

# St Michael's Orthodox Church

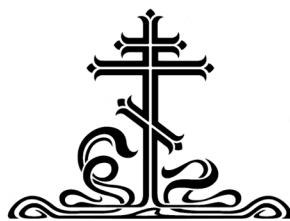
*A parish of the Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania*

308 Walnut Street, Jermyn, Pennsylvania 18433

<https://stmichaeljermyn.org/>

**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, Council President**  
(570) 903-3475

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

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

## October 22, 2023: 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

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.

### Services and Events

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

**Sunday, Oct 22, 9:30 a.m.** – Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, Oct 28, 4:00 p.m.** – Great Vespers and Confessions

**Sunday, Oct 29, 9:30 a.m.** – Divine Liturgy. Small Memorial Service (abbreviated *Panikhida*) for all members of the St Michael's family that have reposed in **Octobers** of years past.

**Saturday, Nov 4, 4:00 p.m.** – Great Vespers and Confessions

**Sunday, Nov 5, 9:30 a.m.** – Divine Liturgy, followed by **St Michael's Day Potluck Supper** (see Announcements)

*November 8 is our **Patronal Feast** – **The Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and All the Bodiless Powers.***

**Tuesday, Nov 7, 6:30 p.m.** – Festal Vespers with Litya

**Wednesday, Nov 8, 9:30 a.m.** – Festal Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, Nov 11, 4:00 p.m.** – Great Vespers and Confessions

**Sunday, Nov 12, 9:30 a.m.** – Divine Liturgy

*The Nativity Fast begins on Wednesday, November 15.*

**Saturday, Nov 18, 9:00 a.m.** – **Church Cleanup Day!** We will focus on the church basement. Please come help us clean and reorganize this important part of our church so it can be used for education and many kinds of events in the future.

**Saturday, Nov 18, 4:00 p.m.** – Great Vespers and Confessions

**Sunday, Nov 19, 9:30 a.m.** – Divine Liturgy – **with the Preparation rite (*Proskomedia*) at 9:30** in the center of the Church, for the education of all. This is the part of the service where the Bread is prepared for the Eucharist and the offerings. Please try to arrive early so you can experience this part of the service, which is normally hidden inside the Altar prior to the Liturgy. *Please encourage all the children and youth of the parish family (and extended family!) to come and learn about this part of our Faith.*

Coffee Hour is offered by:

- Oct 22: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts
- Oct 29: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff
- Nov 5: *St Michael's Day Potluck*
- Nov 12: Maryann Dubee & Susan Schlasta

## Donations & Giving Opportunities

**Thank You** to the Grancey and Schlasta families for donating \$432 in recent weeks for our beeswax candles. Additionally, the Altar Vigils have been donated by Thomas & Helen Grancey for the health of the entire Grancey Family, and in memory of Helen & Nicholas Myshak and Andrew & Olga Grancey.

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.**”*

## Announcements

**Saturday, November 5** is our **St Michael's Day Potluck Dinner**, following Liturgy! Please see the sign-up sheet at the bottom of the stairs. We ask everyone to contribute \$10 per person.

**SAVE THE DATE! SAVE YOUR RECIPES!** **Saturday December 9** is our first annual **Christmas Holiday “Cookie Walk”**. We invite all families to participate in baking your favorite **family or heirloom recipe cookies** to sell to the public. Each family bakes and freezes 200 cookies **ahead of time**, and brings them to the church on the day before the sale. The public then walks through the stations and collects cookies to purchase by the pound. In other parishes in our diocese, these have become a huge success, not just in sales but also in connecting with the public. *Please see the sign-up sheet at the bottom of the stairs, or ask any member of the Events Team.*

*Other goings-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.

**ST TIKHON'S SEMINARY BASKET RAFFLE** is coming up soon! **Saturday, November 4** in the school gym (178 St Tikhon's Rd, Waymart, PA 18472). Doors open at **10am** and the drawing begins at **1pm**. Free admission. There are over **150 theme baskets** donated by various people and merchants! Basket themes included children, pets, wine, kitchen, gift certificates, and many more. *100% of the proceeds from this event go to supporting the mission of the Seminary.* For more information, contact Mat. Kathy Kowalczyk at [kathy.kowalczyk@stots.edu](mailto:kathy.kowalczyk@stots.edu) .

**Saturday, November 11, 11:00 a.m.** – A **Veteran's Day Ceremony** will be held at WWI Veterans' Park on Bridge Street, with a **light lunch to follow** at St James-St George Episcopal Church, offered by American Legion 405 and the Jermyn Shade Tree Commission. All residents and parishioners of all houses of worship in Jermyn are invited to attend the ceremony and lunch. St Michael's will join with the other churches in Jermyn with the ringing of bells at 11:00 a.m. in remembrance of the WWI Armistice and in prayer for all those who serve and have served in our armed forces.

**Do you have ideas about events that can help support the mission of St Michael's, or want to know how you can help with future events?** Please talk to anyone on our newly-formed **Events Team**: Susan Schlasta, Laura Piwowarski, Mary Sernak, Maryann Dubee, Patricia Cadwalader, or Mat. Alexandra Black.

## 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

## 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.

### *October*

- Met. Theodosius (Oct 19, 2020)
- Pdn. Keith Russin (Oct 26, 2017)
- Sdn. Gregory Sulich (Oct 24, 2013)
- David Butler (Oct 1, 2019)
- Mary Hobora (10/1/1981)
- Lydia Popoff (10/1/2023)
- Marian Gamalia Terpak (10/1/77)
- Elizabeth Micklick (10/3/1980)
- Stephen Kostiak (10/4/1974)
- Mary Meholic (10/4/2013)
- Theodore Frank Dechko (10/5/86)
- John Checkowitz (10/6/1984)
- Anna Michaelaczyk (10/7/2012)
- Anna Mizok (10/9/2003)
- Eva Marie Vanish (10/9/2008)
- Samuel Frenchko (10/10/1975)
- Martha Pollock (10/10/2005)
- Andrew Kaahl (10/11/1973)
- Paul Bazink (10/12/2017)
- Mary Bowen (10/12/2001)
- Anna Whitiak (10/12/1981)
- Mary Getzie (10/13/1993)
- John Makara (10/13/1986)
- John Fedorchak (10/13/1983)
- Ann Narcoonis (10/14/2018)
- Anna Onufrak (10/14/1987)
- John Nayduch (10/16/2016)
- Eva Urda (10/16/2003)
- Michael Jubinsky (10/17/2009)
- Basil Petorak (10/18/1989)
- Kathryn Shust (10/19/2005)
- Helen Lahey (10/22/2005)
- Michael Gamalia Jr. (10/22/1980)
- Irene Kiehart (10/23/2019)
- Julia Whitiak (10/25/1976)
- Nicholas Myshak (10/26/1976)
- Mary Wieth (10/26/1986)
- Basil Hoholick (10/28/2000)
- Michael Rusiniak (10/28/1987)
- John Liptak (10/29/2000)
- Anthony Faliskie Jr (10/30/2005)
- Helen Senio (10/31/2019)

Our local Orthodox area is blessed to have one of our own “native sons”, Dn Kirill Zawatski, studying at St Tikhon’s Seminary. Dn Jacob (Tyler) and his wife Olivia were parishioners at our sister parish, Holy Trinity in Wilkes-Barre, before enrolling in seminary two years ago. Archbishop Mark has written an appeal for their support which has been posted downstairs on the hall bulletin board. As he remarks – and I can verify this is absolutely true – “the seminarians are kept incredibly busy and outside employment is simply not an option.”

There are few better ways of investing in the future of the Church, and in the pastoral care of our people 5-10 years from now, than to support our seminarian families. Most of them have left their former lives and steady jobs, ready to ‘start over’. It is incredibly difficult, personally and financially.

While it is always nice for a parish to send a contribution, I can also vouch that it is especially wonderful to hear from parishioners *personally*, with a card or a note along with their donation. It forms relationships and encourages them to pray for you by name. Please consider sending a donations, and a note of encouragement to: Dn. Kirill & Mat. Olivia Zawatski, 45 Beech Grove Road, Honesdale, PA 18431.

*“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!*

## Today's Scripture

### Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

*Brethren:* I make known to you that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

### Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

*The Lord spoke this parable:* There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

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

**What is salvation**, which is so much talked about but can be interpreted in so many different ways? Let us start with the words of the Apostle: "*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" (Rom 3:23) Sin, as violation of God's will, separates man from God, from His glory, and thus brings **its own** punishment. God accepts fallen man, however, for he was ransomed not "with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ." (1 Pet 1:18-19)

Nevertheless, acceptance and redemption **do not imply a general absolution** granted to all mankind, but rather an **opportunity** given to each person **individually** to ask for mercy and receive forgiveness for his sins. This is in conformity with the **gift of free will** given to man.

The [thief] hanging on the cross repented at the last moment, and what remained unfinished after his conversion was completed by Christ's redemptive death. But in the case of those who remain in this life, repentance must be followed by amendment of their ways. Following his very first sermon, St. Peter's listeners asked, "What shall we do?" "Repent," St. Peter replied, "and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:37-38)

Although sin has corrupted human nature, **man still bears within him the image of God**, albeit **tarnished** by sin. In becoming man, Christ "emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men." (Phil 2:5-8) He became like us in order to make us, in turn, "partakers of the divine nature." (2 Pet 1:4) Thus Christ became our Saviour not only because "upon Him was the chastisement that made us whole" (Isaiah 53:5) but also because "His divine power granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness." (2 Pet 1:3) In other words, Christ does not only offer us the forgiveness of our sins, but He also gives His Divine power for our use and for our development so that we might not be "ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Pet 1:8)

– Abp Paul of Finland, *The Faith We Hold* (SVS Press, 1980), 21-22.