and the Angels too. There is no better company."

Saint Herman reposed in peace on Spruce Island, at the age of eighty-one, in 1836. At the moment of his departure, his face was radiant with light, and the inhabitants nearby saw a pillar of light rising above his hermitage. His last wish was to be buried on Spruce Island. When some of his well-intended disciples attempted to take his relics back to Kodiak to be buried from the church there, a storm rose up and continued unabated until they had abandoned the plan and buried him as he desired.

The life and miracles of this wonderworking saint are too numerous to include in this brief article, but St. Michael's Lending Library includes a detailed life of St. Herman in *The Little Russian Philokalia Vol. III*. Holy St. Herman of Alaska, pray to God for us!

Prayer List:

Living: Church Members & Orthodox Friends Please pray for God's help with acquiring the land and future church and hall building; Pat Darzi, Dolores Gelemny, Jim Cesari, Lisa Craft, Ivan Fontane, Angela Gafton, Olga Gulas, Leslie Hargrave, Harris family, Phil Harwell & family, Kathe Hoyer, Mat. Julie Joa, Weston Letson, Allen Morgan, Justin Novak, Sean Perry & family, Chris Sweeney, Catrina Thomas, Ron Waskerwitz, Tim Waskerwitz, Kurt Weber. **Friends of Members:** Pamfilis Family, Cheryl Brown, Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros, Martin Gureasko, Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne, Kara, Glen, Todd McCaffery, Steve McCreary.

Reposed: Christopher Pamfilis, Alexa & Hayden Hannig, Nicolae Caracalean, Valentina, Vangie Pamfilis, Milan Petrovic, Mary Kochoff, Mary, Sam, Frances, Joe, Anne, Stan, Daniel, Anna, Fryni, Nelia, Natalie.

Committees/Chairpersons:

Choir Director – Sandy Ellis
Ass't Choir Director – Matushka Ann
Sisterhood President – Iryna Haddock
Sunday School Director - Matushka Ann
Sunday School Teacher—Serena Harwell
Church Supply Coordinator – Loren Capsopoulos
Legal Advisor—Brad Chynoweth
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 – Rick Kaiser

Church Council – 2016 to 2017

Father Gregory Schultz – Parish Administrator
Bob Zarzaur– President
Michele Platt – Vice President
Joe Bergantz – Treasurer
Pavel (Elliot) Sievers – Secretary

Members at large – Kathy Couch, Rick Kaiser, Charles Malmede, 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 (i.e.; when someone is ill, etc.). If you need to see him, please call ahead.*