

APRIL 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

- **Third Week of Great Lent**
 - Fri., April 5 Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6 P.M.
- **Memorial Saturday**
 - Sat. April 6 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M. at House Springs
- **Third Sunday of Great Lent**
 - **Annunciation of the Mother of God**
 - **Veneration of the Cross**
 - Sat., April 6 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., April 7 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Fourth Week of Great Lent**
 - Wed., April 10 Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 8 A.M.
- **Memorial Saturday**
 - Fri., April 12 Matins for the Departed 6 P.M.
 - Sat., April 13 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M. at House Springs
- **Fourth Sunday of Great Lent**
 - **Venerable John of the Ladder**
 - Sat., April 13 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., April 14 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Fifth Week of Great Lent**
 - Wed., April 17 Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 8 A.M.
 - Wed., April 17 Matins with the Great Canon and the reading of the Life of Ven. Mary of Egypt 6 P.M.
- **Saturday of the Akathist**
 - Fri., April 19 Matins with the Akathist to the Theotokos 6 P.M.
 - Sat., April 20 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.
- **Fifth Sunday of Great Lent**
 - **Venerable Mary of Egypt**
 - Sat., April 20 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., April 21 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Sixth Week of Great Lent**
 - Wed., April 24 Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 8 A.M.
- **Lazarus Saturday**
 - Fri., April 26 Vespers and Matins 6 P.M.
 - Sat., April 27 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.
 - *Pre-Paschal Church Cleaning 10:30 A.M.*
- **Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem**
 - **Palm Sunday**
 - Sat., April 27 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., April 28 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.

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.



ADDRESS FROM PARISH TREASURER

Hello, my fellow parishioners,

I am writing this to you to discuss an important matter in the life of our beloved parish.

As I am the parish treasurer, you can probably guess that this is a financial matter. We are blessed to have a very generous and consistent group of core donors that provide the financial backbone that allows our parish to function. Having said that, I would be remiss if I was not honest and upfront with you all about the financial health of the parish.

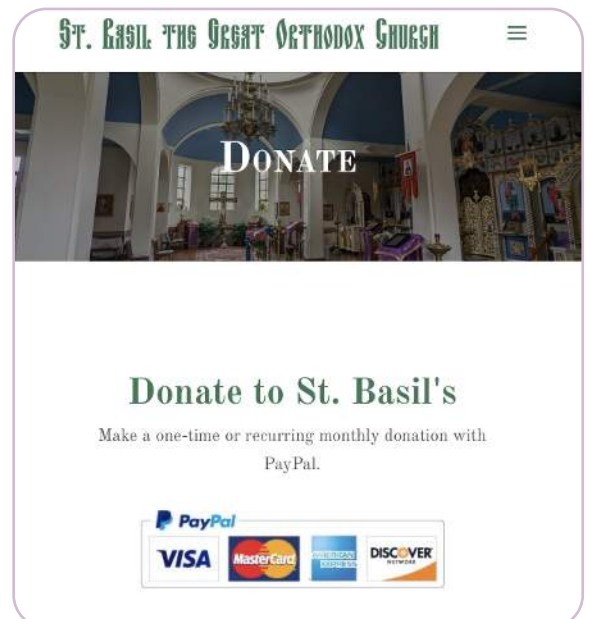
The present reality is that, when we look at our monthly donation revenue, we have been running an operating deficit of approximately \$1,100 per month, on average, for the past six months. Let me say, we are paying our bills and the church is in no danger of being foreclosed on. However, our parish has elected to take on some ambitious projects recently, namely the new hall and the frescoing of the church sanctuary and dome, that require significant monetary obligations. These projects do not excuse us from meeting our standard operating expenses, however.

Now there are two points that I would like to make regarding donations. First, I think it's important to note that our parish, like any operating entity, puts a premium on regular revenues as opposed to infrequent large infusions. Secondly, I don't want this to simply be an admonition to you all to just give more money without offering any kind of assistance in doing so.

The parish does have a PayPal account, and we have the ability to set up electronic connections to our bank account, but the majority of donations come in the form of cash or checks. I can definitely say, as a Millennial, that I am guilty of the stereotype of not carrying enough cash around and almost never writing a check. I use my credit card for the vast majority of transactions, as I am sure most of you probably do, as well. To this end, I am working on getting a card reader installed in the church to facilitate easier donations for folks that primarily use plastic.

In conclusion, I want to just thank everyone for their continued generosity to the parish. Your patronage helps make this parish a welcoming home for all of us. We have a lot of exciting things going on at St. Basil's, I look forward to all of us participating in the life of our beloved parish going forward.

Bill VanRonzelen, the parish treasurer



*Donation page on parish website
<https://stbasilthegreat.org/donate/>*

COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND

On Palm Sunday, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on April 28th, when the faithful come to venerate the Cross, a basket will be held to collect financial support for the monastic communities in the Holy Land. The funds collected through the ROCOR parishes around the world on this Sunday will be sent to the Head of the Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem, Archimandrite Roman, for further distribution.

CHANGES IN CANDLE PRICING

At our parish, we try not to change anything in our day-to-day life, unless there is a way to improve or make things easier for our faithful. However, sometimes we are forced to do the opposite. In the last several years, the cost of candles which we receive from Holy Cross Hermitage in West Virginia has been slowly climbing up: from \$9.00 per pound of candles (when we first started buying from them) to \$13.00 or \$14.00 per pound (depending on the candle size). Until now, we have been hesitant to adjust how much we are asking for candles at our candle counter. The parish council, at its meeting last week, has decided to gently raise the candle prices. Our smallest and one of the most popular candles will continue to be priced at \$1.00 per candle, while all other candles will now cost \$1.00 more. This is far from reflecting the actual 40% increase in the bulk candle cost. Our goal is not to make money on the candles, but to make the candles available to our faithful, asking for some donations which will ensure the doors of the church remain open.

VENERABLE BARSANUPHIUS THE GREAT AND JOHN THE PROPHET: PART IX

258. If you wish to be delivered from shameful passions, do not behave with anyone familiarly, especially with those toward whom your heart is inclined by a lustful passion; through this you will be delivered also from vainglory. For in vainglory is involved the pleasing of men, in the pleasing of men is involved familiarity of behavior, and this brazenness is the mother of all passions.

268. Restrain your tongue from idle talking, your stomach from love of sweetness, and do not irritate your neighbor. Do not be brazen, consider yourself as nothing, preserve love toward everyone, and have always God in your heart, remembering, *when I shall appear before the face of God* (Ps. 41:3). Keep this, and your soil will bring forth a hundred-fold fruit to God, to Whom may there be glory unto the ages. Amen.

269. Question: My Father, what does it mean to consider oneself as nothing?

Answer: Brother, to consider oneself as nothing means not to compare oneself with anyone, and not to speak about one's own good deeds.

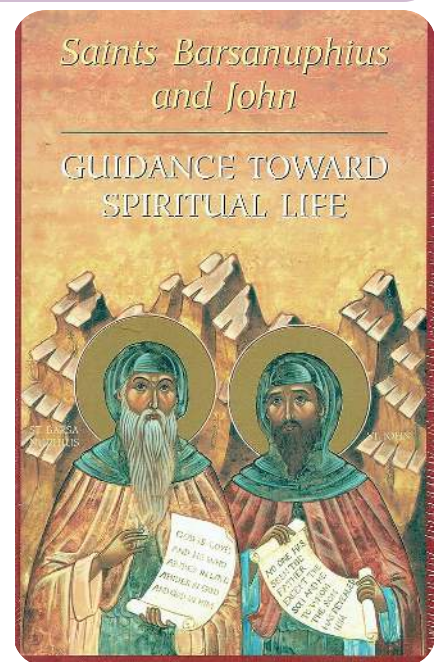
275. Humility consists of this: Never, in any circumstance, consider yourself to be something, to cut off your will in everything, to be subject to everyone, and to bear without disturbance everything that comes to you from outside. That is true humility in which there is no room for vainglory. One who has humility of wisdom should not strive to express his humility in words, but it is sufficient for him to say: "Forgive me," or "Pray for me." It is better not to volunteer to do menial tasks but to be commanded to do them, for volunteering will lead to vainglory.

Abasement is of two kinds: one is of the heart and the other is from offenses received from outside. The abasement that comes from outside is greater than that of the heart, for it is easier to abase oneself than to bear abasement from others, because the latter causes much greater pain in the heart.

281. With regard to the tongue, familiarity and gluttony, about which you have asked me to pray – try, according to your strength, to refrain from them, for one cannot restrain them without pain of heart, without sobriety and lamentation, remembering that *the prayer of a righteous man availeth much* (James 5:16). All the passions are conquered by humility, which everyone acquires only by labor.

282. Lamentation does not proceed from tears, but tears from lamentation. If a man, being among others, cuts off his own will and pays no heed to the sins of others, he will acquire lamentation. For through this his thoughts are gathered together and, being gathered together in this way, they give birth in the heart to sorrow according to God (II Cor. 7:10), and the sorrow is tears.

To Be Continued.



FOCUS ON FOCUS

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 March! May God grant you many blessings for your service! This month, we have been asked to supply the following clothing items.

- Small Hand Towels (e.g., 15 x 25 inches)
- Men's Underwear (all sizes)
- Men's Short Sleeved Dress and Polo Shirts (medium and large sizes)
- Men's Jeans & Khakis (medium and large waste, tall and short length)

After purchasing your items, please put them in the FOCUS container of the parish coat closet **before April 21st**. 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

WEDDING AT ST. BASIL'S

Parishioners Anton and Evgeniya Kosov received the sacrament of Marriage at St. Basil's after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 3rd. The couple had been married previously through a civil marriage but chose to have their marriage blessed in this sacramental rite by the Orthodox Church. May God grant the family many years!



MARCH ACTIVITY ANSWERS

1. Prodigal Son
2. Meatfare Sunday
3. Cheesefare Sunday
4. Great Lent
5. Forgiveness Sunday
6. Presanctified Gifts
7. Andrew of Crete
8. Memorial Saturday
9. Triumph of Orthodoxy
10. Dread Judgment
11. Gregory Palamas
12. Forgiveness Vespers
13. Precious Head of St. John the Baptist
14. Great Martyr Theodore
15. Forty Martyrs

BAPTISMS AT ST. BASIL'S

St. Basil's baptized two infants on Saturday, March 16th. Edith, the third daughter born to Baxter and Alaina Eaves, was baptized and is pictured below with her family and godmother, Macrina Sakhelashvili. Not pictured, but also baptized on this day, was the child of Giorgi and Mariam Matuzenko, Ellia.

Please join us in welcoming these newest infants into the Holy Orthodox Church! May God grant them many years!



NEWSLETTER ACTIVITY

Fill in the blanks from the Prayer of St. Ephraim below

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

(Prostration)

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

(Prostration)

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

(Prostration)

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

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

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

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

(Prostration)

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>	