

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

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Rector)
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Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak
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Church Website: stmichaeljermyn.org
& 360 virtual tour and 4 part welcome

Steve Franchak (President)
Phone: 876-3297

St. Michael's Center: 876-3454

Reader Vladimir Kitchura: 903-3475

Reader Greg Bertholf: 766-2442

Reader: Vasili Dubee: 254-9720

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Epistle: Heb. 7:7-17

**February 2, 2020
Meeting of Christ in the Temple**

**Zacchaeus Sunday
Luke: 19: 1-10**

Schedule of Services

Sunday, February 2nd, Obednetsia 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. (Meeting of Christ in the Temple) followed by the blessing of candles. **Parastas** – Tekla Palubniak, offered by daughter; Helen, Martha and Barbara. **Parastas** – Martha Scopelitti (19th Anniversary) offered by Goddaughter Debbie Bernosky. **Parastas** – Mary Slenska offered by Maria Pasternak

Monday, February 3rd, Funeral Service 11:00 a.m. – newly departed Mary Slenska.

Saturday, February 8th, Great Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 9th, Obednetsia 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

We extend our love and sympathy to Maria Pasternak, and the rest of the family on the recent falling asleep of Mary Slenska. The funeral service will be this Monday, February 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

Church Committee & St. Michael's Center joint meeting has been moved to this Tuesday, February 4th, at 6:00 p.m. underneath the Church and plan activities and food sales for February and March. More information and schedule of sales will be forthcoming as it develops.

A Special Thank You to James Latimer our summer intern from St. Tikhon's Seminary for directing our Church Choir this morning. **May our Lord continue to bless James and his family for many years!**

Michael's Church Dues. If you are in the arrears in paying your church dues, please try to complete this financial obligation especially for last year. **Please call Gloria Shaw at 570-876-5506 to find out your balance.**

Church Offering Envelopes for 2020 are underneath the Church in Alphabetical Order. A Special Thank You to Gloria Shaw and Eva Demchak for all the hard-work in organizing this project. **May our Lord Bless Them for Many Years.**

Church School will be held this Sunday, February 2, following the Divine Liturgy. Please bring your children to Church School. Matushka Kathy and Matushka Dolores are the teachers.

Church Calendars for 2020 have arrived. A special thank you to the Battenberg Funeral Home for their annual donation.

Please remember in your prayers: Annabel Franchak who is guest at the Wayne Woodlands Manor, in Waymart., Pa. **Peter Senio** who is a guest at; The Gardens of Green Ridge, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, Pa., **Marie Derkash & Ann Butler** are guests at the Oakwood Terrace, 400 Gleason Dr. Moosic, Pa. 18507

Sunday Hostesses: February 2, MaryAnn Dubee, Matushka Kathy, Matushka Dolores, **February 9,** Ruth Lasichak, Joan Lasichak Charette Rodionoff, **February 16,** Susan Schlasta, Helen Grancy Vicky Kravetsky, **February 23,** Jean Malec, MaryAnn Serafini, Theresa Krenitsky.

Thought for the Day: It's a central teaching of our Orthodox Christian Faith that we are to keep our mind attentive to God and to accomplishing His will in each present moment. Our goal should be to keep our mind undistracted and free from provocations. Provocations are thoughts that incite the passions and are unhealthy. This is what is meant by the Orthodox concept of "stillness" or hysychia. Distractedness is actually a result of the Fall and a symptom of spiritual illness. Watchfulness has always been important, but the frenetic pace of modern life, with its constant bombardment of noise and distractions, makes this spiritual practice even more essential than ever.

Even in the fourth century, St. Basil the Great exhorted the faithful to be watchful over thoughts, guard the senses and protect the heart from every external danger. He likened the human person to a home with its doors and windows. He compared the fallen world and spiritual warfare to a raging storm threatening the contents of the home. He encouraged each Christian to close the doors and windows to the effects of the storm through watchfulness and vigilance, in order to protect the contents and occupants of the home, which he likened to our soul.

It's important to remember that watchfulness is the fruit of our remembrance of God and our dependence upon Him. Inner stillness of our mind and heart is both a gift from God and the fruit of our willingness to fast with our mind and our senses throughout the day. With less clutter in our heads, we will have far less raw material to fight off. This will allow us to stay in closer communion with God, be more present and productive in our activities and our relationships and be filled with the peace of God that "will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil.4:7)

