

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

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Rector)  
Rectory: 876-1241 – Cell: 561-8696  
Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak  
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Dave Krenitsky: Church President  
570-280-6656  
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: Luke 7:11-16  
Epistle: 2Cor.6:16-7:1

**October 9, 2022,** Holy Apostle James,  
(Jacob) Son of Alphaeus, **St. Tikhon,**  
**Missionary to America.**

**Schedule of Services**

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

**Saturday, October 15,** Great Vespers 6:30 p.m.

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**A Special Parish Festival & Car Show Wrap-up Meeting** will be held this Monday, October 10 at 5:45 p.m. underneath the Church. A full report will be given. If you worked and or donated, please come to this final meeting. **A Special thank you to everyone who worked so hard at our festival.**

**A Special Thank you** to Eva Demchak and the prosphora committee for giving of their time and talent. The preparation of Church (Prosphora) bread for the fall/winter liturgical life of our Church is a tremendous blessing. May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless them with good health for many years!

**Adult Education Weekly Class will be held on Wednesday, October 12th at 6:00 p.m.** We will continue to review **“Igniting the Flames of Renewal in your heart & in your parish”** by Bill Marianes and try to incorporate new Orthodox Christian concepts into our tool box vocabulary. **Please make every effort to attend!**

**Church School will be held this Sunday, October 9,** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. A Special thank you to the parents who made a commitment to Orthodox Christian Education and provide a spiritual and religious dynamic for their children.

**Coffee Hour: October 9**, Matushka Kathy & Matushka Dolores, **October 16**, Ruth Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts, **October 23**, Vicky Kravetsky & Charrette Rodionoff, **October 30**, Maryann Dubee & Susanne Schlasta.

**Parish Festival Winners**: First Prize; \$1,000.00 – Thomas Grancey, Second Prize; \$500.00 - Mike Krisa, Third Prize; \$250.00 – Danita Eggleton. **Congratulations!**

**We pray for the speedy recovery** of George Petorak as he convalesces at home from surgery.

Please remember in your prayers; **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!**

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**St. Tikhon Missionary Bishop to America** was consecrated bishop at the young age of 32, he was assigned to the Russian Orthodox missionary diocese of America in 1898. Bishop Tikhon, later Patriarch Tikhon of Russia, one of the most important Orthodox leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, faithfully served the Lord in America and ended his life enduring severe persecution by the Communists in Russia.

The details of his early life are unremarkable and not at all unusual. St. Tikhon was born with the name Vasily Belavin in 1865, the son of priest in a small village in Russia. He graduated from the Pskov seminary, then from the advanced theological academy in St. Petersburg followed by tonsure as a monk with the name “Tikhon” at the age of 26. After short time as a seminary professor and administrator he was consecrated bishop in 1897 briefly serving as a vicar or assistant bishop. Aside from these details of his early life, of special interest to us are the two defining periods of his life: his American ministry and his ministry as the Patriarch of Russia during the dark days of the Russian Revolution and the rise of the militantly atheistic Bolsheviks.

He instructed his priests: *“Devote all your energy to preaching the word of God and the truth of Christ, especially today, when unbelief and atheism are audaciously attacking the Church of Christ.”* The Bolsheviks responded by placing the Patriarch first under house arrest and then in the dreaded Lubyanka prison. The government had pronounced a death sentence against him and was ready to place him before a firing squad except that word of his arrest reached the West and caused an outcry from Western governments and churches. He was attacked and stabbed by an insane woman while leaving his cathedral in 1919 but only slightly wounded. A second attempt on his life occurred in 1924 when unknown assailants broke into his apartment and killed his personal assistant while Tikhon was praying in the next room. How did Tikhon react to all that he endured? One of the Red Army soldiers assigned to guard him during his house arrest recalled *“The old man is good to everyone, only he prays all night and we can’t sleep”*.

Worn down from years of harassment and persecution, the Patriarch’s health began to decline in 1924. On Sunday, April 5, 1925 he celebrated his last Divine Liturgy before entering the hospital. He died on April 7, 1925 shortly after making the Sign of the Cross and saying *“Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee”*. To this day it is suspected that he had been poisoned and did not succumb from a heart attack as noted in the official reports. While the actual cause of his death cannot be proven, he deserves the title of *“Confessor of the Faith”*; that is, one who suffered for Christ. He was numbered among the saints by the Council of Bishops of the Orthodox Church of Russia in 1989.

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