

ST. BASIL THE GREAT ORTHODOX CHURCH
205 HIGHLAND AVENUE
DES PERES, MO 63122

ARCHPRIEST MARTIN SWANSON, PASTOR
PRIEST SERGII ALEKSEEV, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
ARCHPRIEST RADOMIR CHKAUTOVICH, ATTACHED

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND MID-AMERICA
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

May 2019

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Pascha 2019 at St. Basil's

A joyous and Light filled Pascha was celebrated on April 28th. Thank you to all who helped us celebrate our Passion Week and Pascha as a community. Below are pictures of our services and activities throughout the week.



Palm Sunday



Holy Friday



Holy Saturday



Special Services & Events

- 5/6 Monday 5:30 p.m. Moleben to the Great Martyr George
- 5/7 Tuesday Radonitsa (commemoration of the dead) at St. Matthews cemetery. Meet at Church at 10:00 a.m.
- 5/20 Monday 6:00 p.m. Vigil for St. John the Theologian
- 5/21 Tuesday. 8:00 a.m. D. Liturgy for St. John the Theologian
- 5/22 Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Lesser Blessing of Water. Mid-Pentecost

Weekly Services:

Saturday - Vigil 5:00 p.m.
Sunday - Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Parish News

Choir Voices Needed

All parishioners are welcome to join the choir, all voices are needed. Choir practice is held every Wednesday evening in the church at 6:30. All members of the choir should attend as many practices as possible in order to prepare for the services of the coming week. The choir is an important ministry of the church and if you can sing, you serve God by joining the choir. WE NEED YOU!

Weekly Tours of St. Basil's

Tours of St. Basil's church are conducted by one of the parish clergy every Wednesday between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m., and are designed to acquaint the community with the church, its architecture, traditional design, iconography, and history. No appointments are necessary and the tours will accommodate both individuals and groups. Advance notice would be appreciated for groups over 5. For additional information or to schedule a group tour contact Fr. Martin at 314-835-1569.

Parish Prayer List

Nadya Danett - Health
Archimandrite Seraphim - Recovery
Susanna Roth - Repose

Keep our parishioners, and those who ask us to pray for them in your prayers this month. Contact Fr. Martin to have yourself or your loved ones added to the parish prayer list. Let one of the Fathers know if you, a member of your family, or a friend is ill or hospitalized so that appropriate prayers and visits can be arranged. Please note: Hospitals do not notify clergy of patients, even if you list yourself as a parish member.

Kulich Sale

As everybody knows, our sisterhood held a Kulichi Sale in the latter part of the Great Lent and during the Holy Week. Several women baked the traditional enriched paschal bread, following the guidance of Vera Loukina. Our kulichi came in two sizes: a bigger and a smaller one. In addition to the kulichi, an array of exclusively organic festive cookies were offered for sale. All that had been baked was sold and the sisterhood was

able to raise way over \$500.00 -- all of the funds were put in the general parish fund. We would like to thank both the sisterhood for baking and the parishioners for supporting the fundraiser by purchasing the kulichi and the cookies.

Use eSCRIP and Amazon Smile Rebates

It costs \$0 and benefits the parish. Get cards at the candle counter. Sign up for the Amazon rebate program to have a portion of your Amazon purchase donated by Amazon to the parish. Please find sign up instructions next to the stair case in the hall.

SERVERS WANTED!

Boys may begin to serve in the altar at St. Basil's from the time they begin to go to Confession (usually about 9 years old). We encourage all of our boys to serve in the altar! For more information please contact Michael Orlando.

St. Basil's Parish Facebook Page:

Check out <https://www.facebook.com/SaintBasiltheGreatSTLMO/> for daily edification and interesting updates. Like our Facebook Fanpage! "Like" us to have us appear in your Facebook Newsfeed.

April Wordsearch Answers

R	A	Y	R	N	M	P	L	P	K	Y	M	N	R	V	X
J	M	N	P	E	B	A	L	A	S	P	E	Q	R	J	D
L	O	M	D	K	S	J	R	O	Z	S	A	V	Z	U	N
A	Q	H	Y	R	R	U	K	Y	I	A	N	S	O	G	Y
Q	N	V	N	S	E	O	R	R	O	O	R	R	C	S	N
P	Z	N	N	O	T	W	S	R	N	F	H	U	R	H	Y
M	A	V	U	O	F	I	O	A	E	S	E	U	S	A	A
N	R	S	E	N	T	T	C	F	L	C	O	G	D	J	V
K	A	H	S	S	C	H	A	C	H	T	N	Y	N	N	N
C	T	K	I	I	A	I	I	E	L	R	U	I	D	P	R
M	H	R	A	E	O	R	A	A	L	S	E	Q	O	B	T
L	H	R	R	T	U	N	Y	T	M	A	U	T	W	N	Y
C	D	G	I	B	H	O	W	L	I	J	D	P	E	T	N
D	J	N	V	S	R	I	A	E	G	O	T	D	P	B	P
W	J	X	Q	R	M	P	S	W	E	N	N	D	E	E	G
B	G	X	X	Y	B	B	M	T	B	K	D	D	B	R	R

Pascha Celebration continued
Pascha Divine Liturgy



Agape Vespers



Bright Monday



After the procession, the Magnification was sung to Holy Martyr Irene, whose precious head is kept in our temple. Eternal memory was also intoned for the newly-departed Archbishop Alypy, followed by the singing of the Paschal troparion.

St. Basil's Workday





Our parish had a workday on April 13th. We would like to thank all that came to help to beautify the church grounds and clean the church in preparation for the feast of the Entry of the Lord in Jerusalem, Holy Week and Pascha. Our workers accomplished many things, such as building an area for the garden and building and painting a fence to keep the rabbits and deer away from the retention pond vegetation. Also, other parishioners helped finish the mulch path that leads around the church grounds. Yet, another blow was dealt to the honeysuckle infesting our wooded area, with the cut branches being put through the chipper. The parishioners that cleaned the church did a wonderful job, as well. Some cleaned the kitchen, others cleaned the church floor and the candle stands, with some of the tasks being performed only once a year. The hard work and sweat of the working parishioners payed off - one needs only to compare the results to what the church grounds and the church looked like before the workday. We can say without any doubt that our church workday was a success! We hope that if you did not come to that workday, you will come next time!

Ask Your Priest

What was Jesus Christ doing during the three days in the tomb? Also, why did the Body of Jesus Christ not decay while He was in the tomb?

We are taught that after his death on the

cross that Christ descended into Hades. (1 Peter 3:18-21) There he preached to those who had died offering them freedom from their captivity. He did not merely descend into Hades, He invaded and conquered it, vanquishing the devil and demons, smashing the gates and breaking their locks and bolts as we see in the Icon of the Resurrection. The intent of this imagery is to show that Christ descends not as a victim, but as a victor and liberator over death and those held in Hades. Before him the power of death is powerless. Christ offers the hope of liberation from their torment to all those who have fallen into the abyss and release of all of those held there.

Christ's body did not corrupt during His three days in the tomb because he is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets and the prophet David prophesized that God will not allow "...Your Holy One to see corruption". (Psalm 15:10 and Acts 2:22)

Welcoming Melinda (Mindy) Momeyer

On April 20th, we welcomed Mindy Momeyer to the Orthodox Church through Chrismation. We also welcome her with open arms to our parish here at St. Basil's. In order to get to know her better, we've asked her the following questions with her responses recorded.

Where are you from?

I grew up just outside of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Why did you move to St. Louis?

I moved to St. Louis to attend Washington University's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. It was a difficult decision to move so far from home, but WashU's stellar reputation in the PT world made the decision easier. I am so glad to be here.

What brought you to Orthodoxy?

I started attending Orthodox Liturgy and Lenten services sporadically with my boyfriend, Maxim, over a year ago while still belonging to the Roman Catholic Church. I

was moved by the beauty and reverence of the services as well as the history and Tradition of the Church. His family invited me to Pascha last year, and the service moved me to tears. Afterwards I began exploring Orthodoxy through various books and continuing to attend Vespers and Liturgy. When I moved to St. Louis, I decided to join an Orthodox Church and become a catechumen .

Is anyone else in your family Orthodox?

No. My immediate family and my mother's family are Roman Catholic, while my father and his family are Protestant.

What is the reason for choosing your patron saint?

St. Jude Thaddeus is considered the patron saint of hopeless cases, particularly in western churches, and for that reason as a teenager I chose him as my confirmation saint in the Catholic church. I have been asking for the intercession of St. Jude for years already, and because he is also an Orthodox Saint I decided it was fitting for me to keep him as my Orthodox patron. I appreciate the humility of his story and the wisdom in his epistle.

What is your favorite thing about being Orthodox?

It is so difficult to narrow down one thing that I enjoy most about the Church. What stuck out to me from the first time I entered an Orthodox Church was how Orthodox Worship engages all of the senses - touch, taste, sound, smell, and sight - giving one a sense of "fullness," even if one knew nothing of the Faith.

What are you most excited about in your new Orthodox life?

I am excited to continue to learn and grow in the Faith, read about the lives of the Saints, and be a part of the parish community.

Do you have any plans to serve the church in some capacity?

I am currently a singer in the choir, and I plan to continue to do so.

Please join us in welcoming Jude to the Orthodox Church and may God grant her many years!



May Pascha Picture Hunt

The picture on the right is a small clip of a larger picture of an item inside our temple. Can you find the item in the church?

