

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

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Rector)
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**Church Website: stmichaeljermyn.org
& 360 virtual tour and 4-part welcome**

Gospel: John 5:1-15

May 15, Sunday of the Paralytic

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Sunday, May 15, Matins 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Parastas for Alex & Mary Meholic and Antoinette & John Petorak offered lovingly by George & Marilyn Petorak. Parastas for Robert (R.A.) Furiosi offered lovingly by Melanie Furiosi.

Saturday, May 21, Great Vespers 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 22, Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Archpastoral Visit of Archbishop Mark & followed by a Pot-luck Luncheon underneath the Church.

Archbishop Mark will be making his Archpastoral visitation to our Church on Sunday, May 22, for the 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy. A Pot-Luck Luncheon in leu of Coffee hour will be held at 11:00 a.m. underneath the Church. **Please see Matushka Kathy if you are interested in bringing a dish. Please make every effort to attend both the liturgy and the meal to follow.**

Chicken & Rib Dinner held this past Saturday, May 14 was a huge success. This fund-raising event was co-sponsored by St. Michael's Center & Windsor Inn. A full report will be forthcoming. Thank you for your support!

Organizational Parish Festival Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Center. Please make every effort to attend!

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!**

Relief items for the Ukraine continues: On Sunday, April 10 following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy a special blessing was offered by Fr. John Kowalczyk and Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak for the huge number of items collected, the items were transported by parishioners in trucks, on April 12, Tuesday evening to Scranton, and all was sent to the Ukraine in time for Pascha. In addition, \$3,000.00 has been wired to the displaced orphans in the Ukraine. Susan Schlasta is still collecting monetary donations for the orphans. If you are still interested in helping, please contact Susan at Susan Schlasta at 570-840-9544. **The monetary deadline is Sunday, May 15.**

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; 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. **Please remember in your prayers; John Drutarosky,** who is a patient at the Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation Center 10 Heart Place, Carbondale, Pa. 18407 **Please send him a get-well card!**

Coffee Hour for Sunday: May 8, Millie Telep & Dorothy Allen, **May 15,** Pot-Luck Luncheon in honor of Archbishop Mark, **May 22,** Ruth Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts, **May 29,** Vicky Kravetsky & Charette Radionoff.

The Sunday of the Paralytic in the Paschal Season: So, we rise, take up our bed, and walk. We may fall back into our paralysis, weakness, and fears more times than we can count. We may fall down ten thousand times, but Christ is always there to raise us up and give us a share in His eternal life. We probably do not see it in our own lives, but through this journey of humble repentance we do find healing. The course of our struggle is upward; the paralysis decreases; our souls are strengthened as we struggle to press forward in faithfulness; the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

And this is a vital part of the good news of Pascha. Despite the setbacks, despite the temptations, despite the burdens and obstacles that we and others place on our path, the glorious new day of God's kingdom has dawned. Christ has raised all humanity, including us, from sin and death. No, our sharing in Christ's salvation is not something magical that happens in an instant; like everything in creation, it takes time. And that is not because of God, but because of us.

So let us not only say "Christ is Risen!" this Paschal season; let us rise with Him, getting up from whatever sins have weighed us down, finding the strength in His resurrection to overcome our paralysis and weakness, to refuse to be shackled by fear, and move step by step, day by day, into the joy of His Kingdom. Now is the time to take up our beds and walk in the brilliant light of the empty tomb, for Christ is Risen!

Kontakion — Tone 3

By Your divine intercession, O Lord, / as You raised up the paralytic of old, / so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; / so that being saved I may sing to You: / "Glory to Your power, O compassionate Christ!"

