

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

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Rector)
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Reader Greg Bertholf: 766-2442

Church Website: stmichaeljermyn.org
& 360 virtual tour and 4 part welcome

Reader: Vasili Dubee: 254-9720

Gospel: Matt 4:12-17

**January 13, 2019
Sunday after the Theophany of Christ**

Epistle: Eph.4:7-13

Schedule of Services

Sunday, January 13, Obednitsia 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. (9th Day Parastas) for the newly departed Michael Klapatch offered by his sons, Michael, Russell, Gregory & Mark)

Saturday, January 19th, Great Vespers 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 20th, Obednitsia 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

St. Michael's Center January Soup Sale: Menu: Chicken Noodle, Beef Vegetable, Italian Wedding Soup and Manhattan clam chowder. \$7.00 Quart. Deadline for orders: Friday, June 25th, **Pick-up at St. Michael's Center, Wednesday, January 30th, Noon -2:00 p.m. Please fill out the order form and bring to Church next Sunday, or call Ruth Lasichak at 876-1456.**

Thank You: to Vladimir Kitchura for accompanying Fr. John during the Annual Home Blessings. The majority of all the homes of our parishioners were visited this past week and a special thank you for the warm reception given. If your home was missed, please call Fr. John at 570-561-8696 to reschedule.

Church School will be held this Sunday, January 13, 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.

Orthodox Christians for Life will participate in the March for Life 2019 in Washington, D.C. to mark the dark anniversary of Roe v. Wade, hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers from across the country will descend on Washington, DC to march for our unborn brothers and sisters. The March for Life Rally will begin at 12:00 p.m. on Friday January 18 followed by the March at 1:00 p.m.

The 55th Diocesan Assembly will be held on Thursday, January 24th and Friday, January 25th at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

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.

St. Michael's Center Hoagie Sale will be held on Wednesday, February 20th, and the deadline for orders will be Friday, February 15th. More information with menu will be forthcoming. Please mark this date on your calendar of events. Thank You in advance for your support!

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 **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: January 13, Millie Telep, Dorothy Allen, Kay Fedirko, **January 20**, MaryAnn Dubee, Matushka Dolores, Matushka Kathy, **January 27**, Ruth Lasichak, Joan Lasichak Millie Telep, **February 3**, Susan Schlasta, Helen Grancey, Vickey Kravitsky.

In the Gospel reading today, on this Sunday after Theophany, we hear the very first sermon that Christ ever gave in his public ministry: "Repent! For the Kingdom of God is at hand!" With just these few short words, Christ begins His earthly ministry, and he summarizes all of the Gospel that is to come. Yet the first word He says is "repent." "Repent" in the original Greek literally means to "change one's mind – to change one's heart" and to "turn God-ward." In order to see Christ and to believe in Him, we must repent. In order to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, we must repent. In order to take even the first step, we must repent. Repentance is not a one-time thing, or some grand, romantic gesture. We who sin almost continually – if not in our actions, then in our thoughts – must constantly turn back to God and repent. To repent, we must die to ourselves and live to God. And we must die daily. And many times daily. Maybe thousands of little deaths each and every day – but death to sin and death to death. Repentance is a death that brings life! This sense of paradox is captured quite wonderfully in a quote written on a wall in St. Paul's Monastery on Mt. Athos which says: "If you die before you die, then when you die, you will not die."