

ST 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

CLERGY

Archpriest Sergii Alekseev, Parish Rector
Archpriest Martin Swanson, Dean
Protopriest Radomir Chkautovich
Priest Thomas Nichols
Deacon Ephraim Galloway



FEBRUARY 2022

Schedule of Services

- **Blessed Xenia of St Petersburg**
 - Fri. Feb. 4 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Sat. Feb. 5 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.
- **Zacchaeus Sunday**
 - **New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia**
 - Sat. Feb. 5 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun. Feb. 6 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Three Holy Hierarchs**
 - Sat. Feb. 12 Divine Liturgy at House Springs 9 A.M.
- **Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee**
 - Sat. Feb. 12 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun. Feb. 13 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Meeting of the Lord**
 - Mon. Feb. 14 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Tue. Feb. 15 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **Sunday of the Prodigal Son**
 - Sat. Feb. 19 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun. Feb. 20 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Memorial Saturday**
 - Sat. Feb. 26 Panihida 9 A.M.
- **Meatfare Sunday**
 - **Sunday of the Dread Judgment**
 - Sat. Feb. 26 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun. Feb. 27 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.

JANUARY FEASTS AT ST. BASIL'S

The month of January contains many liturgical feasts which the Orthodox faithful eagerly anticipated. St. Basil's joins the entire Orthodox Church in celebrating two important Great Feasts of the Lord: the Nativity of our Lord and Theophany. For the parish, a third feast is added to our calendar: the feast of the Holy Hierarch Basil the Great.

All of these feasts, along with our usual weekly services, make for a busy, but liturgically fruitful, month. The Church glorifies God as we celebrate Christ's birth in a cave, as we celebrate our temple saint with fellowship and camaraderie, and finally as we celebrate a spiritual and physical cleansing through the Holy Waters of Theophany.

Pictures from the divine services for each of the feasts can be found on the following page.

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



THEOPHANY



FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

SPECIAL COLLECTION

In accordance with the decision of the Diocesan Council and the blessing of Archbishop Peter a special Plate Collection is to be taken up each year in each parish of the diocese on the Sunday before or the Sunday after the feast of the Three Hierarchs (which falls each year on February 12 by the civil calendar) to benefit the Diocesan Seminarian/Educational Fund. This year, on the Sunday before the feast of the Three Hierarchs, February 6, as you come up to venerate the Cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, there will be a basket held by an altar server with the sign "Seminary Fund". Please put your contribution for the diocesan Seminary/Educational Fund into this basket. Keep in mind that this collection does not replace your usual tithing but it is taken in addition to it.

CHRISMATION & BAPTISM

This is the general rule for being received into the Orthodox Church through Chrismation versus Baptism: the *further* away one's previous religious confession is from the Church, doctrinally speaking, the more likely it is that one will need to be baptized to be received into the Church. In contrast, the *closer* one is to the teaching of the Church, they can be received through Chrismation. This principle of receiving converts is found in Canon 95 of the 6th Ecumenical Council, but has its roots in the canons of even earlier councils.

For this reason, Bill Majestic was received into the Orthodox Church through Chrismation on January 6th on the eve of the Nativity of our Lord. Bill, who chose the name Michael upon his entry into the Orthodox Church, is pictured here with his family: Reader Isaac Crabtree, Arlie and their children: Robbie, Helen, Vivian, and Teddy, along with his sponsor, John Surgant. We plan to learn more about Bill's journey to the Orthodox Church in the next newsletter.

The infant, Brendan Christopher Stade, was baptized on January 1st and received into the Orthodox Church. He is pictured here with his family, Reader Constantine, Laura, and Evangeline, as well as his Godfather, Reader Isaac Crabtree.



INTERVIEW OF THE NEWLY ILLUMINED

Let us revisit the baptisms from last month where Basil Kopel and Noah Baerman were baptized and are now interviewed below.

Where are you from?

Basil: I was born and raised in Oakville, which is in the southernmost part of St. Louis County. I then lived in Seattle for eight years before returning to St. Louis in 2018.

Noah: I am from Cahokia, IL.

What brought you to Orthodoxy?

Basil: My studies at Covenant Theological Seminary brought the historical and present reality of the one holy, catholic, and apostolic church to my

attention. Upon further research about the orthodoxy and orthopraxy of the true and ancient tradition of the Apostles of Christ, I became convinced that Orthodox Christianity was the true path to God. My own practice of praying the hours, and reading of the Apostolic Fathers, showed me that a dedication to the daily practices of the faith are as fundamental to true spiritual growth as right belief.

Noah: What brought me to Orthodoxy was simply God; I

had a time of prayer to God that He would guide me to Him and His church and through a series of events and people, I was brought to Orthodoxy

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

Basil: St. Basil the Great is my patron saint because his focus on right belief in battling Arianism and pagan philosophy, and right practice in establishing a rule for monastic life while addressing the needs of the poor through organized response of the church, lined up

with my own journey into Orthodoxy. It's also fitting that he is the namesake of my home parish where I have been formed in the faith. The pedigree of his accomplishments and the regularity with which I pray his prayers gives me both a constant reminder of the need for diligence in God's work and the importance of doing all these things in prayerful love of God and neighbor.

Noah: My patron saint is Righteous Noah and for the reason of his choosing has to do with my name given at birth and I take that as it was meant to be.

Do you have a favorite feast or liturgical service so far?

Basil: The Divine Liturgy itself is my favorite service because I am able to partake in the very life of God together with His people, and that is a truly amazing experience of grace and unity. It's made all the better when we are commemorating an Apostle

because I know the most about their lives and therefore feel most capable of honoring them.

Noah: My favorite feast has to be Pascha, I have never experienced anything like this.

What has been the most interesting thing you have learned during your catechumenate about the Church?

Basil: By far the most interesting thing to learn about during my catechumenate was how God grants special grace to holy relics, icons, and holy water. This idea was strange at first but now I see how it's part of God's redemption of His creation.

Noah: The most interesting thing that I learned in my catechumenate was the coherency of our theology and the abundance of spiritual knowledge.

Do you have plans to serve the Church in any way?

Basil: I serve as the Brotherhood

of St. Alexander Nevsky's Secretary, a bass in the choir, I help clean after services, weed the front garden, and I'm learning how to become a Reader. I have also contributed several articles for the church newsletter. My long term goal is to become a monk, God willing, but my focus is to serve with love and devotion wherever I am.

Noah: I have actually begun to learn how to be an altar server, and I'm currently already a member of the Brotherhood.

Is there anything else you would like for the parish to know about you?

Basil: I experienced physical healing after exiting the baptismal waters. I had learned to endure this pain and so rarely mentioned it, and I never explicitly sought healing for it. However, it was making my prostrations difficult. I am thankful God chose to grant this unexpected grace to me.

HOW TO FORGIVE **PRIEST GEORGE MAXIMOV**

Christ said: "Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven" (Luke 6:37).

However, it is not rare that we cannot forgive an affront. This state is harmful for us. This sin is called "remembrance of wrongs". Venerable John of the Ladder described this condition as "poison of soul", "worm of the mind", "nail driven into the soul".

How can a Christian pull this nail out of his soul?

There are two pieces of advice. The first one is to

stand in front of an icon of Christ and say out loud, having in mind the person who offended you: "I forgive for the sake of Christ".

The second one is, if the feeling of being offended is stuck deep in your soul, to begin praying for that person. For example, Abba Dorotheus suggests the following prayer: "O God, help my brother and me, for the sake of his prayers". Or we could pray the Jesus Prayer for that person: "Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, have mercy on Thy servant (*name of the person who offended you*)". This prayer should be read daily till you feel that the bitterness is gone from your heart. Doing this, you will be following Christ's commandment: "Pray for those who offend you" (Matthew 5:44).



NEW CATECHUMENS

The Simpson family, pictured to the left, were all made catechumens on Sunday, January 23rd before the Divine Liturgy. It is always a blessing when individuals start their journey to the Orthodox Faith, but it is even more special when an entire family can embark on this path together. Please keep the family (parents Danny and Lizzie with their children: Micah, Noah, Elaina and Leo) in your prayers as they continue to learn about the Orthodox Church.

Ask Your Priest

Q: I am interested to learn more about Christ's life as a child and adolescent. However, there is not much mentioned about this period in the Bible. Is this because we are not meant to know about it? If not, where can I find this information?

A: Christ lived as a child in a normal Jewish home in the City of Nazareth. He was nurtured by Mary, played with his brothers and sisters and attended temple weekly and on feasts. At age twelve, Jesus went with his family to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. He was separated from His parents for three days but was found teaching the doctors and elders of the

Temple (Lk. 2: 41-51). After returning to Nazareth Jesus lived as a typical Jewish teenager, helping His father, St. Joseph, and learning carpentry--a simple and religiously oriented life. He probably spent much of His spare time talking to His cousin, John the Baptist. He would have studied the Hebrew Scripture at the synagogue and it is clear that He prayed a great deal. The apostle Luke says that Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man (Lk.2:52).

None-the-less we have no indication that there was anything extraordinary about Jesus's behavior. After returning to teach in Nazareth, after His Baptism by John in the Jordan,

the reaction to Him was one of astonishment, "where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary?...where then did this man get all this?" (Matt 13: 54-56) It is clear that his knowledge could have only come from the Old Testament and especially from the messianic prophecies and the Psalms. He must have spent many hours reading and reflecting on the Bible during these years.

What did Jesus do during his childhood and adolescence—we know that He was being prepared by God to take on the work of our salvation.

-Archpriest Martin

Parish Prayer List

Archimandrite Seraphim — Health
Nadia Danett — Health
Jackie (Xenia) Peck — Health
Nora (Zoe) Resz — 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.



Add to your prayer list