



Newsletter February 2017

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, February 5th– Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.

Tuesday, February 7th– Church Council

†6:00pm Meeting – Homeless presentation given by Maryna Hamby & Whitney Somerville (Huntsville police women)

Sunday, February 12th– Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

†Baptism of Jeremy Haddock following Divine Liturgy.

Wednesday, February 15th – The Meeting of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

†8:45 am Orthros

†10:00 Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 19th– Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare).

Sunday, February 26th– Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare).

Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment – Luke 10:5 “Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’”

Prayers Needed!

Kathy Couch had surgery and is still recovering, and Pat Darzi broke her arm and is still recovering.

Save That Date!

Sunday of Orthodoxy – shared Vesper services at Holy Cross - St. Constantine & Helen at 6:00 pm March 5.

Coffee Hour: (* Lenten Fast)

Feb 5th – Capsopoulos

*March 5th – Haddock

Feb 12th – Cox

*March 12th – Hargrave

Feb 19th – Darzi/Baker

*March 19th – Harwell/Couch

Feb 26th – Ellis/Fontane

*March 26th – Hogan/Schultz

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 – Joe Bergantz

6th – Charles Chynoweth

7th – Michele Platt

9th – Alexandra Pickle

15th – Charles Malmede

21st – Kurt Weber

Anniversaries:

9th – Fr. Seraphim & Mat. Julie Joa

14th – Rob and Loren Capsopoulos

22nd – Pavel & Anya Sievers

27th –Sandy & Roger Ellis

Supplies Needed!

- Olive Oil (regular, not virgin)
- Very low on communion wine (preferably Manischewitz concord)
- Kleenex

Thanks to our Members!

Helen Bergantz for organizing the 12 dish supper on the Eve of Nativity, January 6, when Sandy Ellis became ill. We, also, thank the *anonymous donor* of poinsettia plants for the Nativity service on January 7. Bob Zarzaur, Justin Novak, Charles Malmede & Rick Kaiser for making the outdoor Nativity crèche to raise money for our future Church and Bob Zarzaur organizing the 3rd Annual Pork Butt Superbowl sale to raise money for the Church. We are grateful to the St. Sophia Sisterhood for their benevolent works during the Christmas season.

☞ NEWS AT ST. MICHAEL'S:

We had a busy month in January, 2017 with the Nativity Eve 12 dish supper, Nativity Service on January 7 followed by the Annual Schultz Christmas Open House, Theophany, a new catechumen, the 3rd Annual Pork Butt fundraiser, Creche fundraiser and Children's Program. Here are a few pictures!



Nativity Service, Saturday, January 7

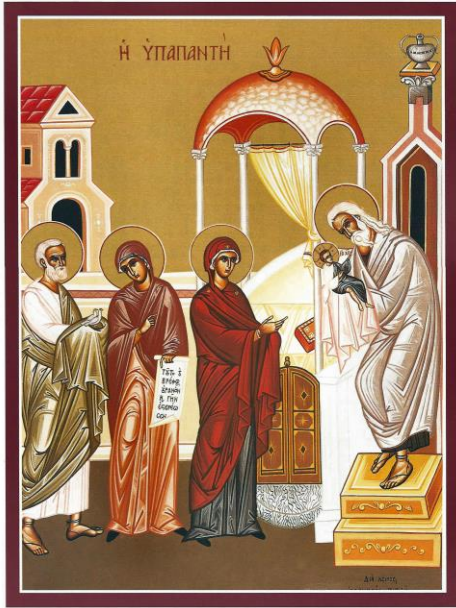


Catechumen, Whitney Somerville



Theophany at Brahan Park (Above) Children's Program reading "Timmy Tiptoes" (Below)





MEETING OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST (February 2/15)

On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Lk 2: 22-40). On the 40th day after birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple -- the center of religious life of the God-chosen nation. By the Law of Moses (Lev 12) a woman, having given birth to a child of the male gender, was forbidden for 40 days to enter into the Temple of God. After this interval the mother came to the Temple with the child, so as to offer to the Lord thanksgiving and a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, did not have need for purification, since without defilement she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity, but in profound humility she submitted to the precepts of the Law.

At this time there lived at Jerusalem the righteous elder Simeon. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold Christ the Saviour. By inspiration from above, the pious elder went to the Temple at that very moment when the Most Holy Mother of God and Righteous Joseph had brought there the Infant Jesus, so as to fulfill the ritual ceremony of the Law. The God-Bearer Simeon took the God-Infant in his arms, and having given thanks to God, he uttered a prophecy about the Saviour of the world: *"Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, O Lord, with peace according to Thy word, wherefore hath mine eyes beheld Thy salvation,*

which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to the enlightening of Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Lk 2: 29-32).

Righteous Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: *"Behold, This One is set for the fall and rising up of many in Israel and for the sign spoken against, and for thee thyself a sword shalt pierce the soul, so that the thoughts of many hearts might be revealed"* (Lk 2: 35).

At the Temple also the 84 year old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel, *"who did not leave the temple, serving God both day and night in fasting and prayer. And she also at that time, having drawn near, glorified the Lord and spake about Him (the God-Infant) to all awaiting deliverance at Jerusalem"* (Lk 2: 37-38).

Before the Birth of Christ, all righteous men and women lived by faith in the Future Messiah the Saviour of the world, and they awaited His coming. The final righteous ones of the closing Old Testament -- Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna -- were deemed worthy to meet at the Temple the Bearer of the New Testament, in the Person of Whom both Divinity and humanity do meet.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church, but in spite of its early origin, this feast was not so solemnly celebrated until the VI Century. During the reign of Justinian in the year 528, a catastrophe befell Antioch -- an earthquake, in which many people perished. And upon this misfortune there followed others. In the year 544 there appeared a pestilential plague, daily carrying off several thousand people.

During these days of widespread travail, it was revealed to a certain pious Christian that the celebration of the Meeting of the Lord should be done more solemnly. When at the day of the Meeting of the Lord the all-night vigil was finally made with church procession, the disasters at Byzantium ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established in 544 that the Meeting of the Lord should be done more solemnly.

(from the Synaxarion)

Let us pray that in celebrating this Feast, the Lord will deliver us from all calamities as He did for our Christian brothers and sisters in ancient times.

Donations in Memory or In Honor of:

\$20.00 from Michele Platt in honor of her birthday and for her family's good health!

\$20.00 anonymously toward the St. Michaels building fund.

Prayer List:

Living: Church Members & Orthodox Friends Please pray for God's help with building the future church and hall on our new property on Madison Blvd.; Kathy Couch, 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 Zarzaur & Rick Kaiser

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.*