

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

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Rector)
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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: John 9:1-38

May 24, 2020
Blind Man

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Christ is Risen!

**Sunday, May 24, Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. St. Tikhon's Monastery have resumed live streaming:
Please click on: stmichaeljermyn.org and press the live stream button.**

**Thursday, May 28, Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Ascension of Christ - St. Tikhon's Monastery have
resumed live streaming: Please click on: stmichaeljermyn.org and press the live stream button.**

**Saturday, May 30, Great Vespers 4:00 p.m. St. Tikhon's Monastery have resumed live streaming:
Please click on: stmichaeljermyn.org and press the live stream button.**

**Sunday, May 31, Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. St. Tikhon's Monastery have resumed live streaming:
Please click on: stmichaeljermyn.org and press the live stream button.**

We extend our love and sympathy to Melanie (Kitchura) Furiosi on the falling asleep of her beloved husband Robert, was buried from our Church on Wednesday, May 20. **May his memory be eternal!**

St. Michael's Church Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, June 1, at 5:30 p.m. to go over the CDC guidelines, **as we begin to transition into our Church. A letter will be sent out shortly with the rules to follow as we prepare to open our Church for Divine Services.**

A Special Thank You to all who continue to send in their weekly envelopes. We are in a survival mode and want to pay our basic utility and insurance bills. **An anonymous donation of \$200.00 was received this week for the support of our beloved Church. \$50.00 was offered by Gerald R. Pronko in loving memory of Annabel Franchak.**

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 continues with his Sunday homily, during the Pandemic Crisis, **Please tune in at our parish website; stmichalejermyn.org and listen to his message on the fifth Sunday of Pascha on the healing of the man born blind.**

Don't Forget to Pray on Sunday morning, by downloading the services you can say at home by going to stmichaelljermyn.org. Please read the service with your family. It is the Sunday of the "Blind Man"

Please remember in your prayers: Peter Senio who is a guest at; The Gardens of Green Ridge, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, Pa., **Marie Derkash** is a guests at the Oakwood Terrace, 400 Gleason Dr. Moosic, Pa. 18507.

The Ascension of our Lord

"I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God, and Your God" (John 20:17).

And with Christ, man's nature ascends also.

"We who seemed unworthy of the earth, are now raised to heaven," says Saint John Chrysostom.

"We who were unworthy of earthly dominion have been raised to the Kingdom on high, have ascended higher than heaven, have come to occupy the King's throne, and the same nature from which the angels guarded Paradise, stopped not until it ascended to the throne of the Lord." By His Ascension the Lord not only opened to man the entrance to heaven, not only appeared before the face of God on our behalf and for our sake, but likewise "transferred man" to the high places. "He honored them He loved by putting them close to the Father." God quickened and raised us together with Christ, as Saint Paul says, "and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephes. 2:6). Heaven received the inhabitants of the earth. "The First fruits of them that slept" sits now on high, and in Him all creation is summed up and bound together. "The earth rejoices in mystery, and the heavens are filled with joy."

“The terrible ascent...” Terror-stricken and trembling stand the angelic hosts, contemplating the Ascension of Christ. And trembling they ask each other, “What is this vision? One who is man in appearance ascends in His body higher than the heavens, as God.”

Thus the Office for the Feast of the Ascension depicts the mystery in a poetical language. As on the day of Christ’s Nativity the earth was astonished on beholding God in the flesh, so now the Heavens do tremble and cry out. “The Lord of Hosts, Who reigns over all, Who is Himself the head of all, Who is preeminent in all things, Who has reinstated creation in its former order—He is the King of Glory.” And the heavenly doors are opened: “Open, Oh heavenly gates, and receive God in the flesh.” It is an open allusion to Psalms 24:7-10, now prophetically interpreted. “Lift up your heads, Oh ye gates, and be lifted up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty....” Saint Chrysostom says, “Now the angels have received that for which they have long waited, the archangels see that for which they have long thirsted. They have seen our nature shining on the King’s throne, glistening with glory and eternal beauty.... Therefore they descend in order to see the unusual and marvelous vision: Man appearing in heaven.”