

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

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Rector)
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Reader & Cantor: Vasili Dubee: 254-9720

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

Gospel: Matt.6:22-33

July 11, 2021 – Great martyr Euphemia,
Blessed Princess Olga

Rom.5:1-10

Schedule of Services

Sunday, July 11, Matins 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. One Year Anniversary **Parastas**
for Andrew Petrilak, offered by family.

Saturday, July 17 Great Vespers 6:30 p.m. Confession 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 18, Matins 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

BBQ Chicken & Rib Dinner held on Saturday, June 26, at our St. Michael's Center, after all expenses being paid; **the church saw a profit of \$1,330.00.** We thank you for your support!

St. Michael's Church Committee & Windsor Inn following a joint meeting held on Tuesday, July 6, scheduled a **one day, modified parish festival & Classic Car Show** to be held on Sunday, September 26. More information will be forthcoming. **Please mark this date on your calendar of events!**

A Warm Welcome this morning to Matushka Deborah Tomasi, from the; **Joy of All-Sorrow Orthodox Church in Culver City, California.** She is the mother of Lydia Given. May our Lord Jesus Christ grant her many years!

A Special Thank You to Lydia Given for directing our Church choir this morning. Seminarian Brad Given who will be entering into his final year at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in the fall of this year and he has agreed to be our summer intern.

A Special Thank You for prayers offered for Peter Senio who is recovering from hip surgery and has returned back to be a guest at; The Gardens of Green Ridge, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, Pa. **Please send Peter a get-well card.**

Please note: The water at our St. Michael's Church Cemetery has been turned on for the season. Please be careful by turning off the water after being used. **May our Lord give eternal rest to our departed Church family.**

In order to meet our growing financial obligations, we are asking all our parishioners, when not in Church to send in their weekly offering envelopes. **We thank you in advance!**

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!**

Saint Euphemia lived in the 3rd century AD. She was the daughter of pious parents. She was born in Chalcedon, modern-day Istanbul. From her youth she dedicated her life to Christ and practiced the virtues of prayer, fasting and chastity. The governor of Chalcedon, Priscus, had made a decree that all of the inhabitants of the city take part in sacrifices to the pagan god Ares. Euphemia was discovered with other Christians who were hiding in a house and worshipping the Christian God, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and in defiance of the governor's orders. Because of their refusal to sacrifice, they were tortured for a number of days, and then handed over to the emperor for further torture. Euphemia, the youngest among them, was separated from her companions in the hope that she betrays Christ if she was on her own. She was promised worldly riches but refused to deny Christ. She was subjected to particularly harsh torments, including the wheel, in hopes of breaking her spirit but the wheel miraculously stopped and an Angel of the Lord ministered to her wounds.

The governor then ordered that the saint be cast into a fiery furnace. Two soldiers, Victor and Sosthenes, led her to the furnace, but seeing to fearsome angels in the flames, refused to carry out the order of the governor and became believers in the God Whom Euphemia worshipped. Boldly confessing that they too were Christians, Victor and Sosthenes bravely went to suffering.

Saint Euphemia, cast into the fire by other soldiers, remained unharmed. Ascribing this to sorcery, the governor gave orders to dig out a new pit, and filling it with knives, he had it covered over with earth and grass, so that the martyr would not notice the preparation for her execution but here too she remained unhurt.

Finally, they sentenced her to be devoured by wild beasts at the circus. Before her martyrdom, Saint Euphemia implored God to deem her worthy to suffer terribly for His Name but when she was cast into the arena, none of the wild beasts attacked her. Finally, one of the she-bears gave her a small wound on the leg, from which flowed the pure blood of the martyr, and immediately the holy Great Martyr Euphemia gave her spirit to the Lord. During this time there was an earthquake, and both the guards and the spectators ran in terror, so that the parents of the saint were able to take up her body and reverently bury it not far from Chalcedon. A majestic church was afterwards built over the grave of the Great Martyr Euphemia.

