



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

**Christ is in our Midst!**

Saturday Vespers 6:00 PM  
Sunday Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Website: [www.stmichaelsv.org](http://www.stmichaelsv.org)

“A good conscience  
is found through  
prayer, and pure  
prayer through the  
conscience. Each by  
nature needs the  
other.”

*St. Mark the Ascetic*

**September: Important Church Dates:**

**Tuesday 2** – 6 pm Memorial Service for Fr. Seraphim Rose

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>** – Church New Year.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>** – Nativity of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos

**St. Michael's Annual Assembly after Liturgy (Please come)**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>** – Exaltation of the Cross.

9:00 am Orthos; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>** – St. Sophia Sisterhood Slava (after Liturgy)

**Save the Date Member Activities:**

**Saturday, September 6** – 3-5pm Wine Tasting Fundraiser at the Wine Rack. See Olga, Shellie or Michele Platt for details.

**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](mailto:olgahansen01@gmail.com).

**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 **Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM**. Sandy Ellis will open the church for cleaning.

Cleaning duty list:

1. Jokich
2. Kaiser/Tim Waskerwitz
3. Kioutas
4. Lee

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:**

Sept 7th – Pickles

Sept 14th – Platt

Sept 21st – Taylor

Sept 28th – Wolf/Standifer

Oct 5th – Zarzaur

Oct 12th – Bergantz

Oct 19th – Capsopoulos

Oct 26th – Cox

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

God Grant Them Many Years!

**Birthdays:**

3<sup>rd</sup> – Ashley Zarzaur

3<sup>rd</sup> – Landon James Zarzaur

7<sup>th</sup> – Bob Zarzaur

14<sup>th</sup> – Monica Schultz

17<sup>th</sup> – Brian Jokich

20<sup>th</sup> – Ted Gulas

22<sup>nd</sup> – Anna Fontane

27<sup>th</sup> – Marshall Standifer

**Anniversaries:**

1<sup>st</sup> – Nick & Shellie Kioutas

10<sup>th</sup> – Mike & Michele Jokich

10<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Gregory & Mat. Ann Schultz

11<sup>th</sup> – Tamara & James Huron

**News Items** - Please send church news items to the Newsletter Editor: Rick Kaiser at [rkmk2012@gmail.com](mailto:rkmk2012@gmail.com)

**Thank You:** To everyone who donated coffee, olive oil and supplies to our church! We had a great response to our plea. Also, we thank *Kathe Hoyer* for the new Dyson vacuum cleaner. Our Church will be much cleaner!

**Pilgrimage to New Gracanica by Sisterhood:**

Shellie Kioutas, Michele Platt and Olga Hansen had a wonderful experience in Chicago helping the Kolo Sisters of New Gracanica. Be sure to ask them about their trip.

## 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  
Russian School - Elena Lee  
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 – 2013 to 2014

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, 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

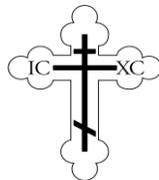
*\*Please note: while Fr. Gregory will normally be at the church during these times, pastoral needs will be given priority (i.e.; when someone is ill, etc.). If you need to see him, it is recommended that you call ahead.*

## 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 let Matushka Ann know if you have any questions. Thanks!

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**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.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There are several important events in the life of our church during September. Just as we celebrate our secular New Year on January 1<sup>st</sup> and make New Year's resolutions, so too does our Holy Orthodox Church celebrate the Liturgical **Church New Year** on September 1/14.

For anyone who might be confused by the two dates, the first date is according to the "New" or Gregorian (civil) Calendar and the second date is the according to the Julian ("Old") Calendar. For example the date for Christmas would be shown as December 25/January 7. Western heterodox churches (Protestant & Catholic, etc.) as well as some Orthodox Churches who follow the New Calendar, use the civil calendar date of December

25<sup>th</sup> as the day to celebrate Christmas, while Orthodox Churches on the Old Calendar observe the Feast of the Nativity on the civil date of January 7.

This is because an error was made many centuries ago and gradually calendars in different parts of the world drifted apart. In an attempt to fix this problem, in 1582 the Roman Catholic Pope Gregory XIII initially ordered that the calendar be advanced by 10 days (sort of like when we set our clocks ahead or back for daylight savings time). Over the next several hundred years, other adjustments were made so that the “Gregorian” calendar (named after Pope Gregory XIII) became the standard civil calendar throughout the western world and is now 13 days apart from the Julian “Old” Calendar.

In 1582, the Orthodox Church did not adopt the Roman Catholic Gregorian Calendar. However, in 1923 the Greek Archbishop Meletius mandated the use of the Gregorian Calendar for the Greek Orthodox Church, despite much protest from Mt. Athos and other Orthodox Churches. Since that time, several other Orthodox jurisdictions have also adopted the New Calendar. However, the Serbian and Russian Orthodox Church, monks on Mt. Athos and others have continued using the Old Calendar. Unfortunately, this has created much discord amongst Orthodox churches around the world. Nevertheless, it is a situation that we must deal with in our times as best we can in a Christian spirit of brotherly love.

On September 8/21, we celebrate the Feast of the **Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God**. One of the 12 Great Feasts of our Liturgical Year, it has been observed that the Orthodox Liturgical Year practically begins with this feast and ends with Her Holy Dormition or Falling Asleep. As we read in the Synaxarion for this Feast: “The Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos was the fruit of the prayer of Her pious parents, Sts. Joachim and Anna...God in His wisdom showed the barrenness of human nature before the coming of Christ, by leaving Joachim and Anna childless until they were very old. One feast day they went to the Temple to present their offerings, but someone turned to them and said, ‘*You are not allowed to offer with us, because you have no child.*’ These words cut them to the heart. Returning home, St. Joachim went up to the desert, to pray alone, and St. Anna at home was shedding abundant tears and fervently imploring Heaven. They both promised God that the child He would give them they would dedicate to Him. God Who is rich in mercy and full of compassion heard their entreaties and sent to Anna the Archangel Gabriel, who announced that she would conceive in her old age and bear a child, who would be the praise of the whole earth. When nine months had passed, Anna gave birth to the Holy Theotokos, Who at the age of three was dedicated to the Temple by Her Holy parents.

**The Universal Exaltation of the Precious Cross** (September 14/27). In the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of St. Constantine the Great (326 A.D.), Constantine sent his mother St. Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the Holy Places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Holy Cross....St. Helen found the precious Cross with the crosses on which the two thieves had hung, but she could see no way of telling which was the Cross of Christ. The resurrection of a corpse being carried to burial at the touch of the Holy Wood enabled St. Macarius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, to identify the Cross of Christ, for no miracle was worked by the other two crosses. Because the people who had gathered in large numbers at the place wanted at least to see from afar the instrument of our Redemption, the Holy Patriarch mounted the ambo and taking the Cross in his hands, raised it on high so that all could see it. Another of the 12 Great Feasts, the Exaltation of the Cross celebrates not only the memory of this event, but also shows forth this instrument of shame as having become an image of our Lord’s victory over death. (*from the Synaxarion*)

Let us participate as much as possible in these Holy Feasts that are given to us for our benefit, as this is pleasing to God and we will receive His blessing. God bless you!

In Christ,

+Fr. Gregory