

St. Basil the Great Orthodox Church

August 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

- **Venerable Seraphim of Sarov**
 - **Venerable Macrina, sister of St Basil the Great**
 - Tue., Aug. 1 Moleben 9 A.M.
- **Holy Prophet Elias**
 - Tue., Aug. 1 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Wed., Aug. 2 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **9th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **Right-believing Passion-bearers Boris and Gleb**
 - Sat., Aug. 5 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Aug. 6 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon**
 - Tue., Aug. 8 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Wed., Aug. 9 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **10th Sunday after Pentecost**

- Sat., Aug 12 Vigil 5 P.M.
- Sun., Aug. 13 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Procession of the Precious Wood of the Cross**
 - Mon., Aug. 14 Blessing of Water Moleben 9 A.M.
- **Transfiguration of the Lord**
 - Fri., Aug. 18 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Sat., Aug. 19 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.
- **11th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Sat., Aug. 19 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Aug. 20 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **12th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Sat., Aug. 26 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Aug. 27 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Dormition of the Mother of God**
 - Sun., Aug. 27 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Mon., Aug. 28 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.

ICONOGRAPHY CONTINUES AT ST. BASIL'S

The iconography has been completed in the altar. The awe inspiring work is pictured in detail on the following page. The work in this area was started in March, and after four short months, the walls have become magnificent icons to further give glory to God!

Scaffolding has been erected in the center of the nave and iconographers Ivan Storchak and Roman Martynenko have started hand writing icons in the center dome of the temple. Christ Pantocrator will be written in the center dome encircled by six-winged seraphim and small embellishments near the dome windows.

Please keep Roman and Ivan in your prayers that they may be safe ascending and descending the scaffolding to complete their work.

A reminder: the iconography 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.



FOCUS ON FOCUS

We will serve the **FOCUS Sunday dinner on August 13**. 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 Father Sergii or Joseph Steineger.

Thank you very much for your hygiene kit donations over the past two months. The FOCUS ministry has expressed their gratitude for the roughly 125 kits that we have supplied. May God bless you for your kindness!

For the month of August, we have been asked to supply the FOCUS Pantry with **15 oz. cans of fruit, SpaghettiOs, and beef stew**. All cans should have **pop-tops** since the homeless rarely have can openers in their possession. Please look for an email from Father Sergii with details about these items. A flier is posted in the trapeza with tear-away tabs for reminders. Please donate these items in the large plastic container in our parish coat closet **before August 20**.



Monastery Courtyard

of something sweeter than what I would have found living on the earth. The silence from the outside world kept me in contemplation of my soul, and of my obediences during the visit. In addition to these, we got to speak and talk with Br. Basil, a former parishioner here at St. Basil's that became a monastic. Thanks to our efforts in the two days we were there, the garden was cleaned up and a new canopy was added for new cucumber plants. On my last day there I ended up buying two books and

St. Basil

Youth Hangout

Thursday
August 10
5:30-8:30pm



Stillers' Home
942 Gervas Drive, Manchester, MO 63021

Dinner will be served

Upper elementary through high school

MONASTERY VISIT: A REFLECTION PHILIP PIERANGELO AND NOAH BAERMAN

The last two and a half weeks in June have been hectic and yet, at the same time, peaceful. On June 8th, Noah and I visited All Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Seattle, Washington. There, we were greeted with a wall of silence and peace that emitted from the monastery. This was my first time visiting a monastery.

Now, how did the visit go?

According to Philip:

“The visit to the monastery was not only my first—and it certainly won’t be my last—but it left me with a taste

leaving with a new obedience for the monastery: translating and cataloging icons. The monastery experience made me realize that I crave the stillness and silence. I definitely will be going back there in the future!”

According to Noah:

“The monastery has changed for the better. The Brothers there have all grown significantly in spirit. I have seen myself grow spiritually after visiting the Monastery for the second time. Brother Basil, my former roommate, and my Elder Brother in Christ has begun to die to himself during his novitiate. I thank God for having been gifted such a blessing to know and live among such faithful men.”

BAPTISMS AT ST. BASIL'S

The Westervelt family (Rob, Melinda, their children: Abraham, Rosalind, and William, along with their grandmother, Barbara) were baptized by Father Sergii on July 8th. Our Lord has called three generations to His Church and all were joyfully supported by St. Basil's parish and friends as pictured on the right.

The infant, Caroline Helen, was baptized by Father Thomas on July 25th at St. Basil's. Her parents, Reader Constantine and Laura Stade, welcomed their third child into the Orthodox Church surrounded by their family and friends from the parish.



Father Thomas's newborn daughter, Anamaria Elizabeth, was baptized by Father Sergii on July 29th. Anamaria is pictured to the left with her sponsor, Macrina Sakhelashvili, while being anointed with Holy Chrism.

May God grant the newly illumined many years!

Below, we also include an interview with the newly illumined Tyler Hensley who was baptized at St. Basil's last month.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Missouri. I spent the majority of that time in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

If you didn't grow up in St. Louis, what brought you to the area?

I moved to St. Louis to get an education in carpentry.

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

I could mention people doing apologetics, but ultimately I was drawn to the Church, and I give all glory to God for that.

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

It was so beautiful and everyone was so reverent of God that it was unlike anything I've ever seen before.

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

My patron Saint is the Holy and Righteous Prophet David. I chose him because he is such a strong

multifaceted example for all Christian men.

What has been your favorite thing about being Orthodox so far?

Getting baptized and chrismated has been the pinnacle of my experience here and I'm so grateful.

What do you most look forward to as an Orthodox Christian?

Continuing to improve my life and move toward Christ

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

The service for St. Mary of Egypt had a huge impact on me when I first started coming as an inquirer.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the parish?

I just want to thank everyone for the guidance, kindness, and fellowship they've welcomed me with. I was a mess and a half when I first walked into St. Basil's and I'm still a mess but thanks to the Lord and everyone here, my life has improved dramatically for the better. Thank you all.

TEN PRECEPTS OF PEACEFUL FAMILY LIFE

ARCHPRIEST ALEXANDER AVDUGIN

1. Ensure both spouses are never angry at the same time.
2. Never yell at one another (unless there is a fire in the house)
3. If one needs to win the argument, let him/her give way to the other
4. If a correction/criticism is due, do it with love
5. Never recall the past mistakes of one another
6. Do not go to bed without reconciling first
7. The law: "The In-laws can only advise but never demand/rule/judge" should be followed at all times.
8. At least once a day, try to say a kind word to one another
9. When you do something wrong, be quick to acknowledge your mistake and ask for forgiveness
10. It takes two to start an argument, but the one who talks more is wrong



Archpriest Alexander Avdugin

VENERABLE BARSANUPHIUS THE GREAT AND JOHN THE PROPHET: PART IV

169. Concerning the fasting, do not grieve, as I have said to you before: God does not demand of anyone labors beyond his strength. And, indeed, what is fasting if not a punishment of the body in order to humble a healthy body and make it infirm for passions, according to the word of the apostle: *When I am weak, then am I strong* (II Cor. 12:10). And disease, more than this, is a punishment and takes the place of fasting and even more – for one who bears it with patience, thanks God, and through patience receives the fruit of his salvation; for instead of weakening his body by fasting, he is already sick without that. Give thanks to God that you have been delivered from the labor of fasting. [...]

183. For a beginner the following is appropriate: to remain in profound humility, in no case whatever consider oneself to be something, not to say: "What is this, or what is this for?" But rather, one must remain in obedience and great submission, not to compare oneself with anyone, not to say:



“Such a one is respected; why am I not respected? He has everything easy, and why do I not have ease?” To be disdained in everything and not become indignant – behold the works of the true beginner who really desires to be saved.

187. Whether you are righteous or a sinner, in any case you must endure reproaches, for we cannot be without sorrow. Sorrow teaches us patience. And the apostle – a surprising teacher of this – says: *Be patient in sorrow* (Rom. 12:12), for sorrow stands before those who desire to be saved. The Lord Himself has said: *In the world ye shall have sorrow* (John 16:33). And again it has been said: *Through many sorrows we must enter the Kingdom of God* (Acts 14:22). Know, O brother, that He Who said: *My soul is sorrowful even unto death* (Matt. 26:38), desiring to save you, has allowed you to suffer a little, so that for patience you might receive from Him, there, at that terrible hour. If we wish to have it easy in everything, then one day we will hear: *Thou didst receive good things in thy lifetime* (Luke 16:25). Our Master endured for us all sufferings: why then we, remembering His sufferings, do not endure our sufferings, whereby we could have

become communicants of His? We are given a commandment to give thanks for everything (I Thes. 5:18); and beware lest the hater of good draw us into ingratitude and then we will lose everything.

193. God lets us fall into arrogance and other passions so that we might acknowledge our infirmity and acknowledge where we are. [...] But beware of thinking that we fall into arrogance and other passions by God’s will – for God’s will is not in this. Rather, God allows this to happen to us because of our negligence, and out of His love for mankind He brings us from our evil deeds to humility, for our own salvation.

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:

**Reid, Amber, and Charles
Doc
Jackson**

**Jill
Ricardo
Christiano**

**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.