



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

Christ is in our Midst!

Saturday Vespers 6:00 PM
Sunday Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Website: www.stmichaelshsv.org

*“With our neighbor
there is life and death:
for if we do good to our
brother, we shall do
good to God: but if we
scandalize our brother,
we sin against
Christ.”*

St. Anthony the Great

October: Important Church Dates:

Sunday 5th – Prophet Jonah (9th c. B.C.).

Sunday 12th – Uncovering of the relics of St. John Maximovitch.

Tuesday 14th – The Protection of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

Sunday 19th – Holy Apostle Thomas

Sunday 26th – Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council.

Save the Date Member Activities:

Thursday, October 9 – 6-9pm Cooking class by Olga Hansen and hosted by the Sisterhood at St. Michael’s Church. Cost \$25/person which includes donation to Sisterhood. Call Olga at 256-520-9911 or olgahansen01@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 18th – St. Michael's Sisterhood has a team in the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run. Participate if you can, but please support us as we raise funds for the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund at Huntsville Hospital Foundation. Find us at: [St. Michael Sisterhood Team Page](#)

Church Cleaning: The Church Council 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 **Oct. 11th at 9:00AM**. Mike Jokich will open the church for cleaning.

Cleaning duty list:

1. Pastrick
2. Pickle
3. Platt
4. Wolf/Standifer

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:

Oct 5th – Sisterhood

Oct 12th – Wolf/Standifer

Oct 19th – Zarzaur

Oct 26th – Capsopoulos

Nov 2nd – Sisterhood

Nov 9th – Bergantz

Nov 16th – Cox

Nov 23rd – Craft

Nov 30th – Darzi/Baker

Birthdays and Anniversaries

God Grant Them Many Years!

Birthdays:

8th – Nick Kioutas

26th – Brad Zarzaur

Anniversaries:

15th – Charles & Anastasia Malmede

16th – Bob & Mary Zarzaur

Church Library News:

It is wonderful that many of our church members have been checking out books and reading them. However, our Church Librarian 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. Please look around your house to see if you still have books checked out that should be returned (so that someone else can read them) and let Matushka Ann know if you have any questions. Thanks!

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: Vangie Pamfilis, Milka Taylor, Kathe Hoyer. **Friends of Members:** Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne Karas, Glen, Catrina Thomas, (Kathy Hoyer's daughter).

Reposed: 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, and Taylor Keesling (grand niece of Roger Ellis).

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

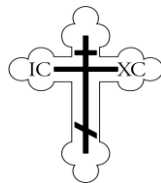
Members at large – Sandy Ellis, Mike Jokich, Rick Kaiser, Shellie Kioutas, Charles Malmede, Hal Pastrick

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.*



A few News Items:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

- Please join me in welcoming Fr. Seraphim Joa to our church. While some of you were at the Annual Assembly, many were unable to be there, so I'd like to repeat the announcement that was made. Fr. Seraphim Joa is a priest from the Orthodox Church in America. He and his wife Mat. Julie had been living in New York state until recently. Some may recall that Fr. Seraphim had visited our church on several occasions over the past several years when he and his wife were visiting their son and his family who live in Madison, Alabama. Fr. Seraphim retired from his job in New York and he and Mat. Julie moved to Redstone Village in Huntsville in August of this year so that they could spend their retirement closer to their son and his family. It is the policy of the Serbian Church that any retired priest is welcome to participate in the Divine Services with the blessing of the bishops. However, a retired priest does not hear confessions, give spiritual advice to parishioners or generally get involved in a leadership role in the parish. Fr. Seraphim's Bishop and Bishop Longin have both given their blessing for Fr. Seraphim to participate in any church services that he is able to attend such as the Divine Liturgy, Vespers, etc. I am extremely grateful to have his help, since he is able to assist with the services, which helps things go more smoothly and frees me up to do more. We haven't seen very much of Mat. Julie lately since she has been suffering from some back problems. Please keep her in your prayers and I'm sure that she'll attend services in the future as her strength permits. If anyone has any questions, please let me know and I'll be happy to talk with you.

- Fr. Gregory will be out of town from October 14 through October 22 to attend the CSB board meeting in California. CSB was the pan-Orthodox brotherhood who provided us with a \$7,500 grant several years ago which enabled us to establish our church library, bring in guest speakers and provide outreach brochures and booklets to give to visitors. Fr. Seraphim Joa will be on hand to serve the Vespers and Divine Liturgy while Fr. Gregory is away on October 18th and 19th.
- In response to some questions that have arisen about the commemoration sheets, please read the following excerpt from an article by Fr. John Whiteford and a few of my comments:

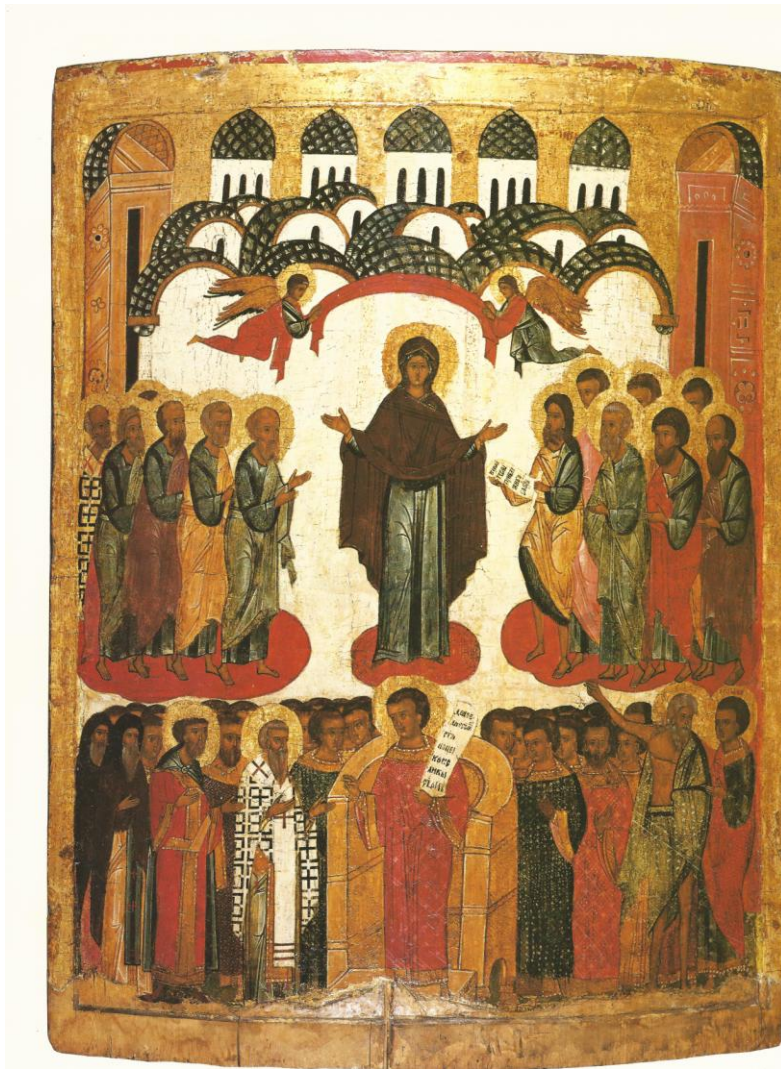
"How exactly do the commemoration lists work? I know I write the names of Orthodox or non-orthodox people I'm praying for...but how do I get the commemorations read out during liturgy? I'm praying for a deceased friend of a friend... Also, for commemorations of the living, are those typically just the sick? Or do we do list those we're praying for "in general"? For instance, my parents, God Parents, friends that I'm trying to introduce to the church, etc..."

Commemorations can be submitted before the Liturgy by writing out the names of those who are to be commemorated, on the sheets of paper that are placed near the icon of St. Michael on the iconostasis. There are sheets that are for the living, and sheets that are for the reposed. Only Orthodox Christians can be commemorated aloud during the services. You can include the names of the non-Orthodox on the commemoration sheets, but they should be listed in the 'non-Orthodox section at the bottom of the list. (This is because only Orthodox Christians can have a particle of the prosphora bread dedicated to them, since these will be placed into the Holy Chalice containing the Blood of Christ at the end of the Liturgy. Just as it is not appropriate for a non-Orthodox person to receive Holy Communion, neither is it appropriate to dedicate a piece of prosphora for a non-Orthodox person and immerse it in Christ's Holy Blood. However, the priest will pray for the non-Orthodox during the Proskomedia).

It is very important that we not just submit names to be prayed for by the priest, but that when we submit those names, we first pray for them ourselves. As Archbishop Vitaly (Maximenko) of blessed memory used to say, we should not be like cuckoo birds that lay eggs in the nests of other birds, and leave the job of hatching those eggs to others. If we ask others to pray for someone, we should also be praying for them. By submitting names of people to pray for, you are praying *with* the priest for those people that you have listed.

You can also ask the priest to serve a pannikhida for any Orthodox reposed you may wish to pray for. This is especially done on or near the anniversary of their repose. For the recently departed, a pannikhida is usually done on the first, third, ninth, and fortieth day of their repose. For the non-Orthodox, I would recommend that you use the Akathist for the Repose of the Departed, which is in the Book of Akathists from Jordanville. For the living, you can request a moleben to pray for any pious purpose, which would certainly include prayers for the salvation of a relative. You can also do a reader's moleben for those purposes as well.

Just a final thought: please be considerate of the relatively short time that we have during the Divine Liturgy to pray for others. For example, if a person is sick and you put them on the list to be prayed for, then we will do so. However, once the person recovers from their illness, there is not necessarily a need to ask that we pray for that person at every single Divine Liturgy for the rest of their life, just on general principle. If we prayed for each person that was ever listed on the commemoration sheets at every Divine Liturgy, we would all have to remain in Church all of Sunday and probably into the following week to finish praying for all those tens of thousands of people! So please consider this when you list names of those to pray for so that the list of those commemorated is reasonable. Nevertheless, do not hesitate to list names of people who really need our prayers. That's part of our job as Orthodox Christians: to pray for those in need!



The Protecting Veil of the Most Holy Mother of God (October 1/14)

The Church has always glorified the most Holy Mother of God as the Protectress and Defender of the Christian people, entreating, by her intercession, God's loving-kindness towards us sinners. The Mother of God's aid has been clearly shown times without number both to individuals and to peoples, both in peace and in war, both in monastic deserts and in crowded cities.

The event that the Church commemorates and celebrates today proves this constant protection of the Christian people by the Mother of God. On October 1st, 911 A.D. in the time of the Emperor Leo the Wise (or the Philosopher), there was an all-night vigil at the Blachernae church of the Mother of God in Constantinople. The church was crowded. St. Andrew the Fool for Christ was standing at the back of the church with his disciple Epiphanius. At four o'clock in the morning, the most holy Mother of God appeared above the people with a veil spread over her outstretched hands, as though to protect them with this covering. She was clad in gold-encrusted purple and shone with an unspeakable radiance, surrounded by apostles, saints, martyrs and virgins.

Seeing this vision, St. Andrew gestured towards it and asked Epiphanius: 'Do you see how the Queen and Lady of all is praying for the whole world?' Epiphanius replied: 'Yes, Father; I see it and stand in dread.' As a result, this commemoration was instituted to remind us both of this event and of the Mother of God's constant protection whenever we prayerfully seek that protection, that shelter, in distress.

From the Prologue of Ochrid by St. Nikolai Velimirovic