

**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)
Phone: 876-3297**

**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: John 1:43-51

March 21, 2021, Sunday of Orthodoxy

Epistle: Heb.11:24-26,32-12:2

Schedule of Lenten Services

Sunday, March 21, Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 9:30 a.m. - First Annual Parastas for John Lasichak, from Sister Ruthann and son John Lasichak.

Wednesday, March 24, Forefeast of the Annunciation of the Most-Holy Theotokos – Confession 6:00 p.m.
Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 26, Akathist 6:30 p.m. “Glory to God for all Things”

Sunday, March 28, Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 9:30 a.m.

Great Lent in the Orthodox Church Please make every effort to keep the prescribed fast, and attend the modified prescribed services for the second week of the of Fast.

Confession and Covid 19: Once you receive your second vaccine, please wait 14 days and you may approach private confession with Fr. John. (Our Priest has been fully vaccinated with both shots) and wearing masks still should be normative.

The Presanctified Liturgy for the Forefeast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God will be held this Wednesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. The responses will be chanted by Bill and Maryann Dubee. **Please began the fast from 12:00 (noon)**

Memorial Divine Liturgy will be held on Saturday, April 10. Please submit the names of the departed members of your family to be commemorated to Fr. John by Friday, April 9.

\$2,000.00 Memorial offered in loving memory of Annabel Franchak, offered by the children; Daniel Franchak and Matushka Nancy Gilbert. **May her memory be eternal!**

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.

Making Home-Made Bread (Loaves) will be held on Tuesday, March 30 at St. Michael's Center. If interested in helping, please contact Protodeacon Gabriel at 876-0411, for orders please call Ruth at 876-3454.

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. 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.**

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

In the midst of the solemnity of Lent, we pause to marvel at the beginning of our salvation:

“The Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on March 25 every year (nine months before the Nativity of Christ). Gabriel arrives to give Mary news that will not only change her life, but change human history forever. The time has come for God to make known his plan for the salvation of mankind—that the Son of God will become human because of His great love for humanity. The angel Gabriel appears to the young virgin, calling her “highly favored.” Mary, in her humility, is unsure of this greeting. However, Gabriel tells her that she has found favor with God and would give birth to His Son.

Mary responds with pure obedience and says, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be unto me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Mary’s humble cooperation in the divine plan brings for salvation for all. At the Feast of the Annunciation, Orthodox Christians celebrate both God’s love toward mankind and Mary’s faithful response and obedience. He took on flesh from the Virgin, and she willingly chose to be the Mother of Christ. After the Annunciation, Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth, who recognized Mary as “Blessed among women.” John the Baptist, in the womb of Elizabeth, also recognizes the Divine Child and leaps for joy. The feast causes all to celebrate for God is now with us.”

