

**SAINT 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**

**Archpriest Martin Swanson, Pastor**

**Priest Sergii Alekseev, Associate Pastor**

**Archpriest Radomir Chkautovich, Attached**

**Weekly Services:**

Saturday - Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Word of Consolation for the Pandemic**

*Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou*

We must see the goodness of God in all the things that are happening now [during the coronavirus epidemic]. The Holy Fathers did see His lovingkindness [in the midst of hardship]. A similar epidemic occurred in the 4th century in the Egyptian desert, which harvested more than a third of the monks, and the Fathers were saying with great inspiration that, 'God is harvesting souls of saints for His Kingdom,' and they did not waver. This virus may be a means that God uses in order to bring many to themselves and to repentance, and to harvest many ready souls for His eternal Kingdom. Therefore, for those who surrender and entrust themselves to the Providence of God all will contribute for their good: 'All things work together for good to them that love God' (Rom. 8:28).

If [we are asked] to stop [attending] our Church services, let us simply surrender and bless the Providence of God. Besides, this reminds us of an old tradition that the Fathers had in Palestine: in Great Lent, on the Sunday of Cheese fare, after the mutual forgiveness, they would go out in the desert for forty days without Liturgy; they would only continue in fasting and prayer so as to prepare and return on Palm Sunday to celebrate in a godly way the Passion and the Resurrection of the Lord. And so, our present circumstances force us to live again that which existed of old in the bosom of the Church. That is to say, they force us to live a more hesychastic life, with more prayer, which will however make up for the lack of the Divine Liturgy and will prepare us to celebrate with greater desire and inspiration the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Thus, we will turn this plague into a triumph of hesychasm. In any case, whatever God allows in our life is out of His goodness for the well-being of man, for He never wants His creature to be harmed in any way.

Let us remember that each time we show kindness to our brethren the Lord is well-pleased, He considers that we did it in His Name

Continued on Page 3

**Special Services & Events**

- Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
Wed. Apr 1 8 a.m.
- Matins with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete  
Wed. Apr 1 6 p.m.
- Matins with Akathist to the Theotokos  
Fri. Apr 3 6 p.m.
- Divine Liturgy  
Sat. Apr 4 9 a.m.
- Annunciation of the Theotokos  
Mon. Apr 6 6 p.m. Vigil  
Tues. Apr 7 8 a.m. Vespertal Divine Liturgy
- Lazarus Saturday  
Fri. Apr 10 6 p.m. Matins  
Sat. Apr 11 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- Baptism  
Sat. Apr 11 11 a.m. Jordan Davis
- Great Wednesday  
Apr 15 6 p.m. Holy Unction
- Great Thursday  
Commemoration of the Mystical Supper  
Apr 16 8 a.m. Vespertal Divine Liturgy  
Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels  
Apr 16 6 p.m. Matins
- Great Friday  
Apr 17 4 p.m. Vespers - Bringing out of the Shroud  
Apr 17 6 p.m. Matins with Procession
- Great Saturday  
Apr 18 9 a.m. Vespertal Divine Liturgy  
Apr 18 11:30 p.m. Midnight Office
- Resurrection Sunday  
Apr 19 12 a.m. Procession, Matins, and Divine Liturgy

## Parish Prayer List

Archpriest Andrei Popkov—Recovery  
Nadia Danett—Health

## Parish News

Keep our parishioners, and those who ask us to pray for them in your prayers this month. Contact Fr. Martin 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.

### Gardening Help

Parishioner, John Malcolm, welcomes any who are willing to help gardening on the church grounds. John Malcolm will be working at the parish Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am to noon weather permitting. Tools, gloves, and water will be provided for all who come to help.

### Weekly Tours and Office Hours Temporarily Canceled

Tours of St. Basil's church and weekly office hours held by Fr. Martin are temporarily canceled in order to uphold diocesan policy and in keeping with the St. Louis county ordinances put in place during the Coronavirus pandemic. Please contact Fr. Martin at 314-835-1569 to receive information about the church during this time.

### Choir Practice Temporarily Canceled

All parishioners are welcome to join the choir, all voices are needed. However, in order to uphold diocesan policy and in keeping with the St. Louis county ordinances issued to restrict Coronavirus spread, choir practices at the church have been temporarily canceled. Please contact Carol Surgant if you wish to join the choir and to receive more details about participation in the choir during the Coronavirus pandemic.

### Use eScrip and Amazon Smile Rebates

It costs \$0 and benefits the parish. Get cards at the candle counter. Sign up for the Amazon rebate program to have a portion of your Amazon purchase donated by Amazon to the parish. Please find sign up instructions next to the staircase in the hall.

### SERVERS WANTED!

Boys may begin to serve in the altar at St. Basil's from the time they begin to go to Confession (usually about nine years old). We encourage all of our boys to serve in the altar! For more information please contact Michael Orlando.

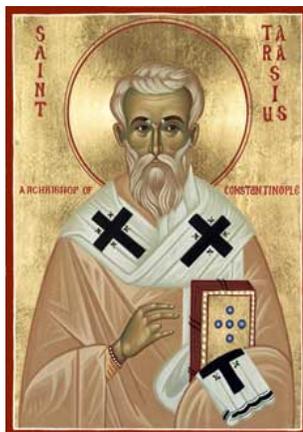
### St. Basil's Parish Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintBasiltheGreatSTLMO>

Check out our Facebook Fanpage for daily edification and interesting updates. Like our page to have us appear in your Facebook Newsfeed.

### March Name that Saint Answer

- St. Tarasius of Constantinople  
Feast day: February 25th (March 9th)
- St. Gregory Palamas  
Feast day: Nov. 14th (Nov. 27th)  
and 2nd Sunday of Great Lent



and He rewards us. We show kindness to our brethren and the Lord rewards us with His grace. This is another way in which we can live in the Presence of the Lord. We can have the grace of the Lord through fasting, alms giving and every good deed. So, if we are forced to avoid gathering in Church, we can also be united in spirit in these holy virtues which are known within the Body of Christ, the holy Church, and which preserve the unity of the faithful with Christ and with the other members of His Body.

Therefore, my dear brethren, [for the good of all people] we must be patient for a certain period of time and God will see our patience, take away every obstacle, every temptation and we shall again see the dawn of joyful days, and we shall celebrate our common hope and love that we have in Christ Jesus.

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## **A Bishop's Good Example during these Hard Times**

His Grace Milutin, Bishop of Valievo of the Serbian Orthodox Church, took care of his flock, providing consolation to all, till the day he passed away from coronavirus on March 29.

Bishop Milutin, 71 years old, got infected while he was visiting the faithful. After a few days, he died in a medical center in Belgrade. Two priests were infected together with the hierarch.

Bishop Milutin's repose is sad news for the faithful of the Serbian Orthodox Church. However, his Christian attitude towards death and the very circumstances of it can be a means of encouragement for us: this is the way to depart to the Lord for the true righteous ones who gave themselves entirely to the service of God and their neighbor.

Sooner or later, we all will have to depart this life, the only difference is when and how we are going to be presented before God's dreadful tribunal. Bishop Milutin has completed his hierarchical duty to the end and there are no doubts how he is going to stand at God's Judgment.

Heavenly Kingdom and eternal rest for the newly-departed archpastor Milutin who even in his death brings consolation to his flock!

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## **Diocesan Policy At St. Basil's During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

In order to provide protection for the faithful, and to further emphasize the serious risk of this disease, the following rule has been imposed at St. Basil's. It is crucial that the Divine Services continue at St. Basil's if at all possible. However, with the blessing of Archbishop Peter and in order to protect the spiritual and temporal health of its faithful, public services will no longer be held at St. Basil's until further notice.

Divine Services will be conducted by the smallest number of clergymen and support staff possible, but with a hard cap of 9 individuals maximum. This means that the doors of the Church will not be open, but that prayers and commemorations will be said for all of the faithful and that designated clergy, choir, and assistants necessary to conduct Divine Services will be given access to the Church.

If you wish to partake of Holy Communion you may do so at home, and one of the priests of the parish will visit you at a mutually convenient time to administer the sacraments.

You should also make every effort to continue to make your regular donations to the parish since even though the church may be closed our normal monthly expenses go on such as the mortgage, utilities, and maintenance. Donations can be made securely online via PayPal on our parish website [StBasilTheGreat.org](http://StBasilTheGreat.org)

The conditions set forth above will be in effect until further notice. Fathers Martin and Sergii will keep you informed of any changes that occur.

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## **Services Leading Up To Pascha 2020**

Services for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Pascha will be served at St. Basil's this year. However, due to the Coronavirus restrictions put in place by diocesan policy and in keeping with the St. Louis county ordinances, the services are currently planned to be closed to the public. If, however, the policies put in place change as we get closer to these dates, Father Martin will notify parishioners via email. Please keep in mind that although the services are not open to the public, all services are being streamed live through our Facebook page.

The videos are public and can be viewed by anyone with or without a Facebook account.

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## Ask Your Priest

**Q:** On the night of Pascha, in some parishes they process around the church three times, while in others, only once. Can you please explain the difference and if it matters?

*A: Both practices are based on local tradition. The fundamental and much-cited S. V. Bulgakov's "The Reference Book for Clergy and Church Workers" ("Nastol'naia Kniga Sviaschenno-tserkovno-sluzhitelei"), 3rd Ed., Kiev, 1913, has the following on page 630:*

*"Some priests, keeping the letter of the Ustav, for the Cross Procession leave from the temple through the temple's north door (if available) and from there they proceed to the closed western door, thus walking not around the entire temple, but only its quarter; others, having exited from the north door [proceed past the western door and walk around the temple and enter through the closed western door]; the third ones, (since few temples have a north door) exit through the western door, walk around the temple and arrive again to the closed western door. It does not appear from the Ustav that before the Matins on Pascha there should be a Cross Procession around the church"*

*Notice that there is no mention of three times walking around the church, at all from this excerpt. The same book has the following on page 615:*

*"Although the Ustav says nothing about the Cross Procession around the church with the Shroud on Holy Saturday [done on Holy Friday night] and on Holy Pascha — with the carrying of the Holy Cross from behind the Holy Altar Table and the church banners, but the performance of the Cross Processions at those times is so universal in the Orthodox Church, that there should be no doubt about the practice"*

*These lengthy quotes, with the allusion to the Ustav (the ancient codex containing the regulations regarding the liturgical and practical aspects of the Orthodox Church) shows rather clearly that some things in Church can be left to the choice of the church rector or Christian community, and that there is no right or wrong way, but only a local custom.*

*The procession around the church on the night of Pascha has two historical precedents. The first is the hurried journey of the myrrhbearing women to the tomb of the Risen Lord. The second is the procession of the newly-baptized Christians who were received in the Church on Great and Holy Saturday.*

**Q:** I am accustomed to the men and women standing on separate sides of the church during the services. Why is this not the practice at St. Basil's?

*A: Things that are done in the Church are done so for a reason. Once the situation changes, some minor points of church practice may also change. This is true for the practice of men standing on the right and women standing on the left. When whole communities were Orthodox, men would stand on the right, as the icon of Christ is on the right of the Royal Doors, and women — on the left, for the icon of the Mother of God is to the left of the Royal Doors. This is still a practice in some monasteries and small communities.*

*The 20th century changed many things. Until the late 1980's, 90% to 95% of the parishioners were women in Orthodox countries. In Russia, for example, the few churches were jam-packed on Sundays ... mostly by women. Would it be reasonable to pack all of the poor ladies like sardines on the left side?*

*Even today, women constitute about 70% of the congregation on a regular Sunday in our parish. Only a handful of men stand on the left, with the same low numbers of women on the right. Usually, these are spouses or families wanting to stand together. So there are reasons for why people in the Church do the things they do. If some of those things are outright wrong, they will be corrected.*

*Again, this is not something that we made up at St Basil's. It is something that has been the practice of the Church for decades.*

## How to Worship at Home via Live Stream

Archpriest Gregory Joyce

How does one worship at home? Here are the steps - they are all important. There is a HUGE temptation to cut corners here. Don't fall to that temptation! Success only comes before work in the dictionary. If we want to be successful in these remarkable times we have to work - and this will take work.

1. Worship together. The idea is that we would all worship together live - as we do when we are in God's House. Don't fall to the temptation to watch the service later on your couch. We do not watch the Divine Services. We are not spectators. We are participants. Participants participate, and this only works if we all worship together at the same time. Get the whole family together - ideally in the place that you say prayers together as a family. Light the oil lamp. Light the censer and put on incense if you have a home censer.
2. Get dressed for church. That's right: take a shower, shave, do your hair, put on your church clothes. Do whatever you do when you go to church. We won't know if you are in your sweats and a shirt, but you will. And you will feel it. It is hard to get into the paradigm of "we are worshiping" if you are dressed like you are going to work in the garden.
3. Turn off the radio, the television, all the screens, and any other distractions. Put the cell phones on silent. God deserves our full attention. Of course you have to have one phone in the space where you are worshiping, but you can suppress notifications on that phone and you should.
4. After the service take a moment and pray for those that need prayers. If you have your own list: use it. If you don't - use the parish [prayer] list:
5. After the service, have a meal. We continue our fellowship by sitting down to have a meal together. This was the practice of the very Apostles - and they used to worship often in houses with the faithful. Yes - this isn't the same meal as we have on Sunday with all our brothers and sisters, but it is the tradition and we should follow it.

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## Baptisms in March

The first-born son of parishioner and parish treasurer Basil (William) and his wife, Molly VanRonzelen, was baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity on the first Saturday of Great Lent. Family and friends were in attendance, and although the general mood was solemn for the fast, joy and happiness was felt by all when seeing the infant emerge from the baptismal font re-born with the Light of Christ. The Godparents, Constantine (Douglas) and Maria (Danielia) Waller, are seen pictured below along with their own son, Basil (Ryan) admiring the newly-baptized infant and soldier of Christ, Basil. May God grant him many years!



On Saturday, March 14, we also had a double baptism. Sophia (4 years old) and Diana Elizabeth (2 years old), daughters of Vadim Panfilov and Olga Lopuhina were baptized in our church. Diana Nurutdinova was the God-mother for the girls.

## Sunday of Orthodoxy at St. Basil's

The Triumph of Orthodoxy, also known as the Sunday of Orthodoxy, is celebrated on the first Sunday of Great Lent. Historically, this feast celebrates the decision of the 7th Ecumenical Council to renounce the iconoclasts and to reinstate the use of icons in the church for veneration. Many of the youngest parishioners brought their favorite icons to church on this Sunday to show that the same devotion confirmed by the council in 787 A.D. is still upheld by the faithful today.



## Veneration of The Cross

Although, due to the Coronavirus restrictions, the Vigil and Divine Liturgy for the Veneration of the Cross were not open to the public, the services were still celebrated by clergy and a handful of choir members. As the words of the troparion were sung "O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by the power of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation", we were all reminded of the power and strength of the Cross and what we invoke when making the sign of the Cross. During these trying times we should strive to keep these words in our minds and in our hearts.



## April Name That Psalm

From which Psalm is the phrase to the right?

*I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. In my soul shall the Lord be praised; let the meek hear, and be glad.*