

MARCH 2024



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

- **Sunday of the Prodigal Son**
 - Sat., March 2 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., March 3 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **1st and 2nd Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist**
 - Thur., March 7 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Fri., March 8 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **Memorial Saturday**
 - Sat., March 9 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M. at House Springs
- **Meat-fare Sunday**
 - **Sunday of the Dread Judgment**
 - Sat., March 9 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., March 10 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Cheese-fare Sunday**
 - **Forgiveness Sunday**
 - Sat., March 16 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., March 17 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
 - Followed by Forgiveness Vespers
- **First Week of Great Lent**
 - **Clean Monday, March 18**
 - Great Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew 6 P.M.
 - **Clean Tuesday, March 19**
 - Great Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew 6 P.M.
 - **Clean Wednesday, March 20**
 - Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 8 A.M.
 - Great Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew 6 P.M.
 - **Clean Thursday, March 21**
 - Great Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew 6 P.M.
 - **Great Martyr Theodore the Tyron and Forty Martyrs of Sebaste**
 - Fri., March 22 Vespers and Matins 6 P.M.
 - Sat., March 23 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.
- **First Sunday of Great Lent**
 - **Triumph of Orthodoxy**
 - Sat., March 23 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., March 24 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Second Week of Great Lent**
 - **Wednesday, March 27**
 - Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 8 A.M.
 - **Friday, March 29**
 - Matins for the Departed 6 P.M.
 - **Memorial Saturday**
 - Sat., March 30 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M. at House Springs
- **Second Sunday of Great Lent**
 - **Holy Hierarch Gregory Palamas**
 - Sat., March 30 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., March 31 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.

PROSTRATIONS DURING THE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS

- During the reading of the Third Antiphon when the curtain behind the Royal Doors is closed for the first time during the Liturgy – at that time the Holy Presanctified Gifts are transferred from the Holy Altar Table to the Table of Oblation.
- When the priest comes out on the amvon with a lit candle and the censer and exclaims: “The light of Christ enlighteneth all.”
- During the singing of “Let my prayer be set forth...” (when the Royal Doors are opened, and the priest censes in front of the Holy Altar Table): the faithful prostrate when the reader chants the verses and arise when the choir sings the refrains. However, in the parish practice the faithful remain prostrated during the entire time when the hymn is sung by the reader and the choir.
- When the prayer of Venerable Ephraim is read by the priest.
- During the Great Entrance with the Holy Presanctified Gifts till the priest enters the altar and we hear him say: “Let us with faith and love draw nigh...”
- When the priest comes out of the altar with the Holy Gifts and says: “With fear of God and with faith draw nigh.”

If, for reasons of age and/or health, you cannot make a prostration, then at the times when prostrations are to be made you should make a bow from the waist or stand with your head bowed low. Sitting at those times is not an option.

UPCOMING CHURCH YARD SALE

The Sisterhood of St. Macrina will have its annual yard sale on **May 24th** and **25th**. We ask that all parishioners start gathering items to include in the sale. As the date approaches, further instructions will be shared for how to participate but the sisterhood will need volunteers to set up, to work the sale, and to put things away after the sale on both days.

Please consider donating your time and belongings to the sale so that the sisterhood can continue to provide services and goods to the parish.

ABOUT THE PRAYER OF VENERABLE EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

On the days of the Great Lent, with the exceptions of Saturday and Sunday morning, we hear the penitential prayer of Venerable Ephraim the Syrian “O Lord and Master of my life...” Many of us, who are accustomed to coming to church for the Lenten services are used to the prayer and know what bows accompany the petitions of the prayer. But let us ask ourselves, have we made St. Ephraim’s prayer a part of our daily prayer rule? If we have not, then this should be corrected. The prayer “O Lord and Master of my life...” should bring a natural closure to our prayers in the morning and in the evening. If you do not have the Jordanville Prayer Book, which contains the text of the prayer, please cut the prayer’s text given below and use it at home.

O Lord and Master of my life, a spirit of idleness, despondency, ambition, and idle talking give me not.

(Prostration)

But rather a spirit of chastity, humble-mindedness, patience, and love bestow upon me Thy servant.

(Prostration)

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my failings and not condemn my brother; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

(Prostration)

O God, cleanse me a sinner. *(12 times, each time with a bow from the waist)*

O Lord and Master of my life, a spirit of idleness, despondency, ambition, and idle talking give me not. But rather a spirit of chastity, humble-mindedness, patience, and love bestow upon me Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my failings and not condemn my brother; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

(Prostration)

MEETING THE NEWLY ILLUMINED

Newly Illumined Veronica McKelvie, was baptized on Saturday, February 3rd. She has been attending catechumen classes with Father Thomas and has put on the white garment of salvation alongside her sponsor, Maria (Danielia) Waller. May God grant the new handmaid of God, Veronica, many years!

Below is an interview with Veronica where she shares her experience so far in the Orthodox church.

Where did you grow up?

All my life I have lived in St. Louis. I specifically grew up in South City.

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

I heard about Saint Basil's through my lovely husband, Tyler Hensley. I knew I wanted to convert when I met the lovely church community. Everyone is so loving and caring and I fell in love with the community.

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

When I came to my first service, I was mesmerized by the choir as if I was being sent back in time with the wonderful smells, singing, and beautiful iconography.

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

My patron saint is Saint Veronica. She traveled to meet Jesus in order to help a sick loved one. Her story is one of strength, sacrifice and love.

What was one of the most interesting things you learned during your catechumen classes/process?

One of the most interesting things I've learned in my catechism class is the connection of the Holy Trinity. It is amazing how spiritual literature can be so uplifting. While reading is a struggle of mine, working through with the desire to be closer to God is so rewarding.

Do you have any favorite book or resource you found most spiritually helpful during your catechumenate?

My favorite book I've read during my catechism process would have to be *Saint Eustathios Placidus; His Life, Longsuffering, and Martyrdom*. This book was a gift to me when I first started coming to the church. It moved me to want to read and learn more, and one day maybe even adapt it into a play.

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

So far my favorite liturgical service has been Nativity, but I'm looking forward to Pascha!

What advice or recommendation would you give to someone that is contemplating becoming an Orthodox Christian?

Any advice I'd give someone contemplating becoming an Orthodox Christian would be to read. There are so many books on Orthodoxy and Saints so you have your pick!

If you were trapped on an island, which saint would you choose to join you?

Trapped on an island with me, I would have General (Eustathios) Placidus. Not only would he know how to survive, but he could help me write my play!

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

I want to thank the parish for welcoming me with open arms and letting me be a part of such a loving community!



SAINT EUSTATHIOS PLACIDAS



His Life, Longsuffering,
and Martyrdom

St. John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Monastery

WEDDING AT ST. BASIL'S

Tyler Hensley and Veronica McKelvie were married at St. Basil's on February 11th after the Divine Liturgy. The young couple were joined by their sponsors, Theodore and Photini Mills, friends, and family. This special day marks when they both received the sacrament of marriage and their lives and spirits were intertwined into one by the Holy Spirit. May God continue to bless the couple and grant them many years of happiness!



NEW RUGS IN THE NAVE

Two new rug runners have been purchased by the Sisterhood of St. Macrina and gifted to the church to further adorn our temple. Both rugs are of the highest quality which is fitting for their use on the solea (elevated area outside of the altar) and within the altar area. The sisterhood works hard to raise funds throughout the year so that items like these rugs can be purchased whenever they are needed.



FOCUS ON FOCUS

Thank you very much for your service at the February 6th Sunday Supper! For those who would like to help serve at our next Sunday Supper on **April 14th**, please consider signing up on the trapeza bulletin board.

Thank you also for the abundance of pantry items that were donated in February! May God grant you many blessings for your service! This month, we have been asked to supply the same pantry items as last month.

BAPTISMS AT ST. BASIL'S

Chad Weeks was baptized at St. Basil's on Saturday, February 24th by Father Sergii. Chad has been preparing to join the Orthodox Church by attending services and catechumenate classes over the last year and has now been reborn into his new life as an Orthodox Christian. May God grant Chad many years!



FEBRUARY ACTIVITY ANSWERS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | T | I | M | Z | H | F | Y | O | W | M | X | H | S | I |
| R | B | U | X | F | L | E | E | V | H | M | E | I | U | B |
| E | I | A | R | I | C | S | O | R | I | J | N | E | R | Y |
| G | V | L | L | T | H | O | Y | B | F | G | I | R | R | J |
| O | E | F | Z | P | L | R | N | M | W | F | A | A | E | X |
| R | P | K | J | I | H | E | O | F | E | Y | F | R | K | X |
| Y | S | U | M | E | M | A | D | O | E | O | G | C | E | J |
| H | V | Z | A | B | R | R | R | O | N | S | N | H | E | O |
| Z | A | L | R | A | G | X | A | I | V | B | S | S | B | H |
| I | N | O | T | S | B | U | O | L | S | E | A | O | F | N |
| B | N | F | Y | I | L | Y | I | W | E | E | S | O | R | F |
| T | A | Z | R | L | P | Q | V | A | S | X | E | X | Z | S |
| U | Z | I | S | G | M | W | H | V | B | T | I | P | S | G |
| P | U | B | L | I | C | A | N | D | I | T | W | I | S | T |
| X | L | L | U | S | W | B | Z | T | E | M | P | L | E | I |

- Large Soup Cans w/ pop top (18 oz.)
- Small Soup Cans w/ pop top (10 oz.)

After purchasing your items, please put them in the FOCUS container of the parish coat closet **before March 17th**. 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 would like to volunteer at FOCUS on weeks when our parish is not assigned to do so, you may join the new FOCUS Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1075432566935219/?mibextid=oMANbw>

God willing, this will also facilitate broader connections among all the volunteers, resulting in a closer community of Orthodox Christians dedicated to serving the poor.

Our local FOCUS chapter has also launched a new Instagram page to engage more people across multiple platforms. Consider following!

<https://www.instagram.com/focus.gateway.city/>

If you have any questions, please email Joseph Steineger at 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

NEWSLETTER ACTIVITY

Unscramble the words below

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. LPDROIGA NSO | 1. _____ |
| 2. EFREMTAA YUNASD | 2. _____ |
| 3. SHEECFEERA SNYDAU | 3. _____ |
| 4. ARTGE ENTL | 4. _____ |
| 5. FIENSRVOSGE DY AUSN | 5. _____ |
| 6. IFARCSDIETENP SIFGT | 6. _____ |
| 7. NEADWR FO CERTE | 7. _____ |
| 8. MOLREIAM RASDTUYA | 8. _____ |
| 9. HRUPTIM FO XOHTOORDY | 9. _____ |
| 10. ADRDE GTNEMDUJ | 10. _____ |
| 11. GREOGR PSAAALM | 11. _____ |
| 12. GSVSRIOFENE RPSVEES | 12. _____ |
| 13. RCSOEUPI ADEH FO TS HOJN ETH IPTBTAS | 13. _____ |
| 14. RGETA RAYMTR OROHDTEE | 14. _____ |
| 15. YOFTR RRATYMS | 15. _____ |

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Archimandrite Seraphim — 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
 Katherine Swanson — 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>Brandon</i> |
| <i>Ricardo</i> | <i>Russell</i> |
| <i>Christiano</i> | <i>Christian</i> |
| <i>Ryan</i> | <i>William</i> |
| <i>Gage</i> | <i>Zachary</i> |
| <i>Gabrielle</i> | <i>Matthew</i> |
| <i>Shannon</i> | <i>William, Medea,</i> |
| <i>Andrew</i> | <i>and George</i> |
| <i>Anthony</i> | |