



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

- **Fifth Sunday of Pascha**
 - **Samaritan Woman Sunday**
 - Sat., June 1 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., June 2 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Equal-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother Helen**
 - **Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God**
 - Mon., June 3 Moleben 9 A.M.
- **Sixth Sunday of Pascha**
 - **Blind Man Sunday**
 - Sat., June 8 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., June 9 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Ascension of the Lord**
 - Wed., June 12 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Thur., June 13 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **Seventh Sunday of Pascha**
 - **Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council**
 - Sat., June 15 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., June 16 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Holy Trinity Memorial Saturday**
 - Sat., June 22 Panihida 9 A.M.
- **Holy Trinity Day -- Pentecost**
 - **Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles**
 - Sat., June 22 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., June 23 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
 - Followed by the Vespers with the Kneeling Prayers
- **Spirit Day**
 - Mon., June 24 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.
 - At House Springs
- **Holy Hierarch John, Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco**
 - Fri., June 28 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Sat., June 29 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.
- **First Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **Sunday of All Saints**
 - Sat., June 29 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., June 30 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.

PASCHA AT ST. BASIL'S



SAINT BASIL YOUTH

LAKE HANGOUT



SUNDAY
JUNE 16

2:00-4:00
SIMPSON LAKE

1234 MARSHALL RD.
VALLEY PARK, MO 63088

snacks and treats provided



END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Below are pictures of the Sunday school groups and the children's playgroup celebrating another year of learning and growing together about the Orthodox faith. A special thanks to the Sunday school teachers, Danielia Waller and Valeria Nania, who donated their time and resources to the instruction of the children every Sunday after communion. We all look forward to resuming classes and meetings in the fall.





PARISH SALE SUCCESS

Thank you to all who donated their items, time, and effort to the sale on May 25th and May 26th. The sale was a big success! There were many visitors from the community that stopped to purchase our items and visit our church. Some even commented that they had attended previously and were looking forward to our sale this year! All of the proceeds will be used by the Sisterhood of St. Macrina for the benefit of the parish. Thank you!

FOCUS ON FOCUS

FOCUS facilities at Archangel Michael Church are undergoing renovations. Therefore, on Sunday, June 9, we will be giving out packaged "to-go" meals. As for the donations during the time of renovations, the FOCUS management is asking for us to help financially, rather than by donating foods, clothes, etc. There is a FOCUS information sheet on the announcement board which has a QR code for donations or you can scan the one to the right. Donations can also be made by putting cash into an envelope with "FOCUS" clearly written on it and depositing it into our parish donation box. Lastly, you can donate on the FOCUS website <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E334599&id=86>



For any further questions, you can reach out to jsteineger@gmail.com

VENERABLE BARSANUPIUS THE GREAT AND JOHN THE PROPHET: PART IX

286. Question: When a brother asks me about some word or matter which I do not know, should I reply to him or not? Likewise, when I am not asked but I myself see that someone is doing something wrong, should I at least once speak about this to him or not?

Answer: To all these questions there is a single answer: be careful not to speak out of vainglory, but speak with humility and the fear of God. In all those cases, speak and remind your brother but only in your own monastery and not in a different place. Because those who live in one community are one body, as it were. But when you are in a different place, say nothing of yourself, so as not to be seen as if teaching; but when you are asked, speak with humility, and God will instruct you.

287. To say something with humility does not mean to speak like a teacher, but, rather, just as you have heard it from the Abba and the Fathers. If it is profitable to say something to a brother, and vainglory inspires you to enjoy this – then know that the enemy wishes to hinder you from doing something of profit to your brother. If you listen to vainglory, your brother will never receive profit through you. Overthrow vainglory and disdain it, and when you say what is necessary to your brother, repent before God, saying: "Forgive me, O Lord, that I spoke out of vainglory".

290. Question: When a brother does something neutral (neither good nor bad) which is not in accordance with my will, and I am grieved over this: should I be silent or speak to him gently? And if this matter causes grief to others but not to me: should I speak for the sake of others?

Answer: If the matter is without sin, neutral, and you wish to speak only so as to make your heart calm, by doing so you reveal that you are infirm and cannot endure. Rather, reproach yourself and be silent. But when a brother causes grief to others, tell your Abba and he will either speak to this brother or will instruct you what to say to him, and you will be in peace.

297. Question: If I speak a sarcastic word to someone and he does not understand it, should I repent before him or be silent?

Answer: If the brother does not understand that you spoke to him in sarcasm, be silent and do not disturb him, but try to repent over this before God.

301. Question: If a passionate thought enters my heart, how should I repel it: by opposing it and pronouncing a prohibition and, as it were, becoming angry at it; or by hastening to God and laying my weakness before Him?

Answer: Brother! Passions are the same as sorrows, and the Lord did not distinguish them but said: *Call on Me in the day of thy sorrow, and I will deliver thee, and thou shall glorify Me* (Ps. 49:15). And, therefore, with relation to any passion there is nothing more profitable than to call on the Name of God. To oppose (the thoughts), is fitting not for everyone, but only for those who are strong in God, to whom the demons are subject; but if one who is not strong will oppose, the demons will revile him, as someone who opposes them while being in their power. Likewise, to prohibit them is the work of great men who have power over them. Have many of the saints prohibited the devil as did Michael the Archangel, who did this because he had the power? For us infirm ones it remains only to hasten to the Name of Jesus; for the passions, as has been said, are demons, and they depart (from the invocation of this Name). And what do you wish more than this? May God strengthen you in His fear and grant you victory.

To be continued.

PATRISTIC COMMENTARY ON WHAT WITHHOLDS THE EVIL FROM DESTROYING THE WORLD

HOLY HIERARCH THEOPHAN THE RECLUSE (†1894)

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way (2 Thess. 2:6-7).

The Roman Empire was prevalent among things by which the ancient commentators of the Holy Scripture understood *the withholder* (power which prevents the coming of the Antichrist), or ὁ κατέχων in Greek, or удерживающий in Russian. During their time the Roman Empire still existed, and they pointed to it, basing their view on the prophecy of Daniel.

If we give this thought any significance in our time, then by the Roman Empire we must mean the royal power in general. Monarchy, based on the foundation of Christianity, is able to control people and will prevent them from deviating from this foundation, will hold the people fast on this foundation.

Since the Antichrist's main task will be to lead people away from Christ, he will not come while the royal power is still strong, for it will not let him act freely and will prevent him from achieving his goals. This is the withholder, indeed.

But when the monarchy and the people start basing their life on arbitrariness – republics, democracy, communism – then the Antichrist will gain room for action. Then it will not be hard for Satan to prepare voices in favor of renunciation of Christ, as was evident from the experience of French revolution of the last and this centuries. Then there will be no one who could powerfully say 'veto', while the humble defense of faith will be easily dismissed.

When such conditions – conducive to the manifestation of the Antichrist's ambitions – become universal, then the Antichrist will be revealed. But till that time, he will be waiting, will be withheld. One is brought to this conclusion by holy Chrysostom, who understood monarchy when speaking about Roman State. "When," he says, "the Roman State (that is, the royal power) ceases to exist, then the Antichrist will come; but till that time – while he is afraid of the State (i.e. the royal power) – nobody will easily submit himself to Antichrist. However, after it (i.e. royal power) is destroyed and lawlessness reigns, he will rush to steal both the Divine and the civic power".



MEETING THE NEWLY ILLUMINED

Below, we include an interview with Newly Illumined Andrew Barr who was one of the eight baptized on April 13th.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up on the coast of Lake Michigan on an 80-acre farm in Southwest Michigan near South Haven.

What brought you to the St. Louis area?

I came to Missouri in 2018 from Boston to purchase a chemical processing equipment dealership in O'Fallon. I did not complete that transaction due to problems with the company discovered in due diligence, and instead formed a startup manufacturing company with one of the dealership's customers, and relocated to the Rolla area to start it up and run it. I hope I will be able to relocate closer to the parish soon.

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

I was not raised in faith, and was agnostic for 20 years, until I narrowly avoided what would have surely been a fatal car accident in college, which led me to a general belief in God. Twenty years later, I began to seriously inquire into the history of Christianity, and discovering Orthodoxy found what I had previously thought were my own private beliefs affirmed in the doctrine and life of the one true Church.

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

At St. Basil's, which was the second church service of my life, and the first in 27 years, during the communion of the faithful, when the choir sang "Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality", I knew I was home.

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

Apostle Andrew, the First Called. I find a sweetness in the way his accomplishments were great, and yet he does not seem to have as great a notoriety in history for them, compared to some of the other Apostles and Saints. His humility is an example from which I derive great spiritual benefit. St. Andrew, pray for me!

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

What a difficult question, to choose just one thing! I would have to say the optional text Religion of the Apostles by Fr. Stephen de Young, and his detailed history showing how through both the Old and New Covenants there has only ever been one uninterrupted and continuous faith, and that that faith is the same faith we confess every day as Orthodox Christians, was particularly energizing!

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

Apart from the text previously mentioned, for theology I profited greatly from Lossky's "Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church", and for practical advice addressing the struggles of everyday life as an Orthodox layman, Abbot Nikon's "Letters to Spiritual Children".

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



NEW CATECHUMENS AT ST. BASIL'S

The prayers for the making of a catechumen were read over Kimberly and August Apirion, and Nathan James (pictured below from left to right) before the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 26th. The new catechumens will continue to attend catechumen classes and services where they will learn about the Orthodox Faith. Please keep them in your prayers that our Lord may continue to guide them in their Orthodox journey.



MAY ACTIVITY ANSWERS

Foretelling the dawn, the women came with Mary, and found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre, and heard from the angel: why seek ye among the dead, as though He were a mortal, Him Who liveth in everlasting light? Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen and hath slain death. For He is the Son of God Who saveth mankind.

Am I allowed to say my baptism?!?

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

Come to St. Basil's, and see!

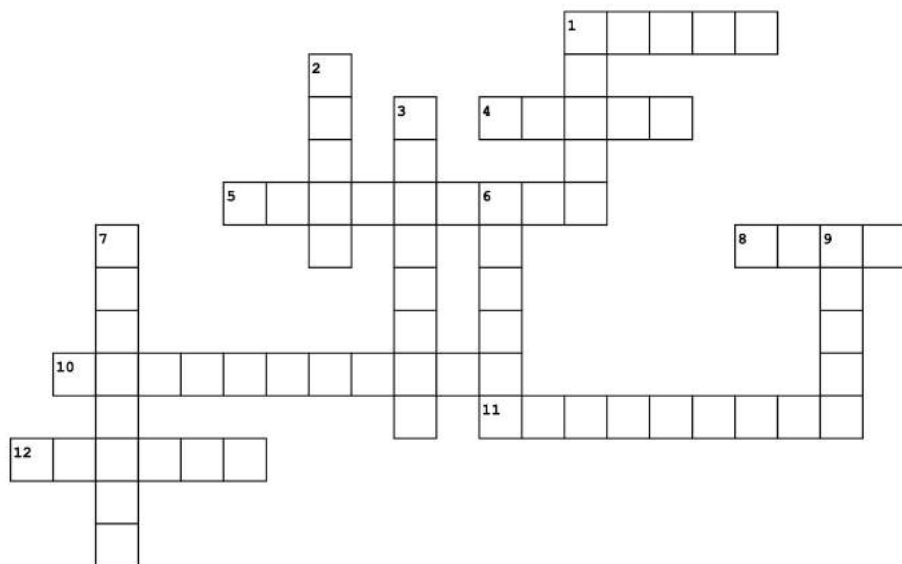
If you could have tea with a saint, with whom would it be?

St. Maximos the Confessor, during his last days in exile.

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

Thank you for giving me a home after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. I pray the Lord will help me support and grow His Body and our parish, in Missouri and in America, that He may protect us and that we may be deified for His Glory, in His Name. Amen!

NEWSLETTER ACTIVITY



Across

1. Number of days after Pascha when the Holy Spirit descended
4. Number of days Christ spent appearing to His disciples after His resurrection
5. Feast of the descent of the Holy Spirit
8. Holy Hierarch that was the Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco
10. Byzantine Emperor that sent his mother to find the True Cross
11. Sunday of the _____ woman
12. Holy ____ Day: the Monday after Pentecost

Down

1. Holy Fathers of the _____ Ecumenical Council
2. Sunday of the _____ man
3. Angels which carried Christ to heaven in a cloud
6. Mount of _____: Where Christ ascended
7. Holy Trinity _____ Saturday: Saturday before Pentecost
9. Woman who re-discovered the True Cross and mother to the Byzantine emperor

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
Carol Surgant — Health
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:

- *Doc*
- *Ricardo*
- *Ryan*
- *William*
- *Zachary*
- *William,*
- *Medea, and George*
- *Kimberly and August*
- *Nathan*