

St Michael's Orthodox Church

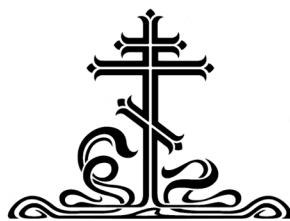
A parish of the Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

308 Walnut Street, Jermyn, Pennsylvania 18433

<https://stmichaeljermyn.org/>

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

October 8, 2023: 18th Sunday After Pentecost.

Commemoration of the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council.

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.

It is with great sadness but hope in the resurrection that we share with you that
Lydia Popoff reposed in the Lord last Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Lydia was preceded in repose by her husband Serge in July of last year. Lydia and Serge Popoff were long-time members of the St Michael's family before relocating to the Old Forge area in recent years.

Services will be offered here at St Michael's Church on **Thursday, October 12:**

Viewing at 9:30 am, followed by the Funeral at 10:30 am.

Interment at St Michael's Cemetery.

We offer our condolences to her daughter, Ludmilla Harvey and all of Lydia's family and friends.

Please keep them in your God-pleasing prayers!

May Lydia be granted eternal rest in the mansions of the righteous, and may her memory be eternal!

Schedule of Services

Saturday, Oct 7, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers and Confessions

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

Saturday, Oct 14, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, Oct 15:

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

11:30 a.m. – **Service for all Stillborns and Miscarriages, at the Cemetery**

Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately after the Cemetery Service

Saturday, Oct 21, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, Oct 22, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy. *Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council.*

Coffee Hour is offered by:

- Oct 1: Oct 8: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

- 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.

Announcements

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 like a few volunteers to coordinate those refreshments.*
- *If there is inclement weather, the prayer service will happen in the church.*

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.

Donations

\$50 was offered for Altar Candles, in memory of Nicholas & Frances Meholic, by Millie Telep. *May Nicholas & Frances' memory be eternal!*

\$100 was received to sponsor the Fall Wreath raffle. (The winner of the wreath was Lori Speicher.)

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!

Remember that we give of ourselves, whether from our riches or from our poverty, not for the accomplishment of any particular task or possession. We give of ourselves for our salvation – that same salvation which was offered to the rich young ruler to whom Christ said, “And you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

Scripture Readings

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Brethren: “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

At that time, Jesus went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.”

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
- **Theresa Krenitsky**, Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation Center #307, 10 Hart Place, Carbondale, PA 18407
- **Nicholas Mattise**, Personal Care at Allied Terrace, Room 218, 100 Terrace Ln, Clarks Summit, PA 18411
- **Barbara Palubniak**, 629 Hill St, Mayfield, PA 19433
- **Peggy Petrilak**, 127 Petrilak Lane, Greenfield Twp, PA 18407
- **Peter Senio**, The Gardens of Green Ridge, 2751 Boulevard Ave, Scranton, PA 18509
- **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

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. Please also let us know of any corrections or misspellings.

October

- Metropolitan Theodosius (Oct 19, 2020)
- Pdn. Keith Russin (Oct 26, 2017)
- Sdn. Gregory Sulich (Oct 24, 2013)
- David Butler (Oct 1, 2019)
- Lydia Popoff (Oct 1, 2023)
- Mary Meholic (Oct 4, 2013)
- Delores Serniak (Oct 6, 2009)
- Anna Michaelczyk (Oct 7, 2012)
- Eva Marie Vanish (Oct 9, 2008)
- Martha Pollock (Oct 10, 2005)
- Paul Bazink (Oct 12, 2017)
- Ann Narcoonis (Oct 14, 2018)
- John Nayduch (Oct 16, 2016)
- Michael Jubinsky (Oct 17, 2009)
- Kathryn Shust (Oct 19, 2005)
- Helen Lahey (Oct 19, 2005)
- Irene Kiehart (Oct 23, 2019)
- Anthony Faliskie Jr (Oct 30, 2005)
- Helen Senio (Oct 31, 2019)

*"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!

Continual Confession

We all fail to fulfill our destiny to be “perfect as God,” the bearers of His Presence which is Love. In some sense our failure is understandable not justifiable, but understandable.

It is understandable to the extent that such a task is never fully achieved. In this sense, **the Christian life, the life of every man as Christ has revealed it, is not a “state” but a “movement”**. No one is a “real” Christian—or even a real man—until he is fully filled with God's love. And this is an *eternal life*.

Our failure, however, is not merely that we have not achieved what is in fact eternal, for that is certainly not sinful! Our failure is that as baptized, chrismated Christians who have the Holy Spirit and Holy Communion with God in the Church, we hardly even realize our task! We hardly pay attention to it! We hardly desire it! We hardly work at it!

This is our sin. Not only that our life is not the constant and continual growth to perfection which St. Paul called the movement to “mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4: 13) But **our sin is that we are not really aware of our “high calling” and we constantly and continually offend against it by thoughts, words and actions which are in fact movements in exactly the opposite direction.** This “movement in the opposite direction” is the definition of sin. It calls us to repent, which means literally to *change ourselves*. It demands that we confess our sins.

Our life in the Church, therefore—the icon of what all human life must be—must be **continual change towards God**. This means continual confession and repentance. This is the fundamental realization which alone can make the practice of confession meaningful to us. This is what Christ has revealed, and His revelation is always before us whenever we gather as the Church for the Divine Liturgy where we hear His Word, beg His Mercy, and receive His Body and Blood always and forever “for the remission of sins and unto life everlasting.”

– Fr Thomas Hopko, *If We Confess Our Sins*, 1975, 9-11.

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

The fifteenth chapter of Acts tells of **a meeting held by the Apostles**, who announced their decision by saying: "It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us . . ." **Similar gatherings** of the Apostles' successors, all the bishops of the Church, **were held from time to time during the first millennium**. At these meetings articles of faith were formulated and decisions made on contemporary problems arising in the life of the Church. **Seven such ecclesiastical councils have been recognized** by the Church as general or ecumenical and their decisions thus recognized as binding upon the whole Church. The first of these synods or councils was held at Nicaea in the year 325 and the seventh in Constantinople in 787.

... History shows that in the past, meetings which had the authority of Ecumenical Councils have always been called together in the face of a threat to the unity and truth of the Church. Among such threats, for instance, were the Christological heresies concerning the nature of Christ.

... In Orthodoxy it is emphasized that **doctrine and life are two sides of the same thing**. Future general councils of the Church will not be concerned with any new doctrines beyond what "the Fathers have decided," but rather with adapting accepted principles of the Church to changing circumstances. This task presupposes a unity of love and peace among the representatives of the Orthodox Churches, who at the Ecumenical Councils included all the bishops of all the Churches, in order that unanimous decisions may be confirmed with the apostolic seal: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us."

– Abp Paul of Finland, *The Faith We Hold* (SVS Press, 1980), 19-20.