



Father Ronald Hilt was installed by Bishop John Michael Botean for St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church on Sunday, September 30, 2018. He will be acting as Administrator for the parish temporarily with the duration undetermined. The duration will depend on the availability of a Romanian-speaking priest. Father Ronald was born on October 4, 1971 to Martha and Ronald Hilt, Sr. in Belleville, Illinois, and grew up in the St. Louis metropolitan area. His family was from a French and Ukrainian background, and he grew up with his grandmother Elizabeth in the house. Because of this his family held true to the tradition and customs of their background with an emphasis on the faith of their fathers. Father Ronald has a sister two years older, Julia (Varady), and a twin brother James.

Father Ronald received his Masters of Divinity from Saint Louis University, Saint Thomas School of Theology. He was ordained a priest on June 28, 2009, at St. Basil's Byzantine Church in Trenton, New Jersey, by Bishop John Michael Botean. Shortly thereafter he received permission from Rome to celebrate liturgy in the Roman rite. Father Ronald served as assistant to Father Fred Peterson at St. George Church in Aurora, Illinois, for several years, and has also helped out at numerous Roman Catholic churches throughout the state of Illinois. His last assignment was as Administrator for St. Mary Catholic Church in Paris, Illinois. He has also taught high school theology at Central Aurora Illinois Catholic High School for five years, and he has served as chaplain for the Poor Clares in Minooka, Illinois, and for the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis in Bartlett, Illinois. Before becoming a priest he worked as a social worker for the Franciscans in St. Louis, Missouri.

Father Ronald was married for 12 years and has two beautiful children, Bernadette Marie, aged 22, and Noah Joseph, aged 20; his marriage was annulled. Father Ronald enjoys painting icons, reading books on the Catholic and Orthodox faiths, and gardening. As the Administrator of St. Michael's he hopes to spend his time using his gifts and talents to beautify St. Michael's and to create an atmosphere for holiness to flourish, for people's faith to grow through sound preaching and reverent prayer. He also desires to begin learning Romanian and to promote an awareness of the beautiful Romanian culture that was established by the founders of St. Michael's Parish. Father Ronald wishes to thank all of St. Michael's Parish for his warm welcome. He is committed to serving this congregation with love, loyalty and joy. Let us pray that God may give him this grace!