

ST. MATTHEW ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

607 RAVENSWOOD DRIVE
GREEN BAY, WI 54302

From the desk of Father John.....

Forty days after the Great and Holy Pascha of our Lord, we celebrate the Feast of the Glorious Ascension of our Lord, the day on which we annually commemorate our Lord Jesus Christ's bodily ascension to the heavens, where He now, as a human being, of common nature with us, is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Ten days after the Ascension, and fifty days after Pascha, we celebrate the Feast of Great and Holy Pentecost. This feast, of course, commemorates the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles, just as Christ had promised them.

Throughout the Gospels, we may recall, the Apostles had a great deal of difficulty trying to understand the meaning of what Christ was telling them. Even after they had seen all of Christ's miracles and heard his teaching, they still fled in terror at his Crucifixion. And then again, remarkably, even after meeting the Resurrected Christ, they still did not totally understand. When Christ was about to ascend to Heaven, the disciples asked him "are you now going to restore the Kingdom to Israel?" They still thought the Kingdom was a Kingdom where Christ would reign in the earthly Jerusalem. They did not yet understand that Christ would send the Spirit to inaugurate His Kingdom, giving us time to make His Kingdom present here on earth, before coming again in glory for all to see.

The Apostles did not understand at first; yet, they still received the Holy Spirit. Despite their weaknesses, their confusion, their lack of understanding, they received the Spirit of God, and were perfected, becoming the saints, preachers, and teachers that we now know them as. This fact gives us courage, as we too are confused, weak, and have difficulty understanding. If we follow Christ's teachings, we too will come to wisdom and understanding, just as the Apostles did, and will burn, as with a fiery flame, with a desire to spread the joyous Gospel to the rest of humanity.

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

Thank you Father Eugene!

We are so grateful for all you have done for us
at St. Matthew Orthodox Church.
God bless you, Presbytera Antonia, Elizabeth, and Sophia.
Many years!!



“Go and do Great things!”



Parish Council President's Perspective.....Paul Novak

With the arrival of Father John and Matushka Katherine's daughter, Evangeline Maria, I started thinking about children and their wonderful participation in all of our services, especially Divine Liturgy. As such, I came across the following article on the Antiochian Orthodox website talking about children and I wanted to share it with all of you.

"We attend the Divine Liturgy every Sunday and sometimes during the week as well. Even as adults, the services can seem long, even more so for our children. The Orthodox Church considers all of its members, including children, to be an important part of the Church's life. Regardless of our status as adults: whether we are parents, godparents, Sunday Church School teachers, or any other adult in a parish, we share the responsibility for helping to raise the children who are a part of our parish.

Rather than focus on the things children should not do during the Divine Liturgy, we should think more positively. Here are things that children Can and Should Do during the Liturgy to participate more fully.

- ♦ **See** - The very tiniest among us can see the candles, at the icons, at the clergy, at the choir... Young preschoolers can look for items in the church such as crosses, the color of Jesus' robe, etc., throughout the Liturgy, the children's attention can be directed to look for things in the icons or in the service itself.
- ♦ **Talk** - Although there are many opportunities to be silent, with a little practice beforehand, children can (and should!) talk during the service! With a cue until they get the hang of it, very young children can begin with the "Amens." They can also join in for the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the communion prayers, etc. About children making too much noise in Church, I believe ArchBishop Paul has said, "When I hear the 'holy noise' of children in Church it makes me very happy because it tells me the parish has a future. We should be worried when we no longer hear that noise!"
- ♦ **Sing** - Children can sing "Lord, have mercy!" from a fairly early age. They can learn other responses to the prayers and refrains to the antiphons as well. A key to having children sing along during the Liturgy is for them to hear other parishioners also singing along. Children who are surrounded by adults who sing along tend to join in as they are able.
- ♦ **Hold** - Children can hold service books, either a child's version or the regular service book. Older children (and adults like me who need it to help them focus!) may want to hold a prayer rope and pray the Jesus Prayer during the Liturgy.
- ♦ **Stand** - While in their parents' arms, and then on their own once they know how to balance on their feet, children can learn to stand reverently during the Epistle, the Gospel, and the Great Entrance. As they get older, they can stand longer and longer until they are able to stand for the entire Liturgy.
- ♦ **Hear** - From an early age, children can listen to more and more of the service. The Epistle, the Gospel, the homily, the music, the prayers... the list can grow a bit every year until they are listening to the entire Liturgy. Younger children may need to be challenged quietly during the Epistle/Gospel/homily, "Listen for (a word you anticipate will be said multiple times, like 'Our Lord') and smile at me or gently squeeze my hand each time you hear Father say it."
- ♦ **Move** - There are even opportunities for movement during the Divine Liturgy! Once again, it takes a little pre-teaching, but even young children are able to make the sign of the cross, bow their heads unto the Lord, kneel if/when applicable, reply to Father's bow with one of their own, etc. We can help the youngest ones to do so, taking their baby fist in our hand to make the sign of the cross over their body, etc.

Children love to participate. They long to feel a part of things. They want to contribute to the world around them. Presbytera Marilisse I. Mars states "Talk to your child about Church as often as you can. Liken things to Church. Make Church sound fun and exciting. For kids, it can be fun and exciting. [My son] loves Church because there is SO MUCH to look at, listen to, and do. Keep Church in the forefront of their minds."

The following was a shortened version of a longer article from the Antiochian Orthodox website which can be found at: <http://ww1.antiochian.org/helping-children-participate-divine-liturgy>

Welcome Father John & Matushka Katherine and Evangeline Maria!



Congratulations.....

***Congratulations to Father John and Matushka Katherine
on the birth of their daughter, Evangeline Maria,
born on Tuesday, May 18.
May God bless you all!***



Choir Practice

Adults - Sunday, June 13
Children - Sunday, June 27

12:00 to 1:00

Questions, please contact
Director, Jeff Zdrale

Summer Vacations and Church Offerings....

As we hopefully make some time to get away this year, please remember that the Church and its expenses don't take a vacation. If you are going to be gone for a period of time this summer, please remember the Church. Your church offerings and donations can be made online via our website at <https://www.smocgb.com/support> or mailed to the Church attention: Tom Julian.

Thank you for your support!



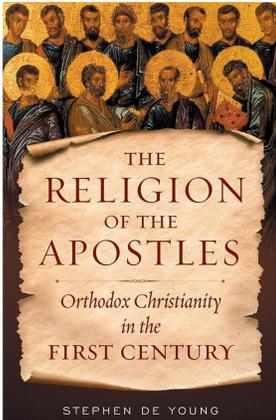
From Our Treasurer, Tom Julian

It is inspiring to see so many folks in our parish committed to giving. Your financial support is critical to our ministry here at SMOC and our support of local and world missions. We are experiencing a societal shift where the value of leisure time is taking over the desire for wealth accumulation. God is glorified when we give of our money, time, and talents to him. As we revive our children's spiritual education program this fall, I pray that you would also give of your time and talents to this crucial ministry in the life our parish.

Tom Julian, Treasurer

Sunday School Informational Meeting.....

On **Sunday June 13th**, a Sunday School informational meeting will be held after we have a break for coffee. This meeting is for all those that would like to help, teach or assist in our Sunday School program. Our program with our young adult group will also be discussed. This meeting is to start the organizational planning of what needs to be done for a September start date of Sunday School.



St. Matthew's Bookstore continues to be a valuable resource for our parish. New items are made available often in anticipation of the diverse needs of parishioners. I have appreciated the suggestions brought to my attention and welcome any you may have, as well as personal requests. There is a notepad available for you by the payment envelope. You may also email me at cherylynn61@gmail.com. Please visit our bookstore and peruse the many books, icons, incense and so much more available to you as you continue your spiritual journey in Christ!

Serving Christ,
Serving you,
Cheryl Julian

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/thinking-orthodox/>

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/a-long-walk-with-mary-a-personal-search-for-the-mother-of-god>

A Warm Welcome.....

Hello everyone! We are the Valverde family!

My name is Jessica and my husband's name is Aaron. Our son, Juan, will be one at the end of June and was recently received into the Church by Baptism in March. I was introduced to the Orthodox Church by my husband on Pascha 2018 and was Chrismated the year after. My husband, Aaron, was Chrismated in early 2017. Aaron works as a machine operator at Kimberly Clark in Neenah, and I recently stepped away from my full-time job to focus on wrapping up my BA in Criminal Justice and begin the paralegal program at Fox Valley Tech, as well as be home more with Juan. We are so thankful to have found St. Matthew shortly after arriving in Wisconsin in the fall of 2020, and love that so many are so caring and friendly toward us.



Hello from the desk of the Church Council Vice-President

Christ is risen!

It's been a while since I've done a submission to the newsletter, and several things have either been planned or are in the planning phases.

As we all know, the Iconography project is in full swing, and the funds are rolling in nicely. Thank you to Paul for the weekly updates on the current progress.

We are currently looking into getting the windows replaced in Herrick Hall so we can put in a couple of window air conditioners as we continue to make improvements to the building itself. Right now, we are in the process of receiving bids and will update on progress when it becomes available.

I trimmed the trees in the back of the building to allow for the mowing to be done with a lot easier access for the gentleman who does the mowing.

We have also been in the early stages of upgrading the lighting in the nave and have gotten at least one bid on it, but we are currently still in the process of figuring out design and layout.

Two more things of note: AMA Heating and Cooling will be coming out this week to tweak the heating and cooling system to have it in tip top shape for the summer, and rocks have been placed in the low spot in the back of the building to prevent flooding and also growth of unwanted plants.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours in Christ,
Matt Tomac (Lazarus)

Church Cleaners....

NOVAK (week of) 5/30/21 for 6/6
SCHAHCZAENSKI (week of) 6/6/21 for 6/13
JULIAN (week of) 6/13/21 for 6/20
TOMAC (week of) 6/20/21 for 6/27
WEILAND (week of) 6/27/21 for 7/4
SARSAMA (week of) 7/4/21 for 7/11
NASSIOS (week of) 7/11/21 for 7/18
MYKHAYLYUK (week of)7/18/21 for 7/25
ODMAN (week of) 7/25/21 for 8/1
BISBEE (week of) 8/1/21 for 8/8
SCHWEINER (week of) 8/8/21 for 8/15
ENCK (week of) 8/15/21 for 8/22

Thank you!



June Birthdays

- 6-1 Marc Kotz
- 6-3 Myla Sarsama
- 6-7 Nana Odman
- 6-10 Kathy Nassios
- 6-14 Paul Novak
- 6-16 Chuck Bayerl
- 6-18 Maria Yogerst
- 6-21 Will Morgan
- 6-23 Mariana Heid
- 6-23 Jessica Valverde
- 6-26 Maria Taillon
- 6-27 Lydia Grinsteiner
- 6-30 Cathy Mangan
- 6-30 Juan Valverde



July Birthdays

- 7-1 Andreas Schweizer
- 7-5 Paul Holzman
- 7-10 Peter Nassios
- 7-11 Svitlana Mykhaylyuk
- 7-20 Andrew Mykhaylyuk
- 7-22 Kyria Taillon
- 7-28 Lydia Greenlaw
- 7-31 Kevin Brown
- 7-31 Olivia Jeffers



August Birthdays

- 8-3 Lars Odman
- 8-4 Jim Stuck
- 8-21 Joy Jeffers
- 8-22 Vivian Schwalenberg
- 8-23 Ion Nistor



Keeping You in the Loop with the Ministry Team

The Ministry Team invites you to work with us this summer to minister to people here, at home, and overseas.

Our focuses for this summer will be Guatemalan Missionaries in June, Food for Pantries during July, and House of Hope in August. Each month we 'll share how to support these areas with church announcements and information on our Ministry Table in Herrick Hall.

In addition, we are planning to assemble and donate hygiene bags once again for IOCC in July. Clothing items for Warm the Children are going to be gathered and sent out at the same time. This will be an opportunity for our Sunday Schoolers to again be participants in both projects.

More information will be available as we move into the summer. Please consider being part of our SMOC Ministry with items and/or donations to further this work. Your support has been amazing, we so appreciate you, and we look forward to a summer of ministering together.

Thank You!



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June Wedding Anniversaries

- 6-8 Paul & Debra Novak
- 6-14 Pat & Cathy Mangan
- 6-14 Mark & Whitney Massopust
- 6-21 Peter & Elizabeth Parry
- 6-29 Aaron & Jessica Valverde

July Wedding Anniversaries

- 7-10 Brandon & Tara Enck
- 7-10 Lars & Nana Odman
- 7-16 Greg & Ann Kaseno
- 7-26 Jeff & Bonnie Zdrale



August Wedding Anniversaries

- 8-5 Jim & Judy Stuck
- 8-14 Tom & Cheryl Julian
- 8-18 Fr. John & Katherine Thetford
- 8-30 Doug & Linda Bisbee



Sylvia Sarsama was received into the Church by Baptism on Lazarus Saturday, April 24th. Her parents are Keely and Pedro Sarsama. Many years!



Evelyn Kizewski was received into the Church by Baptism and Chrismation as Nina Rebekah on Holy Saturday, May 1st. Evelyn's Godmother is Presbytera Antonia Wozniak. Many years!



Cheesy Potato Chowder

- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups diced unpeeled red potatoes
- 1 cup diced carrot
- 1/2 cup diced celery
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1-2 cloves minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tbsp butter
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups whole milk
- 2 cups shredded reduced-fat cheddar cheese grated
- 1 cup fully cooked ham cubed



In a Dutch oven, saute onions and celery in butter. Add garlic, broth, carrots, potatoes, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10-12 minutes or until tender.

Meanwhile, melt butter in a large saucepan; gradually whisk in flour. Slowly whisk in milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat. Add cheese; stir until melted. Stir the ham and the cheese sauce into undrained vegetables; stir until combined.

Hamburger Soup

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup onion finely diced
- 2 carrots peeled, quartered and sliced
- 2 stalks celery thinly sliced
- 1 pound ground beef I use 90% lean
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 - 15 ounce can diced tomatoes do not drain
- 1 - 8 ounce can tomato sauce
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning or equal parts of garlic powder, dried oregano and dried basil
- 6 cups beef broth
- 1 large russet potato peeled and diced into 1/2 inch cubes
- 1/2 cup frozen corn
- 1/2 cup diced green beans fresh or frozen
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley optional



Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium high heat. Add the onion, carrots and celery to the pot. Cook for 5-6 minutes or until softened. Add the ground beef to the pot and season with salt and pepper to taste. Cook, breaking up the meat with a spoon, until browned and mostly cooked through. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds more. Add the tomatoes, tomato sauce, Italian seasoning, beef broth and potato to the pot; bring to a simmer. Cook for 25-30 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Taste and add salt and pepper as desired. Stir in the corn and green beans and cook for 5 minutes more. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.