



ST. BASIL THE GREAT ORTHODOX CHURCH

*205 Highland Avenue
Des Peres, MO 63122*

**A parish of the Diocese of Chicago
and Mid-America of the Russian
Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**

Clergy

Archpriest Sergii Alekseev, Parish Rector
Protopriest Radomir Chkautovich
Priest Thomas Nichols
Deacon Ephraim Galloway

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

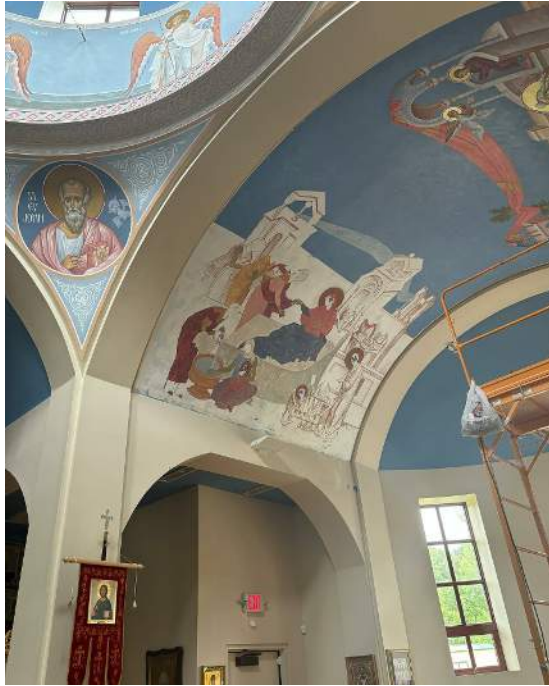
- **Prophet Elijah**
 - Fri., Aug. 2 Moleben 9 A.M.
- **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalene**
 - Sat., Aug. 3 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Aug. 4 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Holy Great Martyr Panteleimon**
 - Thur., Aug 8 Vespers and Matins 6 P.M.
 - Fri., Aug. 9 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Sat., Aug. 10 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Aug. 11 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross**
 - Tue., Aug. 13 Vespers and Matins 6 P.M.
- Wed., Aug. 14 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **Forefeast of Transfiguration**
 - Sat., Aug. 17 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Aug. 18 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Transfiguration of the Lord**
 - Sun., Aug. 18 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Mon., Aug. 19 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **Afterfeast of Transfiguration**
 - Sat., Aug. 24 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun. Aug. 25 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Dormition of the Theotokos**
 - Tue., Aug. 27 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Wed., Aug. 28 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.

DONATION MATCH FOR ICONOGRAPHY

As we all know, we have been blessed with a unique opportunity to further beautify our temple through iconography. This will enrich our worship space and inspire all who enter here for generations to come.

Recently, we have received a matching gift opportunity--every dollar we raise, up to \$12,000, will be matched dollar for dollar. This means that, with your help, we can reach our goal of \$25,000 to complete this phase of our sacred project within the next two months.

Currently, our iconographers are working on the ceiling of the south transept, which includes two icons (Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple and the Nativity of the Theotokos) Once this is completed, the next step will be the ceiling of the north transept, where they will write icons of two more feasts. This is part of a larger, long-term project that includes future phases, such as the altar ceiling, the ceiling west of the dome, the columns, the walls of the nave, and the choir loft ceiling.



Our goal is to raise the funds for this current phase, knowing that there are several more to come. Let us consider the impact of our collective efforts. If 12 of us contribute \$1,000 each, or 24 of us give \$500 each, or even 48 of us give \$250 each, we will achieve our goal for the current phase. We are thankful to the family who is ready to match every dollar we contribute. Everyone's sacrifice will leave a lasting legacy of faith and beauty in our parish. Every contribution, no matter the size, is a vital part in reaching our goal.

The best way to donate is to put your check or cash into the donation box specifically marked for iconography in the narthex. You can also put your contribution in an envelope, write "Iconography" on it and put in the general donation's box, or you can mail it to the church or give it to the rector of the parish, Fr. Sergii.

May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and love for His Church, and let us continue to pray fervently for the success of our iconography project!

FOCUS ON FOCUS

Holy Archangel Michael parish, where our local FOCUS chapter is based, will continue undergoing renovations during the months of August and September. God willing, the renovations will be completed by October.

Our next **Sunday Supper** on **August 4th** will continue to distribute meals in a "to-go" style. We will only need five to six volunteers for this Sunday Supper, so please talk to Joseph Steineger, if you would like to help, and he can rearrange volunteers to make sure you get to serve, if you have not done so before but would like to.

We are still being asked to **donate funds for the pantry** instead of goods during August and September. You can supply your monetary donation in one of three ways:

- By cash – please put your cash donation in an envelope with "FOCUS" written on the outside, and put it in our parish donation box
- By check – same as above; please make the check out to St. Basil Orthodox Church and put "FOCUS" in the memo line; put the check in our parish donation box
- Directly to FOCUS through 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.



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

DONATIONS FOR SWANSON TOMBSTONE

In 1985, our parish was founded by Archpriest Martin Swanson (at the time a newly-ordained priest). Fr. Martin and his wife Katherine reared our parish from incredibly humble beginnings to the strong and growing parish with a beautiful temple St. Basil's is today. Fr. Martin labored selflessly (in more than one way) as the parish rector from 1985 until 2020, when he assumed the title *Pastor Emeritus*.

In the summer of 2022, Fr. Martin, being 81 years old, suffered a stroke which left him bedridden. Witnessing her beloved (and this is not an empty word) husband suffering, Matushka Katherine had a heart attack, lived through an open heart surgery and later on was diagnosed with cancer. On September 20, 2022, on the eve of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Fr. Martin passed away. Not even a year later, Matushka Katherine, on August 24, 2023, followed her husband.

The Swansons were long-time friends of Archimandrite Seraphim and the entire brotherhood of the Holy Cross Monastery in West Virginia. And it was only natural for both of them to be buried at the monastery cemetery.

Now is time for us, as the parish, and especially for those who knew Father and Matushka, who prayed with them and lived through many small and momentous events — both joyous and sad — in the life of the parish, who were catechized, baptized, married and had our children baptized by Fr. Martin, or those who joined the parish later on but benefited from the fruits of his labors, to give him and his life companion a token of our love and gratitude.

We are raising funds to erect the tombstone for Father Martin and Matushka Katherine Swanson. The Cross will stand about 60" tall (including the base). The cost of the Cross (including the Cross, the base and the labor) is \$6,656.00. On the announcement board we have a few pre-labeled envelopes. Please insert your donation in the envelope and place it in the wooden donation box. If you cannot come to church, please mail your donation to the church, with "Cross" in the memo line.



SAINT BASIL YOUTH

LAKE-HOUSE HANGOUT



SUNDAY SEP 1, 2-6 pm

JOHN AND CAROL SURGANT'S

79 CHAMPAGNE DRIVE,
LAKE ST. LOUIS, MO 63367

upper elementary - high school

WHY MONOPHYSITES MAY NOT COMMUNE IN ORTHODOX CHURCHES

PRIEST GEORGE MAKSIMOV

Some members of the Armenian and Coptic Churches get indignant when they hear that they may not receive Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church. To their question why, the answer is rather simple: there is no communion between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Armenian Apostolic or Coptic Churches. To the question: "Why is it so?" the answer is also simple: "There can be no eucharistic communion where there is no union in faith. Our faiths are different, and this difference touches not some insignificant issue but the person of Christ Himself".

The Orthodox Church from ancient times believed that the Lord Jesus Christ is both true God and true Man, which means that after His incarnation He united in His Person two natures: Divine and human, remaining consubstantial (of one nature) with the Father in His Divinity and becoming consubstantial with us in His humanity. Therefore, with this unconfused and indivisible union of natures each nature retains its qualities.

This is why in the Gospel Christ calls Himself both “the Son of God” (John 10:36) and “the Son of man” (Mark 2:10). He, as God, heals the sick (Matt. 12:15), raises the dead (John 5:21) and commands the winds (Mark 4:39), while, as the man, He falls asleep (Mark 4:38), eats and drinks (Matt. 11:19), is hungry (Matt. 21:18), endures suffering and death (Mark 15:25-37).

However, in the 5th century there appeared those who insisted that Jesus Christ had only one nature. This aberration received the name of “monophysitism” (i.e. the belief in one nature). Consequently, its followers, leaving the Orthodox Church, started to split among themselves into different groups. There were “strict” monophysites, followers of Eutychius; there were “moderate” monophysites, followers of Severus of Antioch, as well as other groups. But the former and the latter, while having their own differences on secondary issues, defended the faith in one nature of Christ.

In 451 AD, the Fourth Ecumenical Council, which gathered in the city of Chalcedon, confirmed that the Church believes from ancient times in “one and the same Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man ... consubstantial with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the manhood; in all things like unto us, apart from sin... Only-begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures (*which were united in Christ*) without confusion or change, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Hypostasis, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son”.

The monophysites could not agree with this statement and fell under the anathema of the Ecumenical Councils, for, besides the Fourth Council, the Fifth Council decreed, that: “If anyone confesses a belief that a union has been made out of the two natures of divinity and humanity ... and ... tries to introduce one nature or substance (φύσιν ἢ τὰ οὐσίαν) made of the Divinity and human flesh of Christ: let him be anathema”.

The monophysites, in their turn, anathematized the Orthodox, referring to them as to dyophysites, that is, those who believe in two natures.

Why is this so important?

The teaching on incarnation implies that the Second Person of the Holy Trinity became incarnate, that is, He took on the human nature. If we say that He has only one nature, we have three options:

1. Christ’s one nature is Divine, which makes His incarnation illusory, or not real (this is the heresy of Docetism).
2. Christ’s one nature is human, from which it follows that He was not God (this is the Arian heresy).
3. Or, as the monophysites insist, Christ had a unique, complex, compound nature, a mixture of Divinity and humanity. In this case, a) Christ is no longer consubstantial with the Father, for God the Father has Divine nature, not a compound divine-human nature; b) He is not consubstantial with His Mother, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, nor through her with our humanity, for we also do not possess the complex divine-human nature, since our nature is simply human. Therefore, Christ becomes equally alien to the Father and to mankind, and, consequently, He cannot be the Mediator Who unites God and men, for His nature is different from God and from ours, and He is neither true God nor true man. May God save us from such blasphemy!

MEETING THE NEWLY ILLUMINED

Below is an interview with Will and Medea Molloy, who were baptized with their son, George, at St. Basil's on June 22nd.

Where did you both grow up?

Medea grew up in New Orleans, although her grandparents lived in St. Louis. She started spending her summers here when she was a young child. She moved to St. Louis in 2016. Will has always lived in St. Louis.

How did you both meet?



We met working at Dewey's Pizza in 2016.

Can you tell us a little bit about your family?

We were very fortunate to find a house in Wright City, MO when Medea was 5 months pregnant with our son George in 2022. Previously we lived in a small apartment in Richmond Heights and feel blessed to have more space for George to run around and play. It definitely helps him burn some of his boundless energy. Medea is pregnant with our second child, Mary Beth, who is due on September 11 (Medea's birthday).

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

We both had numerous touch points with Orthodoxy before we finally felt the need to attend a service. Will's first encounters were with Andrei Tarkovsky's films. Andrei Rublev felt particularly special. Medea encountered some articles by a man named Roosh V, who had a circuitous path to the Church through repentance. Both of us found great conviction in God's love and mercy through Fr. Seraphim Rose's *God's Revelation to the Human Heart*. While this strengthened our belief in God, we returned to the Roman Catholic Church after years of agnostic meandering because of its familiarity from our childhoods. We both realized God had been calling us to Him for our whole lives. It took us a couple more years to realize He was calling us to Him through the Orthodox Church.

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

We had not experienced anything like the Divine Liturgy before. Before attending we were unsure if Orthodoxy was going to satisfy what we were looking for, but we soon wondered how there could be anything else that could be more heavenly here on earth.

Who are your patron saints and why did you choose them?

Medea chose St. Emmelia because she has found motherhood to be the greatest challenge and blessing in her life. St. Emmelia's life gives proof that seeking God is the greatest gift we can give our children, as 5 of her 10 children became saints. Will's patron saint is St. William of Gellone. We have heard that it is good to share a name with your patron saint and that the saint chooses you. George's patron saint is St. George the Trophy-bearer and we intend to choose St. Mary Magdalene for Mary.

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

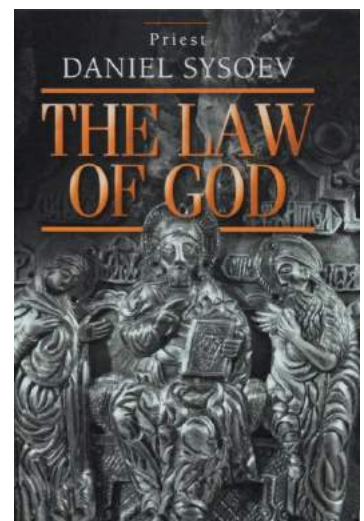
We have both enjoyed learning about the history of the Church. In our experience the western traditions tend to ignore the history of the Orthodox Church so we felt a huge blind spot was revealed. There was a great video series called *Finding the Church that Jesus Built* that we watched before we started attending services that opened our eyes to the history of the Orthodox Church. We have been blessed to have great catechists and have found with every dose of history and doctrine we have received there is practical and spiritual wisdom that is entwined.

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

We already mentioned *God's Revelation to the Human Heart*, but another great book has been *The Law of God* by Priest Daniel Sysoev. There is a section that summarizes and gives commentary on all of the books of the Bible that is a particularly great resource.

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

Pascha was wonderful. We look forward to, God willing, our children growing up with the celebration of Pascha. We have memories of holidays and other special times of the year when



JULY ACTIVITY ANSWERS

- F First Ecumenical Council
- E Second Ecumenical Council
- C Third Ecumenical Council
- D Fourth Ecumenical Council
- G Fifth Ecumenical Council
- A Sixth Ecumenical Council
- B Seventh Ecumenical Council

we were children, but they were never about giving Christ our full attention and praise. It seems so appropriate to fast and celebrate Pascha in this way and keep our focus on Christ's love.

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

People have been very welcoming and enthusiastic in helping us learn about the Church, so ask questions if anything seems confusing. Seeking the advice of our priests has been especially beneficial. And if you have young children, do your best to allow your spouse to have as much time as possible time in the nave.

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

We would certainly love to have tea with our patron saints. Any disciple that knew Christ during his ministry would also be a top choice. We were also moved by the story of St. Macrina the younger. She had such an abundance of love for her family and in their moments of weakness gave them powerful guidance that led them to God.

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

We feel blessed to have such a wonderful community around us to share our faith and we feel thankful to all of you that have welcomed us to St. Basil's.

NEWSLETTER ACTIVITY

August Saints and Feasts

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

Panteleimon	Constantinople	Peter
Elijah	Transfiguration	Moses
Mary Magdalene	Tabor	Dormition
Cross	James	Jerusalem
Procession	John	Bier

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:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • <i>Doc</i> | • <i>Landon</i> |
| • <i>Ricardo</i> | • <i>Harrison</i> |
| • <i>Ryan</i> | • <i>Adam</i> |
| • <i>Zachary</i> | • <i>Zachary and Kailey</i> |
| • <i>Kimberly and August</i> | • <i>Theodore</i> |
| • <i>Nathan</i> | • <i>Ron</i> |