



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

- **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **Nativity of St John the Baptist**
 - Sat., July 6 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., July 7 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
 - **Holy Right-believing Prince Peter and Princess Fevronia**
 - Mon., July 8 Lesser Blessing of the Water 9 A.M.
 - **Holy Pre-eminent Apostles Peter and Paul**
 - Thur., July 11 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Fri., July 12 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **3rd Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **All Saints of Russia**
 - Sat., July 13 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., July 14 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
 - **Holy Royal Martyrs of Russia**
 - Tue., July 16 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Wed., July 17 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **4th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **All Saints of America**
 - Sat., July 20 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., July 21 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **5th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils**
 - Sat., July 27 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., July 28 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
 - **Holy Great Prince Vladimir**
 - Sat., July 27 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., July 28 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.

ICONOGRAPHY RESUMES AT ST. BASIL'S

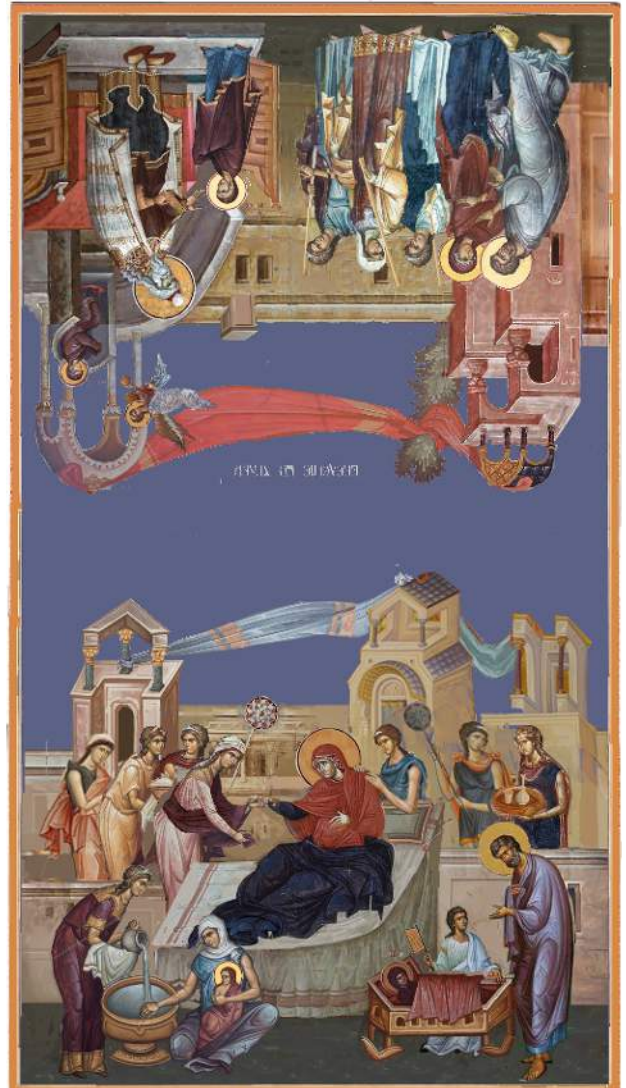
Two weeks ago the scaffolding was erected again in the nave of our church — our iconographers Ivan and Roman have returned to St. Louis to resume their work on adorning our temple with frescos.

The work is being done on the ceiling of the south apse — there will be two feasts here: Nativity of the Theotokos and Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple. This will be the most intricate image the iconographers have created in our temple to date. Due to its complexity (you can judge for yourself by looking at the provided sketch), Roman and Ivan hesitate to give us the number of weeks it will take them to finish these two feasts.

As you read this issue, and as most of you have witnessed, the outline of the first fresco, namely the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple, is already done and beautiful colors have been incorporated into parts of the outline. It has been estimated that this phase will cost \$25,000.

Besides the complexity of the images, what makes this the current phase of frescoing the temple unique is the fact that we do not have funds to reimburse the iconographers even for one month of their work. When the iconography work was begun about 15 months ago, we already had funds (which had been donated by one family way over a year before we even met our iconographers) to carry us through the first couple of months.

Now the situation is quite different and causes us great concern. How can we justify to ourselves and to others who would come after us the failure to complete the work, leaving it half-done? We are presented with a unique opportunity, second in its importance only to the construction of the temple. Let us all take part in ensuring the completion of the beautification of our temple by donating whatever funds we can contribute to this project. Donations can be deposited in the fund box marked "Iconography" near the candle kiosk.



YOUTH HANGOUT AT ST. BASIL'S

On June 16th, St. Basil's hosted our latest seasonal youth gathering. Approximately 15 elementary-, middle-, and high-school students from our community braved the heat at Simpson Lake after the Divine Liturgy. On land, the group enjoyed conversation around the snack table and casual frisbee. On the water, we cooled down with kayaking and swimming. The next gathering is anticipated in the late summer or early fall.



BIBLE STUDY AT ST. BASIL'S

A new class will conduct further review of Scripture readings and their meaning in the Orthodox Church. A schedule will be available for pickup in the narthex, posted on the bulletin board, and may be requested electronically. On the first Sunday of the month class will meet in person at 2 p.m. at St. Basil's. On other Sundays, class will meet via Zoom at 6 p.m.. The variety of times and places is intended to increase opportunity given adverse weather, schedules, and long commute for some.

For more information and details for how to join, please refer to the previously mentioned schedule.

BAPTISMS AT ST. BASIL'S

Through the Grace of God, four new members were baptized into the Orthodox Church on June 22nd. The Molloy family and William Crooker were baptized on Saturday and received their first communion on Sunday during the Divine Liturgy.



As custom, below, we include an interview with Newly Illumined William Crooker (pictured directly to the right).

Where did you grow up?

Hampton, Virginia.

If you didn't grow up in St. Louis, what brought you to the area?

My mom's side of the family lived here and we wanted to be closer to them.

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

How I really heard about the Church was through Father Spyridon Bailey on YouTube. But I happened to see Saint Basil's from the road while I was visiting a plant nursery nearby and was very curious.

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

I didn't understand what I had seen at my first liturgy but I knew when I reflected on it that day, I had found my home.



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

Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco, I love him and his life, and all the stories of his love especially for the orphans. He is also a great Saint of our modern times.

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

How much there is to the Faith. There is so much somebody can dedicate their life to it and not know everything about it.

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

The Ancient Path by Father Spyridon, and *The Orthodox Study Bible*.

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

Great Holy and Pascha for sure.

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

Less head and more heart involved with the decision.

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

I would have to say Saint John or Tsar Martyr Nicholas.

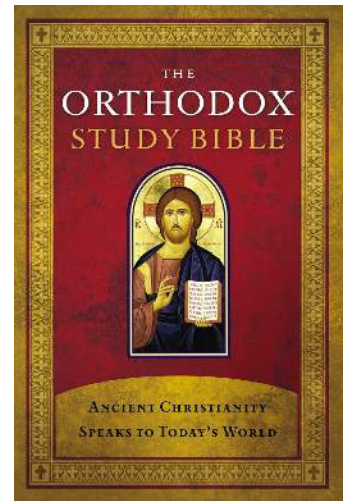
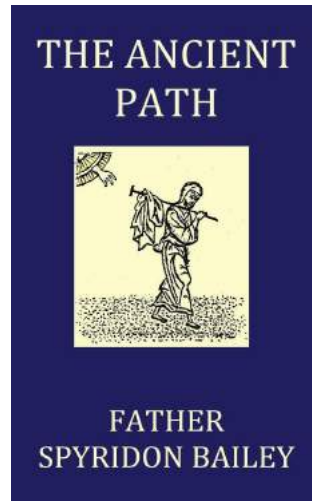
Is there anything else you would like to share with the parish?

Please pray for me, and my family. Also, thank you to the ones who welcomed me in.

FOCUS ON FOCUS

Thank you to all who helped prepare and serve the "to-go" meals that were provided for the Sunday Supper on June 9th. If you are interested in participating in the next planned Sunday Supper, please mark your calendars for August 4th. Sign-up sheets can be found on the announcement board in the church hall.

A reminder that FOCUS facilities at Archangel Michael Church are undergoing renovations this summer, which will change the way St. Basil's contributes to FOCUS for the month of July. 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"



NEW CATECHUMENS AT ST. BASIL'S

The prayers for the making of a catechumen were read over Landon Briggs and Harrison Weller on Sunday, June 2nd. Zachary and Kailey Isbell, Theodore Daugherty, Ron Lovett, and Adam Moulder (not pictured) were also made catechumens on Sunday, June 16th. Please keep the new catechumens in your prayers that our Lord may continue to guide them in their



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

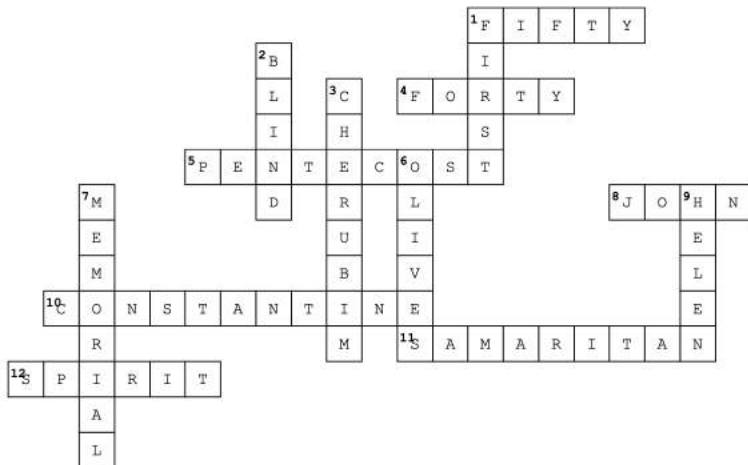
NEWSLETTER ACTIVITY

Match the main themes of the Ecumenical Councils with their corresponding letter.

- _____ First Ecumenical Council
- _____ Second Ecumenical Council
- _____ Third Ecumenical Council
- _____ Fourth Ecumenical Council
- _____ Fifth Ecumenical Council
- _____ Sixth Ecumenical Council
- _____ Seventh Ecumenical Council

- A. Described that Christ has two energies and two wills, thus condemning Monothelitism.
- B. Validated the use of icons in the Church for veneration.
- C. Confirmed the title "Theotokos" as orthodox and condemned Nestorianism.
- D. Articulated that Christ has two natures and condemned Monophysitism.
- E. Finalized the Nicene Creed.
- F. Confirmed that Christ is of one essence with the Father and condemned Arianism.
- G. Further condemned Nestorianism and elements of Origen's teachings.

JUNE ACTIVITY ANSWERS



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*
- *Zachary*
- *Kimberly and August*
- *Nathan*
- *Landon*
- *Harrison*
- *Adam*
- *Zachary and Kailey*
- *Theodore*
- *Ron*