

St Michael's Orthodox Church

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

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January 26, 2025 – 31st Sunday After Pentecost

“A mission that does not put at its center the Cross and Resurrection ends up as a shadow and a fantasy.”

- Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, who reposed yesterday

(and whose missionary zeal is responsible for the rebirth of the Church in Albania towards the end of the 20th century)

Upcoming Services & Events

Saturday, Jan 25, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Jan 26, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

February 2nd is the Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple.

Saturday, Feb 1, 4:00 p.m. – Small Festal Vigil (Great Vespers & Litya)

Sunday, Feb 2, 9:30 a.m. – Festal Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of Water

Saturday, Feb 8 – *No Vespers.* Sunday, Feb 9, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

On Sunday, Feb 9, we will hold a Charity Potluck for IOCC's "SOUPer Bowl" Food Drive. Starting today, we are collecting canned goods and shelf-stable groceries to be given to a local food bank. All proceeds from the potluck will be given to local shelters or International Orthodox Christian Charities.

Sunday, Feb 16 is our Annual Parish Meeting, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. This is the 2nd announcement.

Coffee Hour is offered by:

Jan 26: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

Feb 2: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

Feb 9: SOUPer Bowl Charity Potluck

Feb 16: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

Feb 23: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

March 2: TBD (last Sunday before Great Lent)

Today's Scripture

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

My son Timothy: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

In your prayers

The ill and the afflicted: Fr. Daniel Donlick, Fr Gregory White, Pdn. Gabriel Petorak, Dn Geoffrey LoBalbo, Mat. Myra Kovalek, Gregory Hansen, Olga Krutz, Maryanne Krisa, Michael Krisa, Barbara Mosley, Mary Ann Serafini, Alexis Meholic, Tom Shaw, Marilyn Petorak, Sandy Gillott, Debbie Jadick, Susan Schlasta, Evan Kraky, Laura Piwowarski, Karen Abercia, Daniel Kitchura, Mark Klapatch, Gregory Klapatch, Jerry Soroka. **Homebound:** John Drutarosky, Theresa Krenitsky, Barbara Palubniak, Peggy Petrilak, Nicholas Mattise, Jerry & Marilyn Soroka, Paul Kostiak, Dolores Brophy, Paul Mosley, Adam & Mary Ann Serafini, Florence Zielinsky.

The newly-departed: Archbishop Anastasios of Albania (1/25). Mat. Jeanne Ciarciaglino (12/16). Mat. Eugenia Nehrebecki (1/2). Mat. Susanne Senyo (1/18). Gene Howells (12/30). Karen (Dippel) Wisneski (1/26).

Hymns of the Day

Resurrection (Tone 6)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. / O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

St. Michael (Tone 4)

O Commander of the heavenly hosts, / we who are unworthy beseech you ceaselessly / that you would encompass us with the shelter of your prayers, / and cover us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory. / We fall down before you, crying out: / "Protect us all from harm, // O Michael, Prince of the powers on high!"

New Martyrs & Confessors of the Russian Church (Tone 4)

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, / praising her new martyrs and confessors; / hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, / venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. / Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, / they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. // By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

Resurrection (Tone 6)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

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!

The fact that the will of God refers to the whole world, the whole universe, *excludes isolating ourselves in an individualistic piety, in a kind of private Christianity....* **The Gospel cannot remain the possession of only certain peoples who had the privilege of hearing it first.** By putting on our lips the prayer, 'Thy will be done', the Lord 'bade each one of us who prays to take thought for the [whole inhabited world] (John Chrysostom). God's will, as it was fulfilled and revealed in Christ, **has to be made known in every corner of the earth, in every cranny of the world, in every expression of our contemporary multi-centered civilization....**

It is impossible to conceive of an Orthodoxy which does not focus on the Resurrection of the Lord.... The command concerning the mission to the world is directly related to the triumph of the Lord through His resurrection.... Before the Resurrection, before the consummation of the work of salvation, the disciples were not allowed to pass the boundaries of Israel. Jesus advised them, 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans' (Matt 10:5). **However, after His resurrection, they were no longer permitted to confine their preaching within these limits ...** The Resurrection of the Lord is the **starting point** for the expansion of the mission **... to the whole world.**

– Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, *Mission in Christ's Way*. Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2013; p. 17,19,27.

Together we can tackle hunger.

Help feed the hungry by collecting nonperishables for a local food bank, and collect money for IOCC to support our work around the globe.

Together we can turn the biggest weekend in football into a super day of giving!

iocc.org/souperbowl



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Attendance

12/22 Liturgy	26
Christmas Vigil	6
(2 parishioners, 4 visitors)	
Christmas Liturgy	38
(~20 parishioners, 18 visitors)	
12/28 Vespers	0
12/29 Liturgy	20
1/4 Vespers	0
1/5 Liturgy	15
Theoph. Vigil	1
Theoph. Liturgy	9
1/11 Vespers	1
1/12 Liturgy	13
1/18 Vespers	3
1/19 Liturgy	24