

THE MANTLE

Saint Michael's Orthodox Church

7313 N. Waukegan Road Niles, Illinois 60714-4321

January 17, 2021

32nd Sunday after Pentecost

Very Rev. Protopresbyter Samuel J. Sherry, Pastor ~ E-mail: FrSam@juno.com

Rev. Deacon Peter E. Sodini

Phone/Fax (847) 647-8398

www.stmichaelniles.org



Schedule of Events

Sunday, January 17:

- 9:15 A.M. Adult Religious Education class.
- 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy
- Church School following Holy Communion.
- Confessions will be heard following Liturgy. Please sit in the first open pew on the left side.

Sunday, January 24:

- 9:15 A.M. Adult Religious Education class.
- 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy
- Church School following Holy Communion.
- A Combined Panachida will be served. Please provide names of your departed loved ones to Fr. Sam.
- Confessions heard by appointment. Please call or email Father Sam before noon on the preceding Saturday.

SERVICES TO BE LIVESTREAMED:

We will livestream the Sunday Liturgies from Saint Michael's Church on our website and Facebook page:

https://www.stmichaelniles.org/live_broadcast

[Saint Michael's Orthodox Church](https://www.stmichaelniles.org)

For our Diocesan Cathedral services, go to:

<https://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/liveviewer>

HOLY WATER

Pre-filled holy water bottles imprinted with the Theophany icon are available for taking home the water that was blessed on Theophany. *We are to bring the water that was blessed to our homes to use throughout the year: to bless our homes and to drink (whether we are ill or as part of our daily prayer life). A sip of Holy Water can remind us that this water is for the bestowing of sanctification, the remission of sins, and the healing of soul and body. Thank you to Emil and Patty Misichko for donating the water bottles!*

THEOPHANY AND THE BLESSING OF HOMES

It is a venerable tradition of the Orthodox Church to bless water on the Feast of Theophany. This is in remembrance of our Lord's Baptism in the Waters of the Jordan River. By His Baptism, the very nature of water was sanctified. We bless our Churches and our homes to help us recover our vocation of attaining personal holiness and sanctity.

This year, at the directive of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory, Father Sam can chant the Theophany Home Blessing prayer from the porch of your home, blessing with water, *but without entering*.

Please contact Father Sam to set up a day and time for the blessing: (FrSam@juno.com or 847-647-8398).



1st Announcement

Saint Michael's Orthodox Church Annual Parish Meeting

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held virtually at 2pm on **Sunday, February 14, 2020**. All adult members in 'good sacramental and financial standing' are urged to attend and should take an interest in the life of our church!

The meeting will be held via **ZOOM**. Members can connect on a computer or by telephone as noted below.

If you have any items to be discussed at the meeting, please contact President, Wes Stinich, in advance, so they can be added to the agenda. All reports will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Father Sam's *ZOOM* MEETINGS:

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3366746605>

Phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 336 674 6605, Password: church

Rubrics

Resurrection Tropar – Tone 7

You have destroyed death by Your Cross,* You opened Paradise to the thief,* You changed the weeping of the myrrh-bearers to joy.* You commanded Your Apostles to proclaim:* "Christ our God has risen,* granting great mercy to the world."

Resurrection Kondak – Tone 7

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. No longer can the might of death rule over men, for Christ has come destroying and shattering its power. Death is bound in chains; the prophets with joy unite their voices saying: "The Savior has come to those who believe! Enter, faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Birthgiver Hymn – Tone 7

Now and ever and forever. Amen. O woman worthy of all praise, since you are the treasury of our resurrection, raise from the pit of their transgressions those who trust in you. By giving birth to Salvation, you saved those who bear the consequence of sin. O you, a Virgin before birth-giving, a Virgin during it, and a Virgin after it!

Prokimen - Tone 7

The Lord will give strength to His people, and the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Verse: Ascribe to the Lord, O you sons of God, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. (*Psalm 29:1*)

Epistle Reading

St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21. Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Verses:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. (Psalm 92:1)

To declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night. (Psalm 92:2)

Rubrics

Gospel Reading

Saint Luke 6:17-23. At that time, Jesus stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven."



Sermon on the Mount

Wisdom of the Fathers

Nothing is more frigid than a Christian who is indifferent to the salvation of others. Indeed, I wonder if such a person can be a true Christian. To become a disciple of Christ is to obey his law of love; and obedience to the law brings joy beyond measure and description. Love means to want the best for others, sharing with them the joy of love.

St. John Chrysostom

Wisdom is not only to perceive the natural consequence of things, but also to accept as our due the malice of those who wrong us. People who go no further than the first kind of wisdom become proud, whereas those who attain the second become humble.

St. Kosmas Aitolos

Saints and Feasts

Anthony the Great: Saint Anthony, the Father of monks, was born in Egypt in 251 of pious parents who departed this life while he was yet young. On hearing the words of the Gospel: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell what thou hast, and give to the poor" (Matt. 19:21), he immediately put it into action. Distributing to the poor all he had, and fleeing from all the turmoil of the world, he departed to the desert. The manifold temptations he endured continually for the span of twenty years are incredible. His ascetic struggles by day and by night, whereby he mortified the uprisings of the passions and attained to the height of dispassion, surpass the bounds of nature; and the report of his deeds of virtue drew such a multitude to follow him that the desert was transformed into a city, while he became, so to speak, the governor, lawgiver, and master-trainer of all the citizens of this newly-formed city. The cities of the world also enjoyed the fruit of his virtue. When the Christians were being persecuted and put to death under Maximinus in 312, he hastened to their aid and consolation. When the Church was troubled by the Arians, he went with zeal to Alexandria in 335 and struggled against them in behalf of Orthodoxy. During this time, by the grace of his words, he also turned many unbelievers to Christ. Saint Anthony began his ascetic life outside his village of Coma in Upper Egypt, studying the ways of the ascetics and holy men there, and perfecting himself in the virtues of each until he surpassed them all. Desiring to increase his labors, he departed into the desert, and finding an abandoned fortress in the mountain, he made his dwelling in it, training himself in extreme fasting, unceasing prayer, and fierce conflicts with the demons. Here he remained, as mentioned above, about twenty years. Saint Athanasius the Great, who knew him personally and wrote his life, says that he came forth from that fortress "initiated in the mysteries and filled with the Spirit of God." Afterwards, because of the press of the faithful, who deprived him of his solitude, he was enlightened by God to journey with certain Bedouins, until he came to a mountain in the desert near the Red Sea, where he passed the remaining part of his life. Saint Athanasius says of him that "his countenance had a great and wonderful grace. This gift also he had from the Savior. For if he were present in a great company of monks, and anyone who did not know him previously wished to see him, immediately coming forward he passed by the rest, and hurried to Anthony, as though attracted by his appearance. Yet neither in height nor breadth was he conspicuous above others, but in the serenity of his manner and the purity of his soul." So Passing his life, and becoming an example of virtue and a rule for monastics, he reposed on January 17 in the year 356, having lived altogether some 105 years.

Saints and Feasts

Anthony the New of the Berropas Skete

George the New Martyr of Ioannina

Theodosius the Emperor: The Holy Emperor Theodosius the Great during his reign (379-395) he delivered a decisive blow to paganism by issuing an edict, under which any sort of service to the pagan gods was considered a violation of the law. The zealous proponent of Orthodoxy promulgated many laws in defense of the Church and against heretics. He convened the Second Ecumenical Council (381). He ended his life in Milan in 395 at the age of fifty. Saint Theodosius often said that he was more fortunate to be a member of Christ's holy Church than an emperor.

Scripture – Prayer - Family

The NEW SPF50 reading program highlights many **ESSENTIAL Biblical Stories** like Creation, Noah and the Ark, the Exodus, the call of the Prophet Samuel, and many others throughout the Old and New Testaments.



To access this material or to find out more about how SPF50 can help your family grow in Christ, visit the Diocesan Website at www.acrod.org and look for the SPF50 logo.



Super Bowl Football Fundraiser

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Please support our Feb 7th Super Bowl football square fundraiser! There are 100 squares. Donation is \$10/square. Four winners (Q1, Q2, Q3, Final) will receive \$100. Squares will be

chosen randomly using a computer app. *Please bring or mail your donation to church so it is received no later than January 31, 2021.* (Checks payable to Saint Michael's Church.) There is a special box in the vestibule for the football square donations. Please make sure to include your name if paying cash. **(37 chances remain!)**

Together we can beat hunger.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021

Help feed the hungry by safely collecting nonperishables for a local food bank, and collect money for IOCC to support our work around the globe. Together we can turn the biggest weekend in football into a super day of giving!

Learn more at

iocc.org/souperbowl



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
P.O. Box 17398 | Baltimore, MD 21297-0429 | Toll-Free: 877.803.4622

“Souper” Bowl Sunday 2021

Please consider donating to our annual fundraising event that supports IOCC efforts to tackle hunger around the world and to our local support of the Village of Niles Food Pantry.

This past year has greatly increased the already overwhelming world-wide food insecurity problems many people face.

You can donate \$ directly to IOCC at the link listed below or bring or mail your checks (*payable to IOCC*) to St. Michael's Church.

Food items are also needed! A container is available in the vestibule and on the rectory porch through February 7th for your contributions of non-perishable food items. (*Please make sure your food items are NOT expired!*)

Donate to IOCC online at:

https://support.iocc.org/site/Donation2?5323.donation=form1&df_id=5323&mfc_pref=T

Follow Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>
Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>
You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

We need the Sacraments for Life Everlasting!

Dear faithful, we need Christ now, more than ever, to dwell within us, to strengthen us, and to grant us eternal life! *“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in me, and I in him.”* (John 6:54-56).

Home Visits: For any Faithful who are unable to return to church at this time, Father Sam can make a home visit to bring the Sacraments of Holy Confession and Communion to you. Please give him a call to schedule an appointment. This can be a “quick” visit (wearing masks).

Church Visits: For any Faithful who are uncomfortable attending services, but want to come to church to pray privately and receive the Sacraments, please call Father Sam to schedule a day/time.

Confessions: If you would like to have your confession heard via telephone, you may contact Father Sam to set up an appointment. Absolution must be given “in person”.

Vigil Candles at the Iconostas

In Loving Memory of **William Lindahl**
offered by Alan and Patricia Lindahl

In Loving Memory of **Grace Lindahl**
in Remembrance of her Birthday (1/17)
offered by Alan and Patricia Lindahl



For the Good Health of **Nicoletta Sodini**
on the occasion of her 16th Birthday (1/18)
offered by her Family

For the Good Health & Blessing of **Aunt Janet Foltman**
offered by Paul Vavrinchik & Family

For the Good Health & Blessing of **Aunt Mary Berzinis**
offered by Paul Vavrinchik & Family

Vigil Candles at the Iconostas

*Two candles are available for Jan 24.
Call or e-mail Father Sam to request a vigil candle to be lit.*

The MANTLE is sponsored by

Wesley A. Stinich, Funeral Director
Call direct 773-844-3032 or 708-222-8669
Chapels throughout Chicago and the Suburbs