

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

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Rector)  
Rectory: 876-1241 – Cell: 561-8696

Steve Franchak (President)  
Phone: 876-3297

Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak  
Phone: 876-0411

St. Michael's Center: 876-3454

Sub-Deacon Vasili Gardecki: 267-6239

Reader Vladimir Kitchura: 903-3475

St. Michael's Church: 876-4710

Reader Greg Bertholf: 766-2442

Church Website: [stmichaeljermyn.org](http://stmichaeljermyn.org)  
& 360 virtual tour and 4 part welcome

Reader: Vasili Dubee: 254-9720

**Gospel: Matt 1:1-25**

**December 23, 2018  
Sunday Before the Nativity**

**Epistle: Heb. 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40**

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday, December 23**, Obednitsia 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Parastas for Ivan Topchiiski, offered by son Svetoslav, daughter Polya and grandson Ivaylo.

**Monday, Christmas Eve: December 24** – Great Compline 7:00 p.m. blessing of Wheat, Wine & Oil.

**Tuesday, Christmas: December 25**, Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. & singing of Christmas Carols

**Wednesday, December 26**, Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. –Synaxis of the Theotokos

**Saturday, December 29**, Great Vespers 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 29**, Obednitsia 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

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**Please make every effort to attend the Christmas Services** this Monday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. and the Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, December 25, at 9:30 a.m. **The greatest gift we will receive on Christmas Day is Jesus Christ!**

**St. Michael's Christmas Ethnic Food Sale** held this past Friday was a tremendous success. A special thank you for your support and for the help provided. May our Lord Bless You for Many Years!

**A Special Christmas Collection to assist needy families** According to Susan Schlasta we are helping three homeless families, a family with a dad with cancer, a mom who is requesting a pair of shoes, and one family with several children in need that would benefit from our generous support. **Please see Susan this morning for more information or to make a personal donation please call 570-840-9544.**

**The Church Envelops for 2019** are on the first floor of the new-addition. They are listed in alphabetical order. Please pick up yours and family members.

**\$50.00** donation for Christmas Flowers offered in loving memory of Ann Ferenchak, given lovingly by her family. **\$25.00** for Christmas Flowers & Candles offered by Kathryn Fedirko.

**Church School will be held this Sunday, December 23 following** the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Matushka Kathy and Matushka Dolores are the teachers. Please make every effort to bring your children to Church School. **Theme Basket to benefit our Church School will be in the Church Basement until Christmas, please purchase a ticket and show your support!**

**The Weekly Church Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, December 26 at 5:00 p.m.

**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.

**Please remember in your prayers: Peter & Helen Senio** who are guests at; The Gardens of Green Ridge, Rm. #101, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, Pa., **Marie Derkash & Ann Butler** are guests at the Oakwood Terrace, 400 Gleason Dr. Moosic, Pa. 18507 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: December 16**, Jeanne Malec, Mayann Dube, Sue Schlasta, **December 23**, Helen Grancey, Marilyn Petorak, **December 30**, Matushka Kathy Kowalczyk, Vicky Kravetsky, Sue Schlasta.

**The Sunday before Nativity is dedicated to the genealogy of Christ** to declare His fulfillment of the prophecy that He would be both of the seed of Abraham and of the seed of David. For 1500 years, the People of God had been promised that from among the descendants of Abraham and David a Savior and King would be born. And at the birth of the Christ-child, this ancient promise is fulfilled. The genealogy also reminds us that the prophesied Savior comes to save all people, of every race, saint and sinners. He is a compassionate King who acknowledges imperfect yet well-intended efforts, overlooks error accompanied by sincere repentance, and accepts being brought forth into human existence by way of lineage that is holy and yet at times sinful.