

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 Church: 876-4710

Reader & Cantor: Vasili Dubee:254-9720

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

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11
Epistle: 2Cor.4:6-15

September 25, 2022 Venerable
Euphrosyne, Venerable Sergius of
Radonezh

Schedule of Services

Sunday, September 25, Divine Liturgy 8:00 a.m. **Please note change of time!**

Anniversary (Parastas) for Michael & Gloria Klapatch, Parastas for John & Annabel Franchak and Dorothy & Nicholas Yurchak.

Saturday, October 1st Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God -Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre, followed by retreat; **“Igniting the Fires of Renewal in your heart & in your parish.”**

Sunday, October 2, Matins 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Please note: The Divine Liturgy will be held this Sunday at 8:00 a.m. No Food will be sold at our Festival /Car Show until after the celebration of the Liturgy. Fr. John will come to St. Michael's Center and bless the food. Please make every effort to attend the early Sunday liturgy and then go to the festival. **The formal program will begin at 12 (Noon) with a prayer and the singing of “God Bless America”**

Adult Education Weekly Class will be held on Wednesday, September 28, at 6:00 p.m. We will explore the Biblical concept of giving and tithing. **In order for our Church to grow, we have to learn how to transition into a deeper understanding of the Orthodox Faith and support our Church going into the future. Handouts will be given.**

Wilkes-Barre Deanery Renewal Retreat will be held on Saturday, October 1st at the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. **“Igniting the Flames of Renewal in your heart & in your parish”** Bill Marianes, our speaker, has inspired over 500 Orthodox parishes to discover and live their calling. All Church Committee Members are expected to attend. Let us mobilize and have a nice turn-out from our Church. **Please see Matushka Kathy this morning and sign up for the Renewal Retreat.**

Church School will begin on Sunday, October 9th, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Fr. John will be sending out a letter, encouraging for parents to bring their children to Church School.

Festival Donations: \$200.00 offered by John Krisa, Attorney at Law, **\$200.00** offered by Michel Krisa, Attorney at Law, **\$150.00** offered by Nicholas Mattise, **\$150.00** offered by Mary Ellen Toth. **A Special Thank You to Mike J. Martarano Container Services LLC** for donating the Dumpster for our Festival.

Church Donation: \$100.00 in loving memory of John Hanchak offered by John Hockin & family.

Church (Prospora) Bread will be made on Tuesday, October 2nd at St. Michael's Center at 9:00 a.m. We are grateful to Eva Demchak and the prospora committee for giving of their time and talent.

Please remember in your prayers: Alexander Wanas who is recuperating at home; 604 Scranton-Carbondale Highway, Childs, Pa. 18433. **Irene Leschak** who is home receiving rehab;.229 Lackawanna Ave, Jermyn, Pa. 18433. **John Drutarosky**, who is a patient at the Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation Center 10 Heart Place, Carbondale, Pa. 18407 **Peter Senio** is a guest at The Gardens of Green Ridge, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, Pa. **Please send them a get-well card!**

Stewardship As Christian Identity

We must begin with the acknowledgment that all of life is a sacrament, in that in every aspect of life we may experience and commune with God. This communion ranges from the most natural - like experiencing a beautiful sunset, to the most divine, communion with God in the eucharist. We must come to see that "all the earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it." (Psalm 24:1) As Fr. Schmemmann challenges us, our human role is to offer back to God in thanksgiving, all that He has given to us. (For the Life of the World, SVS Press)

From this realization comes our understanding of Christian stewardship - managing the resources that God has given us, administering the elements of life. One of the best ways of thinking about stewardship is that it is the only truly appropriate human response to what God gives us. We experience all of life as a sacrament, and we steward all of life in response.

Consider for a minute the original usage of the term "steward." Our English word steward comes from the Greek word oikonomos, and literally means "house manager." Oikonomia, or stewardship, literally refers to the management of a household. Stewardship is a task, a responsibility bestowed on one person by another - usually by a master. Our Lord used the terms steward and servant frequently, as recorded in the Gospels. St. Paul uses them the same way in his epistles. In I Peter, every Christian is charged to "be a good steward of God's grace." (I Peter 4:10) St. Ignatius of Antioch told the faithful that they were "stewards in God's house, members of His household, and His servants." (Epistle to Polycarp, 99) He holds these three aspects of our way of life in dynamic tension: being stewards, being members of God's household, and being servants. St. Ignatius can encourage us to toil, suffer, run, and rest, because these important aspects constitute our way of life as Christians. Stewardship is a well-rounded view of life and an incarnation of that view based on theology and ecclesiology – the giving of time and talent and treasure.

