

**SAINT BASIL THE GREAT
ORTHODOX CHURCH**



**205 Highland Avenue
Des Peres, MO 63122**

A parish of the
**Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**

**Archpriest Martin Swanson, Pastor
Priest Sergii Alekseev, Associate Pastor
Archpriest Radomir Chkautovich, Attached**

Weekly Services:

Saturday - Vigil 5:00 p.m.

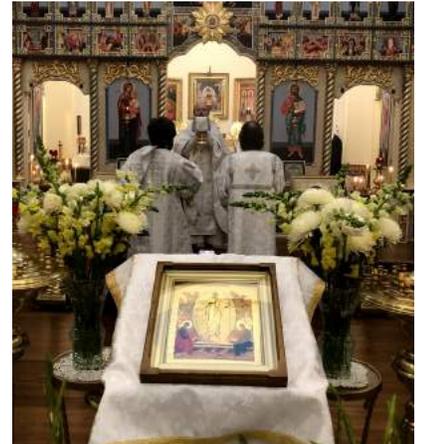
Sunday - Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Pascha at St. Basil's
Priest Sergii Alekseev**

There is no holy day like Pascha! We labor arduously for weeks preparing ourselves for the great Day of Resurrection. However, our preparation during the last days before the Feast of feasts assumes a new perspective – we become witnesses of the events of the Passion Week.

This year, because of the sins of all of us, most of us were deprived of the full participation in the solemn services of the Passion Week. We have grown accustomed to the things going “as always” and thought nothing would ever change drastically. Were we wrong!

What are we to make of it? Among many possible answers the one is obvious: we must use wisely and thrifty the time given to us. We are to abandon the mentality of a little child that no matter what – everything will work out on its own and life will always be “getting better all the time”. We must re-evaluate our life and earnestly live “redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16). And yet, even amidst all of the uncertainty and distress, what gives us hope are the words of the Risen Saviour: “In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer – I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).



Special Services & Events

- **Great Martyr George the Trophy-bearer**
Tues. May 5 6 p.m. Vigil
Wed. May 6 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Mid-Pentecost**
Tues. May 12 6 p.m. Vespers and Matins
Wed. May 13 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Apostle John the Theologian**
Wed. May 20 6 p.m. Vigil
Thurs. May 21 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Holy Hierarch Nicholas the Wonderworker**
Fri. May 22 9 a.m. Moleban
- **Ascension of the Lord**
Wed. May 27 6 p.m. Vigil
Thurs. May 28 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy



Parish Prayer List

Archpriest Andrei Popkov—Recovery
Nadia Danett—Health

Parish News

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.

Gardening Help

Parishioner John Malcolm welcomes any who are willing to help gardening on the church grounds. He 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.

Weekly Tours and Office Hours Temporarily Canceled

Tours of St. Basil's church and weekly office hours held by Fr. Martin are temporarily canceled in order to uphold diocesan policy and in keeping with the St. Louis county ordinances put in place during the Coronavirus pandemic. Please contact Fr. Martin at 314-835-1569 to receive information about the church during this time.

Choir Practice Temporarily Canceled

All parishioners are welcome to join the choir, all voices are needed. However, in order to uphold diocesan policy and in keeping with the St. Louis county ordinances issued to restrict Coronavirus spread, choir practices at the church have been temporarily canceled. Please contact Carol Surgant if you wish to join the choir and to receive more details about participation in the choir during the Coronavirus pandemic.

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 staircase 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 nine 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:

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintBasiltheGreatSTLMO>

Check out our Facebook Fanpage for daily edification and interesting updates. Like our page to have us appear in your Facebook Newsfeed.

May Psalm Answer: Psalm 33

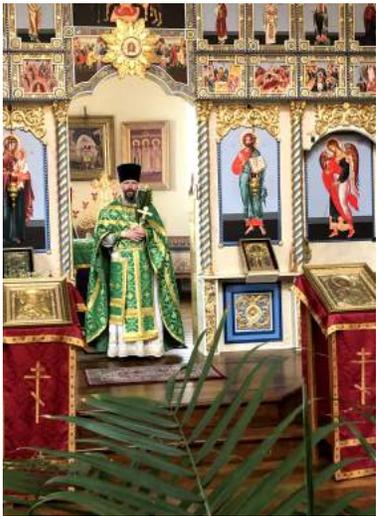
Psalm 33 is both historically and liturgically the favorite psalm of the Church to accompany the receiving of Holy Communion. V. 9 ["Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who hopes in Him."] is seen throughout the Church as describing the act of receiving the body and blood of Christ. Also, in present Orthodox practice, Ps 38 is sung, with 33:9 as the refrain during the receiving of Communion at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in Great Lent.

Psalm 33 is a prophecy teaching how Holy Communion is to be received in the Church: with a gentle spirit (v. 3); as a sojourner in the world (v. 5); with a poor, broken, and humble spirit (vv. 7, 19); with the fear of God (vv. 8, 10, 12); with hope in the world to come (vv. 9, 23); with clean lips and a peaceful heart (vv. 13-17).

Lazarus Saturday



Palm Sunday



Weekend before Holy Week

Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday were celebrated April 11th and April 12th, respectively. These feast days mark the end of Great Lent and the beginning of Holy Week as we prepare for Christ's Passion and Resurrection. The services were streamed live on Facebook with many of our parishioners watching live. Although the church was physically empty, palms and pussy willow branches were still blessed and were later picked up after the service by some parishioners.

Above are pictures from the services for both Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday. Pictures from Holy Week can be found on Page 4.

Thoughts on Pascha From a Parishioner

Pascha 2020 will be remembered by the faithful because of the disruption caused by the Coronavirus this year. Restrictions on attending services, receiving the sacraments, interaction with fellow parishioners were made difficult and unusual because of the requirements of civil law to which we have been required to abide. The Divine Liturgy could be viewed online, but some lamented the absence of being there in person.

These things were missing and missed but ultimately do not matter. The inability to attend a service, or the lack of a chocolate rabbit cannot overshadow the glory of the Resurrection. While we can watch services amid the comfort and distraction of our homes, please remember that no matter what, Pascha takes place; nothing can stop it.

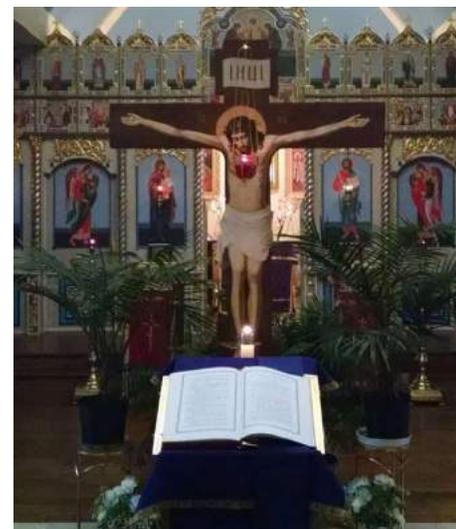
Holy Unction



Commemoration of the Mystical Supper



Holy Friday



Holy Saturday



Baptism in May

On Saturday April 11th, Lazarus Saturday, Catechumen Jordan Davis was reborn beneath the waters of Baptism, emerging as the Newly-Illumined Mark Davis. Even as, of old, the Lord raised Lazarus from the dead, so too did He raise Mark to newness of life. Father Sergii and Father Deacon Thomas served the Baptism and several others were in attendance to witness the great Mystery, including his sponsor, John Malcolm Royse. The baptismal service was a tangible reminder that, although services are restricted and times are difficult due to the pandemic, God is still present in His Church and gives His Grace to those who seek Him.

Below is our interview with the newly-baptized servant of God Mark

Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Troy, MO, which is about an hour away from St. Basil's.

What brought you to Orthodoxy?

About 4 years ago I fell away from atheism and really started looking for the true Church. I tried Protestantism and found it really hollow. I compared Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism to the church of the 1st millennium, and found Orthodoxy to really be the Church that Christ established.

Is anyone else in your family Orthodox?

No, but thankfully they've been very supporting of me.

Who is your patron saint and why did you choose him?

I chose St. Mark of Ephesus. I found St. Mark's defense of Orthodoxy and refusal to bow to pressure very inspiring. St. Mark stood fervently on the side of Truth and I hope to emulate that.

What is your favorite thing about being Orthodox?

I love that the Orthodox Church hasn't really changed since its founding. You attend a Liturgy and it's very similar to the way Christians who lived almost 2,000 years ago worshipped. That and the music, we have a fantastic choir.

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

I'm very excited to have the tools necessary to live a life pleasing to God.

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

No, but if the church needs anything done, I'm always available.





Pascha Activity

Below is the Paschal Homily by Saint John Chrysostom that is read during Matins of Pascha. Fill in the omitted words below and rejoice in Christ's resurrection!

If any be a devout lover of God,
let him partake with gladness
from this fair and radiant _____.
If any be a faithful servant,
let him enter rejoicing into the joy of his Lord.
If any have wearied himself with fasting,
let him now enjoy his reward.
If any have laboured from the first _____,
let him receive today his rightful due.
If any have come after the third,
let him celebrate the _____ with thankfulness.
If any have come after the sixth,
let him not be in doubt, for he will suffer no loss.
If any have delayed until the ninth,
let him not hesitate but draw near.
If any have arrived only at the _____,
let him not be afraid because he comes so late.
For the Master is generous
and accepts the _____ even as the first.
He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh _____
in the same was as him who has laboured from the first.
He accepts the deed, and commends the intention.
Enter then, all of you, into the joy of our _____.
First and _____, receive alike your reward.
Rich and _____, dance together.
You who fasted and you who have not _____,
rejoice together.
The table is fully laden: let all enjoy it.
The calf is _____: let none go away hungry.
Let none lament his poverty;
for the universal Kingdom is revealed.

Let none bewail his transgressions;
for the light of forgiveness has _____ from the
tomb.
Let none fear death;
for death of the Saviour has set us _____.
He has destroyed _____ by undergoing death.
He has despoiled hell by descending into _____.
He vexed it even as it tasted of His flesh.
Isaiah foretold this when he cried:
Hell was filled with bitterness when it met Thee face to
_____ below;
filled with bitterness, for it was brought to nothing;
filled with _____, for it was mocked;
filled with bitterness, for it was overthrown;
filled with bitterness, for it was put in chains.
Hell received a body, and encountered God.
It received earth, and confronted heaven.
O death, where is your _____?
O hell, where is your _____?
Christ is _____! And you, o death, are annihilated!
Christ is risen! And the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is risen! And the _____ rejoice!
Christ is risen! And life is liberated!
Christ is risen! And the _____ is emptied of its dead;
for Christ having risen from the _____,
is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen
asleep.
To Him be Glory and _____,
now and forever, and from all _____ to all ages.
Amen!