

**St. Michael's Orthodox Church**

308 Walnut St.  
Jermyn, Pennsylvania 18433

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Rector)  
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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](http://stmichaeljermyn.org)  
& 360 virtual tour and 4-part welcome

Gospel: Matt. 14:1-12

August 29, 2021 – Solemn Holy Day of the  
Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Epistle: 1Cor.4:9-16

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday, August 29, Matins 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Solemn Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. - Strict Fast Day! Parastas (Annual) for Andrew Petorak, offered by son Andrew Jr.**

**Saturday, September 4, Great Vespers 6:30 p.m. Confession 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, September 5, Matins 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.**

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**Special Church Committee Meeting** will be held this Monday, evening at 5:45 p.m. **Please make every effort to attend!**

**St. Michael's Church Committee & Windsor Inn**, have scheduled a one-day, modified parish festival & Classic Car Show to be held on Sunday, September 26. We will not be having vendors this year; however, **we will be having theme baskets, bake sale, and St. Michael's Raffle. The food will be provided by the Windsor Inn for all our attendees.**

**St. Michael's raffle tickets, have been sent out** as a means of establishing much needed seed money for the Parish Festival & Classic Car Show. We are asking each church member to purchase \$20.00 worth of tickets. **We thank you in advance for your love and support.**

**Please consider a Theme Basket from your family.** Please see Matushka Kathy after services and she will give you some ideas of what can be donated, or if you choose to give money, we will make the theme basket for you. **Please call Matushka Kathy at the Rectory 570-876-1241**

**Please start baking, cakes, cookies, pies etc for our Modified One Day Festival** and we will establish a drop off date to our St. Michael Center. **Please call Dorothy Allen 570-587-4984**

**Special \$300.00 Donation;** offered lovingly by Tamrat J. Bekele. May our Lord Bless her and the Bekele family for many years!

**Coffee Hour will resume on Sunday, September 12,** following the Divine Liturgy. Please call Millie Telep at 570-876-1151 if you would like to bake or bring a cake. The schedule for baking will appear in the bulletin for next Sunday.

**Fidelity Charitable's donation of \$1,000.00 in loving memory of John Jubinsky** offered to our Church. May his memory be eternal? A special thank you to Ruben Jubinsky from Hermosa Beach, California, for organizing this donation.

**A Special Thank You to Lydia Given** for directing our Church choir this morning and offering for us her time and talent. **May our Lord continue to bless her for many years!**

**Peter Senio is a guest at The Gardens of Green Ridge,** 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, Pa. **Please remember Peter in your prayers.**

**If your Church Dues are in arrears,** please make an effort to send them to the Church. 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!**

**Solemn Holy Day of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist and Strict Fast Day:** In Matthew 14:1-12 we read about the cruel death of John the Baptist. John had publicly reprimanded Herod for taking his brother's wife as his own, so Herod had him imprisoned. Although Herod really wanted John dead, he feared the many people who believed John to be a prophet. [Indeed, we in the Orthodox Church consider him to be the last of the Old Testament prophets.] During his riotous birthday party, Herod was so pleased with the dancing of his wife's daughter Salome that he promised her *anything* she wanted. Her mother prompted her to say, "the head of John the Baptist on a platter." Even though Herod regretted his promise, he had to abide by it because his guests had heard him. So, he commanded that John be beheaded and that the head be given to Salome, who in turn, gave it to her mother.

The Orthodox Church keeps this day as a strict fast day (i.e., no meat, fish, dairy, wine or olive oil) as a reminder that we are to live a different style of life than Herod. In memory of this event, some Orthodox Christians keep the custom of not using dishes on this day, since John's head was served on a dish/platter. Instead, only bowls are used. Also, the food that is served on this day should not require the use of a knife, since a sharp instrument was used to behead him. Thus, we are given three ways to remember St. John's beheading: a strict fast, using bowls, eating food that is not cut. This year, incorporate at least one, if not all, of these customs to help your children learn the meaning of this feast day.

