

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

## October 2019

### Parish Festival Success



Sunday, September 29th, 2019, St. Basil's celebrated its first parish festival. After months of preparation, the fruits of our labor produced a bountiful harvest enjoyed by all. As promised, the festival served a hearty homemade meal of meat dumplings, pilaf, salad, bread, shish kebabs, and

desserts with homebrewed kvas as one of the many cooling refreshments served. The cooking area outside was constantly delivering freshly grilled kebabs and pilaf cooked by parishioners Veronica and Stephan Crutulab, while plates upon plates of food were served indoors. Festival goers were entertained with nonstop performances, dances, and songs orchestrated by the master of ceremonies, parishioner Marina Petroni, all afternoon while they



feasted under our canopies enjoying a warm Sunday afternoon. Dances were choreographed and props were made by parishioner Tatiana Patega. Entertainment also included live music



played by parishioner Julia Smith on the flute and piano,



### Special Services & Events

- Mon. Oct. 7 6:00 p.m. Vigil for the Feast of St. Sergius of Radonezh
- Tues. Oct. 8 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, St. Sergius of Radonezh
- Fri. Oct. 18 6:00 p.m. Vigil for the Feast of Apostle Thomas
- Sat. Oct. 19 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Apostle Thomas
- Tues. Oct. 22 6:00 p.m. Vigil for the Feast of the Optina Elders
- Wed. Oct. 23 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Optina Elders
- Thurs. Oct. 31 6:00 p.m. Vigil the Feast of St. John of Kronstadt
- Fri. Nov. 1 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, St. John of Kronstadt

### 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!

If you are interested in church music and the choir but are unsure of your abilities, you are invited to join Marushka Royse for sessions to learn about singing, voice, reading the music and choir participation in general. These sessions are held every Wednesday at 6pm before choir practice. Come and see what it is all about. You can come to the 6pm session and stay for choir practice. If you have any questions, please contact Marushka.

## 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

Brigit Hammer - Recovery from surgery  
Gloria Pappas - Recovery from surgery  
Nadya Danett - Health

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.

## "Ask Your Priest" Column

This new column will answer questions submitted by you [the parishioners] concerning Orthodoxy. Questions will be submitted to priests anonymously. Submit your questions to StBasilSTLNewsletter@gmail.com

## Gardening Help

Parishioner, John Malcom, welcomes any who are willing to help gardening on the church grounds. John Malcom will be working at the parish Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am to noon weather permitting. Tools, gloves, and water will be provided for all who come to help.

## 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.

## September Crossword Answers



# Parish Festival

parishioner Clay McKinney on the cello, and parishioner Tatiana Petroni on the piano. The children's craft table had a constant flow of both children and adults. All created beautifully adorned kokoshnik (traditional Russian women's headdress). Children were in and out of the sandbox, on and off of the swing set, and running around playing all sorts of lawn games. Parishioner John Malcom Royse oversaw the



# Parish Festival



building of the swing set in the weeks leading up to the festival and many parishioners helped prepare the church grounds prior to the festival. Parishioner George Elfrink and John Malcom Royse worked tirelessly both on Saturday and Sunday planning and directing cars for parking. Inside, the church opened its doors and welcomed all to view our temple. Visitors were given exclusive tours led by our clergy - Father Sergii, Father Deacon Ephraim, Subdeacon Thomas, and many other parishioners willing to explain and teach about the beauty of our temple. Many of the visitors were eager to learn about and see our temple which they had previously only seen from the outside. Parishioners Theodore and Photini Mills offered a wide selection of Orthodox books, icons, and other religious items on behalf of ArchangelsBooks.com. Estimated festival attendees were between 400 to 500 people which exceeds our original estimation, but encourages us to prepare for a bigger and better festival in the years to come.

A very special thank you to all parishioners, families, and friends that either attended or helped prepare for the festival in any way. There were plenty of helping hands and the festival would not have been such a success had it not been for the willingness and eagerness of our parishioners to help.

### **St. Sergius "Godfather of Muscovy"** *Excerpt from Russian Orthodoxy Resurgent*

During Soviet times, the monastery complex [Sergiev Posad, literally "Sergius's Abode"] disappeared from the map; it was simply renamed "Zargorsk". Sergius of Radonezh (1314-92), founded it in 1337 while still a young man. In a great explosion of monastic expansion in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, it hived off other communities organized according to his standards and rules. The mother house itself became the seat of icon painting and the spiritual heart of Russia.

In 1380 Sergiev Posad witnessed one of the great turning points of Russian history. The account

written by monks in the medieval Chronicles retains its emotional impact to this day:

A rumor spread that Khan Mamay was raising a large army as a punishment for our sins and that with all his heathen Tatar hordes he would invade Russian soil.... The puissant and reigning prince, who held the scepter of all Russia, great Dmitry [Prince Dmitry Ivanovich Donskoy, 1350-89], having a great faith in the saint [Sergius], came to ask him if he counseled him to go against the heathen. The saint, bestowing on him his blessing, and strengthened by prayer, said to him: "It behooveth you, lord, to have a care for the lives of the flock committed to you by God. Go forth against the heathen, and upheld by the strong arm of God, conquer; and return to your country sound in health, and glorify God with loud praise." Dmitry and all his armies were filled with a spirit of temerity and went into battle against the pagans. They fought; many fell; but God was with them, and helped the great and invincible Dmitry, who vanquished the ungodly Tatars.... The Grand Duke Dmitry returned to his country with great joy in his heart, and hastened to visit holy, venerable Sergius. Rendering thanks for the prayers of the saint and of the brotherhood, he gave a rich offering to the monastery.

Russians credit Donskoy's 1380 victory at Kulikovo over Khan Mamay as a watershed in Russian history, marking the beginning of their release from the long years of the "Tatar yoke" (Tatarskoe igo). The victory gave rise to the proverbial saying that separate forces from



principalities northeast of Rus (the ancient name for Russia) came to the battlefield of Kulikovo, but they left a united Russian people (yediny russky narod). Kulikovo took on the same associations as the Battle of Gettysburg did for the United States, sacred ground whose memory, in the words of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, should "not perish from the earth".

Grand Prince Dmitry's victory at Kulikovo also marks the beginning of the rise to dominance of Muscovy. For his crucial role in encouraging the grand prince (he even sent two monks in to the battle), Sergius would become known as the "godfather of Muscovy". So deeply embedded was this story in the Russian memory that Stalin resurrected it during the darkest days of World War II. With the Wehrmacht literally at the gates of Moscow, he allowed the metropolitan of Leningrad to stir the deep patriotism of his audience by retelling the tale. Once the Germans were defeated, however, the Soviet authorities once again erased Orthodoxy from Russia's history. Donskoy's triumph over Mamay remained part of the state curriculum but was taught without its religious frame of reference.

## Welcoming a New Catechumen

Sarah Mueller was made a catechumen by Fr. Martin on September 22nd after celebrating the Divine Liturgy. She will now commence her catechesis as she learns about our faith and prepares to become a member of the one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.



## October Wordsearch

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

- Kokoshnik
- Kvas
- Pelmeni
- Pilaf
- Shashlik
- Balalaika
- Radonezh
- Sergiev Posad
- Kulikovo
- Kronstadt
- Optina
- Festival
- Russian