

# St Michael's Orthodox Church

308 Walnut Street, Jermyn, Pennsylvania 18433

<https://stmichaeljermyn.org/>

360 Virtual Tour & Service Schedule

**Rev. John Black, Acting Rector**  
(610) 427-9279 **Mobile** (preferred\*)  
(570) 876-1241 Rectory  
johnmblack@gmail.com

**Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak**  
(570) 876-0411



**Vladimir Kitchura, President**  
(570) 903-3475

**Vasili Dubee, Reader & Cantor**  
(570) 254-9720

St Michael's Church Phone  
(570) 876-4710

*\*Please try using Fr John's cell phone number (610-427-9279) as much as possible, rather than the rectory land-line.*

## September 24, 2023: 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost. *New Martyrs of Alaska.*

We welcome all visitors! We are grateful that you came to be with us and pray with us today.  
After Liturgy, please come downstairs for coffee and refreshments.

### Schedule of Services

**Saturday, Sept 23**, 6:30 p.m. – Great Vespers and Confessions.

**Sunday, Sept 24**, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy. **Small Memorial Service** for all members of the St Michael's family that have reposed in **Septembers** of years past.

**Saturday, Sept 30**, 6:30 p.m. – Great Vespers and Confessions

**Sunday, Oct 1**, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy. *Feast of the Protection of the Most-Holy Theotokos.*

**Saturday, Oct 7**, 6:30 p.m. – Great Vespers and Confessions

**Sunday, Oct 8**, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy. *Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council.*

*Coffee Hour is offered by:*

- Sept 24: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff
- Oct 1: Maryann Dubee & Susan Schlasta
- Oct 8: Millie Telep, Mat. Alexandra, & Mat. Dolores
- Oct 15: TBD

*Thank you to all who have offered food and their efforts to our Sunday fellowship. Anyone can help. Please see Millie Telep to be added to the schedule.*

### Giving Opportunities

Donations are accepted for **Vigil Lights, in the Altar and in front of the Relics**. You may donate in memory of the departed, or for your health or the health of family members.

So that our Church can meet our growing financial obligations, we ask all parishioners, when not in Church, to send in your **weekly offering envelopes** to St. Michael's Church, 305 Walnut St., Jermyn, PA 18433. Thank you!

*"We seek to rededicate ourselves to the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church. We are here to provide a loving and caring community, by participating in the worship services, so we may reach-out to those who are lost and witness the love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."*

*- Vision Statement, adopted October 17, 2022*

*Glory to God for all things!*

## In your prayers...

Please remember in your prayers. Send a card, or stop by and visit.

- **Eileen Dance**, Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation Center #204, 10 Hart Place, Carbondale, PA 18407
- **John Drutarosky**, Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation Center #307, 10 Hart Place, Carbondale, PA 18407
- **Peggy Petrilak**, 127 Petrilak Lane, Greenfield Twp, PA 18407
- **Tom & Helen Grancey**, 102 Cleveland Ave, Jermyn, PA 18433
- **Theresa Krenitsky**, 4-B Henry Drive, Jermyn, PA 18433
- **Barbara Palubniak**, 629 Hill St, Mayfield, PA 19433
- **Peter Senio**, The Gardens of Green Ridge, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, PA 18509
- **Nicholas Mattise**, Personal Care at Allied Terrace, Room 218, 100 Terrace Ln, Clarks Summit, PA 18411
- **Jerry & Marilyn Soroka**, c/o Glenmaura Senior Living, 11 Glenmaura National Blvd, Moosic, PA 18507

Please send a note of comfort to:

- **Debbie Krenitsky & Family**, 300 Falbrook St, Carbondale, PA 18407 (in memory of David Krenitsky)
- **Tom Terpak**, 426 Madison Ave, Jermyn, PA 18433 (in memory of Anne Terpak)
- **Patty Smallacombe**, 703 Shields Court Jermyn, Pa 18433 (in memory of Anne Terpak)
- **Cindy Hammaker**, 115 Brimful Drive, Phoenixville, PA 19460 (in memory of Dr Joseph Danyo)
- **Tammy & Ron Pascoe**, 228 Hudson St, Jermyn, PA 18433 (in memory of Robert Dance)
- **V. Rev. Daniel Donlick**, 1115 Vine St, Avoca, PA 18641 (in memory of Mat. Dolores Donlick)

### *Remembering the Departed: September*

Please include these names in your daily prayers this month. If you know of others who reposed this month in any past year, please contact Fr John so they can be added to our calendar of commemorations.

- Former Rector, Fr. Michael Dziama (Sept 5, 1944)
- Former Rector, Fr. John Kivko (1974)
- John Getzie (Sept 12, 2004)
- Henry Koruszko (Sept 12, 2010)
- Robert Lloyd (Sept 27, 2015)
- Mary Ann Mosley (Sept 18, 2017)
- Barbara Nayduch (Sept 6, 2017)
- Dennis Sebastianelli (Sept 16, 2005)
- Alexander Wanas (Sept 24, 2022)
- Anna Willgrube (Sept 25, 2001)

To these, please add a few names which should have been added to August:

- Kenneth Carite (Aug 9, 2001)
- Mary Kay Hockin (Aug 17, 2009)
- Thomas Jesuitt (Aug 20, 2007)
- Irene Kupinski (Aug 8, 2007)
- Mildred Wanas (Aug 2, 2016)
- Vera Yurchak (Aug 29, 2007)
- Mark Zielinski (Aug 10, 2002)
- Dorothy (Krasowsky) Zrowka (Aug 31, 2009)

### *About the Fear of Confessing our Sins*

“When I went to my first confession,” a friend told me, “tears took the place of the sins I meant to utter. The priest simply told me that it wasn't necessary to enumerate everything and that it was just vanity to suppose that our personal sins are worse than everyone else's. Which, by the way, was something of a relief, since it wasn't possible for me to remember all the sins of my first thirty-odd years of life. It made me think of the way the father received his prodigal son—he didn't even let his son finish his carefully rehearsed speech. It's truly amazing.”

The very word *confession* makes us nervous, touching as it does all that is hidden in ourselves: lies told, injuries caused, things stolen, friends deceived, people betrayed, promises broken, faith denied—these plus all the smaller actions that reveal the beginnings of sins. Confession is painful, yet a Christian life without confession is impossible.

– Jim Forest, *Confession: The Healing Sacrament* (Ancient Faith Publishing, 2002), 1-2.

*Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10*

*Brethren:* As workers together with Him, we also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

*Gospel: Luke 5:1-11*

*At that time, as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.*

*Prayer and the Present*

*(Met. Anthony Bloom, talking about how much the past of our lives, or future anxieties, should enter into our prayer)*

You have no time to roll comfortably from the past into the future. What you have got to do is to be so completely in the present that all your energies and all your being are summed up in the word 'now'. You discover with great interest that you are in the now. You know, the very, very thin plane which geometry teaches us has no thickness. This geometric plane which has absolutely no thickness, which is 'now', moves along the lines of time, or rather time runs under it, and brings to your 'now' everything you will need in the future. This is the situation we must learn, and we must learn it in a more peaceful way. I think we must do exercises in stopping time and in standing in the present, in this 'now' which is 'my present' and which is also the intersection of eternity with time.

– Met. Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh

"If a candle is burning in a room, it will not be dark while the candle gives its light. If food is salted, it is preserved from going bad. If a man keeps the words of Christ in his soul, that man keeps salt and light and life abiding in himself. Such a soul will not become darkened in life nor taste the corruption of death. He who keeps the word of Christ in himself, him the word of Christ upholds inwardly, feeding, enlightening, and reviving him. Be he in the body or out of the body, he feels himself alive with the words of Christ."

– St. Nikolai of Zica

## Announcements

On **Sunday, October 1, during Coffee Hour**, we will have a **planning meeting** for our **children's and youth education** and activities for this coming year. We need the input of **every parent and teen / young adult** as to how to make the year both productive and enjoyable, and what "church school" looks like into the future.

On Sunday October 8, the Steamtown Marathon will pass through Mayfield. Some local streets coming through that area may be detoured or congested. Please allow extra travel time to church if you come from that direction.

**Sunday October 15** is designated as **Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day** in the United States. We will use this opportunity to have a **Prayer Service for all Stillborns and Miscarriages** on that day. at our **Cemetery at 11:30 following Liturgy, with fellowship/refreshments to follow** (instead of having coffee hour beforehand). We hope to invite anyone from the surrounding communities for the service and meal. If you have close friends or family outside the parish whom you know have had this kind of loss, please invite them to come that day at noon. *We would also like a couple of volunteers to coordinate those refreshments.*

-- Please note – previously this said "noon"; perhaps 11:30 is a more reasonable time after Liturgy.

-- If there is inclement weather, the prayer service will happen in the church.

On **Saturday October 28**, St James—St George Episcopal Church (398 Washington Ave) is hosting its *Famously Delicious Roast Beef Dinner* from Noon – 4pm, takeout only. Adults \$15, children under 12 \$5.

*We are on a weekly journey through the book, "The Faith We Hold", by Archbishop Paul of Finland.*

... **The Church came into being first, and only afterwards, little by little, did the books of the New Testament, the Gospels and Epistles appear.** Moreover, when we take into account how few "books," or manuscripts, there were in those days, and the fact that besides the genuine writings there were other gospels and texts written under the names of the Apostles, it is easy to understand **how important the living Tradition of the Church was in safeguarding the true Christian faith.** The prime importance of Tradition is plainly shown by the fact that it was not until the fifth century that the Church established conclusively which books in circulation should be regarded as genuinely inspired by God's revelation. **Thus the Church itself determined the composition of the Bible.** It is to the **Church**, which defined what the contents of the Bible would be, **that the Orthodox Christian turns for his interpretation of the Bible.**

It is not merely a question of the authority of the Church; the promise was given only to the pure in heart that "they shall see God." (Mt 5:8) In other words, the truths contained in God's word are revealed to a man in the right light only insofar as his heart is purified. **No individual person has possessed complete purity of heart and hence complete infallibility in interpreting the word of God.** However, this gift has been granted **to the Church as a whole through the Spirit of truth acting within it.** In practice this means that when all or most of the Church Fathers known for their holy lives have been consistent with one another in their explanation of some point of Scripture, it has become truth to the members of the Church. **Without such a criterion the authority of the Bible would rest upon the subjective opinion of each individual** trying to interpret it. It is our belief that **the Bible by itself, without the Tradition as its living interpreter,** is insufficient as a source of truth.

– Abp Paul of Finland, *The Faith We Hold* (SVS Press, 1980), 18-19.