

St. Basil the Great Orthodox Church

JANUARY 2023



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
Protopriest Radomir Chkautovich
Priest Thomas Nichols
Deacon Ephraim Galloway

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- **Sunday of the Holy Fathers**
 - Sat., Dec. 31 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Jan. 1 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Nativity Eve**
 - Fri., Jan. 6 Royal Hours and Typika 9 A.M.
- **Nativity of the Lord**
 - Fri., Jan. 6 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Sat., Jan. 7 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.
- **Sunday after Nativity**
 - Sat., Jan. 7 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Jan. 8 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.

- **Circumcision of the Lord**
 - Holy Hierarch Basil the Great
 - Fri., Jan. 13 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Sat., Jan. 14 Lesser Blessing of the Water 8 A.M.
 - Divine Liturgy 9 A.M. followed by Cross Procession
- **Sunday before Theophany**
 - Sat., Jan. 14 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Jan. 15 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Theophany Eve**
 - Wed., Jan. 18 Vespers with the Divine Liturgy 8:00 A.M. followed by the Greater

- Blessing of Waters
- **Theophany of the Lord**
 - Wed., Jan. 18 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Thur., Jan 19 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M. followed by the Greater Blessing of Waters
- **Sunday after Theophany**
 - Sat., Jan. 21 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Jan. 22 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Holy Equal to the Apostles Nina**
 - Fri., Jan. 27 Moleben 9 A.M.
- **33rd Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Sat., Jan. 28 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Jan. 29 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.

ARCHBISHOP PETER VISITS ST. BASIL'S

Archbishop Peter visited St. Basil the Great parish on the feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple. Concelebrating with Archbishop Peter, both at the Vigil on Saturday night and at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, were the parish clergy: Archpriest Sergii Alekseev and Priest Thomas Nichols, Protodeacon Alexander Kichakov (Protection Cathedral, Chicago) and Deacon Ephraim Galloway.

On Saturday night, before the canon at the Vigil, Vladyka gave a homily in which he drew attention of the faithful to the humility of the Virgin Mary. In the Gospel accounts, His Eminence said, we hear very little about the Theotokos, but every word about her, as reported by the evangelists, is a precious pearl. In the Gospel which is read at Matins on the feasts of the Theotokos we hear of the Virgin coming to Righteous Elisabeth, whose "babe leaped in her womb" when the incarnate but yet unborn Savior of the world was in the same room with him. Then the Virgin prophesies about herself: "From henceforth all generations shall call me blessed". And this prophecy has been abundantly fulfilled: the Virgin Mother of the Incarnate Word is known and praised throughout the world.

On Sunday morning, after the meeting of the Hierarch and the conclusion of the Hours, Archbishop Peter tonsured Ivan Alekseev Reader and then elevated him to the rank of Subdeacon.

At the end of the Liturgy, Archbishop Peter thanked the parishioners for the warm welcome and congratulated them with the new subdeacon. The festivities of the day were continued in the parish hall with the celebratory meal and fellowship.



JANUARY IS A CELEBRATION MONTH

This month we celebrate the revelation of God to men: the Nativity of the Lord and the manifestation of the “worship of the Trinity” – the Theophany of the Lord. In between the two feasts, we commemorate the Circumcision of the Lord and celebrate the feast of our patron saint – Holy Hierarch Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia. Just like a person has a Name Day and celebrates it, so every parish has its own main feast, which is the feast of the patron saint of the parish. For us it is the feast of St Basil the Great. The parish feast is of great importance for our community, so let us celebrate it with thanksgiving to God for protecting our parish through the intercessions of Holy Hierarch Basil.

The schedule of the Divine Services can be found on the first page of the newsletter. However, we must remember that the feasts of Nativity and of Holy Hierarch Basil the Great are on Saturdays. **The Divine Liturgies on those days will be followed by the banquets for which all of us need to contribute. Please bring a side dish or a dessert for the festal trapezas on Saturday, January 7th and the following Saturday, January 14th.**

BAPTISM AT ST. BASIL'S

St. Basil's celebrated an adult baptism on Saturday, December 31st. Chloe Loughran was baptised and clothed in the white garment of purification. To the right, are pictures of the service performed by Fr. Thomas. Her sponsor, Elizabeth Simpson, and her husband, James, are also included in the pictures.

We've also included a brief interview with Chloe where we learn more about her journey into the Orthodox Church. May God grant Chloe many years!

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Northern Idaho and I moved to New Hampshire for a few years.

What brought you to St Louis?

My husband James, we met online and I moved here to be with him.

How did you hear about the Orthodox Church and what made you want to convert?

At first, I was drawn to the iconography. The tradition also really made me want to convert.

What was something memorable about your first time attending an Orthodox service?

The hymns really stood out to me because they are very beautiful and meaningful

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

My patron saint is Chloe of Corinth. I chose her because Chloe is my give name and she was a follower of Paul which I find meaningful

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

I really enjoy the vigil and moleben services.



TAX DEDUCTION LETTERS

PARISH TREASURER BASIL VANRONZELEN

For some of us, our tax return preparation is somewhat straightforward and relatively painless. For others it might be somewhat more complicated. One of the major decisions we must make is whether to take the standard deduction or to itemize your deductions. As to which one you chose, that is between you and your CPA. If you choose to itemize, you will need a statement showing how much you have given to St. Basil's during 2020. This is something I can do with reasonable advance notice on request. Please be aware of a few things. For donations that were made by cash, unless you included some kind of slip of paper with your name on it, I will not be able to include that in any statement as I have no way of verifying that donation. For any kind of in-kind donation, I will need to be furnished with a receipt detailing the monetary value of the donation. Remember, statements are only needed if you choose to itemize, which depending on your amount of deductions, might not be the best option for you. Always consult a CPA or experienced tax preparer before filing. As always, I am always available for questions or chats after Divine Liturgy.

NEW CATECHUMEN AT ST. BASIL'S

Tyler Hensley was made a catechumen before the Divine Liturgy on December 11th at St. Basil's. He will continue to prepare for joining the Orthodox Church by taking catechumen classes on a weekly basis with Father Thomas and other catechumens and inquirers. Please keep Tyler in your prayers that our Lord may continue to guide him in his Orthodox journey.



HOME BLESSINGS

On the feast of Theophany, all the waters are sanctified. In the churches, the Greater Blessing of Water is performed. Throughout the ages, the Christians treasured the Theophany water and tried to keep it for the entire year, partaking of it in the times of illness or at trying times.

It is a custom for Christians to bless their homes with the newly-blessed water. Usually a priest is invited to serve a short moleben and sprinkle the house with the holy water.

If you would like your home to be blessed, please speak with either Fr. Sergii or Fr. Thomas and schedule the priest's visit to your home.

When preparing to receive the priest into your home for house blessing, please have a place ready where the priest can set up the things needed for the moleben (usually it is a table in the main room of your house or in the kitchen). Please prepare a bowl (a soup bowl size) for the holy water and a candle.

If you have dogs which can be disruptive, they should be put away for the duration of the service.

Praying for catechumens is a very important responsibility of an Orthodox Christian. So important, that a special litany or series of petitions in the Divine Liturgy is completely dedicated to asking the Lord to have mercy on all catechumens preparing for illumination. *"Let us the faithful pray for the catechumens, that the Lord will have mercy on them."*

Let us fulfill the words of the litany and pray for our fellow brothers and sisters:

Alexander

Alexander

Rob, Melinda and family

Marshal

Misty and children

Tyler

CATECHUMEN CORNER

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Archpriest Martin Swanson — Repose

Katherine Swanson — Health

Archimandrite Seraphim — Health

Jackie (Xenia) Peck — Health

Photini Mills — Health

Tatiana Zyryanova — Health

Gloria Pappas — Health

Julianna Campbell — 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.