

**St. Michael's Orthodox Church
308 Walnut St.
Jermyn, Pennsylvania 18433**

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Rector)
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& 360 virtual tour and 4 part welcome

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St. Michael's Center: 876-3454

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

January 28th, 2018

Epistle: 2 Tim. 3:10-15

**Publican & Pharisee
Fast Free Week**

Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, January 28th, Obednitsa 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Parastas for Tillie Palubniak, offered by Helen & Barbara Palubniak, Parastas for John Waterman offered by Barbara Palubniak.

Saturday, February 3rd, Great Vespers 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 4th, Obednitsa 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m., **followed by the blessing of Candles**
Parastas for Helen (Gurka) Susko & Mary (Gurka) Wallace offered by John Susko.

A special donation of \$1,000.00 was offered by Peter & Helen Senio in honor of their 70th Wedding Anniversary held on January 31st. May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless their marriage and preserve them for Many Years! Mnohaya Leta!

Perogi Construction will take place on Thursday, February 1st at 8:00 a.m. and on Tuesday, February 6th at 8:00 a.m. at St. Michael's Center. **Please come and show your support!**

Lenten Ethnic Food Sale will be held on Wednesday, February 14th, at St. Michael's Center from 12p.m.-4p.m. Please mark this date on your calendar of events and plan to support us. **We thank you in advance for your support!**

Heat & Air Collection will be held this morning during the second offering. Please use the special envelopes distributed last Sunday.

Church Offering Envelopes for 2018 are underneath the Church. Please pick-up your envelopes this morning. A Special Thank You to Gloria Shaw and Eva Demchak in organizing our envelopes.

Please remember in your prayers: Kay Homish who is a patient at the Allied Rehab Center and Oleg Beljaeff who is a patient at the Regional Hospital in Scranton, Please visit them or send a get-well card!

Church Dues are being collected. If you are in the arrears, please make every effort to send in your dues. If you are interested in knowing the balance of your Church dues, please contact Gloria Shaw at 570-876-5506.

Church School will be held on Sunday, January 28th, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Matushka Kathy and Matushka Dolores are the teachers. **Please plan to bring your children to Church School!**

Please remember in your prayers; Peter & Helen Senio who are guests at; The Gardens of Green Ridge, Rm. #101, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, Pa, Ann Butler a guest at the Elmeroft of Mid-Valley, Michael Klaptach who is guest at the Wayne Woodlands Manor, in Waymart., Pa. Mary Slenska, Allied Rehab, and Irene Kiehart is a guest at the Atria at Farmington, 111 Scott Swamp Rd, and Rm.14B Farmington, CT 06032.

Sunday, Hostesses; Sunday, January 28th; Mary Mathena, Jeanie Malec and Ann Narcoonis. February 4th, Melanie Wanas, Marilyn Petorak and Maryann Serafini.

Thought for the day: “The Pharisee was disconnected with God and with his own heart. Had the Pharisee been open to hearing that still, small voice within, he would have noticed that under all that gleaming, shiny perfection something was wrong. Terribly wrong. He was a man without compassion. A man without a heart!

The Publican represents a man who has come face to face with the truth about his life. He sees his failings and comes to the Temple to present himself humbly and honestly to God. The Publican dropped his defenses and did not try to justify himself. The Pharisee could make a formidable list of his own virtues, but what good did it do him? The Publican didn't try to do that. He went right to the issue at hand. He spoke with few words not even daring to lift up his eyes to heaven and said, “Lord, forgive me. I have no defense!”

Repentance is the Great Letting Go of self. The Pharisee defended himself because he was afraid of dying to self. What is repentance if it is not a dying to self? But if we die to self, then what do we become? What is left? What is there to hold on to if we let go of all we believe about ourselves? We are left with the truth, the stark, naked truth of emptiness and of openness to all that God desires for us.

A mystic wrote of this emptiness, “Out of emptiness God has made the world, it exists in the heart of God alone. To know our place we must become as nothing, and then what is holy will move through us and illuminate all we do.”