

SAINT BASIL THE GREAT ORTHODOX CHURCH

Pentecost at St. Basil's

July 2020



Below are pictures from the feast of Pentecost which is celebrated 50 days after Pascha. Vigil with Lita was served the night before and Divine Liturgy was celebrated Sunday morning. It is important to note that with the feast of Pentecost, we also reintroduced aspects of the divine services which had been previously omitted since Pascha. During Great Vespers at "Lord, I Have Cried," we sing "We have seen the true Light; we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true Faith, worshipping the indivisible Trinity, for He hath saved us." We also reintroduce this proclamation into the Divine Liturgy which is sung after receiving Holy Communion. The stichera, or verses, from the Aposticha at Great Vespers for Pentecost also reintroduce the invocation of the Holy Spirit with the petition: "O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One", which is not said during the 50 days after Pascha. Following the Divine Liturgy on Pentecost, Kneeling Vespers was served. This service is in commemoration of the Apostles' reception of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room. It is also the first time kneeling occurs inside the church since Holy Week.

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.



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Special Services & Events

- Holy Hierarch St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco
Fri. July 3 6 p.m. Vigil
Sat. July 4 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Mon. July 6 6 p.m. Vigil
Tues. July 7 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- Holy Apostles Peter & Paul
Sat. July 11 5 p.m. Vigil
Sun. July 12 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy

- Royal Martyrs of Russia
Thurs. July 16 6 p.m. Vigil
Fri. July 17 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- Venerable Sergius of Radonezh and New Martyrs Elizabeth & Barbara
Sat. July 18 9 a.m. Moleben
- Holy Equal of the Apostles Great Prince Vladimir
Mon. July 27 6 p.m. Vigil
Tues. July 28 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- St. Seraphim of Sarov
Fri. July 31 6 p.m. Vigil
Sat. Aug. 1 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Parish Prayer List

Archpriest Andrei Popkov – Recovery
 Priest Moses Berry – Recovery
 Archimandrite Seraphim – Health
 Nadia Danett – Health
 Catechumen Alaina (Helena) Eaves – Surgery/Health

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. He 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.

Office Hours Resumed

Fr. Martin will resume his weekly office hours on Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Choir Practice Resuming

All parishioners are welcome to join the choir. All voices are needed. Choir practice has resumed and will take place weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and will take place at the church. However, in order to uphold diocesan policy and in keeping with the St. Louis county ordinances issued to restrict Coronavirus spread, the people attending choir practice should practice social distancing.

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.

June Crossword Answers





St. Basil's Celebrates All Saints of Russia

Stichera from the Praises in Matins for the 2nd Sunday After Pentecost: All Saints of Russia

Thou didst send Thy Spirit, O Lord, to the wise soul of Prince Vladimir, that he might know Thee, the one God in Trinity. Wherefore, having enlightened Thy chosen people, entrusted to him by Thee, Thou broughtest them into Thy Church with faith, chanting: O our Deliverer, glory be to Thee!

Assembling together, let us bless the beacons of the land of Russia, the all-praised martyrs, the holy hierarchs, our enlighteners and the foundation of our faith, the venerable dwellers in the wilderness and instructors in piety, crying out to them: O ye venerable, ye martyrs, ye righteous, and all ye saints of Russia, entreat Christ God, that He grant us great mercy!

O venerable fathers, the spiritual blossoms of the Russian land, our boast and confirmation, and a right calm haven for all were ye; for, having acquired you as an inexhaustible treasure, our land doth boast in you. And now, even though your bodily tongues have fallen silent, yet do miracles bear witness that the Lord hath glorified you. Him do ye entreat, that He grant our souls great mercy.





The Childhood of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco

Excerpt from *Blessed John the Wonderworker* by Fr. Herman

The birthplace of Archbishop John was the warm, blossoming land of the Kharkov region in southern Russia. Here, in the estate of Adamovka, in the illustrious noble family of Maximovitch, on June 4, 1896, a son was born to the parents Boris and Glafira. In holy Baptism he was named Michael, in honor of the holy Archangel of God. From of old the Maximovitch family had been famous throughout Russia for its piety and patriotism. The most illustrious member of this family was a Saint glorified by the Church, the holy Hierarch John, Metropolitan of Tobolsk. Although the holy Hierarch John died at the beginning of the 18th century, yet his spirit rested on his distant nephew, who was to receive his name in monasticism, and the young Michael (or Misha, as he was called for short) from earliest childhood was a remarkable boy.

Misha's grandfather on his father's side was a prominent landowner of the area, and his grandfather on his mother's side was a doctor in Kharkov. His father held a position of leadership among the nobility, and his uncle was Rector of the University of Kiev; a similar worldly career seemed to be in store for the boy Micheal also. His relationship to his parents was always excellent, and he took their opinions into serious consideration as long as they lived. They died in Venezuela, his mother in 1952, and his father in 1954.

As a boy Misha Maximovitch was sickly and ate little. He was very quiet and gentle. He strove to be on good terms with everyone, but he had no especially close friends. He loved animals, and dogs in particular. He did not like noisy children's games and was often in a very pensive frame of mind.



The outstanding characteristic of his childhood was his deep religiousness, which he manifested in ways far beyond his years. In his sermon on being consecrated Bishop in 1934, he himself said: "From the first days when I began to become aware of myself, I wished to serve righteousness and truth. My parents kindled in me a striving to stand unwaveringly for the truth, and my soul was captivated by the example of those who had given their lives for it."

Young Misha loved to "play monastery", dressing toy soldiers as monks and making toy forts into monasteries. As he grew older, his religious fervor deepened. He collected icons and religious and historical books, amassing a large library, and he loved above all to read the Lives of Saints. At night he would stand for a long time at prayer. Being the oldest child, he had a great influence on his four brothers and one sister, who knew the Lives of Saints and the facts of Russian history through him.

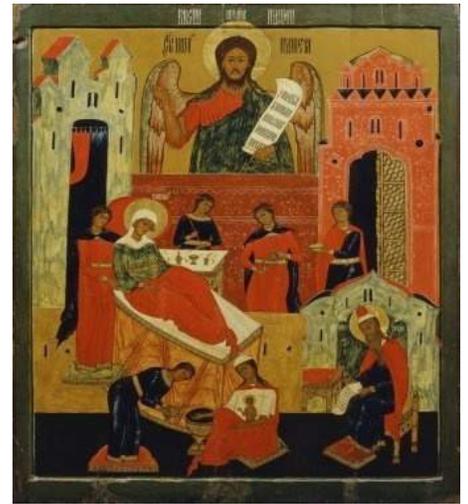
The Maximovitch country estate in Bare Valley was located only eight miles from the famous Sviatogorsk Monastery. The family spent every summer at their estate, and young Misha would sleep outdoors in a tent. The family had great reference for the monastery and spent much time there. It can be imagined what awe and fervor was inspired in Misha's eager heart when he came as a pilgrim to this remarkable Monastery. Misha, a "monk from childhood", was immensely impressed, and he would often come to the monastery by himself.



Thus, the seed of true Orthodoxy planted in his childhood took deep root in the soil of the heart of this chosen one of God, and his knowledge and love of the different kinds of Saints prepared his soul to become as it were a wondrous new plant, with marvellous and varied fruits seldom to be seen together in one person. As his later life revealed, he was at one and the same time a stern ascetic, and a loving pastor; a feeder of orphans and an unmercenary healer, and a missionary and apostle; a profound theologian, and a fool for Christ's sake; a true shepherd of his banished Russian flock and a hierarch of universal significance.

The Nativity of John the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord From *Icons and Saints of the Eastern Orthodox Church*

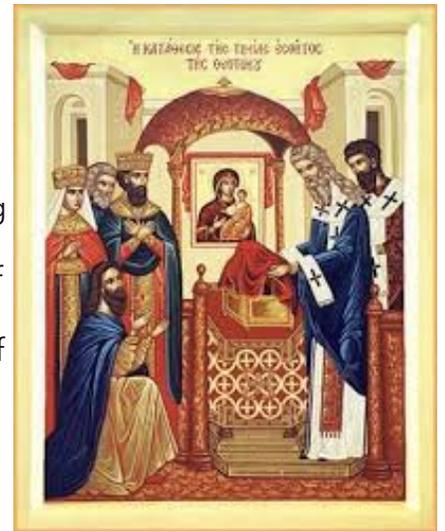
- The Baptist towers between two buildings representing the Old and New Testaments, the Temple and the Church (on the left, the red and blue curtains symbolize the two natures of Christ). The house of Zechariah displays the comfortable living conditions of the priestly class.
- Zechariah, sitting on a throne near a writing table, is busy writing. Behind him, depicted "in reverse", are the sanctuary he used to enter twice a year for the holy office and the Temple with the Golden Gate that leads into the Holy of Holies.



The Deposition of the Vesture of the Most Holy Mother of God in the Blachernae Church in Constantinople Excerpt from the *Prologue from Ochrid* July 2nd

In the time of the Emperor Leo the Great (475-474) and the Empress Verina and Patriarch Gennadius, two Constantinopolitan nobles, Galbius and Candidus, were travelling in the Holy Land to venerate the holy places there. In Nazareth, they stayed in the house of a Jewish girl who had the vesture of the Mother of God kept in a secret place. Many of the sick and wretched had received healing through prayer and the touching of the vesture. Galbius and Candidus took this holy

relic to Constantinople and informed the Emperor and the Patriarch of its existence. It was the cause of great rejoicing in the imperial city. The vesture was ceremonially placed in the Blachernae church (a church built by the Emperor Marcian and Empress Pulcheria on the shore of a bay, and named 'Blachernae' after a General Blacheran from Scetis, who was killed), and this commemorative feast was instituted.



Synaxis of the Holy, Glorious and All-praised Twelve Apostles

All twelve of Christ's chosen apostles are celebrated the day after the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul (July 13th). In this way, we remember the lives of the twelve and their impact on the holy Church. Eleven of the twelve apostles died as martyrs (John the Theologian died in a wondrous way in Ephesus). Peter was crucified upside down. Andrew was crucified. James was beheaded. Phillip was crucified. Bartholomew was crucified, then flayed and beheaded. Thomas was pierced with five spears. Matthew was burned by fire. James the Son of Alphaeus was crucified. Thaddeus was crucified. Simon the Zealot was crucified. Matthias was stoned, then beheaded with an axe when dead. Paul was beheaded. The deaths of the apostles are testaments to their great faith in Christ and the abundance of Grace Which they were given. Their deaths also are a confirmation of our own faith in Christ. Through the prayers of Thy holy apostles, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.



Ask Your Priest

Q: I am a convert and no one in my family is Orthodox, nor do I know any deceased Orthodox Christians. Why are Pannyhidas and Memorial Services still important for me since I don't have any names to write down on the memorial papers and why is it important for me to pray for the dead?

A: *In the Church, we view ourselves as members of one family. This family is universal both geographically and chronologically. We are brothers and sisters with Orthodox Christians who live, for example, in Japan, South Africa and Ireland, as well as with those who lived way before us and who will enter the Church after we pass away. We are united by one faith, one baptism, one Eucharist and by love.*

At every Divine Service we pray for all "who in faith and piety dwell herein", both known to us and unknown to us personally. This helps us to be aware that we are one community not only with those whom we see around us in our parish church but with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world.

The same notion should underline for us the Church's invitation to pray for those "who departed this life before us". Every prayer is fueled by love, so also our prayers for the departed, yet unknown to us, should be propelled by the same love with which we pray for the living, thus "committing ourselves, one another and all our life to Christ Our God".

But why do we limit our intercessions only to the circle of our relatives? Of course, we might have no Orthodox relatives who have departed this life. But what about those of whom we heard from others (it could be a relative of our close Orthodox friends), or of whom we read in books and who are not glorified as saints? Are there no one of whom we read in books and felt that their lives, words and their very look make our hearts grow tender? If we do not have such friends in our spiritual life we should make them.

July Wordsearch

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

Six Psalms
Vigil
Divine Liturgy
Matins
Vespers
Aposticha
Praises
Great Doxology
Creed
Our Father
Troparion
Kontakion
Canon
Gospel
Trisagion

Hours
Lord I Have Cried
Anaphora
Communion
Dismissal
Epistle
Great Entrance
Little Entrance
Beatitudes
Antiphon
Prokimenon
Alleluia
Polyeleos
Evlogitaria