

**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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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 18:10-14

**February 21, 2021, Publican & Pharisee
Fast-free Week.**

Epistle: 2 Tim.3:10-15

Schedule of Services

Sunday, February 21, Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. (Publican & Pharisee) Annual Parastas for Helen (Gurka) Susko & Mary (Gurka) Wallace offered by John Susko & Family.

Sunday, February 28, Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Special St. Michael's Center Meeting is scheduled for this Monday, February 22, at 5:30 p.m. Please plan to attend!

Donation offered in loving memory of Eileen Brzuchalski; \$100.00 given by Judy Sochoka and Betty Hoyle, \$50.00 by Dodie Farrence, and \$25.00 by Sondra Myers. \$50.00 for incense offered for the health of Bob Teaford given by Walter Labick.

Stuffed Cabbage Take-Out sponsored by St. Michael's Center will be held prior to Great Lent and date will be announced next week. Three Large Stuffed Cabbage for \$10.00. Curbside Pickup! at St. Michael's Center. We kindly ask for your support!

Great Lent in the Orthodox Church begins on Monday, March 15. Please make every effort to keep the prescribed fast. More information will be forthcoming on the schedule of Lenten Services. **Great and Holy Pascha -Easter this year will be Sunday, May 2.**

If you are having a difficult time scheduling your Covid19 Vaccine, please call 211 and someone will place you on the list near you and your name will be in a centralized searchable database which tracks the vaccine supply.

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 the additional work, painting and cleaning he has been doing and 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 chanting the Divine Liturgy 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

This Sunday is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins. Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances. The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14). **The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.**

Genuine humility means to see reality as it actually is in God. It means to know oneself and others as known by God—a power, according to Saint Isaac, greater than that of raising the dead! The humble lay aside all vanity and conceit in the service of the least of God's creatures, and to consider no good act as beneath one's dignity and honor. Humility is to know oneself, without the grace of God, as dust, sinful and dead. God is humble because He cares about the least: the birds in the air, the grass in the fields, the worst of sinners (cf. Mt 6.25–30). Christ is humble because He associates with the lowly, becoming the slave of all in taking on Himself the sins of the world.

