



Newsletter May 2016

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/

CHRIST IS RISEN!!

May Important Church Dates:

* Please check calendar for details

Sunday 2nd-7th Bright Week!

Sunday 8th – St. Thomas Sunday. Commemoration of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark (63).

Sunday 15th – The Myrrh-Bearing Women, righteous Joseph of Arimathea.

Sunday 22nd – Sunday of the Paralytic.

Sunday 29th – Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Announcements:

Fr. Gregory is available for house blessings by appointment.

Supplies Needed :

- Communion Wine. Preferably Manischewitz.
- Regular and decaffeinated coffee. Specialty coffee is always appreciated!
- Paper towels.

Coffee Hour:

May 1st – Pascha!

May 8th – Ellis/Fontane

May 15th – Gulas

May 22nd – Haddock

May 29th – Hargrave

June 5th – Harwell/Thomas

June 12th – Hogan/Schultz

June 19th – Huron

June 26th – 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.

Birthdays:

11th – Anya Pickle

12th – Cheryl Brown

29th – Phil Harwell

30th – Amelia Sievers

31st – Mary Zarzaur

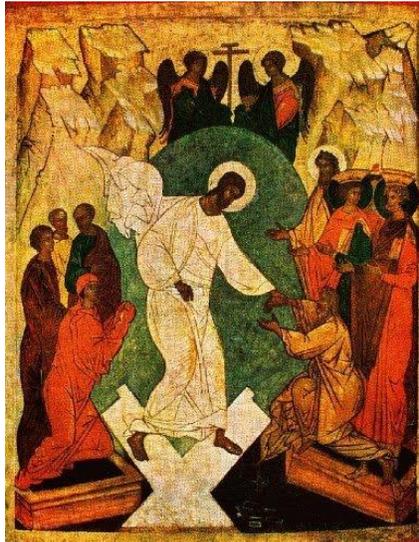
Anniversaries:

14th – Iryna & Jeremy Haddock

27th – Carol Wolf & Marshall Standifer

29th – Michele & Don Platt

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



The Resurrection of Christ

Christ is Risen! In Truth He is Risen! Having gone through the fast of Great Lent and Holy Week, we experienced the culmination of our Church Year during the bright and joyful Paschal Services! The Holy Church now calls us to observe a season of feasting during the next 40 days until the Feast of the Ascension.

Just as there is a difference between bodily and spiritual fasting, so too there is a difference between bodily and spiritual feasting. One can fast bodily by abstaining from meat and dairy products as we are called to do, and while this is a necessary step, it is also necessary that we fast from judging one another, from gossip and slander, and from the passions of pride, anger, lust, gluttony, envy, greed and laziness. So too, when we feast, a special meal is appropriate (though we should always strive for moderation in eating and drinking). However, the idea of a spiritual feast is that it is more than we can 'take in' all at once.

Our challenge now is to keep the spirit of Pascha alive in our hearts and minds. As one Holy Father put it, "Don't spill the Grace!" This means that when we experience God's Grace, such as the joy we felt at Pascha or the peace that we feel after having confessed our sins and partaken worthily of Holy Communion, it is as though we have received some priceless, special, rare wine that has been given to us in our 'cup' and it would be a terrible loss to spill it!

The Feast of Feasts, Pascha, is many things: it is the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning Christ; it is the fulfillment of our salvation in that Christ freed our human race from sin and death; it is also a foretaste of Paradise in which those sinful or dark parts of our life may be truly transformed by Christ's Resurrection. While Christ was crucified for us and opened the way into Paradise, He still expects us to do our part—to make the effort each day to live a Christian way of life: to love God, to love our brothers & sisters and to struggle against the passions and acquire the virtues with God's help. May God's blessings be with you in this joyous season!

April was a very busy month at St. Michael's. After our Lenten fast and labors, Holy Week finally arrived. On Holy Saturday after the Vespertal Liturgy, we welcomed Jason Hamby into the Orthodox Faith through Holy Baptism. Jason's mother, Maryna works for the Huntsville Police Department. Anna Fontane's son Ivan was Jason's Sponsor. What a great blessing on Holy Saturday. Many commented on what a wonderful Pascha we had this year and the Paschal Vespers and Festal Potluck meal at the Edgewater Clubhouse was a joyous occasion again. Thanks to Michelle Platt for arranging the use of the Clubhouse, to our Sisterhood for organizing the beautiful flowers for Holy Friday, the delicious potluck meal on Pascha and for contributing the funds for the new Paschal vestments and chalice covers made by Vicki Kendall, to Matushka Ann for getting us the palms for Palm Sunday, and thanks to everyone in our church who helped make this Holy Week and Pascha such a Grace-filled time this year!!



Donations:

The St. Michael's monthly newsletter will now include a Donations section to recognize those individuals and families who have generously made a contribution to our Church for some special event or occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, a birth, in memory of a loved one, a graduation, and so on. If you wish, you may designate that your donation be earmarked for a specific purpose, such as the building fund; otherwise, donations will be deposited to the Church's general fund. Of course, your donations are tax-deductible and a record of your donations will be maintained and included in your end-of-year statement.

Examples:

The John Doe Family: In Memory of Fred Doe

John & Mary Smith: In honor of son Robert's graduation from The University of Alabama

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

Committees/Chairpersons:

Choir Director – Sandy Ellis

Ass't Choir Director – Matushka Ann

Sisterhood President – Iryna Haddock

Sunday School Director - Matushka Ann

Church Supply Coordinator – Loren Capsopoulos

Library & Bookstore – Matushka Ann

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 – 2015 to 2016

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

Prayer List:

Living: **Church Members & Orthodox Friends** Jim Cesari, Lisa Craft, Ivan Fontane, Angela Gafton, Martin Gureasko, Leslie Hargrave, Harris family, Phil Harwell, Kathe Hoyer, Mat. Julie Joa, Allen Morgan, Justin Novak, Sean Perry & family, Queener Family, Chris Sweeney, Catrina Thomas, Ron Waskerwitz, Tim Waskerwitz. **Friends of Members:** Anna Kobasa (mother of Helen Bergantz), Mahasin Tadros, Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne Karas, Glen, Todd McCaffery, Steve McCreary.

Reposed: Karen Ennis (Leslie Hargrave's mother), Nicolae Caracalean, Vangie Pamfilis, Milan Petrovic, Larry Smith (Lisa Craft's Uncle), Mary Kochoff, Mary, Sam, Frances, Joe, Anne, Stan, Daniel, Anna, Fryni, Nelia, Natalie.

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.*