



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

Christ is in our Midst!

Saturday Vespers 6:00 PM
Sunday Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Website: www.stmichaelshsv.org

“The greatest gift bestowed upon man is his inherent ability for communion with God, for beholding God. In this lies supreme happiness. It is man’s task to develop this gift within himself. God’s purpose with regard to man is deification”

I.M. Kontzevitch

June: Important Church Dates:

Sunday 1st – The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Sunday 8th – Pentecost - Trinity Sunday

Sunday 15th – Sunday of All Saints. Eve of Apostles' Fast

Sunday 22nd – Sunday of All Saints of America.

Sunday 29th – Commemoration of St. Tikhon.

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.

Events/Bulletin Board: Loren Capsopoulos will be getting baptized on the Feast of Pentecost, June 8 following Liturgy

Inquirers: Catechumen/Inquirer Class is held at 4:30PM every other Saturday: June 7th and June 21st.

Russian School: Meets at 11:30AM each Saturday. Contact Elena Lee (lenaLee10@aol.com) or Alexandra Pickle (Alexandra.pickle@gmail.com) with any questions you may have. The Russian School will host a summer camp from June 23 to June 27, 9:00am to 12 noon. All are welcome to attend.

Church Cleaning: The Church Council has decided to set up a church cleaning list, similar to the way we do coffee hour in order to give everyone an opportunity to help. Each month, one person will lead the cleaning party and open the church and 4 others will be on the list to help. The next cleaning will be held on **June 14th at 9:00AM**. Marshal Standifer will open the church for cleaning.

Cleaning duty list:

1. Bergantz
2. Darzi/Malyarenko
3. Ellis
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: (*Apostles Fast)

June 1st – Wolf/Standifer

June 8th – Zarzaur

June 15th – Bergantz

*June 22nd – Darzi/Malyarenko

*June 29th – Ellis

*Jul 6th – Gulas

Jul 13th – Haddock

Jul 20th – Hansen

Jul 27th – Hargrave

Church Needs: Regular and decaffeinated coffee. Specialty coffee is always a nice treat also! If you can donate some, it would be very much appreciated!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

God Grant Them Many Years!

Birthdays:

1st – Father Gregory Schultz

2nd – Olga Gulas

6th – Chris Sweeney

7th – Helen Bergantz

8th – Vincent Hansen

11th – Robbie Cox

15th – Tatyana Malyurenko

15th – Tamara Huron

19th – Chase Baker

23rd – Evangeline Pamfilis

24th – Lisa Craft

28th – Hal Pastrick

28th – Christopher Murphy

30th – Leslie Hargrave

Anniversaries:

3rd – Hal & Vivienne Pastrick

12th – Joe & Helen Bergantz

28th – Milka & James Taylor

Announcements

- Congratulations to Tamara Huron who was a contributing author for the recently published “Artemisia: Herb of the Year 2014” book put out by the International Herb Association! (www.iherb.org)! Also, congratulations to Vincent Hansen on earning the St. George medal with the Cub Scouts!

Prayer List:

Please keep in your prayers

Living: **Church Members:** Vangie Pamfilis, Milka Taylor (recovery from surgery). **Friends of Members:** Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne Karas, Glen, Janet Burn’s daughters Rebecca and Kara, and granddaughter Victoria. Jim Smith (Catechumen Lisa Crafts’ father), Kathy Hoyer.

Reposed: Anna Scoggins (mother of Kathy Hoyer), Mary Kochoff, Mary, Sam, Frances, Joe, Anne, Stan, Daniel, Anna, Fryni, Nelia, Natalie, Olga Hansen’s father, Dragan, and Taylor Keesling (grand niece of Roger Ellis).

Church Council – 2013 to 2014

Father Gregory Schultz – Parish Administrator

Hal Pastrick– President

Bob Zarzaur – Vice President

Joe Bergantz – Treasurer

Michele Platt – Secretary

Members at large – Sandy Ellis, Mike Jokich, Rick Kaiser, Charles Malmede, Marshall Standifer

Choir Director: Sandy Ellis

Ass’t Choir Director: Mat. Ann

Sisterhood President: Shellie Kioutas

Website Coordinator: Charles Malmede

Librarian – Leslie Hargrave

Sunday School Coordinator: Mat. Ann

Church Supply Coord.: Tatyana Malyrenko

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

Other News:

Please note: the Church telephone number is:

256-881-2449

Church Library News:

It is wonderful that many of our church members have been checking out books and reading them. However, our Church Librarian Leslie would like to remind everyone that it is a lending library, and that all books must be checked out using the clipboard and returned. When you return books, please do not re-shelve them, but rather, place them on the bottom shelf by the clipboard, since Leslie needs to keep track of our books. Please let Leslie know if you have any questions. Thanks!

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.*



The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Fifty days after Christ's Resurrection on the Feast of Feasts—Pascha, we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. This day marks the birthday of the Christian Church on earth, the Church that our Lord said He would build and the gates of hell would not prevail against.

“The word Pentecost (meaning ‘fiftieth in Greek) appears twice in the Old Testament as one of the designations of the feast of weeks” In Exodus 34:22 we read, “You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year’s end.” Again, in Deuteronomy 16:10, it says “Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God, and according to your ability you may offer whatever you wish, as the Lord your God blessed you.” Later, after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the feast began to lose its agricultural association and became linked with Israel’s sacred history by celebrating the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai.” *from The Oxford Companion to the Bible, Metzger & Coogan*

During these fifty days after Christ's Resurrection, the Holy Apostles waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit as our Lord asked them to do. Liturgically, we do not use the prayer, O Heavenly King, until the Feast of Pentecost. This is because we too are waiting for the Holy Spirit to descend on the Day of Pentecost just as those first Apostles did.

“In his sermon on Pentecost, St. Peter quotes the well-known prophecy of Joel, “I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh (Joel 3:1). This promise was significant because under the old covenant, the gift of the Spirit had been given only to a few—the patriarchs, the prophets, and some of the judges. Certain leaders of Israel were indwelt with the Holy Spirit to accomplish their tasks. Joel, however, prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be given to all God’s people, “all flesh.” This was fulfilled at Pentecost, for Peter exclaims, “this [outpouring of the Spirit] is what was spoken by the prophet Joel” (in Acts 2:16)...The last words of Christ before His Ascension include a promise: “John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:5). This word was fulfilled ten days later on the Day of Pentecost. How is the Holy Spirit given to us? The people who heard Peter speak at Pentecost asked him how they might receive salvation. He answered, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38) We repent (turn away from our sins and toward Christ); we are baptized; we are given “the gift of the Holy Spirit,” chrismation....The promise of God includes both our union with Christ in Holy Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit at chrismation.” *from The Orthodox Study Bible*

St. Nikolai Velimirovich once said that just as the vigil lamp cannot be lit without our hand, so too, our heart, our inward vigil lamp, cannot be lit without the holy fire of God’s grace, even if it were to be filled with all the virtues. All these virtues of ours are, after all, like combustible material, but the fire which ignites them proceeds from God.