



Newsletter June 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/

June: Important Church Dates:

Friday 5th – Mini Retreat, Monte Sano State Park.

† 7PM- Vespers (Outdoor Pavilion)

Saturday 6th– Mini Retreat, Monte Sano State Park.

† 9AM – Orthros (Outdoor Pavilion)

† 10AM Divine Liturgy (Outdoor Pavilion)

Followed by the St. Michaels Picnic at the outdoor Pavilion at Monte Sano State Park at 12:00

Sunday 7th – Sunday of All Saints. Eve of Apostles' Fast. (Back at St. Michaels as usual)

Sunday 14th – Sunday of All Saints of America

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

Supplies Needed: Please consider donating the following:

- ✓ **Communion Wine.** Preferably Manischewitz.
- ✓ **Regular and decaffeinated coffee.** Specialty coffee is always a nice treat!

If you can donate any of these items it would be greatly appreciated!

Sisterhood Meeting: Sisterhood of St. Sophia meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday each month – June 18th at 6:00 PM.

Coffee Hour: (*Apostles Fast)

June 7 th – Sisterhood	*July 5 th – Hogan/Mat. Ann
*June 14 th – Ellis/Fontane	July 12 th – Hoyer
*June 21 st – Gulas	July 19 th – Huron
*June 28 th – Haddock	July 26 th – Jokich

Note: *If you cannot be at church on your Sunday, please arrange to trade places with someone from the coffee hour list that can.*

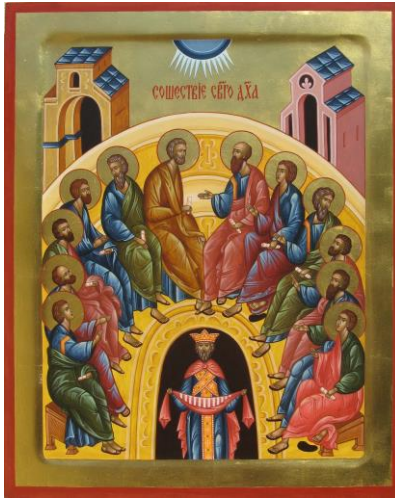
Church Cleaning: The next cleaning will be held on **June 13th at 9:00AM.** Sandy Ellis will open the church for cleaning. Please come and help us keep our church clean!

Birthdays:

1st – Father Gregory Schultz
2nd – Olga Gulas
3rd – Fr. Seraphim
6th – Chris Sweeney
7th – Helen Bergantz
8th – Vincent Hansen
11th – Robbie Cox
15th – Tamara Huron
19th – Chase Baker
24th – Lisa Craft
28th – Hal Pastrick
28th – Christopher Murphy
30th – Leslie Hargrave

Anniversaries:

3rd – Hal & Vivienne Pastrick
12th – Joe & Helen Bergantz



The Feast of Weeks: Pentecost

The Feast of Weeks was the festival celebrated at the beginning of the grain harvest. This was the feast at which the Hebrews offered their firstfruits of the harvest to the Lord at the tabernacle. It was one of the three major Jewish feasts, along with the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast was celebrated for seven consecutive weeks beginning “the morning following the Sabbath day” of Passover. Thus comes its title, the “Feast of Weeks.” Later in the Old Testament this feast became known as “Pentecost” (“fiftieth”), since it was celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover.

The Jewish Feast of Pentecost was fulfilled as described in Acts 2. On this Day of Pentecost came the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ, as Christ Himself had promised. The descent of the Holy Spirit fulfills the Jewish Feast of Pentecost in a number of ways:

1. The reaping of the firstfruits of the grain harvest is fulfilled by the first harvest on the Day of Pentecost, which consisted of the Jews who believed and were baptized. St. John Chrysostom says the Holy Spirit “came down as the keen-edged sickle.”
2. The offering of the two “deposit loaves” of leavened bread (Lv. 23:17-18) is prophetic of the ingathering of both Jews and Gentiles (Bede). St. John Cassian says the preaching of the apostles on the Day of Pentecost was “the true bread of the first fruits...when five thousand men were filled with the gift of its food”
3. The fiftieth day—seven consecutive weeks following Pascha plus one day—indicates the fullness of time in a mystery, similar to the Christian understanding of the eighth day.
4. The giving of the Law to Moses by the Son of God is brought to completion by the giving of the Spirit to the Church.

The Orthodox services for Pentecost place their emphasis on the descent of the Holy Spirit in all His fullness. His descent means that the Mosaic Law, given by the Lawgiver and honored on the Jewish feast day of Pentecost, is now transcended: “The All-Holy Spirit, who freely distributes gifts to all, has descended and come to earth; not as He formerly had in the Law’s dark shadow, shining in the Prophets, but now in very truth, He is bestowed in us through Christ.” (Vespers, Thurs. after Pentecost)

The worship services for Pentecost repeatedly emphasize how Old Testament prophecies of the Holy Spirit are fulfilled on this day. Two of the greatest of these prophecies are found in the Old Testament readings for this Feast—Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Joel 3:1-5. St. Peter directly quotes the

passage from Joel in his exhortation to the Jews on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:16-21). A third reading—Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29—relates how the Lord commands Moses to select seventy of the elders of Israel, who, when the Spirit comes upon them, prophesy at the tabernacle. The comment of Moses regarding this event, “Would that all the Lord’s people might be prophets when the Lord would put His Spirit upon them” is prophetic of the Day of Pentecost.

A Hymn for the Feast of Pentecost declares, “Once, when He descended and confounded the tongues, the Most High divided the nations; and when He divided the tongues of fire, He called all men into unity; and with one accord we glorify the All-Holy Spirit.” (*from the Orthodox Study Bible*)

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

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.*