

# St. Basil the Great Orthodox Church

June 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

### • Holy Trinity Memorial Saturday

- Saturday, June 3 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.  
(followed by General Panihida) at House Springs

### • Pentecost

- **Feast of the Holy Trinity**
- Saturday, June 3 Vigil 5 P.M.
- Sunday, June 4 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.  
Followed by Vespers with Kneeling Prayers

### • 1st Sunday after Pentecost

- **Sunday of All Saints**

- Saturday, June 10 Vigil 5 P.M.

- Sunday, June 11 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.

### • 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

- **Sunday of All Saints of Russia**

- Saturday, June 17 Vigil 5 P.M.

- Sunday, June 18 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.

### • 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

- **Sunday of All Saints of America**

- Saturday, June 24 Vigil 5 P.M.

- Sunday, June 25 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.

### • Holy Hierarch John, Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco

- Friday, June 30 Vigil 6 P.M.

- Saturday, July 1 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.

## HOW TO PRAY CORRECTLY

### HOLY HIERARCH IGNATIUS (BRIANCHANINOV) (†1867)

1. Before you start praying, you should try to forgive everyone.
2. Pray like a sinner, not like a righteous one. When prayer is not enlivened by repentance, it is not pleasing to God.
3. Have a prayer rule according to your strength and keep it faithfully.
4. As much as possible, try to pray in solitude, unseen by others.
5. During true prayer, the mind is attentive to the words of the prayers, while the heart is in agreement with the mind.
6. Enclose your mind in the words of prayer and do not lose attention.
7. When your heart feels cold and insensitive – do not give up praying. You will be visited by God's mercy for your patience



and for not yielding to the insensitivity of the heart.

8. During prayer, do not seek exulted feelings, stay calm, emotionless. Keep your heart in utmost tranquility.
9. Absent-mindedness and daydreaming are very harmful for prayer.
10. Do not heed any thoughts which appear during prayer – even the good ones.
11. During prayer, do not ask for anything corruptible and vain, remembering the Saviour's commandment: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things – that is, all what is needed for this transitory life – shall be added unto you.
12. Receiving or not receiving of what you are asking in your prayers – leave this to the will of God.



## ICONOGRAPHY CONTINUES AT ST. BASIL'S

The temple of St. Basil's has the walls of its altar beautifully adorned by iconographers Ivan Storck and Roman Martynenko. With their work complete on the wall, they now move onto the half-dome above their previous work. Following traditional guidelines, the Theotokos is written in this space with her hands outstretched in a prayerful position or in *orans*. This depiction is also referred to as "*more spacious than the heavens*" because the Theotokos bore the Creator of the Universe in her womb, and is further illustrated by having Christ positioned in front of her, *Who Himself stretcheth out the heavens as it were a curtain* (Ps. 103:2). The Theotokos is also surrounded by angels against a dazzling gold backdrop.

The next phase of work is already being presented to Archbishop Peter for his blessing to write additional icons of saints along the remaining walls of the altar. Funds have been provided by generous parishioners for this specific work which further enables the adornment of God's temple from His humble servants. We continue to pray for

God's continuous blessings and mercy on his servants Ivan and Roman.

A reminder: this iconography work is funded by the generous donations of the faithful which can be deposited in the box specifically allocated for this project near the candle kiosk.



## PARISH YARD SALE SUCCESS



The Sisterhood of St. Macrina hosted its third yard sale on May 26th and 27th. Parishioners donated household goods, items, and furniture to be sold as well as volunteered their time and energy to make the sale a success. All of the funds collected were donated to continue the iconography progress in the temple.

Thank you to all who participated in any way in this effort!

## BAPTISM AT ST. BASIL'S

Jeremy Anderson and Lauren Renz were both baptized at St. Basil's on Saturday May 20th by Father Thomas. Both Jeremy and Lauren have been preparing to join the Orthodox Church by attending services and catechumenate classes over the last year and have now been reborn into their new lives as Orthodox Christians. May God grant them many years!



## ST. BASIL'S PLAYGROUP CELEBRATION

The children's playgroup of St. Basil's celebrated the end of the year with a special picnic hosted by parishioners, the Campbells, at their family farm. Throughout the year, the group met every other Wednesday morning to participate in a specially coordinated activity that taught the young children about their faith, the saints, and the services of the Church.

Below are pictures of the children and their families enjoying the picnic and looking forward to another year of activities after the end of the summer.



## WEDDINGS AT ST. BASIL'S

St. Basil's celebrated multiple weddings throughout the month of April and May. Hiram Gay and Ekaterina Pavlova were wed on April 30th with Chloe Rigg and James Loughran being wed later that same day. Chloe is an active member of the Sisterhood of St. Macrina and James serves as an altar server and layman reader. On May 28th, Lauren Renz and Jeremy Anderson were married. Having been baptized into the Orthodox Church the weekend before,

this sacrament of marriage further solidifies Lauren and Jeremy's new lives as Orthodox Christians.

Pictured above are Chloe and James on the left and Lauren and Jeremy on the right. May God grant the new couples many years!



## SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR DIOCESAN YOUTH FUND

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday of All Saints, June 11, at the veneration of the Cross, the basket will be held by an altar server for the annual collection for the Diocesan Youth Fund. The money collected throughout the diocese will be used to organize St Herman's Youth Conferences and to help the children who cannot afford it to participate in the Conference.

## FOCUS ON FOCUS

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve (FOCUS) is a national organization that seeks to provide Orthodox Christians the opportunity to serve our neighbors by distributing food, clothing, and warm meals on Sundays and Wednesdays throughout the month. Our local chapter serves from Holy Archangel Michael OCA parish located at 1901 Ann Ave. in downtown St. Louis under the administration of Fr. Matthew McDonald.

We will serve the FOCUS Sunday dinner again on the following four Sundays from roughly 3:45 to 6:00 P.M. – **June 11, August 13, October 8, and November 19**. If you are interested in helping, either by providing food for or helping cook it with the Sisterhood, or by distributing the meal and pantry items at Archangel Michael parish in the city, please notify Fr. Sergii or Joseph Steineger.

In addition to offering a Sunday evening meal, we are also asked to help provide goods for the FOCUS pantry. For the month of June, we have been asked to supply **hygiene kits**. Please look for an email from Fr. Sergii with details about how to supply materials for the hygiene kits. A flier is posted in the trapeza with tear-away tabs for reminders. Please donate the hygiene goods in the large plastic container in our parish coat closet **before June 18**.

If you remember how to use "Sign-Up Genius," you may scan the QR image above to view the site.

Thank you for your continued service to our Lord and God Jesus Christ through your service to those less fortunate. *"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; ... Naked, and ye clothed me."* Matthew 25.35-36



Scan QR code with a QR code scanner from any smart phone

## NEW CATECHUMENS AT ST. BASIL'S

Both Father Sergii and Father Thomas read the prayers of the making of a catechumen over multiple people these past months. It is a great blessing to see how God draws so many of His children to His Church in the most unexpected ways. All of the new catechumens have been dutifully attending services and classes where they continue to learn and experience the beauty of the Orthodox Church.

Ricardo (pictured on the left) was made a catechumen on April 30th. Christiano (pictured in the middle) was made a catechumen on May 21st. The largest group of new catechumens (pictured on the right) consisting of Barbara, Ivan, Peter and his infant Elijah, and Michael were made catechumens on May 14th. Please keep all of these new catechumens in your prayers that the Lord may continue to guide them in their journey to the Orthodox Church.



## VENERABLE BARSANUPIUS THE GREAT AND JOHN THE PROPHET: PART II

81. Concerning the measure of continence in food and drink the Fathers say that one should use both the one and the other a little less than necessary, that is, one should not fill the stomach completely. And everyone should determine for himself his measure both of cooked food and wine. During the wintertime no one drinks much; however, even then one should drink a little less than necessary, and he should act likewise with regard to food. In addition, the measure of continence is not limited only to food and drink, but extends also to conversations, to sleep, to clothing, and to all the feelings; in all of this there should be a measure of continence.

82. During a time of disturbance and warfare of thoughts, one should lessen a little even the ordinary quantity of food and drink.

84. To act "according to one's strength" means to use a little less than necessary both of food, and drink, and sleep... As for food, restrain yourself when you wish to eat a little more, and in this way you will always make use of it moderately.

89. Question: Whence comes the arousal of the body?

Answer: Arousal of the body comes from negligence: negligence secretly draws you into judging and condemning others, and through this it betrays you. When Israel truly served God, God preserved it from enemies; but when it became negligent in true service, God allowed its enemies to defeat it.

104. Judgment of another [...] happens to you because self-justification has not yet died in you: judge yourself, and you will cease to judge others.

133. It is not good to give oneself comfort in everything. He who seeks this lives for himself, and not



for God; for such a man cannot cut off his own will.

141. If you are slandered – rejoice, for this is very profitable for you. If you are offended, endure: for *he that endureth to the end will be saved* (Matthew 10:22). Give thanks to God for everything, because thanksgiving intercedes before God for human weakness. Always and in everything condemn yourself as one who sins and is deceived, and God will not condemn you; humble yourself in everything, and you will receive grace from God. If you become accustomed to this, God will help you to obtain strength, for His will is for every man to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth.

142. Brother, do not allow yourself to judge the thoughts that come to you – this is a matter beyond your means; you do not understand their cunning, and that is why they disturb you just as they wish. But when they disturb you, say to them: “I do not know who you are. May God, Who knows this, not allow you to deceive me”. And lay down before God your weakness, saying: “O Lord! I am in Thy hands; help me and deliver me from their hands”. Reveal to your Abba [spiritual father/priest] any thought that tarries in you and engages you in warfare, and he, with God’s help, will heal you.

152. He who smells his own foul odor cannot smell the foul odor of anyone else, even though he stood on a heap of corpses; and one who has been robbed by thieves has nothing to give to others. Beware, O beloved! We who dwell outside of every concern and care do not even wish to consider that in actual fact we are earth and dust; and we have grown old, nourishing in ourselves vainglory. For to think that what we do is pleasing to God, that our dwelling in silence instructs others, and that we have been delivered from judgments and condemnations: all this is extreme vainglory and nothing else.

153. If, according to the example of Abraham and Job, we think that we are earth and ashes, then we shall never be robbed, but we will always have something to give to others: not gold and silver, but an example of humility, patience and love toward God. May there be glory to Him for ever. Amen.

*To be Continued*

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**  
**Rob, Melinda and family**  
**Marshal**  
**Tyler**  
**Reid, Amber, and Charles**

**Doc**  
**Jackson**  
**Jill**  
**Ricardo**  
**Christiano**

**Barbara**  
**Peter and infant**  
**Ivan**  
**Michael**

## CATECHUMEN CORNER

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

**Archpriest Martin Swanson — Repose**  
**Katherine Swanson — Health**  
**Archimandrite Seraphim — Health**  
**Photini Mills — Health**  
**Tatiana Zyryanova — Health**  
**Gloria Pappas — Repose**  
**Julianna Campbell — Health**

**Dimitry Johnson — Health**  
**Inna Dagaeva — Health**  
**Mark Wiebenga — Health**  
**Ekaterina Pavlenko — Health**  
**Archpriest Moses Berry — Health**  
**Daniel Simpson — Health**  
**Cheryl (Xenia) Light — 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.