



# Saint Michael's Romanian Orthodox Church

Southbridge, Massachusetts  
[www.stmichaelorthodox.com](http://www.stmichaelorthodox.com)

May 2022



## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### **Saturday**

9:00am Divine Liturgy  
10:00am Memorial Service  
5pm Vespers

### **Sunday**

9:00am Matins  
10:00am Divine Liturgy

### **Wednesday**

6:00pm Paraklesis

## FEAST DAYS

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** – St. Thomas

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** – St. Irene and St. Ephraim  
of Nea Makri

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** – St. John the Theologian

**May 10<sup>th</sup>** – Apostle Simon the Zealot

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** – Sts. Cyril and Methodius

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** – Mid-Pentecost

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** – Sts. Constantine and  
Helen

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** – Third Finding of the  
Head of St. John the Baptist

## Feast of Mid-Pentecost

The fifty days following Pascha until the Feast of Pentecost are known as the period of the Pentecostarion in the Orthodox Church. At the mid-point between these great feasts of Pascha and Pentecost, on the twenty-fifth day which is always a Wednesday, is one of the most beloved feasts for the most devout Orthodox Christians known quite simply as Mid-Pentecost. Mid-Pentecost is to the Pentecostarion what the Third Sunday of Great Lent which honors the Holy Cross is to the period of Great Lent. It is a day which helps us focus on the central theme of the entire period. Whereas the mid-point of Great Lent reminds us to bear up the Cross of Christ bravely so that we may daily die with Christ in order to experience the Resurrection of our Lord, so also the mid-point of the Pentecostarion enlightens us regarding the theme of the fifty days following Pascha -which is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit poured out as a gift upon all the faithful who partake of the living water which is Christ Himself. On the Wednesday of Mid-Pentecost, we commemorate the words of our Lord Jesus Christ concerning the provenance of His teaching and His Divine origin, whereby He proved that He was the Messiah, and the Mediator and Reconciler of us and the eternal Father. The Feast of Mid-Pentecost is celebrated for an entire week until the following Wednesday, making it an eightday feast. During this entire time the hymns of Mid-Pentecost are joined with that of Pascha. Because of the theme of water, traditionally the Church celebrates the Lesser Blessing of the Waters on this day, preferably with a procession with the Holy Cross to a water spring. Since the hymns of the Church invoke and praise our Lord as the Wisdom of God spoken of in the Book of Proverbs, it is traditional that all churches named after Holy Wisdom or Hagia Sophia celebrate their feast on this day.

**Saint Michael's Romanian Orthodox Church**  
16 Romanian Avenue, Southbridge Massachusetts 01550  
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### 2022 Parish Council

President: Luke Yanka  
Vice President: Spiro Thomo  
Secretary: Debby Thomo  
Treasury: Paul Yanka

### 2022 Ladies Society Committee

President: Alexandra Nasto  
Vice President: Louise Boilard  
Secretary: Debbie Thomo  
Treasurer: Mary Andreea

### Clergy

Fr. John Downie [fr.john\\_downie71@yahoo.com](mailto:fr.john_downie71@yahoo.com)

## Parish News & Events

### Happy Birthday!! God Grant You Many More Years!!

May 1<sup>st</sup> – John Mitaras  
May 12<sup>th</sup> – Yannis Mironidis  
May 15<sup>th</sup> – Paul Yanka  
May 17<sup>th</sup> – Kim Yanka  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Anna Alexander  
May 25<sup>th</sup> – Dimitri Mironidis  
May 28<sup>th</sup> – Antonia Pitsillides

### Happy Name Day

May 1<sup>st</sup> – **St. Thomas** – Tom Dowling, Tom Andrea, Tom Burren, Tom Riley  
May 8<sup>th</sup> – **St. John the Theologian** – Fr. John, Yannis Mironidis, John DeAngelis, Yannis Penna  
May 16<sup>th</sup> – **St. Theodore the Sanctified** – Theodora, Theodore Yanka, Theodore Rapsomanikis  
May 18<sup>th</sup> – **Mid-Pentecost** – Sophia Pitsillides  
May 21<sup>st</sup> – **Sts. Constantine and Helen** – Charles Panu, Constantine Penna, Eleni Fatsi

### Please Pray for:

Georgia  
Natalia and Mihail  
Mihaela  
Leonard



Carol  
Sandra  
Louise  
Marik



Drawing begins Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### School Snack Drive

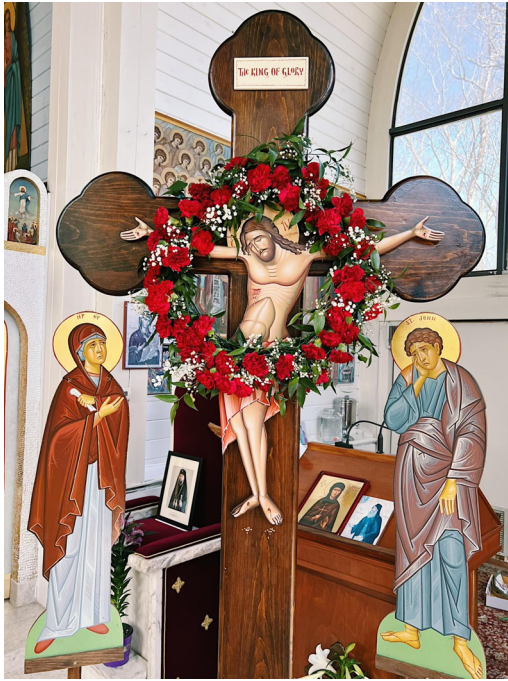
Please bring **individually-wrapped** snacks for our local schools. We did not have enough last month, so we postponed the collection by a month.





# Parish Life

Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha 2022





## **Two Recent Miracles of Saint Paisios the Athonite in Eastern Congo** *From Mystagogy Resource Center*

Fr. Timothy Ntumba of the Church of Saint Nicholas in Bunia of Eastern Congo has recently informed us of two recent miracles on behalf of two of his parishioners through the intervention of Saint Paisios the Athonite. He writes:

Dear friends, good morning! May Saint Paisios the Athonite help us! I would like to mention two miracles of Saint Paisios in Bunia, in the Parish of Saint Nicholas, as we experienced them these days, which, in fact, have some things in common.

An 11-year-old Orthodox girl named Daniela was poisoned by a classmate, who was jealous of her success and prestige. The girl was very close to death, with vertigo, and she had lost a lot of weight rapidly. She had turned pale in less than a week. Her heart was afflicted. She kept telling her mom that her heart was hurting. The girl had a dream, which she told her mom. This dream was about what I will tell you below. So little Daniela came the same week to find the pastor of the Church of Saint Nicholas in Bunia, following the advice of the Person who had appeared to her in the dream she had seen. On Sunday, with very unbearable pain in her chest, she came to Holy Communion, and on the same day she felt healed and still feels healthy today.

Also a few days ago, a 30-year-old Orthodox woman named Eva suddenly began to feel excruciating pain all over her body, a severe headache with vomiting and diarrhea almost at any time. And at night the situation got worse. The following nights, her pain was unbearable. Examinations at the hospital showed that she had been poisoned. (Perhaps this was done to her by a friend of hers, who had unsuspectingly invited her to her house, where she had been treated to some juice). The drugs prescribed to her made the affliction in her chest worse.

On the eve of the feast of Saint Paisios, on 11 July 2021, she saw a dream and woke up. Then she tried to sleep again. She had the same dream for the second time, with the same man saying the same words to her: "Eva, in the morning, go to church, find your priest. Commune in the Divine Liturgy and you will be healed." In the morning, when the priest arrived at the church, he was impressed that he found Eva in the church, and asked her why she had come while she was sick with excruciating pain from the poisoning and had to stay in her house. The woman did not answer anything. In the Divine Liturgy he communed her. An hour after the Divine Liturgy, she returned to the church and told one of the altar boys that she wanted to talk to the pastor. And she told the pastor the



dream she had seen twice that night, which she had told her children in the morning, before coming to church. All the descriptions of both Daniela and Eva about the Holy Person, that they saw in their dream, refer to Saint Paisios the Athonite, since the healed faithful Orthodox recognized him from his icon, while they did not know much about the Saint. Thank God!



**Congratulations to parents Anthony and Stephanie Rapsomanikis and grandparents Joy and George on the birth of Vaia Eleni (born 6:46pm 4/22/22)!**



## *President's Corner*

05/01/2022

Christ Is Risen! Krishti U Ngjall! Khristos voskrese! Christos anesti! Hristos a inviat!

What a blessed and beautiful Pascha we had! Thank you to everyone who attended, worked, cooked, cleaned, donated, and prayed! May GOD BLESS all of you! Specifically, we would like to thank our Altar Boys, our Cantors (Loukas and Maria) who delivered the most beautiful services, and of course Father John and Prebytera Camelia. It was quite the week with many services and a lot of sacrifice from all! In other news around the Parish, we want to thank the Dowling's along with Sandra Nasto for running another successful calendar fundraiser (we appreciate everyone who helped with this). Also, on May 14th Saint Michael's will be hosting a chicken BBQ and bake sale at the church hall from 4:30pm – 6pm. Also, thanks to a generous donation from one of our newest parishioners, Phil Economou and his family, we will have Orthodox Pro-life t-shirts for sale at the parish hall for \$20. They are unique shirts, and they are not something you would typically be able to find, make sure you ask to see one! Thank you all for everything you do for our church and may you have a blessed month of May!

-Luke Yanka, Parish Council President (508)958-4144

"By His Resurrection, Christ conquered sin and death, destroyed Satan's dark kingdom, freed the enslaved human race and broke the seal on the greatest mysteries of God and man."

-St. Nikolai Velimirovic

## ~ Parents' School Corner ~

*On the Upbringing of Children*, by  
Bishop Irenaeus

*Laying the foundation – Chapter Two*

How easy it is to inspire in a small child love and reverence for the Divine Services of the Church! It is enough to make him understand that in the church the Lord, Who is present everywhere, is more perceptible – the God Who loves children so much and Who calls them also to Himself. Consequently, in church we must stand quietly, carefully make the sign of the Cross and pray.

Yes, parents! If your heart overflows faith and love for God, you will find a thousand and two ways to pass on these feelings to your children. We do the greatest wrong to ur children if we deprive them of the treasure of faith and piety. The saying is absolutely correct that “the soul of a man –consequently, also of a child – is by nature Christian.” God expects to see Christian manifestations in a child’s soul. The Psalmists truly writes: “ Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast Thou perfected praise” (Ps. 8:3). For this reason, in order to develop and firmly root the spirituality of your child’s soul, teach him to pray to God when he is young. He can pray however small he is. Since he asks his parents for everything he wants, why can’t he ask his Heavenly Father? Just begin teaching him when he is small, and prayer will gradually become a necessity for him. Regularly say morning and evening prayers together with your children, as well as the prayers before and after meals,

so that won’t come to table like unreasoning beasts to their manger, but will learn that if we want gifts from God, we must ask an thank Him for them. Every child should know the “Our Father”, the “Theotokos Virgin, rejoice,” and other short prayers.

It is a very grievous thing that common family prayer has almost completely disappeared in our age. Indeed, it is exactly for this reason that we see so many unhappy families and so many failures in child-rearing – men have ceased to pray...Maybe some will counter:” The child doesn’t understand the prayers.” Of course he doesn’t fully comprehend the meaning of the prayers; but small though he be he will enter into the climate of piety, which is exactly what he needs. He can feel God even though he has not yet formed any clear idea of Him. He perceives that these exists some higher Being Who loves us and Whom we also should love....

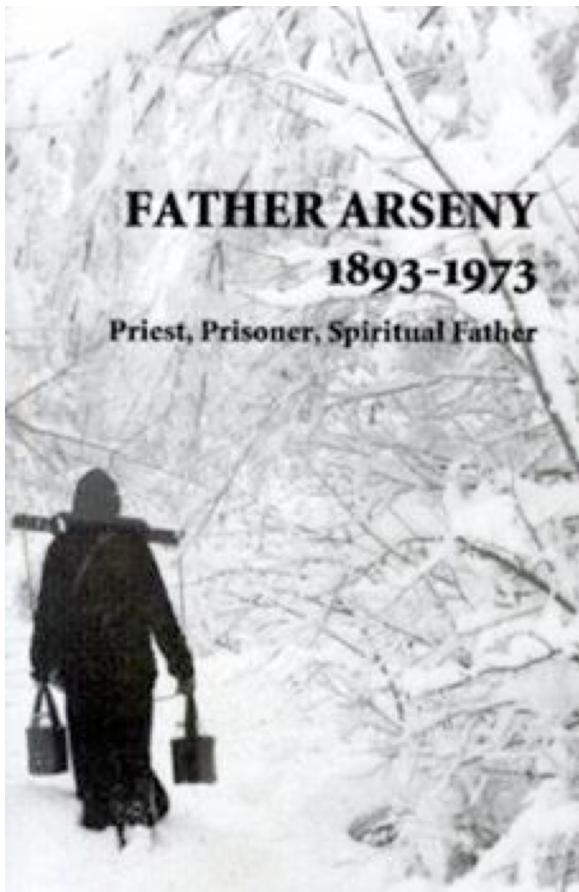
In order for parents to give their children Christian training...they themselves must love to pray...If the mother does not have faith and piety, if she does not find – because she does not seek – joy and consolation in prayer, she will not succeed in teaching her children to be pious. Only when a child sees his mother praying frequently and fervently will he learn to do likewise.

Therefore I address you, Christian mothers: the best inheritance you can leave your sons, the richest dowries you can prepare for your daughters, is a truly Christian upbringing. S I have briefly indicated to you, teach them basic truths



of our faith, teach them piety and prayer. Teach by words, but most of all by examples...If you admonish your children in piety and the fear of God, you can have hope that they will continue to be a consolation and joy to you – for if they fear and love God, they will also be obedient and grateful to you. If you teach your children to fulfill their duties to God, they will also fulfill their duties to you. Therefore, parents, raise your children for God and Heaven! Then you will also have joy from them here on earth.

## Book Club – May 27<sup>th</sup>



## Movie Night – May 13<sup>th</sup>

*Mirror* is a 1975 Russian art film directed by Andrei Tarkovsky. It is loosely autobiographical, unconventionally structured, and incorporates poems composed and read by the director's father, Arseny Tarkovsky.

*Mirror* is structured in the form of a nonlinear narrative, with its main concept dating back to 1964 and undergoing multiple scripted versions by Tarkovsky and Aleksandr Misharin. It unfolds around memories recalled by a dying poet of key moments in his life and in Soviet culture. The film combines contemporary scenes with childhood memories, dreams, and newsreel footage. Its cinematography slips between color, black-and-white, and sepia. The film's loose flow of visually oneiric images has been compared with the stream of consciousness technique in modernist literature.

*Mirror* initially polarized critics and audiences, with many considering its narrative to be incomprehensible. The work has grown in reputation since its release and is now considered one of the greatest films of all time, ranking nineteenth in Sight & Sound's 2012 critics' poll and ninth in the directors' poll. It has also found favor with many Russians for whom it remains their most beloved of Tarkovsky's works.



## ~ GOOD SAMARITAN CORNER ~

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. James 2:14-17*

Tabitha Orfanage and School belong to the Orthodox Christian Diocese of Kisumu and Western Africa under the loving care of His Grace Bishop Markos Theodosi and the founders, Father Agapios Habbil Lipesa Omukuba and his wife, Presbyteria Dorah. The Orthodox Church in Kenya is a part of the Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa.

Fr. Agapios and Presbyteria Dorah moved the orphans from the Kibera slum outside of Nairobi to Malava in Kakamega County in order to provide them with a safe place to live. They provide the children's every need including shelter, clothing, daily meals, schooling, and medical care. Fr. Agapios travels back regularly to Kibera to rescue more children and bring them to Malava.

With the blessing of reposed Bishop Athanasios (maybe some of you remember his death here in Worcester in 2018) and by the generosity of others, they purchased a beautiful parcel of land on which they are building a new home, future schoolhouse, medical clinic and church. Father Agapios and Presbyteria

Dorah are working hard to complete construction.

They currently spend approximately \$700.00 per month to meet the basic needs of the children and pay teachers and staff. School is not free in Kenya and uniforms are required.

During the pandemic the financial help that came from Greek Archdioceses almost stopped and Fr. Agapios was forced to find other means to feed his orphans while continue the construction of the school and dormitories. For this reason he traveled to Romania twice, in 2021 and 2022.

This year Fr. Agapios met many very good hearted Romanian people who were happy to help him and his orphans. God helped Fr. Agapios by arranging a meeting in Bucharest with a very faithful Orthodox philanthropist who funded a large amount of money for Fr. Agapios orphanage.

Immediately after his return from Romania Fr. Agapios resumed the work for the dining building and started the construction for the girls' dormitory. In April he will start the work for the boys' dormitory.

"For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land." Deuteronomy 15:11



This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.  
Psalm 34:6

Bishop Markos Theodosi of Kisumu is a very humble and monk-like bishop. He followed Bishop Athanasios at the helm of Kisumu's Archdiocese. He is a Cypriot by origin, born in South Africa. While Bishop Athanasios had many friends in US and received financial help from America. Bishop Markos does not know anyone in the U.S. and has big difficulties in paying the priests and in covering the minimum needs of his Archdioceses. He was begging one of our parishioners for help. Any Hierarch of the Orthodox Church should not be put in a such a delicate position.

Let's pool our funds to send a monthly contribution to Bishop Markos and Fr. Agapios. By sending a monthly donation we can help them to pay the priests, to buy the incense and oil for the churches, and to feed and educate the orphans (many families in our church can afford to send 30, 50 or 100USD every month).

Here are the information for sending money:

For Bishop  
Marcos: <https://www.orthodoxdiocesekisumu.gr/donations/>

For Fr. Agapios orphanage: Habbil Lipesa Omukuba (last name), Malava, Kenya for Money Gram. or HBBIL LIPESA OMUKUBA Cooperative Bank of Kenya; Kakamega Branch, Account no 22100228675600 , Swift Code: KCOOKENA.

There will be a zoom meeting with Fr. Agapios about "The Orthodoxy in Africa and how he discovered the Orthodox church" on April 10, at 6:00pm. Fr. John will send the link for the meeting.



# May 2022

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Thomas Sunday</b>  <b>Matins</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <b>10:00am</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Vespers</b> <b>6:00pm</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>St. Irene and St. Ephraim of Nea Makri</b>  <b>Matins</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <b>10:00am</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>(Memorial Service following Liturgy</b> <b>10:00am)</b>  <b>Vespers</b> <b>5:00pm</b>
<b>8</b>  <b>Sunday of the Myrrhbearers; St. John the Theologian</b>  <b>Matins</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <b>10:00am</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>Apostle Simon the Zealot</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>Sts. Cyril and Methodius</b>  <b>Paraklesis</b> <b>6:00pm</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>(Memorial Service following Liturgy</b> <b>10:00am)</b>  <b>Vespers</b> <b>5:00pm</b>
<b>15</b>  <b>Sunday of the Paralytic</b>  <b>Matins</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <b>10:00am</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>St. Theodore the Sanctified</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>Mid-Pentecost</b>  <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <b>9:00am</b>  <b>Paraklesis</b> <b>6:00pm</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <b>Vespers</b> <b>6:00pm</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>Sts. Constantine and Helen</b>  <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>(Memorial Service following Liturgy</b> <b>10:00am)</b>  <b>Vespers</b> <b>5:00pm</b>
<b>22</b>  <b>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b>  <b>Matins</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <b>10:00am</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Third Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist</b>  <b>Paraklesis</b> <b>6:00pm</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>(Memorial Service following Liturgy</b> <b>10:00am)</b>  <b>Vespers</b> <b>5:00pm</b>
<b>29</b>  <b>Sunday of the Blind Man</b>  <b>Matins</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <b>10:00am</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				