

St. Matthew Orthodox Church

A Message from Father Eugene....

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The church is beginning to reopen. Although we are limited in the number of people who can attend and are administering restrictions relating to safety concerns, we are once again celebrating the Divine Liturgy regularly. Praise be to God! Through the summer and fall, the church services should continue to build up incrementally. I am hopeful that in the coming months the majority of our faithful will be able to attend on any given Sunday. Understandably, we are still precluded from gathering at the church for fellowship and education; but these too may see some encouraging movement in the near future. As numbers of attendees grow, the procedure for identifying who comes to church will need to change. Right now, I contact people individually for services. When the numbers increase, I will probably transition to an 'A' group and 'B' group formula. I note this positive change, but emphasize the likelihood of continued limitations of the number of people who can attend services.

These times of social isolation have been difficult for us all. Our liturgical rhythm has been disrupted. Being absent from the Eucharist has naturally caused a longing, a barrenness, in our life that, try as we might, cannot be quenched by anything but return. As we emerge from this, we should seek to discover how these times have been consequential in our life in Christ. I will address this more in the future. For now, as your priest, I will say that understanding can come only from thoughtful endurance - prayer. Many voices already purport to have found answers. As you may suspect, I am skeptical.

Thank you for your continued love for, and firmness of faith in, our church and our community. I so believe in the power of our prayer for each other and for all those in need of God's mercy. In that, we have not wavered. We were challenged and tempted, particularly by not being able to gather as a community, but persevered, each in our own way, to remain steadfast. Our recent liturgical celebrations have indeed been filled with Paschal joy. This joy is not a denial of what has happened. Rather, it blossoms from Christ as the center of our life.

Finally, I ask your forgiveness for my many shortcomings during this time. Like each of you, as priest, I struggle and have been tempted with an onslaught of ideas and solutions to problems that may be real or maybe not. Know that regardless of any adversities, you all continue in my prayers.

With love in Christ,
Father Eugene

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

...and MANY YEARS!!

Marc Kotz - 6/1

Myla Sarsama - 6/3

Nana Odman - 6/7

Kathy Nassios - 6/10

Paul Novak - 6/14

Maria Yogerst - 6/18

Will Morgan - 6/21

Marianna Heid - 6/23

Lydia Grinsteiner - 6/27

Cathy Mangan - 6/30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Paul & Deb Novak - 6/8

Pat & Cathy Mangan - 6/14

Mark & Whitney Massopust - 6/14

Parish Council President's Perspective...

I hope you find this first newsletter to be informative and NEW. We have all been dealing with NEW for the past two months. NEW things like; stay at home orders, work from home, dads and moms playing with their kids in the front yard, walks around the block with your family dog in tow, only 10 people at church, only 5 people at church, no church, Pascha being lived streamed, wearing masks, wash your hands - is washing your hands new? Oh well, I think you get my point.

What was new for me is that I couldn't go to Church as we have always done. My Mom didn't grant any sick days on Sundays! We went to Church because it was always there, the doors were open, there always something that needed to be done, so we went and prayed and help with our time and talents. I could never dream that you couldn't go to church. All of this was really NEW to me.

One assumes the Church will always be there. Father will always be there. The choir will always be there. So it was NEW that we couldn't go TO Church. But then again, the Church was there and is always there. We all just found our NEW way to go to Church, be it our pray corner or live stream. We are blessed to have a wonderful physical Church building. Father Eugene has done his best to minister to all of us in ways that were NEW to him. Let us be thankful for what we have and never assume that we can go to the physical Church building and pray as a family, socialize in Herrick Hall and enjoy each others company. We never know what might be NEW that is waiting for us.

In closing, I would thank you all during this NEW time. Please remember your financial commitments to the Church. On this front, your contributions have helped us ride out the storm for now. As we work towards getting all together again, I ask for your continued financial support. I pray that you and your families are well and that you enjoy our first NEW newsletter.

In Christ,
Paul Novak
SMOC President

Ministry Team News:

The Ministry Team's focus is three fold; locally, nationally and internationally. Involving our children is also a goal.

We would invite everyone to be ministry minded, and we want to give people opportunities to be part of ministering to others. Some of the opportunities are: supporting two Green Bay homeless shelters, supplying local food pantries, providing hygiene and school supplies for IOCC, sending care packages for Warm the Children and adopting a family at Christmas. We support Guatemalan missionaries, the Forty Day Walk for Life, and Martin Elementary School.

A big thank you to all of you who help with gifts of time, goods and/or finances.

Mary Petersen



A warm welcome home to Matthew Pings!! Matthew has returned from the seminary for the summer. We look forward to visiting with you sometime over the next few months.

"Let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and direct the works of our hands to do good. Guide the works of our hands." PS 89



Choir Notes.....

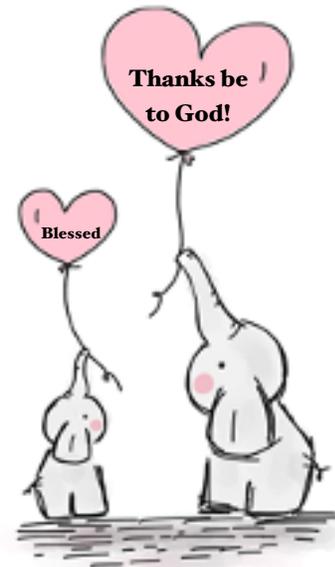


All of us missed the Paschal season...in two ways. We missed the services and we also missed the pervasive atmosphere of prayer that Orthodox worship can create. This was the first time in over 50 years that Bonita and I haven't sung in the holiday. Certainly felt odd. In Orthodox services, there is such a constant dialog between the priest and the choir or, really, the people. Much more choir singing than in other churches I've visited. So, when this part of the service is missing, the gap is huge

We both jumped around on YouTube a lot. Watched a lot of services, or parts of them, from churches in several jurisdictions. One OCA church in Birmingham, Alabama--St. Symeon-- has a choir that sounded so great. Very nice arrangements; ones that I had not heard before. Bonita mainly watched services from St. Mary's in Minneapolis. Even with a skeleton choir, they had very full sound. Their singing tempo is fast, but it doesn't take away from the reverence of the words.

When the choir can all sing together again, I wonder how much we will have forgotten. The same goes for the Children's Choir. It doesn't matter though; it'll just be such a pleasure to be harmonizing with everyone again.

Jeff Zdrale, Choir Director



A Note from the Treasurer.....

Dear SMOC family,

I am so grateful and humbled by your generous financial support for our parish during this time of forced separation. In March and April, we experienced above average giving with March nearly a record month for contributions. We have been able to meet all expenses monthly and phase 1 of the roof project and the nave flooring project is paid in full.

As you know your Parish Council has recommended that we significantly reduce the outstanding balance on our parking lot loan prior to any additional major expenditures. We are praying that we will be able to make additional payments on this debt and retire it fully in three years and that you will consider helping in this effort with any size gift you might consider making for this effort. I realize that pavement doesn't necessarily stir our hearts but the removal of ground water from our church property will help tremendously on upkeep and was an important step.

On behalf of the Parish Council thank you for your committed and sacrificial giving. You are the reason that we have a strong presence for Orthodox worship in NE Wisconsin. I for one have missed our weekly services so very much and I have missed all of you as well.

Tom Julian
SMOC Treasurer

This month's featured recipes are from Melissa McNeil. Each monthly newsletter will include one or two fast-friendly recipes from someone new.

LENTIL (MEAT) LOAF

1 c dry lentils (brown lentils)
 1 sml or 1/2 lrg bay leaf
 4 c water, divided
 3 Tbsp finely chopped onion
 1 garlic clove, minced
 1/2 c fresh wheat bread crumbs
 1/2 c bulgur wheat
 3/8 c oats, ground in food processor
 3/4 tsp oregano
 1/4 tsp basil, dried
 1 tsp salt
 1 tsp onion powder
 dash black pepper
 3/8 tsp garlic powder
 1/8 c ketchup or oil-free tomato sauce



In a medium sauce pan, combine lentils, bay leaf, 3 c water, onion and garlic. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and cook for about 45 min or until the lentils are soft and the water absorbed. When lentils are soft but not mushy, remove bay leaf and drain any excess water. While lentils are cooking, bring remaining 1 c water to boil in a small sauce pain and add bulgur wheat. Cover and reduce heat and simmer for 5 or 10 min, till cooked. Process fresh wheat bread slices in food processor until coarse crumbs form to make 1/2 cup crumbs.

In a large bowl, combine lentil mix, cooked bulgur, and remaining ingredients except ketchup. Pack into a greased small loaf (meatloaf shape) pan. Spread ketchup over top of lentil loaf and bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 45 min. On non-fast days, saute' onions and garlic in 2 tsp olive oil before adding to lentils and cooking. You can add other ingredients you may like in 'meatloaf,' such as green pepper, carrots, etc.

EASY BLACK BEAN SALSA

1 1/2 c cooked or canned black beans (drained and rinsed)
 1 1/2 c frozen corn, thawed (or fresh corn cut off the cob)
 1 1/2 c salsa, drain a little bit of the liquid
 1/4 c fresh chopped cilantro
 1 1/2 Tbsp lemon or lime juice (fresh is better)
 1/2 to 1 chopped fresh jalapeño pepper, optional
 1 fresh avocado, diced small
 1 Tbsp chili powder
 And any other fresh veggies you like, carrots, bell peppers, cucumber, tomato, etc.



Mix all ingredients together. Let chill in fridge to blend flavors for an hour or so. Can be used with chips, but also can top baked potato, or rice with salsa. This can also be used to mix in with veggies, like cooked green beans or peas, etc. If you use it for potatoes or veggie topping, you may want to omit the jalapeño peppers...or not. It is a good base for many fasting dishes. Also, you may want to use a mild salsa to add to the mix rather than a spicy one if you use the jalapeño peppers or if you are using this for a veggie or potato/rice topper. You can omit the chili powder. This is a great recipe to make your own.