



January 2021

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

CLERGY

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

Schedule of Services

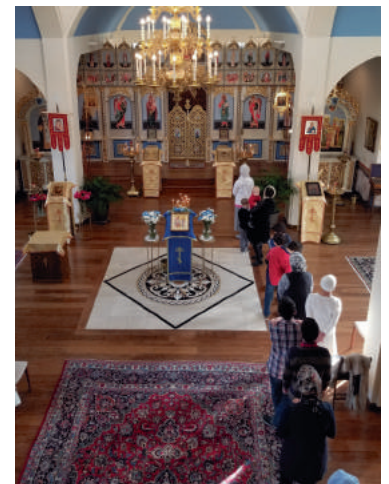
- **Chrismation of Nora Resz**
Sat. Jan. 2 10:30 a.m.
- **Sunday before Nativity; Holy Hierarch Peter, Metropolitan of Kiev**
Sat. Jan. 2 5 p.m. Vigil
Sun. Jan. 3 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Nativity of the Lord**
Wed. Jan. 6 9 a.m. Royal Hours for Nativity
Wed. Jan. 6 6 p.m. Vigil
Thur. Jan. 7 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Sunday after Nativity**
Sat. Jan. 9 5 p.m. Vigil
Sun. Jan. 10 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Holy Hierarch Basil the Great and Circumcision of the Lord**
Wed. Jan. 13 6 p.m. Vigil
Thur. Jan. 14 8:15 a.m. Moleben for Blessing of Water
Thur. Jan. 14 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Baptism of Jackie Peck**
Sat. Jan. 16 10 a.m.
- **Sunday before Theophany**
Sat. Jan. 16 5 p.m. Vigil
Sun. Jan. 17 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Theophany**
Mon. Jan. 18 9 a.m. Royal Hours for Theophany
Mon. Jan. 18 6 p.m. Vigil (Greater Blessing Water at the conclusion of the Vigil)
Tue. Jan. 19 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Greater Blessing Water at the conclusion of the Liturgy)
- **Sunday after Theophany, Venerable Theodosius the Great**
Sat. Jan. 23 5 p.m. Vigil
Sun. Jan. 24 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- **Holy Hierarchs Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria**
Sat. Jan. 30 5 p.m. Vigil
Sun. Jan. 31 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy

The Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple at St. Basil's



Kontakion of the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple

The most pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal-chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasury of the glory of God, is on this day brought into the house of the Lord, bringing with her the grace that is in the Divine Spirit. And the angels of God chant praise unto her: she is the heavenly tabernacle



New Catechumen at St. Basil's

Amidst a world-wide pandemic, many people continue to seek out the Orthodox Church and are eager to learn about the Holy Mysteries of the Church in order to prepare uniting themselves to our Church. Amongst those is Catechumen Andrew Hosna who was made a catechumen on Dec. 6th.

Andrew is pictured on the right receiving a blessing from Archpriest Sergii with his sponsor, Deacon Thomas by his side. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide catechumen Andrew as he continues in his catechumenate.



Parishioner Joseph Steineger, philosophy professor at Lindenwood University, led a handful of St. Basil's parishioners in a summer course dedicated to the study of the philosophical and theological teachings of St. John of Damascus and, more broadly speaking, those of the Church as a whole. The students presented Dr. Steineger with a monetary gift as a thank you for his labors, with which Professor Steineger then turned

around and used as a portion of payment for the commissioning of a hand-written icon of St. John of Damascus to present to the church. The icon was written in Serbia by an iconographer, who despite having contracted and recovered from COVID-19, was able to complete the icon and ship it to St. Basil's. Archpriest Sergii blessed the icon after Divine Liturgy on Dec. 6th and the icon now hangs in the back right corner of the nave of the church

Commissioned Icon for St. Basil's

for all to venerate.

Our church needs hand-written icons. You can be one of the benefactors who could help us adorn the temple with beautiful iconography.



Baptism at St. Basil's

St. Basil's received a new member of the Orthodox Church on Saturday Dec 12th when catechumen Sarah Mueller was Baptized as Olga, in honor of Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Princess of Russia Olga and put on the white garment of salvation. Not all have had the pleasure of meeting Olga, therefore, below is an interview where we can learn more about our new sister in the Church.

May God grant Olga many years!

Q: Where are you from?

A: Saint Louis

Q: What brought you to Orthodoxy?

A: I was looking for a traditional religion that held itself to a high standard

Q: Is anyone else in your family Orthodox?

A: I am the only Orthodox person

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

A: Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great

Princess of Russia Olga because, after the loss of my father, religion became much more important to me and she is the patron saint of converts and widows

Q: What is your favorite thing about being Orthodox?

A: My favorite thing about Orthodoxy is the tight knit community it fosters. I feel like I've known everyone for my whole life

Q: What are you most excited about in your new Orthodox life?

A: I'm most excited for my first Pascha as a baptized parishioner

Q: Do you have any plans to serve the church in some capacity?

A: *I plan to continue my service in the choir and hopefully welcoming new parishioners when they visit*

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

A: *I want the parish to know how much I appreciate their friendliness and the different cultures we celebrate*



St. Nicholas Visits St. Basil's

The feast of Holy Hierarch Nicholas was celebrated at St. Basil's on Saturday Dec. 19th with Vigil the night before and Divine Liturgy Saturday morning. There was a small socially distanced celebration for the children of the parish where they received

candy and small toys as gifts from St. Nicholas. The children even had a brief visit from the saint while they enjoyed juice and crackers in the church hall. The feast of St. Nicholas is highly anticipated by children and adults since it is usually accompanied by a small celebration of joy and gifts in preparation for the quickly approaching Nativity of the Christ.



Ask Your Priest

Q: I've noticed that in other Orthodox churches, after communion, people kiss both the chalice and the priest's hand after communing. Why is kissing the priest's hand not a practice at St. Basil's? Also, in general, what is the significance of kissing the chalice and, in some cases, the priest's hand after communing?

A: *When we approach the Dreadful Mysteries of Christ we must be composed, avoid any jerky movements or anything unexpected. While administering Holy Communion to the faithful the priest is very concentrated, since his goal is to impart to the communicant the most precious there is in the world. Therefore, there should be nothing unexpected happening at the time. If the tradition is to venerate the base of the Holy Chalice, then only that*

should be done. If the person is not sure how to do it, it is best not to do it at all, out of fear of upsetting the hand which holds the Chalice.

The Church offers us this image: we venerate the edge of the Chalice as the side of Christ from which flows His Most Precious Blood. We also venerate the Chalice in gratitude to Him Who nourishes us with the Food of Immortality (and clergy do that in the altar when they receive Holy Communion). Apparently, one could make an argument that the same logic could be applied to the practice of venerating the priest's hand which holds the Chalice. This, however, is not a practice in the Russian Church.

If we endeavor to venerate the hand of the priest when he does not expect it, we may inadvertently push his hand and thus endanger the Holy Communion in the Chalice.

Let us review how we received Holy Communion. We go up the steps of the amvon calmly, holding our hands crossed on our chest. We do not make the sign of the Cross when we are in front of the Chalice. We open our mouth slowly and wide enough for the priest to place the Holy Spoon with the Body and Blood of the Lord into our mouth. Once the priest places the Spoon in our mouth we slowly close our mouth and the priest removes the Spoon from our mouth. Having received Holy Communion, and once the deacons have finished wiping our lips, we venerate the edge of the Chalice which the priest lifts to the level of our lips and go to the zapivka table where we eat a piece of prosphora and drink from the cup some wine mixed with warm water. After we receive Holy Communion and before we take zapivka we do not talk, do not venerate icons or engage in non-verbal communications with other people.

Parish Prayer List

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.

November Crossword Answers

