



# 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  
Protopriest Radomir Chkautovich  
Priest Thomas Nichols  
Deacon Ephraim Galloway

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- **Nativity of the Lord**
  - Fri., Jan. 5 Royal Hours 9 A.M.
  - Sat., Jan. 6 Vigil 5 P.M.
  - Sun., Jan. 7 Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10 A.M. (Followed by the parish pot-luck banquet)
- **Holy Hierarch Basil the Great**
  - **Circumcision of the Lord**
  - **Sunday before the Theophany**
  - Sat., Jan. 13 Vigil 5 P.M.
  - Sun., Jan. 14 Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10 A.M. (Followed by the parish potluck banquet)
- **Venerable Seraphim of Sarov**
  - Mon., Jan. 15 Moleben 9 A.M.
- **Theophany Eve**
  - Wed., Jan. 17 Vespers and Matins 6 P.M.
  - Thur., Jan. 18 Vespers with the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters 8 A.M.
- **Theophany of the Lord**
  - Thur., Jan. 18 Vigil 6 P.M.
  - Fri., Jan. 19 Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters 8 A.M.
- **33rd Sunday after Pentecost**
  - **Sunday after the Theophany**
  - Sat., Jan. 20 Vigil 5 P.M.
  - Sun., Jan. 21 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **St. Nina, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia**
  - Sat., Jan. 27 Moleben 9 A.M.
- **34th Sunday after Pentecost**
  - Sat., Jan. 27 Vigil 5 P.M.
  - Sun., Jan. 28 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Venerable Anthony the Great**
  - Mon., Jan 29 Vigil 6 P.M.
  - Tue., Jan 30 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.

## MAKER AND BAKER FAIR SUCCESS



Thank you to all that participated in the Sisterhood of St. Macrina's annual Christmas fair. The fair was open for two days to the public and then for a third day to parishioners after the Sunday Divine Liturgy service during the second weekend of December. Members from the sisterhood and the parish prepared home baked goods and handmade crafts to sell and many others donated their time to help work the sale. Thousands of dollars worth of items were sold and none of it would have been possible without the teamwork of the parish.

## FOCUS ON FOCUS

Thank you very much for the abundance of pantry items that were donated in December! May God grant you many blessings for your service!

A new sign-up sheet can be found on the Church bulletin board. This sheet will allow you to help one of two teams that will serve the Sunday Supper at Holy Archangel Michael OCA parish at 1901 Ann Ave. in St. Louis from 3:45 – 6:00 P.M. on one of the following six Sundays: February 4th, April 14th, June 9th, August 4th, October 20th, and December 8th.

This month, we have been asked to supply the following pantry items to FOCUS before January 21st (the same items as last month):

- Canned Beef Stew (15-18 oz.) w/ pop top
- Chili w/Beans (15 oz.) w/ pop top
- Chef Boyardee cans (15 oz.) w/ pop top
- Spam (12 oz.) w/ pop top
- Canned ham (16 oz.) w/ pop top

After purchasing your chosen items, please put them in the

## BAPTISM AT ST. BASIL'S

Newly illumined Ivan was baptized into the Orthodox Church on Saturday, December 16th (pictured below). Ivan has been learning about the Orthodox Faith and preparing for Holy Illumination through parishioner Daniel Simpson's catechumen class. May God grant the newly illumined, Ivan, many years!



## NEW CATECHUMEN AT ST. BASIL'S

The prayers for the making of a catechumen were read over Zachary Plocek before the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Decemeber 3rd. He has been attending catechumen classes given by Fr. Thomas where he will continue to learn about the Orthodox Faith. Please keep Zachary in your prayers that our Lord may continue to guide him in his Orthodox journey.



FOCUS container of the parish coat closet. If you prefer, you may donate money for pantry items to FOCUS directly, using the following link or QR code.

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E334599&id=86>

If you have any questions, please email Joseph Steineger at [jsteineger@gmail.com](mailto:jsteineger@gmail.com).

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



## MEETING THE NEWLY ILLUMINED

Below, we include an interview with Newly Illumined Jill Bradley who was baptized in October.

### ***Where did you grow up?***

I grew up in Paris, Illinois and I've lived in Athens, Illinois for 28 years.

### ***What brings you to the St. Louis area?***

Liturgy at St. Basil's brings us to the area every week – and we are so happy to be able to keep coming back!

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

Don and I started dating in 2017 and were married at St. Anthony's Orthodox Church in Springfield, Illinois in June of 2019. So I've been attending services with him for many years. I officially became a catechumen in April of 2022 after we had an interaction with a person that we believe was a holy fool – after talking to him, I was moved to finally make the commitment to convert. October 21, 2023 will always be one of my best days ever – the day I was baptized into the Orthodox Church

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

I chose Ruth because we share similar life losses and both found happiness in our second marriages.

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

Being part of the church that was established by Christ – the faith that has been believed everywhere, always and by all.

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

Participating in the divine grace of God through the sacraments and continuing to learn more about Orthodox Christianity and growing closer to God.

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

Definitely Pascha – when Saint John Chrysostom's Paschal Sermon is read, my heart overflows, tears stream down my face and I get goosebumps. Such a beautiful and powerful message in that sermon.

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

I would like to say thank you to everyone for being so welcoming and accepting, I'm so happy to have found my home.



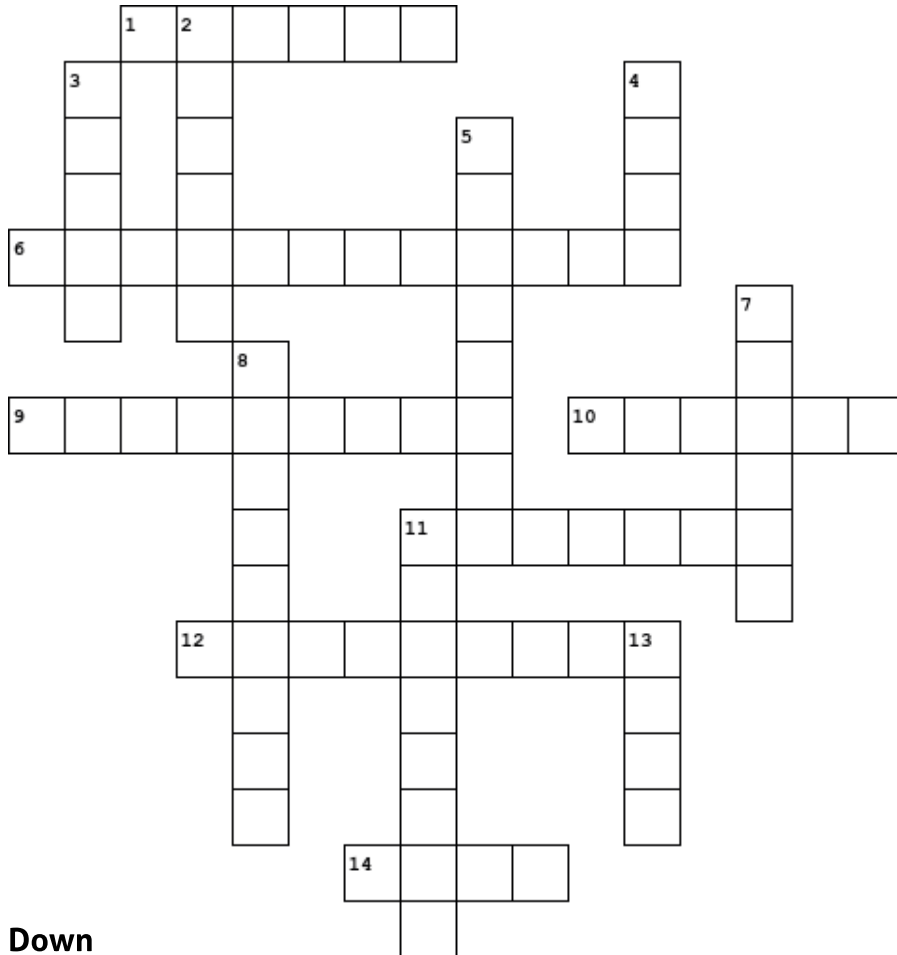
## JANUARY IS A CELEBRATION MONTH

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. 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 Sundays. **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 Sunday, January 7th and the following Sunday, January 14th.**

## NEWSLETTER ACTIVITY



### Down

2. City where St. Basil received secular education.
3. Gift of oil given by wise men.
4. Form in which the Holy Spirit revealed Himself on Theophany.
5. City which St. Basil was Archbishop of.
7. River in which Jesus Christ was baptized.
8. First people to see infant Jesus in the cave
11. Wise man known as the King of Persia.
13. Wise men from distant countries.

### Across

1. Wise man known as the King of India.
6. Gift of incense given by wise men.
9. Wise man known as the King of Arabia.
10. Age of Jesus Christ when baptized.
11. Grandmother of St. Basil.
12. City where Joseph and the Theotokos traveled to be registered.
14. Gift typically for kings given by wise men.

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

Archimandrite Seraphim — Health  
 Archpriest Moses Berry — Health  
 Reader Symeon Campbell — Health  
 Photini Mills — Health  
 Tatiana Zyryanova — Health  
 Julianna Campbell — Health  
 Dimitry Johnson — Health  
 Inna Dagaeva — Health  
 Mark Wiebenga — Health  
 Daniel Simpson — Health  
 John, Xenia, and Faith — Recovery  
 Christopher — Recovery  
 Archpriest Martin Swanson — Repose  
 Katherine Swanson — Repose  
 Gloria Pappas — Repose

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.

## CATECHUMEN CORNER

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:

<i>Doc</i>	<i>Anthony</i>
<i>Ricardo</i>	<i>Veronica</i>
<i>Christiano</i>	<i>Brandon</i>
<i>Chad</i>	<i>Russell</i>
<i>Ryan</i>	<i>Christian</i>
<i>Gage</i>	<i>William</i>
<i>Gabrielle</i>	<i>Zachary</i>
<i>Shannon</i>	<i>Matthew</i>
<i>Andrew</i>	