

St Michael's Orthodox Church

A parish of the Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

305 Walnut Street, Jermyn, Pennsylvania 18433

<https://stmichaeljermyn.org/>

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December 10, 2023: 27th Sunday After Pentecost (12th Sunday of Luke)

We welcome ALL of you to St Michael's. Every one of you is precious to us. *Especially all children.*

After Liturgy, please come downstairs for coffee, refreshments, and fellowship.

Services and Events

Saturday, Dec 9 – COOKIE WALK

Saturday, Dec 9, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, Dec 10, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy and Fellowship

Saturday, Dec 16, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, Dec 17, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy and Fellowship

Saturday, Dec 23, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, Dec 24, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy with Small Vespers for the Eve of the Nativity

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, Dec 24, 6:30 p.m. – Vigil of the Nativity

Monday, Dec 25, 9:30 a.m. – Festal Divine Liturgy

"Holding fast to the law of love, let us embrace the intent of brotherly love, establishing peace one with another, and oneness of mind; for Christ, the Giver of peace, is coming, bringing peace to all."

- (Canon of Compline of the Forefeast, December 22, eighth Ode)

Our hymns are "the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord'" (Is. 40:3). Just as St. John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ by calling the people of Israel to repentance (Matt. 3:1-2), so too does the Church prepare us for the Nativity by exhorting us to "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Matt. 3:8).

We are to prepare with faith **and** works, with contemplation **and** action, with prayer **and** charity. We must increase our **talent of grace** and not neglect the virtues God has given us (Matt. 25:14-30). If our joy is not a truly spiritual joy that softens our hearts and wakes us up from our spiritual slumber, **then it is the joy of the world and not of Christ.**

It is not enough to celebrate Christmas. We need to be **changed** and **shaped** by what we are celebrating. If our spiritual life is no better in spite of all our praying, fasting, and church services, then we have not yet begun to fully respond to the significance of Advent and of the Nativity.

The Church's invitation to prepare for the Nativity is above all a command to us to open the **gates of repentance**, that Christ may enter our very being and be **born anew** in our hearts, and to offer our virtues to the newborn King. Instead of gold, we offer **charity**; instead of frankincense, **prayer**; instead of myrrh, **repentance**. Then, like the song of the angels and the adoration of the shepherds, our worship will be pure and our love without pretense.

– Fr Vassilios Papavassiliou, *Meditations for Advent* (Ancient Faith Publishing, Chesterton, 2013), 19-24.

Announcements

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE OUR VERY FIRST “COOKIE WALK” POSSIBLE! Thank you to all who came and visited our sale! We hope to see you again soon. Please know, *you are always welcome at St Michael's.*

*If you know of anyone who is **sick, injured, or struggling** with anything in their life; please contact us so they can be added to our prayers. (Or, if you wish, names can be added to the private prayer list in the altar and not mentioned in the bulletin.) Please also (always!) let the priest know whenever someone is **pregnant**, recently had a **baby**, is **engaged**, or is planning a **wedding**, so we can add them to our prayers as well.*

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17

Brethren, Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

Hymns of the Day

Sunday Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Sunday Kontakion (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

For the Mother of God (Tone 6)

Steadfast protectress of Christians, / constant advocate before the Creator; / despise not the entreating cries of us sinners, / but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. / Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, // for you always protect those who honor you!

Donations & Memorials

Giving Opportunities: *We welcome the following donations. Please see Fr John if interested.*

- \$80 towards sacramental wine (approx.. once every 2 months)
- \$150 (total) for new Bookmarks for the Holy Gospel (in six colors)
- \$64 for two embroidered cross-shaped liners for the Crosses on the Holy Table

In your prayers...

*Please pray for our **Protodeacon Gabriel** Petorak, who was hospitalized earlier this week. Please consider sending a note or card to Pdn. Gabriel & Mat. Delores, 218 Walnut St, Jermyn, PA 18433.*

Please also remember in your prayers those who are ill or recovering from illness or injury:

Fr Michael Evans, Fr Joseph Chupek, Fr Peter Telencio, Edward & Karen Hojnicky, Gregory Hansen, Olga Krutz, Maryanne Krisa, Michael Krisa, William Hummer, Barbara Mosley.

Please also remember those who are alone or confined. Send a card, or stop by and visit.

- **Eileen Dance**, Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation Center #**202**, 10 Hart Place, Carbondale, PA 18407
(please note the change of room number)
- **John Drutarosky**, Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation Center #307, 10 Hart Place, Carbondale, PA 18407
- **Theresa Krenitsky**, Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation Center #307, 10 Hart Place, Carbondale, PA 18407
- **Nicholas Mattise**, Personal Care at Allied Terrace, Room 218, 100 Terrace Ln, Clarks Summit, PA 18411
- **Barbara Palubniak**, 629 Hill St, Mayfield, PA 19433
- **Peggy Petrilak**, 127 Petrilak Lane, Greenfield Twp, PA 18407
- **Peter Senio**, The Gardens of Green Ridge, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, PA 18509
- **Jerry & Marilyn Soroka**, c/o Glenmaura Senior Living, 11 Glenmaura National Blvd, Moosic, PA 18507
- **Paul Kostiak**, along with **Dolores Brophy**, 631 Jefferson Ave, Jermyn, PA 18433
- **Paul & Barbara Mosley**, 623 Cemetery St, Mayfield, PA 18433