



St. Michael the Archangel Eastern Orthodox Mission

Newsletter

July 2010

Christ is Risen!

Divine Liturgy or Akathist
Service 10:00 A.M.

All the sorrows and sufferings caused us by people never come to us except with God's permission for our essential good. If these sorrows and troubles were not absolutely necessary for us, God would never allow them. They are indispensable...

St Ignatius Brianchanninov,
19th century Russian

Important Upcoming Church Dates:

Sat. July 2nd – Commemoration of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco the Wonderworker.

Wed. July 7th – Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John.

Mon. July 12th – End of Apostles' Fast.

Mon. July 12th – Feast of the Holy, Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles: Peter and Paul.

Service Schedule for June:

Sun. July 4th – Akathist Service, 10:00 AM

Sat. July 10th – Vespers, 6:00 PM

Sun. July 11th – Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Sat. July 17th – Vespers, 6:00 PM

Sun. July 18th – Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Sun. July 25th – Akathist Service, 10:00 AM

✠ *Confessions will be heard on Saturdays after Vespers; also on Sunday mornings before Divine Liturgy 9:30 am to 10 am.*

Father Gregory's contact info:

Home ph: 608-835-2565 & cell: 608-334-1073.

Email: frgregory@charter.net

Coffee Hour:

July 4th – Patterson (fast) Aug 1st – Bergantz

July 11th – Platt (fast) Aug 8th – Buska

July 18th – Wharry Aug 15th – Ellis

July 25th – Zarzaur Aug 22nd – Gulas

Aug 29th – Harouff

If you will be unable to serve coffee hour on your Sunday, please make arrangements to switch with another family. Thanks!

Birthdays:

God Grant Them Many Years!

2nd – Debbie Gulas

4th – Vivienne Pastrick

7th – Oksana Buksa

8th – Michael Pamfilis

18th – Preston John Patterson

25th – Karen Pamfilis

27th – Mark Speir

28th – Roger Ellis

Anniversaries:

19th – Rick & Michele Kaiser

Church Cleaning:

July – Bergantz

Aug – Ellis

This is your Church – help keep it clean!

News Items? Please send church news items to the Newsletter editor Rick Kaiser at:

rkmk2001@bellsouth.net

Request for help: We have received the blessing of Bishop Longin for Fr. Gregory's permanent assignment to St. Michaels, but we still need help to make this happen! Your prayers, diligence in attendance, financial support, and/or even a one time gift will help us to reach this goal. If you can help, please contact Joseph Patterson (Treasure) at Jwp3d@yahoo.com or 256- 503-7555.

Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers: Child Jovana (2 years old – leukemia); Anna with child; Angela with child; Katarzyna Bazylewicz; Tatiana Kukhtareva; Mariam & Tom Calache; Mary Kochoff; Glenn Dengler (friend of Jokich family) and daughters Haley (7) and Nicole (3); Dessie Jokich (mother of Mike Jokich); Sandy & Roger Ellis; Daniel Ellis (brother of Roger); Ted Gulas; Edythe Hales; Markela Hatzakis; Brian Jokich; Elena Meagher and her son Igor; Daniel & Anne Kobasa (parents of H. Bergantz); Rhonda Lovette; Tim & Ron Waskerwitz; Evangeline Pamfilis; Pat Darzy; Mary Zarzaur; Fryne McCreary; Dick Kaiser (Father of Rick Kaiser) and Lola Gulas. Thomas L. Snow (son-in-law of Joe and Helen Bergantz serving in Afghanistan)

The Apostles

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Each year on July 12, the Holy Church piously remembers the suffering of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. This feast is preceded by a period of fasting beginning the week after the Pentecost. While we honor and celebrate the martyric death of these two Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul, the Apostles Fast and the Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul remind us of all the Apostles and are an important part of our Christian life and represent a natural progression in the Liturgical Year.

Having made the spiritual journey of Great Lent through the Passion, Resurrection and Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, we then awaited the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It is significant to reflect on what occurred at that time as written in the Book of Acts, Chapter 2. Once the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, they immediately went out and began to preach in various languages the works of God and how Jesus Christ is the Messiah Who was to come. The people who heard them were so moved that some 3,000 of them were baptized that very day. This was the birth of the Holy Church, the Body of Christ on earth. After this, the Apostles went out all over the world, preaching the Gospel, building and expanding the Holy Church of Christ everywhere and working signs and wonders.

Today, we are heirs of the Christian Faith and our Lord is constantly calling out to us to follow in the footsteps of these Apostles through his Holy Church. We are continually exhorted both in the Holy Scriptures and in the prayers and Divine Services to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ. Remember, these mighty Apostles started out as ordinary men, just as all of us are, going about their worldly occupations such as fishing, raising families and so forth. Yet, because they were willing to follow Christ when He called them, with Christ's help, they became vessels of the Holy Spirit, raising the dead to life, healing the sick, casting out demons, writing the Gospels and Epistles, organizing the Church and setting the example for millions of Christians to follow during these past 2,000 years.

Our struggles and efforts to live a Christian life seem very small and weak by comparison. In fact, many Christians today separate themselves from the Apostles and Saints, almost placing them on a pedestal as it were—out of reach and far removed from our everyday lives. This misguided separation of our spiritual life from our everyday life in this world was one of the unfortunate ideas that the heretic Arius helped promote: that since Jesus Christ was not actually the Son of God, but rather a created being, a great teacher and so forth, that heaven and earth were not brought together through Christ's divine and human nature in His Incarnation. Arius' teaching appeared to provide a way to justify the separation of the spiritual life and the earthly life. In effect, we then just live our

mundane, worldly lives as we choose, (believing in some abstract idea of God) and then when we die, we will go to heaven and enter into a spiritual way of life. In the 17th and 18th centuries, this idea took shape in the philosophy of Deism, which generally holds to the concept that God is not involved in human affairs. Today, Deism takes many forms, but its influence and ideas continue to affect Christians and secular humanists.

The truth of our Orthodox Christian faith is that through His Incarnation, Jesus Christ is both God and Man and by uniting His Divine Nature with our human nature, He sanctified our human nature and opened for us the possibility of entering the Kingdom of Heaven. However, as the Holy Apostles demonstrated, this meant living a life of self-denial, of crucifying our passions and sins, and following Christ by living in obedience to His commandments as given in the Scriptures and through the Holy Church.

Yes, our everyday lives seem rather insignificant when compared with the great Saints and Apostles. Yet, our Lord taught us that not even a sparrow falls to the ground without God's knowledge. He loved each one of us so much that He was willing to die a cruel death on the Cross so that we might be saved. He healed all who came to Him and taught us how to live. Our Holy Fathers have shown us that Heaven is accessible to us right here, right now—each day; only we must make the effort. No matter what our circumstances might be, whether we are rich or poor, whether we are weak or strong, with God all things are possible! He knows what darkness is all around us today in our modern and increasingly secular society. He knows that we are fallen and weak, but He stands ready to help us; only we must ask, seek and knock through our prayers, through our attempts to fast, through our efforts to live as Christians: to love God, to love one another, to forgive each other; and when we fall, to get up and keep on trying. This is the Christian faith, the faith of the Apostles! May our Lord ever grant His blessing to help us in our struggles so that too may be saved! In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen!

In Christ,

+Fr. Gregory Schultz