

**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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St. Michael's Center: 876-3454

Reader Vladimir Kitchura: 903-3475

St. Michael's Church: 876-4710

Reader & Cantor: Vasili Dubee:254-9720

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

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

**February 28, 2021, Sunday of the Prodigal
Son, St. Basil the Confessor**

Epistle: 1 Cor. 6:12-20

Schedule of Services

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

Sunday, March 7, Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Parastas 40th Day for Madilyn Chup offered by children Joseph, Lara and Noah Chup, Steve Demora, by Daniel Demora, Bohdan Fedorchak offered by Joseph Piwowarski Sr & family, Eileen Brzuchalski, offered by Dorothy Allen & Gene Hughes.

Stuffed Cabbage Take-Out sponsored by St. Michael's Center will be held on Thursday, March 11, Menu: Three Large Stuffed Cabbage for \$10.00. Curbside Pickup from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Center. **Please call Ruth Lasichak at 570-876-1456 to place your order. We kindly ask for your support!**

Donation offered in loving memory of Eileen Brzuchalski; \$100.00 given by Stephen & Martha Myshak, Dr Paul A& Maria Tomcykoski, \$50.00 Philip & Andrea Dzwonczyk, Barbara Kulick, Delores & Mary Sernak, Charles & Melanie Ringa, Carole & Michael Kovalchik, Nicholas & Judith Lezinsky, John & Roseanne Henzes, \$25.00 John & Ruthann Lasichak, \$20.00 George & Maryann Scochin.

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 interview process for a new St. Michael Center Caterer has begun. If anyone is aware of someone who might be interested in this position, or might have some possible leads, kindly contact Fr. John or Protodeacon Gabriel.

OCA Online Church School Please go to OCA.org and click on OCA Online Church School. Classes will be held every Tuesday at 7:00 pm EST/4:00 PM PST. Click on the buttons to enter the appropriate class. The links will go live 15 minutes before the class starts

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

The story of the Prodigal teaches us of the character of the Father, the God whom we worship at all times. The holy Apostle John proclaims 'God is love' (1 Jn 4.8), and in this parable we have the ultimate image of that love. The Father gifts His son with uncalled-for blessings; He stands watch for the return of His lost child; His forgiveness is so swift and so great that the wayward son cannot even finish his pleas for mercy before the Father has embraced his return; He rejoices above due measure when the lost is once again found. **The Father's love is active, attentive.**

Yet the parable teaches us also of ourselves. We know from the moment that the story begins, that the Prodigal Son is none other than our own selves, that the divine Jesus tells the story of our own sinfulness and error. So does the Triodion here, as elsewhere, move the narrative into the first-person.

I have wasted the wealth which the Father gave to me, and in my wretchedness, I have fed with the dumb beasts. Yearning after their food, I remained hungry and could not eat my fill. But now I return to the compassionate Father and cry with tears: I fall down before Thy loving-kindness, receive me as a hired servant and save me! (Sticheron at the Lity)

