

St Michael's Orthodox Church

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

308 Walnut Street, Jermyn, Pennsylvania 18433

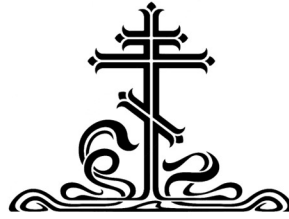
<https://stmichaeljermyn.org/>

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(570) 876-4710

October 29, 2023: 21st Sunday After Pentecost

It is with great sadness but hope in the resurrection that we share with you that **Martha Myshak**, beloved wife of our parishioner Stephen Myshak, reposed in the Lord on Thursday, October 26, 2023.

Visitation at Battenberg Funeral Home on Sunday Oct 29, 4pm-7pm.

Funeral Mass at St Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church on Monday, October 30, 10am.

We offer our condolences to Stephen and all of Martha's family and friends.

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

We welcome ALL of you to St Michael's. Every one of you is precious to us. *Especially all children.*
After Liturgy, please come downstairs for coffee and refreshments.

Services and Events

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**

1:30 p.m. – Our very first **“Super Saturday” for children, teens, & young adults**. *This month: Baking Proskophora, learning about Proskomedija, board games, pizza after Vespers. ALL children & teens, even from our parish's “extended family”, are invited.*

4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, Nov 19, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – **with the Preparation rite (Proskomedija) at 9:30** in the center of the Church, for the education of all. This is the part of the service that normally happens inside the Altar before the beginning of Liturgy, where the bread offering is prepared for the Eucharist along with commemorations for the living & departed. **Please try to arrive by 9:20** so you can experience this in its fullness. *Please encourage all the children and youth of our parish family (and extended family!) to come on this day and learn about this part of our Faith.*

Coffee Hour is offered by:

Oct 29: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

Nov 5: *St Michael's Day Potluck*

Nov 12: Maryann Dubee & Susan Schlasta

Nov 19: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

Donations & Giving Opportunities

- \$60 in Altar Candles, for the health of Sarah & Peter Jubinski on their 60th Anniversary, given by John Hockin.
- \$125.00 is in loving memory of Martha Myshak, given by Ruthann and John Lasichak.

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!*

Announcements

St Michael's Center now has a buyer and the sale is expected to close sometime in the next 30 days. This action was authorized by the Parish at its Annual General Assembly on February 19, 2023.

Saturday, November 4 is **St Tikhon's Seminary Basket Raffle**, held in the school gym (178 St Tikhon's Rd, Waymart, PA). 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 or at 570-561-1818 x108.

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.

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.

Saturday, November 18 is our **Church Cleanup Day!** We will begin at 9 am in 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.

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.*

Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh was asked, "What shall we do with children in church? They interfere with our prayers." He replied, "When you begin to pray, they will stop bothering you".

In your prayers...

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill or recovering from illness or injury:

Fr Michael Evans, Fr Joseph Chupek, Fr Peter Telencio, Edward & Karen Hojnicky, Gregory Hansen, Olga Krutz, and Marilyn Petorak.

Please also remember those who are alone or confined. 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)
Dolores (Degee) Serniak (10/6/2009)
John Checkowitz (10/6/1984)
Anna Michaelaczyk (10/7/2012)
Anna Mizok (10/9/2003)

Eva Marie Vanish (10/9/2008)
Nicholas (Al) Franchak (10/10/19??)
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)
Martha Myshak (10/26/2023)
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)

LET THE CHILDREN COME

Let the children come to Church, even if they slept there, even if they played and ate, even if they came late, **even if they talked and made noise ...** It is enough that they chose the Church rather than going anywhere else! They shook off sleep and came to Church. They left their play and came to Church.

Today they play and joke, tomorrow they will pray and chant, and after tomorrow they will serve, and afterwards they will become leaders in the church. Who amongst us didn't behave like them when he was their age?

Do not reproach a child or dismiss him. Whatever he does, do not reject his commitment to the Church. Be kind to them, be nice to them, and teach them with patience, compassion and wisdom. Smile to them.... Encourage them and make them feel how we rejoice that they are present with us. Today they connect emotionally with the Church, tomorrow they will connect spiritually.

Of all that we have, children are the most precious. Our Lord Jesus Christ blessed children, hugged them, and had them stand **in the midst, in front of everyone**, to show that they should get the most attention and care.

– Anba Macarius, Bishop of Al Menia and Abu Koras

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

The Faith We Hold

There is no problem of "**faith and good works**" in the spirituality of the Church. The relationship between faith and good works becomes a "problem" only when justification is understood as an outward legal process between God and man. In that case people either fear that good deeds will come between the soul and Christ or, on the contrary, they regard deeds as merits in the eyes of God. In the Orthodox view deeds are not an end in themselves for the doer, but are more like **a saving instrument in the transformation of man's corrupted nature into a "new creation."** (2 Cor 5:17) Therefore **Christ's gospel commandments are not law but grace and mercy.** They are like **medicine** given for our use, without which we cannot get well. Let us think of any virtue recommended to us in the Gospel: humility, for instance. How else could we grow in humility except by really humbling ourselves in practice? A prayer from Psalm 119 is often repeated in church services: "Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes!"

Because of man's corrupted nature, he has no other way of **showing gratitude and love towards Christ** than by trying to fulfil in his life the commandments which Christ has given, which work towards his own salvation. "*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*" (Jn 14:15) The fulfilment of these commandments of Christ which are contained in the Gospels, such as prayer, fasting, serving one's neighbour, humility and refraining from condemning anyone else, can be seen as **the leaves of the spiritual tree.** The gifts of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, correspond to the fruits of the tree. (Gal 5:22) They are the signs of a purified heart. The wisdom and difficulty of the spiritual pilgrimage lie in the fact that the leaves must not be regarded as fruits, nor yet can one imagine that one can bear fruit without leaves; **one cannot acquire the gifts of the Spirit without effort.**

– Abp Paul of Finland, *The Faith We Hold* (SVS Press, 1980), 24-25.