

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

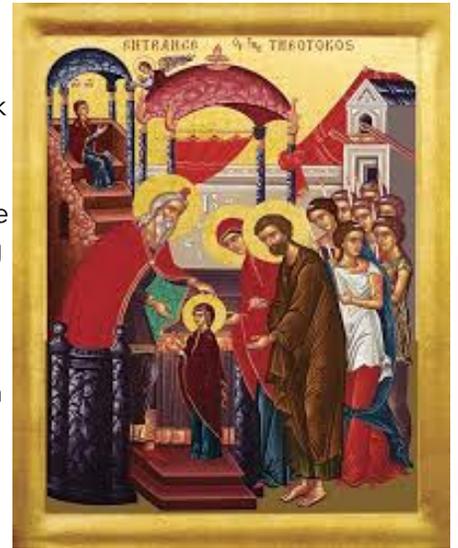
Archpriest Sergii Alekseev, Parish Rector
Archpriest Martin Swanson, Dean
Protopresbyter-Stavrophor
Radomir Chkautovich (Attached)
Deacon Ephraim Galloway
Deacon Thomas Nichols

The Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Mother of God Excerpt from *The Prologue of Ochrid*

When the most holy Virgin Mary had reached the age of three, her parents, holy Joachim and Anna, took her from Nazareth to Jerusalem, to give her to the service of God in fulfilment of their promise. It was three days' journey to Jerusalem, but, going as they were on God's word, they did not find the journey difficult.

Many of Joachim and Anna's kinsmen gathered to take part in this celebration, in which the invisible angels of God also took part.

Maidens went ahead with lighted candles in their hands, followed by the most holy Virgin, led on either side by her father and mother. The Virgin was clad in royal and beautiful garments, like those of the 'king's daughter', the Bride of God (Ps. 44:9,10). Behind them walked many of their kinsfolk and friends, all bearing lighted candles.



There were fifteen steps leading to the Temple. Her parents stood the Virgin on the first step, and she ran quickly to the top on her own, where the High Priest Zacharias, the father of St. John the Forerunner, met her and, taking her by the hand, led her not only into the Temple but into the Holy of Holies, the holiest place of all, into which none could enter except the High Priest, and that once a year. St. Theophylact of Ochrid says that Zacharias was 'out of himself, and moved by God' when he led Virgin into the chief place in the Temple, beyond the second curtain - otherwise there could be no explanation of his action. Her parents then offered sacrifices to God, according to the Law,

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Schedule of Services

- **Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple**
Thur. Dec. 3 6 p.m. Vigil
Fri. Dec. 4 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **St. Alexander Nevsky**
Sat. Dec. 5 5 p.m. Vigil
Sun. Dec. 6 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Great Martyr Catherine**
Mon. Dec. 7 9 a.m. Blessing of Water Moleben
- **Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God**
Wed. Dec. 9 6 p.m. Vigil
Thur. Dec. 10 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Apostle Andrew the First-Called**
Sat. Dec. 12 5 p.m. Vigil
Sun. Dec. 13 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Great Martyr Barbara and Venerable John of Damascus**
Thur. Dec. 17 9 a.m. Moleben
- **Holy Hierarch Nicholas the Wonderworker**
Fri. Dec. 18 6 p.m. Vigil
Sat. Dec. 19 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Holy Hierarch Ambrose of Mediolanum**
Sat. Dec. 19 5 p.m. Vigil
Sun. Dec. 20 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Sunday of the Forefathers**
Sat. Dec. 26 5 p.m. Vigil
Sun. Dec. 27 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **New Year**
Thur. Dec. 31 6 p.m. Moleben

Patriarch Irinej – Repose
Metropolitan Amfilohije – Repose
Archimandrite Seraphim – Health
Archpriest Andrei Papkov – Recovery
Nadia Danett – Health
Catechumen Jackie (Xenia) Peck – Health
Sophia Shipton – Health

Keep our parishioners, and those who ask us to pray for them in your prayers this month. Contact Fr. Sergii 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.

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.

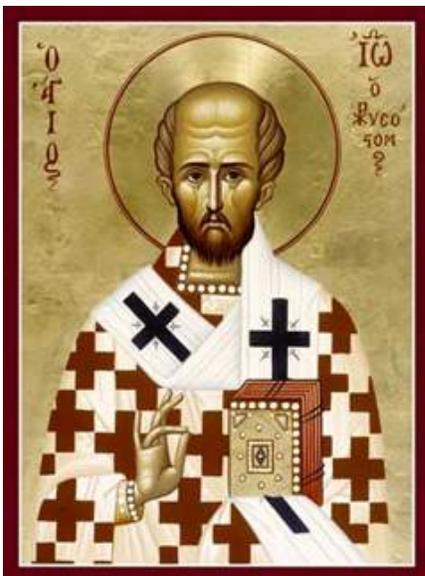
Use eScrip and Amazon Smile Rebates

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.

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.

November Name That Saint Answer



St. John Chrysostom

The feast of St. John Chrysostom is on November 26th. He is also commemorated on February 12th since he is one of the Three Holy Hierarchs along with St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory the Theologian. Although the relics of St. John Chrysostom were taken from Constantinople by crusaders in 1204 and kept in Rome, the Roman Catholic Pope John Paul II returned the relics to the Orthodox Church in Constantinople on November 27, 2004.

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received the priest's blessing and returned home, leaving the most holy Virgin in the Temple. She dwelt in the Temple for nine whole years. While her parents were alive, they visited her often. When they departed this life, the holy Virgin was left an orphan, and longed to remain in the Temple for the rest of her days, without entering into marriage. This being contrary both to the Law and Israelite custom, she was confided at the age of twelve to St. Joseph, a kinsman of hers in Nazareth, so that she might, under the protection of betrothal, live in virginity and thus fulfil both her desire and the demands of the Law, for it was unknown in Israel at that time for a girl to vow perpetual virginity. The holy Virgin Mary was the first to do this, and was later followed by thousand upon thousand of virgin men and women in the Church of Christ.

Treasury Report

Parish Treasurer Basil VanRonzelen

I hope everyone had a pleasant Thanksgiving holiday. This month I want to keep my comments brief but I want to touch on a subject that is of vital importance to the continued financial health of our parish. As most of you have been made aware, St. Louis county has reinstated its 25% capacity limit for indoor gatherings, including religious services. Regardless of how one may feel about these measures, it does present a challenge that affects us all. Namely, the ability to adequately raise the funds necessary to bankroll the continued day to day operations of the parish as well as the new building projects we wish to move forward with. Earlier in the year I wrote a similar letter detailing the many different ways in which donating to the church was possible. I think it is important to keep those in mind going forward. Remember that there is a paypal link on the parish's website that can be used for electronic donations. Please also note that donations can be mailed in if need be.

When these restrictions were first placed by the county back in the spring, I commented in one of the newsletters that our parish rose to the challenge quite spectacularly and donations surged despite only so many people being allowed to attend services. I believe we can do so again. Generally speaking, donation revenues tend to follow a somewhat predictable and seasonal pattern. In the summer, donations tend to hit a low water mark as people go on vacations and have other obligations on their income. Getting into winter and culminating in Nativity, the spirit of giving tends to result in a swelling of donations. This is not to be taken for granted though as that spirit of giving that tends to help with donations is tempered to a degree by the fact that we are also spending money on gifts, get togethers, etc. With the restrictions back in place, it is doubly important to not become complacent in regards to our parish's bottom line. I promise I am not trying to be preachy, I am just the parish treasurer after all. I more than understand how the hustle and bustle of the season can be a distraction. Let's just all make sure that we keep our beloved parish, which plays such a pivotal role in all of our lives, in our hearts and minds this holiday season. As always, please never hesitate to come up and talk to me about anything!

Ask Your Priest

Q: What are the rules for receiving a blessing from a priest or clergy? Who can give blessings? How does one ask for a blessing? How should one receive a blessing? and ultimately, what is the purpose of the blessing? What does receiving a blessing do for the person who receives it?

A: *The practice of giving a blessing goes back to the Old Testament in the Torah when God told Moses to have Aaron and his sons bless the Children of Israel. (Num. 6: 22-23). Orthodox Christians have continued this custom since the earliest days of the Church.*

Formal blessings are given only by bishops or priests and when a bishop is present, a priest should not be approached for a blessing. It should be noted that the head of the household when there are no appropriate clergy present may read a prayer of blessing for a meal or their family members. (E.g. many parents say a blessing over their children when they go to bed in the evening)

On approaching a bishop or a priest for the first time one stands directly in front of him bowing slightly and placing their right hand on top of the left hand palms up and says "Father bless" or "Master

“bless” in the case of a bishop. The clergyman will then respond by making the sign of the cross over him and placing his right hand palm down on top of your right hand which you should then kiss and depart. The same thing should be done when taking leave of the assembly. If there are more than one priest or bishop present, the one of highest rank should be approached first.

As we saw from God’s words to Moses, God wants His people to receive His blessings and He wants His children to benefit both spiritually and physically by them. His blessings received through a bishop or priest brings His protection upon you.

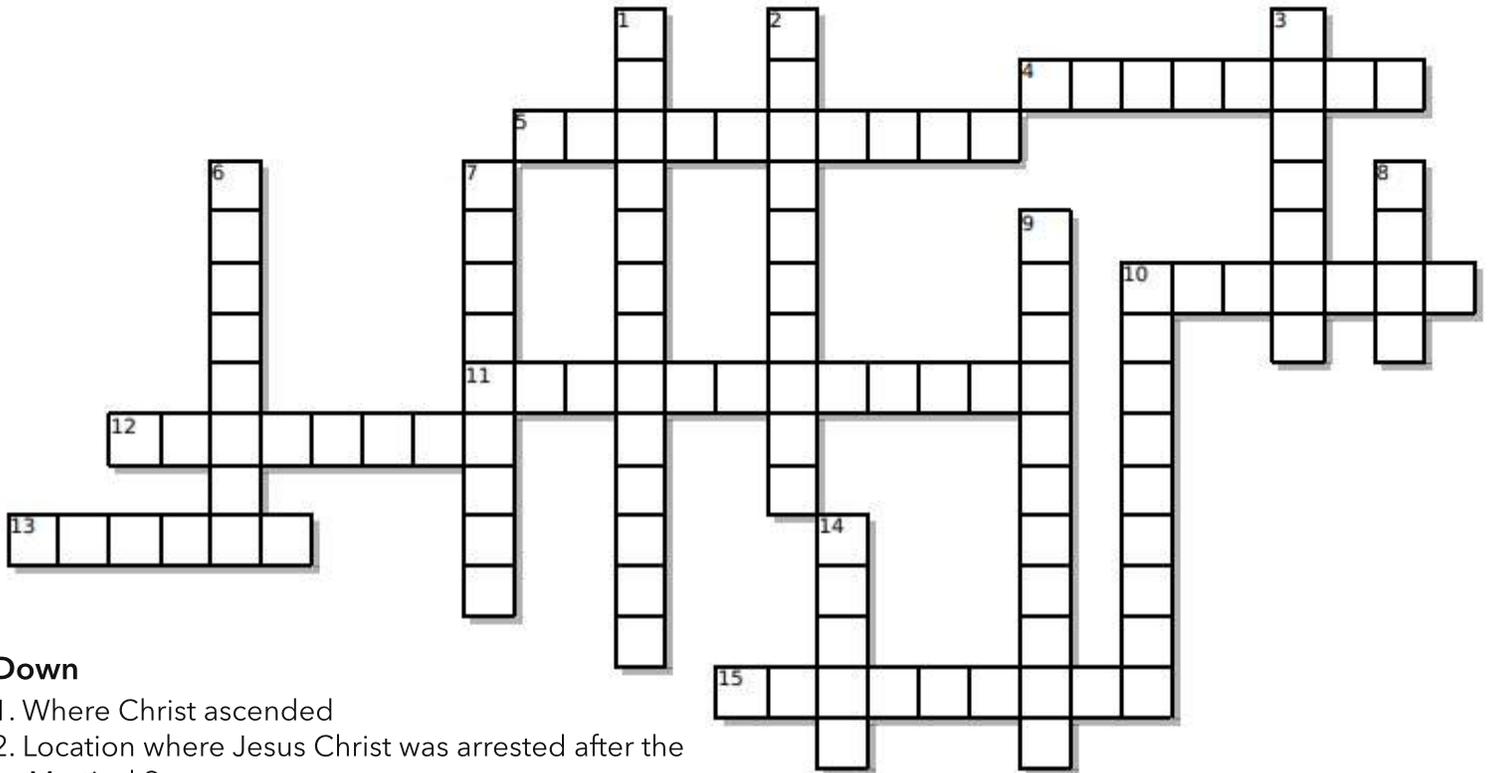
Celebrating St. John Chrysostom

On Thursday, November 26th, a group of the faithful gathered at St John Chrysostom Church of the Holy Archangels Monastery in House Springs, MO, to prayerfully honor the patron saint of the church. Fr Sergii served the Moleben for the Blessing of the Water. Over a dozen of St Basil’s parishioners traveled on Thanksgiving Day to House Springs to pray at the Moleben. A communal Thanksgiving meal was prepared in the monastery hall.



November Crossword

Cities and locations where Jesus Christ walked



Down

1. Where Christ ascended
2. Location where Jesus Christ was arrested after the Mystical Supper
3. Where Christ heals blind Bartimaeus
6. Place of the skull
7. Where Christ enters on Palm Sunday
8. Location of wedding where Jesus turned water into wine
9. Where Christ was baptized
10. Birthplace of Jesus Christ
14. Where the infant Jesus fled during Herod’s persecution

Across

4. Where Jesus grew up
5. Location where Christ was transfigured
10. Where Jesus raised Lazarus
11. Sea where Jesus walked on water
12. Where Jesus healed the paralytic by The Pool
13. Where Christ met the Samaritan woman at the well
15. Where Jesus healed the paralytic lowered through the roof