

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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Dave Krenitsky: Church President
570-280-6656
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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 20, Sunday of the Prodigal Son,
St. Leo, Bishop of Catania

Epistle: 1 Cor.6:12-20

Schedule of Services

Sunday, February 20, Matins 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. (Prodigal Son) Parastas (40th day) for Nicholas Hanchak, offered lovingly by Maureen & children.

Saturday, February 26, Great Vespers 4:00 p.m.

Sunday February 27, Matins 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. (Last Judgement) Parastas for Helen Susko & Mary Gurka Wallace, offered by John Susko & Family.

PSP Training for Church Committee Members will be held this Monday, February 21 at 5:30 p.m. Susan Schlasta will provide the training and a light meal will be served underneath the Church. **Please make every effort to attend!**

Eat In or Take Out Halupki (Stuffed Cabbage) Dinner will be held this Saturday, February 26 at St. Michael's Center. This will be co-sponsored by Windsor Inn and St. Michael's Center. **Menu:** Three Cabbage Rolls, Mashed Potatoes & Green Beans. 1pm -6p.m. \$11.00 for dinner. Please call Ruth at 570-876-1456 for RSVP and tickets.

Lenten Ethnic Food Sale will be held on Wednesday, March 2, at St. Michael's Center. Please mark this date on your calendar of events. More information on menu will be available soon.

Coffee Hour for Sunday February **20** Matushka Kathy & Matushka Dolores, **February 27,** Ruth Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

The end of the month Heat & Air Collection will be taken next Sunday, February 27, a special basket will be provided. **Please keep in mind we have seen a 40% increase in our Gas and Electric Utility bills for the Church.** Please use the special envelopes and be generous in your response.

A special Thank You to Lydia Given for directing the Church Choir this morning. May our Lord, Jesus Christ, bless her for many years!

Please remember in your prayers; John Drutarosky, who is a patient at the Regional Hospital, 746 Jefferson Ave, Scranton, Pa. 18510

Please remember in your prayers; Alexander Wanas who is recuperating at home; 604 Scranton-Carbondale Highway, Childs, Pa. 18433. Please send him a get-well card. **Irene Leschak** who is home receiving rehab..229 Lackawanna Ave, Jermyn, Pa. 18433. **Peter Senio is a guest at The Gardens of Green Ridge**, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, Pa.

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.

Omicron variant is in all 50 states in our country. It is recommended to keep everyone safe to start wearing masks while in Church.

In the days preparatory for Great Lent – beginning with the Sunday of the Prodigal Son – the Church chants the psalm “By the waters of Babylon”, which reminds us of the bitter captivity of the Jews in a far country. This is a symbol of the captivity of sin, which alienates the Christian from God. But this psalm likewise speaks of repentance, love and return to the father’s home. The Prodigal Son could arrive at such a thought thanks to the fact that he had not succeeded in dissipating his final gift – the gift of memory of the father and the father’s home, in other words, the conscience (God’s voice within us).

And here, just as after a serious illness accompanied by unconsciousness, consciousness returns to him, and he understands his calamitous situation. Then, there appears in him a resolve to forsake his sins and to repent, realizing, that by them he has offended the Lord; and, finally, in profound humility and in the consciousness of his unworthiness, always accompanied by sincere repentance, the sinner actually implements his resolution and returns to the father. Here it is necessary to remark, that outward calamities are often sent by God to sinners in order to bring them to their senses. They are God’s call to repentance.

Bishop Theophanes the Recluse, who had expertly studied spiritual life, compares the sinner with a man sunk into a deep sleep, and in his turning to God he notes three psychological moments that correspond to what is indicated in the parable: 1) awakening from the sleep of sin (Luke 15:17); 2) the ripening of resolve to forsake sin and to dedicate himself to pleasing God (Luke 15:17-21); and 3) investing the sinner with power from on high for this in the Mysteries of Repentance and Communion.

