



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

- **Righteous John of Kronstadt**
 - Thur., Oct. 31 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Fri., Nov. 1 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **St Demetrius Memorial Saturday**
 - Sat., Nov. 2 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M. *at House Springs*
- **19th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **Venerable Hilarion the Great**
 - Sat., Nov. 2 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Nov. 3 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Kazan Icon of the Mother of God**
 - Mon., Nov. 4 Moleben 9 A.M.
- **Great Martyr Demetrius of Thessalonica**
 - Thur., Nov. 7 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Fri., Nov. 8 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **20th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - **Venerable Job of Pochaev**
 - **Great Martyr Paraskeva**
 - Sat., Nov. 9 Vigil 5 P.M.
- Sun., Nov. 10 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Great Martyr George the Trophy-bearer**
 - Fri., Nov. 15 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Sat., Nov. 16 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M.
- **21st Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Sat., Nov. 16 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Nov. 17 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Synaxis of Archangel Michael**
 - Wed., Nov. 20 Vigil 6 P.M.
 - Thur., Nov. 21 Divine Liturgy 8 A.M.
- **22nd Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Sat., Nov. 23 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Nov. 24 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Holy Hierarch John Chrysostom**
 - Mon., Nov. 25 Vigil 6 P.M. *at House Springs*
 - Tue., Nov. 26 Divine Liturgy 9 A.M. *at House Springs*

FESTIVAL SUCCESS

On October 6th, our parish celebrated a successful festival, bringing the community together in joy and fellowship. Many attendees from the community enjoyed seeing our church and experiencing the vibrant, diverse community we are. The event featured delicious food, engaging activities, and live entertainment. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who organized and volunteered their time—preparing and cooking meals, serving guests, painting faces, organizing games, setting up, cleaning up, managing parking, bringing their farm animals, and performing their talents for the attendees. Your dedication and talent made this event truly special. All proceeds will go toward the iconography fund at our Orthodox Church. Thank you for making this festival a memorable and meaningful occasion!



BAPTISMS AT ST. BASIL'S

Nathan James and the newborn infant, Mary, were baptized on Saturday, October 11th at St. Basil's. Mary is the second born child to the Molloy family and Nathan is a young man that has been dutifully attending catechumen classes and services for the last year. Friends and family gathered to celebrate the newest members of the Church receive the gift of the Holy Spirit through the sanctifying waters of Baptism.



PARISH MAKER AND BAKER FAIRE

Mark your calendars for the Maker and Baker Faire hosted by the Sisterhood of St. Macrina on **December 13th and 14th!** This event has been extremely successful in the past, drawing many from the community eager to purchase some of the finest baked goods and unique items for the holiday season. If you're interested in preparing an item to sell or would like to help in any other way, please contact Tetyana Webster. We look forward to another wonderful event!

ST. BASIL'S PARISH
Maker & Baker
FAIRE
• FRIDAY & SATURDAY •
13 & 14
DECEMBER
Everyone Welcomed!
FRIDAY 9 AM TO 6 PM | SATURDAY 9 AM TO 3 PM
COOKIES CRAFTS & SO MUCH MORE
205 HIGHLAND AVE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63122
FACEBOOK/STBASILTHEGREATSTLMO



NEW CATECHUMEN AT ST. BASIL'S

Evan Sanders had the catechumen prayer recited over him after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 6th. He is currently participating in catechumen classes with Deacon Ephraim, deepening his understanding of the Orthodox faith. Please keep Evan in your prayers, asking the Lord to fortify him on his path to Orthodoxy.

ROCOR YOUTH CONFERENCE

A reminder that the St. Herman Youth Conference is scheduled for this coming December in Cincinnati. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, learning, and spiritual growth among our youth. Registration closes on **December 1st**, and if your child or children would like to attend the conference but you need financial help with the registration fee or coordinating transportation, there is assistance available through the parish. Please contact Fr. Sergii for further information.

GUIDANCE ON VOTING BY PARISHIONER DAVID PECK JR.

"There are two ways, one of life and one of death; and great is the difference between these two ways." (Didache)

Greetings to my fellow Orthodox Christians.

We have a life and death situation on our hands. And it is happening at the ballot box in a matter of days. On November 5th, it is our Christian duty to go to the polls and vote "NO" against Amendment 3. What is Amendment 3? Many mistakenly believe that it is just about abortion. But it is not, and it is much worse. If you "decode" the amendment's ambiguous and deceptively written text (please see the next page), you will see that it is a constitutional amendment "full of deadly poison." Amendment 3 would not only enshrine extreme abortion "rights" into our Missouri Constitution (given its very broad notion of "health"), it would also cover reproductive technologies, including gender transitions for children (who are included in the term "persons"), and undermine laws regarding parental consent and single-sex public restrooms, since this law says that no one, including parents, may infringe on these so-called "fundamental rights," which concern anything, whether present or future, related in any way, shape, or form to "reproductive health."

If you would like more resources on Amendment 3, please email me: david@peckjr.com.

ST. HERMAN
CONFERENCE 2024

Save the Date!

12/26/24 - 12/30/24
Cincinnati Ohio

Registration Deadline: 12/1/24



Topic: Being an everyday Saint

DECODING MISSOURI AMENDMENT 3

Analysis by Mary Catherine Martin, Senior Counsel, Thomas More Society

Section 36.1. This section shall be known as “*The Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative*.”

“all matters relating to” expands protection beyond health care to *anything* involving reproductive organs: reproductive cloning, IVF for research, female genital mutilation, *gender transition treatments* and surgery, and *all future reproductive technologies*

“mental health of the pregnant person” meaning that abortion is protected in *all pregnancies that burden the mother’s wellbeing*—in other words, *all pregnancies*

Employers/organizations cannot react to employee/leader’s abortion, surrogacy, pregnancy decisions

Ends single-sex public bathrooms and sports teams

Anyone in “health care” can judge “fetal viability”

2. The government shall not deny or infringe upon a **person’s** fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which is the right to **make and carry out decisions about all matters relating to reproductive health care, including but not limited to** prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion care, miscarriage care, and respectful birthing conditions.

3. The right to reproductive freedom **shall not be** denied, interfered with, delayed, or otherwise **restricted, unless** the government demonstrates that such action is justified by a compelling governmental interest achieved by the least restrictive means. Any denial, interference, delay, or restriction of the right to reproductive freedom shall be presumed invalid. For purposes of this section, a governmental interest is compelling only if it is for the limited purpose, and has the limited effect of improving or maintaining the health of a person seeking care, is consistent with widely accepted clinical standards of practice and evidence-based medicine, and **does not infringe on that person’s autonomous decision making**.

4. Notwithstanding subsection 3 of this Section, the general assembly may enact laws that regulate the provision of abortion after Fetal Viability provided that under no circumstance shall the government deny, interfere with, **delay, or otherwise restrict an abortion that in the good faith judgment of a treating healthcare professional is needed to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant person.**

5. **No person shall be penalized, prosecuted, or otherwise subjected to adverse action based on their actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes, including but not limited to miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. Nor shall any person assisting a person in exercising their right to reproductive freedom with that person’s consent be penalized, prosecuted, or otherwise subjected to adverse action for doing so.**

6. **The Government shall not discriminate against persons,** providing or obtaining reproductive healthcare or assisting another person in doing so.

7. If any provision of this Section or the application thereof to anyone or to any circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of those provisions, and the application of such provisions to others or other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

8. For purposes of this Section, the following terms mean:

(1) “Fetal Viability”, the point in pregnancy when, in the good faith judgment of **a treating health care professional**, and based on the particular facts of the case, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus’s sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extra extraordinary medical measures.

(2) “Government”,

a. the state of Missouri; or

b. any municipality, city, town, village, Township, **district**, authority, public subdivision, or public corporation, having the power to tax or regulate, or any portion of two or more such entities within the state of Missouri.

“person” includes children and adults

“reproductive health care” includes *all* current and future treatments and procedures

“including but not limited to” means the examples that follow are just the *tip of the iceberg*

“shall not be ... restricted, unless ... does not infringe on that person’s autonomous decision-making” = *no parental consent laws*

Anyone in “health care” can judge maternal “mental health”

Gives providers a defense to prosecution, malpractice, and wrongful death

Requires *government insurance and benefits* to pay for all reproductive health care alongside pregnancy, including *abortion and sex change surgery*

Includes public school districts



Scan the code to download or share

FOCUS ON FOCUS

On Sunday, October 20th, it was our parish's turn again to provide volunteers to FOCUS. A team of approximately a dozen parishioners of all ages, including a number of catechumens and inquirers, met at St. Michael the Archangel church in downtown St. Louis. The team plated and served around 100 meals, which had been prepared by our Sisterhood, to poor and homeless residents of our city. This was the first time serving in FOCUS's newly renovated facilities, which now offers additional services, such as haircuts and assistance with obtaining medical care. The newly renovated facility also allowed volunteers once again to wait on, as well as sit and talk with guests during the meal. After the meal's completion, the volunteers cleaned the facility.

Our next **Sunday Supper** is on **December 8th**. Please remember that we have a sign-up sheet on the Church bulletin board if you are interested in helping us serve the supper from 3:45 – 6:00 P.M at Archangel Michael parish, located at 1901 Ann Ave. in St. Louis.

If you prefer, you may donate money to FOCUS directly, using the following link or QR code.

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E334599&id=86>



A SPIRITUAL HUB AMIDST DISASTER: HURRICANE HELENE AND ST. NICHOLAS ROCOR PARISH IN NORTH CAROLINA

SUBDEACON SERAPHIM NESCH | ABRIDGED FROM ORTHOCHRISTIAN.COM

On the Great Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, the Church commemorates the finding of the true cross by Empress Helen. Hurricane Helene has helped our community to find and take up our own cross... The cross was present and with us in a way we didn't expect.

As a tropical cyclone traversed the Gulf of Mexico, reaching Category 4 intensity, a few parishioners braved the storm to attend Vigil, praying with a greater sense of urgency as the storm was raging outside the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Asheville-Fletcher, North Carolina. The next day the city of Asheville, sitting at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, would be turned into a "catch basin" for rain gushing down 4,000 feet of elevation.

While the Orthodox Church commemorated the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Friday, Hurricane Helene devastated the region and left many communities in ruins from catastrophic flooding, damaging winds, washed out roads, decimated bridges, downed trees, and the loss of power, water, and communications signal. Over 200 deaths across six states have been attributed to the storm.

Fr. Steven Webb, the parish rector, commented, "Hurricane Helene has left widespread devastation in our Western North Carolina region. The impact on our parishioners and the greater community is profound, with numerous tragedies affecting our area. Some families have found shelter at the parish, while many others visit during the day to collect or donate supplies.

St. Nicholas has become a hub for organizing relief efforts, with volunteers gathering here to clear roads and deliver essential items to those in need." By God's mercy, St. Nicholas returned to the full schedule of services the day after the storm, despite being without electricity until the following Monday.

Several families in the parish, trapped in their homes and neighborhoods, held reader's services in their homes, most of which were without electricity. In one such home, amidst fallen trees all around and on the roof, a recently baptized couple held their first newborn baby, born early Sunday morning, September 29, after being in labor



during the storm. Another family, still without electricity and running water, miraculously found a natural spring on their property, in a 100-year-old hand-built stone enclosure. They have been able to provide clean drinking water for neighbors all throughout the recovery.

Founded in 1995, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church is located less than ten miles south of downtown Asheville. Having outgrown our original building, we began constructing a new temple during the pandemic. Four years later, the building is dried in but still under construction. During the hurricane, our church property suffered minor damage, but neighboring properties experienced severe destruction.



The new building is now being used as a hub for gathering and distributing supplies. Many parishioners, volunteers, and groups from the surrounding area came to

St. Nicholas to donate bottled water, non-perishable food, medical supplies, paper products, diapers, wipes, cleaning supplies, pet food, propane, and gasoline for generators. Orthodox brethren came from long distances and other nearby parishes to offer tremendous help.

With the overabundance of essential supplies surpassing the immediate needs of parishioners, our church's focus is toward supporting people in the remote and cut-off areas in need. Parishioners at St. Nicholas have been mobilizing our own teams for supply runners and clean-up crews.

Fr. Steven traveled on a delivery run to bless the supplies and rescue vehicles. Meeting with rescue teams, he learned that the major concern wasn't a lack of immediate supplies but the long-term challenge of rebuilding lives and communities after such great destruction.



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*
- *Zachary*
- *Kimberly and August*
- *Nathan*
- *Landon*
- *Harrison*
- *Adam*
- *Zachary and Kailey*
- *Theodore*
- *Ron*
- *Jonathan, Carolynn, and children*
- *Zachary, Meagan, and children*
- *Joseph, Vanessa and child*
- *Evan*