

SAINT BASIL THE GREAT ORTHODOX CHURCH

September 2020

Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ

St. Basil's celebrated the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Wednesday, Aug. 19th.



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.

Special Services & Events

- Moleben and Blessing of Holy Water
Tues. Sept. 8 9 a.m.
- Beheading of St. John the Baptist
Thurs. Sept. 10 6 p.m. Vigil
Fri. Sept. 11 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- Church New Year
Mon. Sept. 14

- St. Joasaph of Belgorod
Wed. Sept. 16 6 p.m. Vigil
Thurs. Sept. 17 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- Nativity of the Theotokos
Sun. Sept. 20 6 p.m. Vigil
Mon. Sept. 21 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- St. Sophia & her daughters Sts. Faith, Hope & Love
Wed. Sept. 30 9 a.m. Moleben

Parish Prayer List

Archimandrite Seraphim – Health
Archpriest Andrei Papkov – Recovery
Nadia Danett – Health
Douglas (Constantine) Waller – Recovery from surgery
Danielia (Maria) Waller – Recovery from surgery
Marushka (Mary) Royce – Successful surgery and recovery
Vladimir Tarasenko – Successful surgery and recovery
Catechumen Alaina (Helena) Eaves – Successful recovery from surgery
Catechumen Jackie (Xenia) – 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.

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.

Office Hours

Fr. Martin holds his weekly office hours on Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Choir Practice Resuming

All parishioners are welcome to join the choir. All voices are needed. Choir practice has resumed and will take place weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and will take place at the church. However, in order to uphold diocesan policy and in keeping with the St. Louis county ordinances issued to restrict Coronavirus spread, the people attending choir practice should practice social distancing.

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.

August Matching Answers

- H Blessed are the poor in spirit
- D Blessed are they that mourn
- G Blessed are the meek
- E Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness
- I Blessed are the merciful
- A Blessed are the pure in heart
- F Blessed are the peacemakers
- C Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake
- B Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.

Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos

Below are pictures from the Divine Liturgy celebrated at St. Basil's on Friday, August 28th for the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos. As mentioned in the Prologue of Ochrid, this feast celebrates the Dormition, or the falling asleep, of the Theotokos and also her body being taken into heaven to be reunited with her soul. Three days after her death, the Theotokos appeared surrounded by a host of angels to the gathered apostles and announced to them, "Rejoice, I will be with you always."



Stichera after Psalm 50 at Matins from the feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos:

When the repose of thy most-pure body drew nigh, the apostles, standing about thy bed, looked upon thee with trembling: and, gazing at thy body, they were seized with awe; and Peter cried aloud to thee, weeping: 'O Virgin, I behold thee clearly stretched out, the life of all; and I am amazed; for, in thy body, the delight of the life to come made His abode'; but, O most-pure one, earnestly entreat thy son and God, that thy flock be saved unharmed.



Treasury Report

Parish Treasurer Basil VanRonzelen

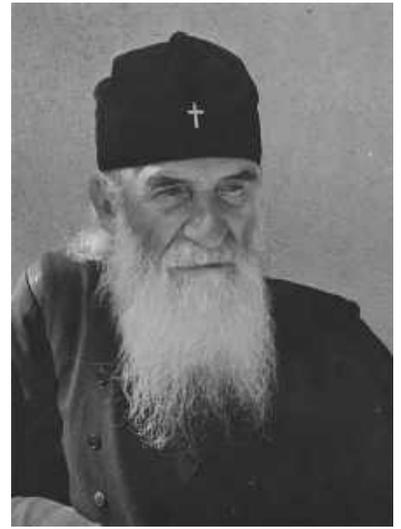
One of the largest single cash outlays I make on a repeated basis on behalf of the parish as treasurer is our mortgage payment. It may come as a surprise to some that the parish makes these payments. The mortgage itself is quite straightforward. Like a standard residential mortgage, it comes with a fixed term, principal amount, and rate of interest. The loan is through a local bank known as Bank Star. When the loan was originated, it was originated at the Bank of Hillsboro, which was acquired by Bank Star in 2018. When we originated the loan, in December of 2012, the original principal amount was \$500,000.00. The term was a 30-year fixed rate with a rate of 3.50%. On a monthly basis, I write a check for a little over \$2250. This amount is broken down approximately in half between principal and interest. Currently, the remaining balance on the loan approximates \$417,000. The fact that we are paying a mortgage puts our parish in an advantage to own our facilities once the debt is paid, giving us equity to potentially help finance future expansion. However, it is the responsibility of our parish to ensure the principal and interest is paid down and that these payments are made in a timely fashion.

Homily on the Feast of the Beheading of St. John, the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord

St. Justin (Popović) of Chelije

Today is a little Great Friday, a second Great Friday. For today the greatest man among those born of women, John, the Holy Forerunner and Baptiser of the Lord, is murdered. On Great Friday, people murdered God, crucified God. On today's holy great feast, people murdered the greatest of all men. It is not I who chose to use the expression "the greatest."

What are my praises of the great and glorious Forerunner of the Lord, whom the Lord praised more than anyone among men, more than any of the apostles, the angels, the prophets, the righteous ones, the sages? For the Lord declared of him: Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist... (Matthew 11: 11). In all Creation, there exists no greater praise.



This is why today is a little Great Friday. Consider: senseless people murder the greatest of the righteous. Is he getting in their way? Yes, he gets between the perverse King Herod and the dissolute Herodias. God's Truth, God's immutable Truth gets in the way of the lawless, gets in the way of poor sinners, gets in the way of everyone stupefied by the various passions. Consider: do not Christ's opponents even today still shout "Crucify Him, Crucify Him!?" Even today, do not those who oppose Christ still demand the head of Jesus of Nazareth? They call for His head, not to mention calling for the head of John the Baptist.

Yes, today's Feast is a second Great Friday. Why? Because there is no greater transgression than that committed on Great Friday and that committed now, when Herod destroys the greatest among those born of women. Why did the Savior exalt the great Saint John the Baptist, as He did no one else? Why? Because, brethren, the Holy Forerunner encompassed within himself, within his person, all of the virtues of Heaven, all of the virtues in all of the prophets, all of the apostles, all of the martyrs, all of the angels of heaven, all of the confessors. Regard: today we glorify the destruction, the beheading of the first Apostle among the Holy Apostles, for the Forerunner of the Lord was the first sent by God to see and to herald to the world the Savior of the world. Long before the Apostle Peter, before the Apostle Nathaniel, before anyone else, he bore witness to and announced God to the world, God Incarnate in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first apostle to see the Holy Spirit descending from Heaven onto the Lord Jesus, when he baptized Him in the Jordan, announces Him to be the Son of God, the Savior of the world. [John] is also the first Evangelist among the Evangelists. He first announced to the world, and pointed out, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bearer of all Good News for mankind.

My brethren, a great Mystery is taking place through this Feast, a Mystery like unto threads stretching through and making up a piece of cloth. In today's Gospel reading, you heard the disciples announce to the Savior that the Forerunner has been beheaded. The mouth that announced You to the world has fallen silent, O Lord! What now? Who are we in comparison to Your great Baptist? The Savior is silent. Then something unusual happens. He calls His disciples together, and with them, He goes out to a place in the desert. What is this? Can it be that the Lord is running away, can it be that he is fleeing from Herod? Consider: He, the All-merciful Wonderworker, looks upon the unfortunate widowed mother, and resurrects her son, someone unknown to anyone but the mother and Himself. Yet here, Lord, Your Forerunner lies dead, destroyed. Why don't You resurrect him? You resurrected the daughter of Jairus, head of the synagogue. Yet here is the one whom You called the greatest among those born of women, beheaded by the malefactor-king. Lord, guard Your Truth, defend Your first Apostle, Your first Martyr, Your first Evangelist, Your first Angel in the flesh, Your first Prophet, Your first Confessor. Resurrect him! Yet the Savior remains silent, and retreats to a desert place to pray to God. Why, O Lord?

Because the Holy Forerunner must also become the first apostle to Hades, to death's kingdom - so that he might preach there as well to the souls of all human beings: Lo, the One Whom you have been awaiting, Whom all you Righteous Ones: Moses, Abraham, David, all of the Holy Prophets and Righteous Ones, have been thirsting to see, has come to earth. Lo, He has come to earth as a man, as the Savior, and He is working such signs and wonders as all of you have never seen. His glance heals people of all diseases, His word resurrects everyone from death, His voice drives demons out of those possessed. Truly the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ has come to earth. And lo, I go before Him to preach to you, as well, this best of news: He will come down here to us as well. In a little while He will come down, and you will see Him. You will be able to see what kind of



human soul He has, One filled with God and shining with infinite light.

The Holy Forerunner appeared in death's kingdom as the first Evangelist, in order to preach the Good News of Christ to all of the souls in the kingdom of death. He appeared as well to all of them as the first Martyr, to show that people will joyously go to their deaths for the True God, the Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, until death is defeated and destroyed. They will not fear death, for they will be more powerful than death.

This was why the Lord remained silent, why He did not resurrect the greatest man among those born of women, for that man was to complete His apostolic, evangelistic, martyric, confessor's spiritual struggle in Hades, in the kingdom of death.

Thus, for us Christians today is like unto Great Friday. Just as for the Savior, the Resurrection follows Great Friday, so the Forerunner joyously dies and enters into death, for he sees the victory over death, and knows that the Lord has prepared for him as well eternal life and resurrection from the dead on the

day of the Great Judgment.

Oh! May his holy prayers be raised up today and tomorrow, and always, and may they be raised up for us Christians, and for all the people on this earth, that the Lord lead all to repentance, that He have mercy upon all, that He save all, that all people brought [to Him] by the glorious Forerunner, might forever glorify the One True God in Heaven and on earth, the Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all honor and glory, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Ask Your Priest

Q: I have received various small bottles of holy oils from friends who went on pilgrimages to holy sites. When a vial is almost empty, is it correct and allowable to add the best oil that I can afford to the remaining oil so that I don't run out of the holy oil? Also, the same question about water that has been blessed at Church. If I run low on the water blessed, for example, at Theophany, may I add more water to it so that I don't run out of holy water? I take a drink of the blessed water every day and am not able to get to Church regularly due to the distance involved.

A: *Things which you suggest can be done in extraordinary circumstances. Both the holy oil and the holy water, especially the Theophany water, are used sparingly. When the holy oil vial is almost empty, one can add some new oil into it, but perhaps this should not be done more than once.*

It is best to have at home both the Theophany water and the holy water which was blessed with the Rite of the Lesser Blessing of Water, with the latter used daily, while the former — in times of need. The rule which works for adding new oil to the vial of holy oil can be applied to water, as well.

Keeping St. Basil's Clean

Although attendance at the services has been restricted in order to uphold county and diocesan policy during the COVID-19



pandemic, the need to keep the church clean and orderly still remains. A handful of parishioners from St. Basil's offer their time and hard work for this duty as well as

the women from the Sisterhood of St. Macrina. Members of the Sisterhood gathered early on a Saturday morning to do a deep cleaning and waxing of the hardwood floors in the nave of the church. The fruits of this labor will keep the floors well preserved for years to come. Thank you to all who helped!

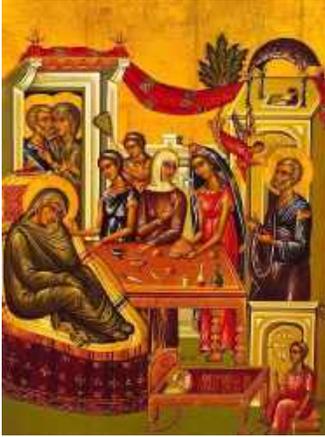


September Activity

The church new year starts in September which marks the beginning of a new year of feasts and liturgical celebrations. Below are all of the Icons depicting the 12 Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church with their fixed and movable dates. The dates are ordered as new style (n.s.) or new calendar followed by old style (o.s.) or old calendar. Label each icon with the correct feast.

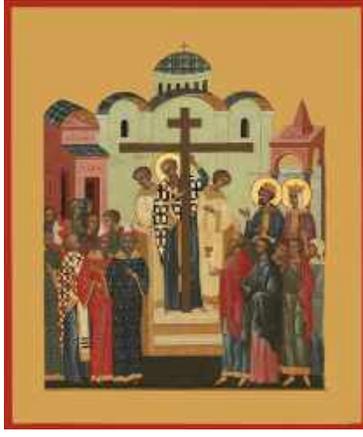
Hint: the feasts are in chronological order.

1.



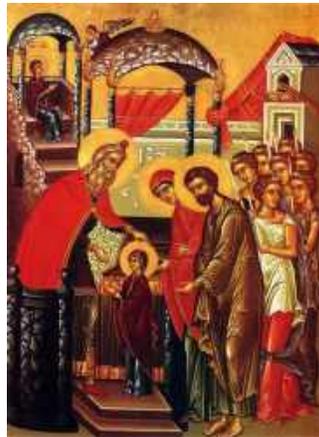
Sept. 8 n.s./ Sept. 21 o.s.

2.



Sept. 14 n.s./ Sept. 27 o.s.

3.



Nov. 21 n.s./ Dec. 4 o.s.

4.



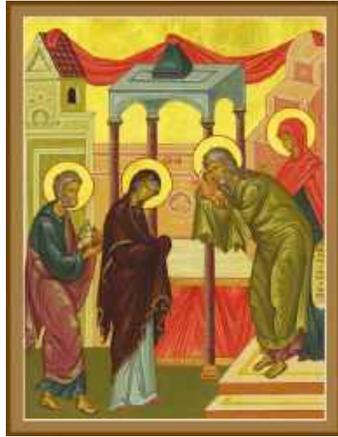
Dec. 25 n.s./ Jan. 7 o.s.

5.



Jan. 6 n.s./ Jan. 19 o.s.

6.



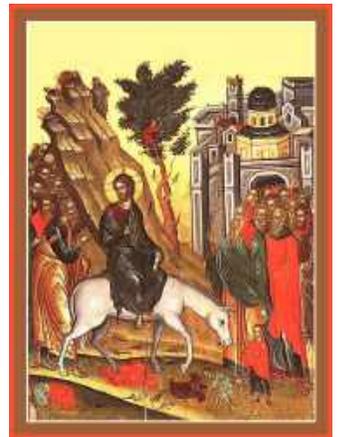
Feb. 2 n.s./ Feb. 15 o.s.

7.



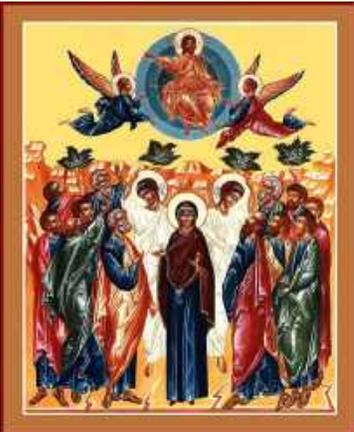
Mar. 25 n.s./ Apr. 7 o.s.

8.



Sunday before Pascha

9.



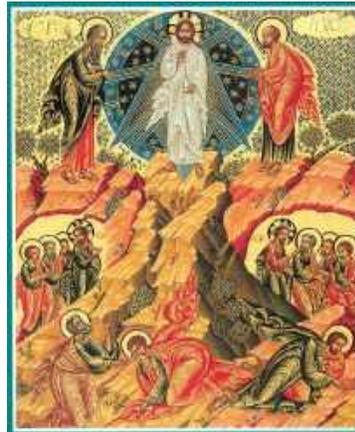
40 days after Pascha

10.



50 days after Pascha

11.



Aug. 6 n.s./ Aug. 19 o.s.

12.



Aug. 15 n.s./ Aug. 28 o.s.