

St Michael's Orthodox Church

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

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February 23, 2025 – The Last Judgment (the 3rd Pre-Lenten Sunday)

*Due to the expected weather conditions last week, our Annual Parish Meeting was rescheduled to March 9.
This is the 2nd announcement of the new date.*

Calendar

Saturday, Feb 22 – **No Vespers.**

Sunday, Feb 23, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship (Fr Bill Rusk). *The Last Judgment. Meatfare Sunday*

Saturday, March 1 – **No Vespers.**

Sunday, March 2, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy (Fr Bill Rusk). *Followed by Forgiveness Vespers and the Rite of Forgiveness.*

Monday, March 3 – Beginning of Great Lent.

Monday, March 3, 6:30 p.m. – Great Compline with the **Canon of St Andrew.**

Tuesday, March 4, 6:30 p.m. – Great Compline with the **Canon of St Andrew.**

Wednesday, March 5, 6:30 p.m. – Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Thursday, March 6, 6:30 p.m. – Great Compline with the **Canon of St Andrew.**

Friday, March 7, 6:30 p.m. – **Akathist to the Theotokos** (part 1/4)

A full Lenten schedule will be published very soon.

Coffee Hour is offered by:

Feb 23: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

March 2: Susan Schlasta & Deborah Bernosky

March 9: SOUPer Bowl Charity Potluck (Lenten)

(Lenten) March 16: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

(Lenten) March 23: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

(Lenten) March 30: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

Announcements

Due to last week's storm, our **Annual Meeting was rescheduled to March 9.** *This is the 2nd announcement of the new date.*

Postponed to Sunday March 9: Our annual Charity Potluck for IOCC's "**SOUPer Bowl**" **Food Drive.** We are also collecting **canned goods** for a local food bank. All proceeds from the potluck will be given to local shelters or IOCC.

Our PASCHAL FLOWER DRIVE is on. If you want to make an offering for Pascha Flowers, please find the "Easter Flowers" envelope near the middle of April. Or use any envelope and write "Pascha Flowers" on it. Or, you may use the DONATE button on our website and enter your name and "Pascha Flowers" in the comments. Flower Offerings are due by March 9, so that we can place an order from our neighborhood supplier. *We will only order flowers from these donations, so your offerings determine how many flowers there will be.*

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, George 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: Abp. Anastasios of Albania (1/25). Mat. Susanne Senyo (1/18). Karen (Dippel) Wisneski (1/26). Helen Meholic (1/27). Elizabeth Johnson (12/31).

Hymns of the Day

Resurrection (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!”

St Michael the Archangel (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!”

Last Judgment (Tone 1)

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble / and the river of fire shall flow before Thy Judgment Seat; the Books shall be opened and hidden things disclosed; / then deliver me from the unquenchable fire // and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge.

Today's Scripture

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Brethren: Food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said: “When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.

“Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

“**The antidote** to the atomization and **disconnection of post-modern life** could be the **real life of the Orthodox parish**: where we **gather together** for services, as we **journey** through the ecclesiastical year together, as we take **meals to the sick**, as we **grieve by praying** a Panikhida for a parishioner who died -- all this **intentional community** fights what is happening in the culture and shows a better way. Perhaps this is more important now than ever before.”

– Deacon Samson Nash, remarks at the 2025 Clergy Conference of the OCA Diocese of the South