

**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)
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Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak
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Sub-Deacon Vasili Gardecki: 267-6239

Reader Vladimir Kitchura: 903-3475

St. Michael's Church: 876-4710

Reader: Vasili Dubee: 254-9720

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

Gospel: Matt. 8:5-13

**July 5, 2020
Ven. Athanasius of Mt. Athos**

Epistle: Rom. 6:18-23

Schedule of Services

Sunday, July 5, Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. & Special prayers for our Nation during the 4th of July Weekend. Parastas (40th Day) for Marie Derkash, offered lovingly, by her son Dr. William Derkash

Sunday, July 12, Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Congratulations to Nicole Melesky in receiving the St. Michael's Church Scholarship this morning. Nicole will be attending Drexel Medical College School of Nursing. May our Lord continue to bless her for many years!

Please send in your Spring Mandatory Parish Raffle. The drawing will be held this Monday, July 6th at 6:00 p.m. underneath the Church. 1st Prize: \$250.00 2nd Prize \$100.00 3rd Prize \$50.00

Special Donation of \$100.00 offered by Dr. William Derkash in loving memory of his Mother; Marie Derkash and the 40th Day of her repose. Memory Eternal!

A Special Church Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, July 20, at 5:45 p.m. dealing with the work needed to be done in the Kitchen at St. Michael's Center. Please mark this important date on your calendar.

A Warm Welcome to: Seminarian Brad Given in directing our church choir this morning. Seminarian Brad will be entering his second year of studies this fall at St. Tikhon's Seminary.

A Special Thank You to all who continue to send in their weekly envelopes. We are very grateful for your continued generosity and support of our Church.

St. Michael's Center and all Pascha and Ethnic Food Sales have also been cancelled due to the Pandemic Crisis. Once we are able to resume going to Church, Protodeacon Gabriel stated; **"we will be having a huge Ethnic Food Sale"**

Fr. John will continue with his homily, during the Pandemic Crisis on certain special Sundays. **Please tune in at our parish website; stmichalejermyn.org and listen to his message.**

Please remember in your prayers: Peter Senio who is a guest at; The Gardens of Green Ridge, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, Pa.,

4th of July, Independence Day in America

Our annual commemoration of the 4th of July, Independence Day in the United States of America, provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the blessings of liberty and to express our gratitude to our forbearers for the freedom that has been advanced and sustained throughout the history of this country. We have and experience a multitude of social, political and economic freedoms because many sacrificed courageously to protect the highest ideals, others engaged in challenging debate and decisions over the shape of governance and society, and countless more have cherished freedom by respecting the rights and liberties of others.

We are truly blessed to live in a country where our freedom to live, to move, and to seek unlimited opportunities represent the tremendous benefits and potential of a free society. As Orthodox Christians we are also blessed to understand this freedom through our relationship with God and the liberty we have through Christ. In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul affirms this connection: *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another* (5:13).

Our freedom is an opportunity to offer a witness of true and abundant life in Christ. In a free society we are able to go and share the good news of grace, salvation, and healing offered by God to all. We are truly free to give our resources and time to meet the genuine needs of others, using our liberty as an opportunity to serve one another. This is the blessing of liberty, and from the service we offer to one another more blessings will come through seeing lives transformed by the power of God's grace. As people called to liberty who live in a free society, our service will lead to great and marvelous works for the honor and glory of God.

