

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

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Rector)
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Steve Franchak (President)
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Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak
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St. Michael's Center: 876-3454

St. Michael's Church: 876-4710

Reader Vladimir Kitchura: 903-3475

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

Reader & Cantor: Vasili Dubee: 254-9720

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

**January 24, 2021– Sanctity of life Sunday,
Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg**

Epistle: Col. 3:34-11

Schedule of Services

Sunday, January 24, Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Parastas for the newly departed Archpriest Daniel Ressetar and Olga Jubinsky offered by family members.

Sunday, January 31, Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Monthly Church Committee Meeting will be held this Monday, January 25th at 5:30 p.m. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend!

The 57th Annual Diocesan Assembly will take place this Friday, January 29, 2021 online via ZOOM as we cannot plan an in-person meeting with any certainty. The lay delegate from our Church will be Matushka Kathy. A full report will be given to our Church following this unique assembly.

The Heat & Air Special Offering will be held next Sunday at the special designated basket. We thank you in advance for your support!

Please remember in your prayers David Essig who is a patient at the Geisinger Community and Medical Center, 1800 Mulberry St., Scranton, PA 18510. Please send David a get well card.

The installation of the new tile floor at St. Michael's Center has been completed by the Yeselavage floor and Carpet Company in Eynon. A Special Thank you to Protodeacon Gabriel for providing the leadership for this project.

Church Envelopes for 2021 have been mailed out to all of our beloved parishioners. I'm very grateful for all of you who are attending the Divine Liturgy with regularity and supporting us financially. **In order for us to meet our basic monthly bills, we need a steady source of income every week. Please send in your envelopes when you are not in Church.**

A Special Thank You to: Lydia Given for directing our church choir this morning. She is the wife of Seminarian Brad Given who is in his 2nd year of Theology at St. Tikhon's Seminary **May our Lord Jesus Christ, continue to bless her for many years!**

If your Church Dues are in arrears, please make an effort to send them to the Church as we began the New Year. The Annual dues are **\$160.00** per year. Please call Gloria Shaw at 570-954-3905 to get your balance. **May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you for many years!**

Please remember in your prayers: **Peter Senio** who is a guest at; The Gardens of Green Ridge, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, Pa. and **Jacky Drutarosky** who is in the Lackawanna Health and Rehab Center, 260 Terrace Drive, Peckville, Pa. 18452

Our venerable Mother, the Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg: (Russian: Святая блаженная Ксения Петербургская [Xenia Grigoryevna Petrova]) is an 18th century Russian **fool-for-Christ**. In grief over the death of her husband, she distributed all her possessions and took up a life as a holy fool. Her life was centered on God, and she sought protection and comfort only in Him while wandering among the poor of St. Petersburg. Little is known of her early life. Neither the dates of her birth nor of her death are known. Her birth is believed to have been about 1731 and her death about 1803.

The wife of Colonel Andrei Feodorovich Petrov, who served as a court chorister, Xenia fell into great grief upon the death of her husband when she was 26 years old. Appearing to have lost her mind from her grief, Xenia distributed her possessions to the poor, and keeping and dressing only in the clothes of her husband she wandered the streets of St Petersburg among the paupers. She called herself by her husband's name: Andrei Feodorovich. Her life was centered on God, seeking protection and comfort only in Him. During the nights, she refused refuge and went into the fields where she prayed through the nights.

When relatives of Xenia tried to help her with necessities she replied, "I do not need anything." The people of St. Petersburg came to love her as she placed the Kingdom of Heaven before earthly possessions. The people considered her presence in their homes as good signs. Her acceptance of services and bread from merchants, however small, brought them great sales as their customers, who loved the saintly Xenia, frequented those who helped her.

Xenia possessed the gift of clairvoyance. She foretold the deaths of the Empress Elizabeth, in 1761, and of the imprisoned John IV Antonovich, the great-great-grandson of Tsar Alexis, in 1764. After her death her grave became a place of pilgrimage. Portions of the dirt from her grave brought healing for many of the pilgrims.