



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

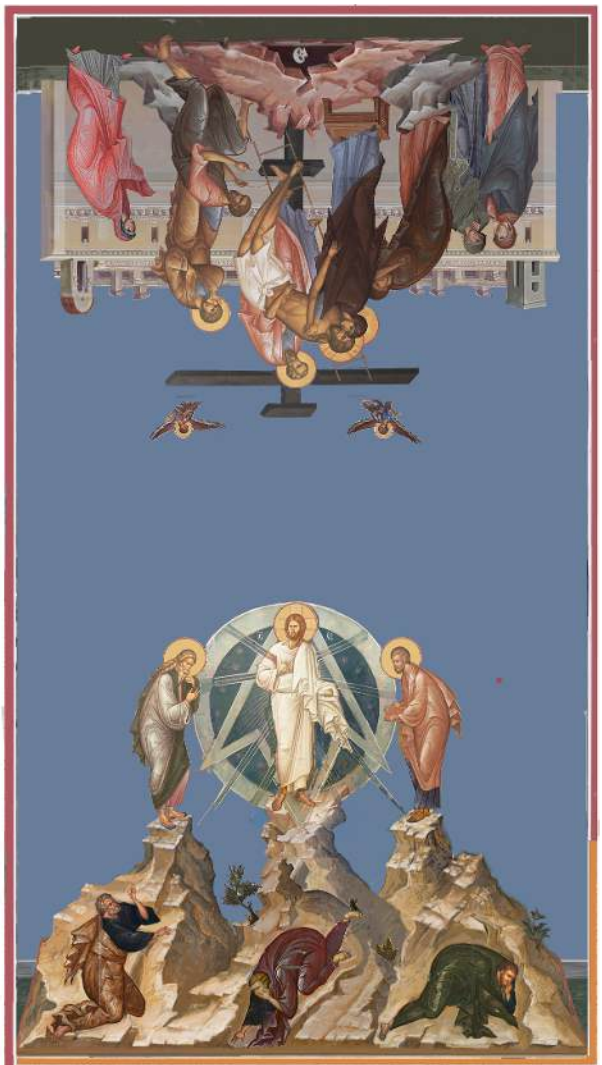
- **10th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Sat., Aug. 31 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Sept. 1 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
 - Followed by the Moleben for the Beginning of the School Year
- **11th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God**
 - **Martyrs Adrian and Natalia**
 - Sat., Sept. 7 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Sept. 8 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Beheading of St John the Baptist**
 - Tue., Sept. 10 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Wed., Sept. 11 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **Right-believing Great Prince Alexander Nevsky**
 - Thur., Sept. 12 Moleben 6 P.M.
- **12th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **Right-believing Prince Peter and Princess**
- **Fevronia**
 - Sat. Sept. 14 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Sept. 15 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Nativity of the Theotokos**
 - Fri., Sept. 20 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Sat., Sept. 21 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.
- **13th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Sat., Sept. 21 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Sept. 22 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Exaltation of the Cross**
 - Thur., Sept. 26 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Fri., Sept. 27 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **14th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Sat., Sept. 28 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Sept. 29 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Martyrs Faith, Hope, Love and their mother Sophia**
 - Mon., Sept. 30 Moleben 9 A.M.

ICONOGRAPHY AT ST. BASIL'S

The most recent phase of iconography has been completed on the southern transept of the nave and now, the completed icons of The Nativity of the Theotokos and The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple are the most recent additions to multi-phased effort.

With the southern transept complete, the iconography work will shift to the northern transept where new icons will be written throughout the next few months. To the right is a rendering of the planned icons of the Transfiguration of the Lord and the Deposition of the Lord from the Cross. The icon of the Transfiguration captures the divine glory of Christ revealed on Mount Tabor. This icon serves as a visual reminder of the transformative power of Christ and the promise of our own transfiguration. The Deposition of the Lord from the Cross depicts the moment of Christ's body being taken down from the Cross, emphasizing the depth of His sacrifice and the human sorrow at His death. This depiction not only commemorates the sacrifice but also invites the faithful to meditate on the profound love and redemption it represents. Together, these icons offer a rich theological narrative that connects the suffering and glorification of Christ, central to our spiritual journey and understanding of salvation.

We are blessed to witness the transformation of our church through the addition of this iconography. We invite you to contribute to this holy endeavor, ensuring that these future icons can be completed and properly honored. Your generous donations will help bring these beautiful depictions to life and support the continued beautification of our church. Donations can be deposited in the box marked for iconography in the narthex.



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 scheduled **Sunday Supper** is scheduled for **October 20th**. Due to the construction, the plan is to most likely distribute meals in a "to-go" style. Please stay tuned for additional details on how to contribute as the date approaches.

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





UPCOMING FESTIVAL AT ST. BASIL'S

The Sisterhood of St. Macrina is excited to announce the upcoming parish festival scheduled for Sunday, October 6th. As in the years past, we plan to prepare food and showcase lively music and dance with an area for children to enjoy crafts, games, and a petting zoo. To make this event a success, we kindly ask for your help. Volunteers are needed for various tasks, from setting up and serving food to organizing activities. Your support will be greatly appreciated and will contribute to a wonderful community experience. Please reach out to Matushka Svetlana if you can assist or want more information.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

St. Basil's annual parish meeting will be on September 29th following the Divine Liturgy. This is an important opportunity for us to gather as a community, review our achievements over the past year, and discuss our plans for the future. Please mark your calendars and join us for a meaningful and engaging discussion. Your presence and participation are greatly valued.

BAPTISM AT ST. BASIL'S

We are happy to announce that two infants were baptized at St. Basil's last month. Vladimir, the first-born son of St. Basil's Subdeacon Ivan and his wife, Olga, was baptized on Saturday, August 17th. Also baptized on August 27th was the second born child of Anton and Evgenia Kosov, Eva. Included are pictures of both baptisms (Vladimir above and Eva below) with the infants and their families. May God grant the infants, Vladimir and Eva, many years!



ST. BASIL'S YOUTH HANGOUT

The recent youth hangout at the lake was a tremendous success, combining the beauty of nature with vibrant activities and engaging discussions. The scenic backdrop provided a perfect setting for swimming, boating, meaningful conversations, and delicious food offered by John and Carol Surgant who opened up their lake house to host the youth of St. Basil's. It was wonderful to see everyone connecting and enjoying themselves in such a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Thank you again to John and Carol Surgant for hosting and Adam and Misty Stiller for coordinating and organizing the lively event!



HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE WORDS OF THE APOSTLE "HE SHALL BE SAVED, YET SO AS BY FIRE"

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire (1 Cor. 3:14-15).

Here the apostle speaks about the coming Divine Judgment. However, the words *he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire* give us a good example of how difficult it is to correctly understand the Holy Scripture unless we are guided by the Holy Fathers.

An incorrect understanding of the passage led the Roman Catholic Church to create the teaching of Purgatory. They teach that Christians need to satisfy the Divine Justice by being subjected to the "purifying fire" where they suffer for a specific time (therefore, it is different from the eternal

damnation), which is relevant to the abundance and/or gravity of their sins.

According to the teaching of the Orthodox Church, which she has preserved from apostolic times, Purgatory does not exist, but the souls of the Christians who did not live the life of repentance find themselves in hell from which they can be delivered by the mercy of God through the intercessions of the saints and prayers of Christians.

So, what is the patristic understanding of the soul being *saved, yet so as by fire*?

Our Father among the saints Holy Hierarch John Chrysostom writes:

"He who, having the right faith, leads a sinful life will not be protected from punishment [only because he holds the right faith] when his works will be burned. This is why he says: *He shall suffer loss, and this is the first punishment. He himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire*, -- this is the second one. Here is the meaning of these words: he will not perish in the same way his works will, he will not cease to exist but will remain in fire. This remaining in fire the apostle calls 'salvation'; he did not just say *shall be saved*, but he added *so as by fire*.

In the same manner we usually say: 'It was preserved in the fire' about the things which do not burn totally and do not turn into ashes. Therefore, when you hear about the fire, do not think that that which is burned will disappear. Also, do not be surprised that the apostle calls this suffering salvation; it is not rare that he speaks about unpleasant things using nice words, while using harsh words about pleasant things. By saying *saved*, he means nothing else but continuation of the punishment, implying that this punishment will never end."

VENERABLE BARSANUPIUS THE GREAT AND JOHN THE PROPHET: PART IX

339. Question: Tell me, my Father, what should be the degree of mutual love of one brother to another?

Answer: Brother, one thing is the love of the fathers to their children and another is the love of the brethren for their brothers. The love of spiritual fathers for their children has nothing harmful or fleshly in it, for they are confirmed in spiritual wisdom, and in both word and deed they strive always and in everything to give benefit to the young. Loving them in this way, they are not silent before them about their deficiencies, but they often accuse, exhort and comfort, as a good father exhorts his children. For to them it is said: *Accuse, forbid, entreat* (II Timothy 4:2), as often as your Abba acts with regard to you, even though you do not understand when he accuses, forbids and comforts you, and when out of love he is not silent about your transgressions. By this it is revealed that his love for you is spiritual.

Everyone, according to his own measure, loves his neighbor. But the degree of the perfect love is this: that for the sake of the love which a man has for God, he loves also his neighbor as himself. Youth should guard itself in everything: for the devil quickly hinders the young. At first, they begin in conversation to speak as it were for spiritual profit or not even for this. But later they pass over to something else, to irritation, to idleness, to laughter, to slander and to other evils, so that in them the words are fulfilled: *Are ye so senseless, that having begun in the spirit, ye now finish in the flesh. Ye have suffered so much already, and was it all in vain* (Gal. 3:3-4). [...]

341. Question: Abba, I desire to be saved, and I do not know the path for salvation. A thought says to me: 'Why do you live here in the community without doing anything? Go to another place.' How should I act in this case?

Answer: Brother! Through the Divine Scripture and the Fathers, God has indicated to us the path of salvation, saying: Ask thy

AUGUST ACTIVITY ANSWERS

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

father and he will inform thee, thine elders, and they will tell thee (Deut. 32:7). And so, if you do not wish to go astray under the pretext of humility, agreeing with the thought (that says) to go away from here to a place where you will obtain benefit – then do nothing without asking the spiritual Father, and you will not go astray by the grace of God, *Who wisheth all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth* (I Timothy 2:4).

342. Question: The thought tells me that if I go away somewhere and begin to be silent, I will finally acquire perfect silence. Being a debtor in many sins, I desire to be delivered from them. How should I act, my Father?

Answer: Brother! A man who is in debt, if he does not first pay his debt, wherever he goes – whether to a city or village – wherever he might settle, he is a debtor and does not have the freedom to remain peaceful anywhere. When, because of this debt, he is burdened by reproaches from men, he will be ashamed, and then somehow he will pay his debt; and being, delivered from it, he can boldly and completely without fear walk among people and live where he desires. Likewise, one, who strives according to his strength to bear patiently reproaches, dishonor and deprivations for the sins he has committed, will become used to humility and labor, and for their sake his sins will be forgiven him, according to the word of Scripture: *Behold my lowliness and my toil and forgive all my sins* (Ps. 24:18). Reflect also on this: before the Cross, Our Master Jesus Christ endured many insults and reproaches, and only after this He ascended the Cross. Similarly, no one can attain perfect and greatly perfect silence and holy and perfect repose, if first he does not suffer with Christ and endure all the sufferings, remembering the words of the Apostle: *If we suffer with Him, we will be glorified with Him* (Rom. 8:17). Do not be deceived: there is no path to salvation apart from this.

NEWSLETTER ACTIVITY

Fill in the blanks for the words of the Troparion of the Holy Cross

O Lord, save Thy _____,

And bless Thine _____.

Grant _____ to the Orthodox Christians

Over their _____.

And by _____ of Thy Cross,

_____ Thy habitation.

Word Bank

VIRTUE

VICTORIES

INHERITANCE

PRESERVE

ADVERSARIES

PEOPLE

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

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