



St. Michael the Archangel Serbian Orthodox Mission

Newsletter

April 2011

Christ is Risen!

Saturday's - Vespers

6:00 P.M.

Sunday's - Divine Liturgy

10:00 A.M.

"Let us try to learn Divine truth more by toil and sweat than by mere word, for at the time of our departure it is not words, but deeds, that will have to be shown."

The Ladder of Divine Ascent

St. John Climacus

Step 26:36

Important Upcoming Church Dates:

- Sunday, April 3rd – St. John Climacus of the Ladder.
- Thursday, April 7th – The Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos & Ever-Virgin Mary.
- Sunday, April 10th – St. Mary of Egypt.
- Sunday, April 17th – The Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem.
- Sunday, April 24th – The Pascha of the Lord!

Wednesday's – Presanctified Liturgy's during the month of April at 6:00 PM (See Calendar)

✠ Confessions are heard on Saturdays after Vespers; also on Sunday mornings before Divine Liturgy 9:40 am to 10 am.

Announcements:

- For Wednesday's Presanctified Liturgy, it is requested to fast after the noon meal in order to receive communion.
- Fr. Gregory is available most Fridays if anyone has any needs.
- Please note: Fr. Gregory will be away Wed. Apr. 6 through Saturday, Apr. 9, so there will be NO Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Wed. Apr. 6 and NO Vespers Sat. Apr. 9. Divine Liturgy will be held as usual on Sunday, April 10

Church Needs:

Regular & Decaf Coffee, Small Plates, Splenda, Creamer, Cold Cups.

News Items? Please send church news items to the Newsletter editor Rick Kaiser at:
rkmk2001@bellsouth.net

Father Gregory's contact info:

Home ph: 256-325-4401 & cell: 608-334-1073.

Email: frgregory1@gmail.com

ADDRESS CORRECTION FOR FR. GREGORY:

290 Maplewood Drive, Madison, AL 35758

Coffee Hour:

April 3 rd – Wharry	May 1 st – Buksa
April 10 th – Zarzaur	May 8 th – Ellis
April 17 th – Bergantz	May 15 th – Gulas
April 24 th – Pascha!	May 22 nd – Lee
	May 29 th – Speir

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!

10th – Elias Katsaros
14th - Matushka Ann Schultz
17th – Elena Lee
19th – Mike Jokich
20th – Sandy Ellis

Anniversaries:

17th – Cindi & Dave Branham
27th – Ted & Debbie Gulas
30th – Nick & Karen Pamfilis

Church Cleaning:

March – Pastrick April – Platt
This is your Church – help keep it clean!

Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers: Rick Kaiser; Child Jovana (2 years old – leukemia); 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; Anne Kobasa (Helen Bergantz’s mother); Rhonda Lovette; Tim & Ron Waskerwitz; Evangeline Pamfilis; Pat Darzy; Mary Zarzaur; Lola Gulas; and Thomas L. Snow (son-in-law of Joe and Helen) serving in Afghanistan; Repose of Fryni McCreary and Daniel Kobasa.



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

In just a few short weeks, we will be entering Passion Week in preparation for the Great and Holy Pascha – the Bright Resurrection of the Lord. It means the conclusion of the Lenten Fast and the beginning of the Feast and the joyful season of Christ’s Resurrection. In many ways, this is for us an image of the Kingdom of Heaven that we hope to be found worthy to enter when our earthly life has completed its course. In the same way, Great Lent is an image of our earthly life now, struggling against the evil of the passions, the world and the devil through repentance, prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Our Lord and our Holy Fathers have taught us that we must be like athletes in this life: running our race with patience, that we may be crowned with victory at the finish line. Or that we are to be like soldiers in Christ’s army, fighting the good fight, keeping the faith and emerging victoriously from the battlefield that is our brief life in this fallen world. However, when we take a good look at ourselves in the mirror of self-honesty, do we see strong, spiritual athletes who have worked hard to train for the contest or mighty spiritual warriors who vanquish our enemies each day? Most of us probably would have to admit that we have not quite achieved the fullness of a strong spiritual life and that perhaps there is still some room for improvement.

If we heard the words “*this night, thy soul shall be required of thee...*” would we be ready to meet our Lord in the next life, to have all of our deeds examined before the Just and Awesome Judge? Most of us would probably wish that we had more time to repent, more time to pray, fast and give alms. I urge you to consider this seriously as we finish the course of Great Lent. In a marathon or battle, there may be times when we might feel like quitting, or that we are too busy to take the time to come to church, pray, confess our sins, and receive Holy Communion. This is just what our enemies want, and yet our merciful God has so ordained that our enemies cannot force us to stay away from church and to practice our faith. If we will only make the effort, He will help us and our enemies will be put to flight! May God bless you to renew your spiritual efforts in these last weeks of Lent so that you may experience the fullness and power of Christ’s Resurrection in this world and the world to come!

In Christ,
+Fr. Gregory