

**SAINT BASIL THE GREAT
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Exaltation of the Cross at St. Basil's



The feast of the Exaltation of the Cross was celebrated on Sunday, September 27th. This solemn feast marks the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine, in Jerusalem in the year 326. The Cross was identified by way of performing two miracles: healing a dying woman and raising a man from the dead. This confirmed the fact that it was the true Precious and Life-Giving Cross. Below are pictures from the divine services celebrated at St. Basil's.



**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.



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Special Services & Events

- Annual Parish Picnic
Sun. Oct. 4 Noon
- Venerable Sergius, abbot of Radonezh, Wonderworker
Thurs. Oct. 8 9 a.m. Moleben
- Apostle St. Thomas
Mon. Oct. 19 9 a.m. Moleben and Blessing of water
- Synaxis of the Optina Elders
Thurs. Oct. 22 6 p.m. Vigil
Fri. Oct. 23 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Parish Prayer List

Archimandrite Seraphim – Health
Archpriest Andrei Papkov – Recovery
Nadia Danett – Health
Douglas (Constantine) Waller – Recovery from surgery
Marushka (Mary) Royce – Successful surgery and recovery
Catechumen Jackie (Xenia) Peck – Successful recovery from surgery

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.

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

All parishioners are welcome to join the choir. All voices are needed. Choir practice takes place weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm 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.

Parish News

September Feast Answers

1. The Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos
2. The Universal Exaltation of the Life-Creating Cross
3. The Entrance (Presentation) of the Theotokos into the Temple
4. The Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ
5. The Theophany of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ
6. The Meeting of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
7. The Annunciation to the Most-Holy Theotokos
8. The Entrance of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem
9. The Ascension of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
10. Pentecost: The Descent of the Holy Spirit
11. The Transfiguration of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ
12. The Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos

Are We Going to Enter Eternity as Grumbling Old Men?

Archbishop Agapit of Stuttgart (†2020)



Part ii

Church hierarchy is needed, first and foremost, for the formation of clergy for the celebration of Divine Services. This path of the Church is very narrow. Everything is precise here: Mysteries of the Church, worship of the Lord and veneration of the Mother of God, memory of the saints. The very language of the Divine Services has been honed over the course of many centuries. Therefore, preservation of this core which penetrates our New Testament era is of exclusive importance. However, execution of this supreme task is unthinkable without legitimate hierarchy. When a hierarch gives a new priest antimins (a rectangular piece of cloth on which the Holy Eucharist is celebrated; it contains relics of saints and is imprinted with the image of Taking of Christ from the Cross), chrism, and so on, he thereby entrusts his future flock to him. A specific flock! Here, this is your parish which you would have to nourish and provide for.

At the same time, in the Orthodox Church, one undeniably senses the breath of God. This does not depend on one's rank in the Church hierarchy: you can be a layman, a monk or a hierarch - acquisition of the Holy Spirit in Orthodoxy depends not on a person's standing or rank. The unified mind of the Church can discern how spiritual this or that son or daughter of the Church is. High-ranking hierarchs revere spirit-endowed simple monks. It is unique to the Orthodox Church that this presence of the Spirit of God in the entire fullness of the Church is so palpable.

We see this in the saints. Commemorations of the saints are the greatest treasure which we, the Orthodox, have and preserve. Just listen and open your eyes to our Divine Services: a third of it is about Our Lord Jesus Christ and our repentance before Him, another third honors our Intercessor the Mother of God, while a third honors the saint whose memory we celebrate this day. For us, the Orthodox, the Church is unthinkable without the saints. It is through the saints that we come to Christ. Reading the Gospel with attention is not enough to comprehend Christ. The Saviour gives us a commandment: love your enemies. Do we really meet this requirement? Who of us will give away his last shirt? But when we see how the saints do this, all of a sudden, we are able to see real life in Our Lord's exalted words. Here a fool-for-Christ was walking naked; there a new martyr was torn apart only a century ago; a venerable one was making endless prostrations... What is behind all this? It is through the experiences of the real people, especially those who are close to us, that we can have a real relationship with Christ.

Thank God, the Orthodox Church preserved the notion that in the spiritual life everything is happening on the personal level. Every human being is a person. Christ is also a Person who is enduring sufferings, passions and is compassionate. Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky) (†1936) wrote well about this: "In His sufferings Christ was co-suffering with mankind". The Church sings in the fourth antiphon on Great Friday: "Thou Who didst endure suffering and didst co-suffer with man, O Lord, glory to Thee". This co-suffering love is revealed to us in the saints. It is only when you meet God-bearing fathers and mothers you begin to comprehend what is true love.

Treasury Report

Parish Treasurer Basil VanRonzelen

This month I'd like to take a quick moment to talk to you about one of our regular variable costs, the electric bill. Just as all of us pay for electricity for our homes and businesses, so too the parish pays a monthly electricity bill for the church building and grounds. It is not dissimilar to a standard residential electric service plan. Our electric provider is Ameren Missouri.

As of our last billing cycle, we have used 41,120 kWh of electricity for the year, which is about on par for our cumulative usage as of this time last year. So far this year, our average monthly usage has been roughly 4,569 kWh. However, as you can imagine, this follows a seasonal cyclical path. Our highest usage this year was in the month of February, which saw our electrical usage climb to close to 8500 kwh. Our lowest usage

month this year so far has been the month of May, which saw our usage drop to roughly 2200 kWh. As heat rises to the top of our church cupola, it takes more energy to sufficiently heat the church in winter than cool it in summer.

Unlike some of our other variable costs, such as other utilities and trapeza, the parish electricity usage has seen negligible affects from the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns. This stands to reason as it would take the same amount of electricity to run the church whether we have 35 people in attendance at Divine Liturgy or 75.

Our usage rate is approximately \$0.105/kWh, with our monthly bills in dollar terms being anywhere from a peak of over \$485 to under \$170 at their lowest point this year. As with everything, the financial health and future of the parish depend on each one of us. If you are the last to leave a room, please turn off the lights and unplug any unused appliances. Dress appropriately for the seasons to reduce the need for climate control.

As always, please feel free to approach me with any questions!

St. Basil's Parishioner is Married

Parishioner Mindy (Jude) Klinar (nee Momeyer) received the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on September 20th surrounded by friends and family in Mentor, Ohio. Mindy joined St. Basil's during her studies at Washington University in St. Louis where she is pursuing her doctorate in physical therapy. Mindy was catechised at St. Basil's and Chrismated into the Orthodox Church in April 2019. Mindy and her husband, Maxim, were married at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and our own parishioner John Alekseev was their sponsor for the sacrament. Several of St. Basil's parishioners traveled to the Cleveland area to witness the marriage and to support our parishioner Mindy as she begins married life in the Church. Below are pictured Mindy and Maxim during their wedding ceremony and also Mindy with parishioners Melania Alekseev, John Alekseev, and catechumen Sarah Mueller. Congratulations to the newlyweds and we wish you many years!



Novice from St. Basil's at Holy Cross Monastery

There are two new Novices at Holy Cross Monastery in West Virginia and one of them was a parishioner at St. Basil's. Novice John Gregory attended St. Basil's during the Fall of 2019 before traveling to Holy Cross to begin his time as a monastic candidate or inquirer into the monastic life. Becoming a Novice is the first step on the path to becoming a monk proper. Pictured from left to right are Hieromonk Paisios (Novice John's spiritual father), Novice John, Archimandrite Seraphim, and Novice Ephraim. Please keep Novice John in your prayers as he continues in this vocation.

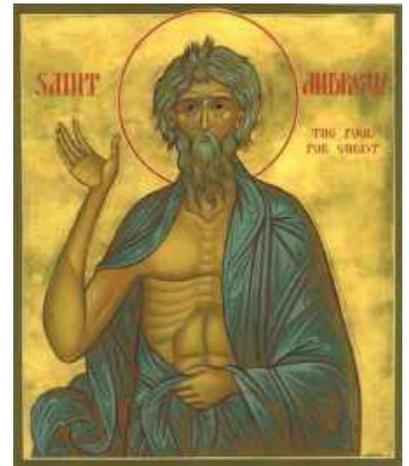




Holy Fool-for-Christ Andrew

Excerpt from *The Prologue of Ochrid* October 2nd

By birth a Slav, he was brought as a slave by Theognostus, a rich man in Constantinople, in the time of the Emperor Leo the Wise, son of the Emperor Basil the Macedonian. Andrew was a handsome young man, both in body and soul. Theognostus took a fancy to him and allowed him to learn to read and write. Andrew prayed fervently to God and attended church services with great devotion, and, in obedience to a heavenly revelation, resolved on the asceticism of folly for Christ's sake. Once, when he went to the well for water, he cast off his clothes and cut them to pieces, feigning madness. Saddened by this, his owner Theognostus put him in chains and took him to the church of St. Anastasia the Deliverer from Bonds, that prayers be read for him. But, as Andrew did not recover as far as his owner could see, he was freed as being sick in mind. Saint Andrew feigned madness all day and spent the nights in prayer. He lived without a roof over his head, spending the nights in the open and going about half-naked in a single, tattered garment and eating a little bread when kindly people shared theirs with him. Whatever he received, he gave away to beggars, and when he gave it to them he would mock them to void their thanks, for saintly Andrew looked only for the reward from God. Therefore, the great grace from God abode in him, and he was able to discern men's secrets, see angels and demons, drive demons from men and turn men from sin. He had a most wonderful vision of Paradise and of the exalted powers of heaven; he saw the Lord Christ on His throne of glory; he, with his disciple Epiphanius, saw the most holy Mother of God in the Blachernae church, sheltering the Christian people with her veil (Protection of the Theotokos, Oct. 1/14); he heard in heaven unspeakable words, which he dared not recount to men. After unprecedentedly harsh asceticism, he entered into rest and the eternal glory of his Lord in 911.



Ask Your Priest

Q: Why do we buy and light candles in church? What is their significance?

A: *The practice of donating candles (they are donated and not purchased) and of lighting them in the church has an ancient origin. From the beginnings of the Church candles were used to illuminate the church as Jesus Christ is the light of the world (John 8:12/9:5) Who sheds His grace on us, while we offer to Him in return our earthly gifts. The pure wax collected by bees from fragrant flowers is used as a token that our prayers offered from a pure heart are acceptable to God. The basic idea of "Light" (Jesus Christ) is opposed to "darkness" is at its root.*

One of the early hymns of the Church, the Lamp-lighting hymn of Vespers begins by referring to Jesus Christ as "Gladsome Light... ." Clearly the practice of personally lighting candles in church is a powerful way of uniting our own prayers with the prayer of the Church'and with Christ the "light of the world." However the lighting of candles should not be seen as a substitute for our own conscious prayers but rather as a sacramental expression of our own prayers.

October Activity

Wordsearch for the saints of the month

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

Eumenius
Quadratus
Phocas
Thekla
Euphrosyne

Sergius
John
Tikhon
Dionysius
Thomas

Pelagia
James
Eulampia
Phillip
Luke

Hosea
Andrew
Longinus
Cyprian
Gregory

Kyriakos
Chariton
Probos
Lucian
Nazarius

Carpus
Justina
Eustathius
Trophimus