

# 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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**November 12, 2023: 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

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, refreshments, and fellowship.

## Services and Events

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

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

*This is our opportunity to “re-calibrate” our spiritual compass. Please make a renewed effort this year to fast not only from meat, dairy, and luxurious foods; but also from anger, greed, indulgence, laziness, and talkativeness; so that we may approach the Nativity of Our Lord with a pure heart.*

**Saturday, Nov 18, 9:00 a.m.** – **Church Cleanup Day**

1:30 p.m. – Our first “**Super Saturday**” for children, teens, & young adults. (*see Announcements*)

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** (*see Announcements*)

*November 21 is the Great Feast of the Entry (Presentation) of the Mother of God into the Temple.*

**Monday, Nov 20, 6:30 p.m.** – Festal Vespers with Litya

**Tuesday, Nov 21, 9:30 a.m.** – Festal Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, Nov 25, 4:00 p.m.** – Great Vespers

**Sunday, Nov 26, 9:30 a.m.** – Divine Liturgy and Fellowship

*Coffee Hour is offered by:*

- Nov 12: Maryann Dubee & Susan Schlasta

- Nov 19: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

- Nov 26: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

- Dec 3: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

## Donations & Giving Opportunities

- \$50 for the health of Peter & Sarah Jubinski on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary, by Mary Sernak.
- \$25 in memory of Lydia Popoff (40th Day), by Sonja Petak.
- \$50 in memory of Martha Myshak, by Diane & Robert Chelik.

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

GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS. After almost a year, the sale of St Michael's Center is now complete. We know this was a difficult decision for the entire parish, and an even more difficult process to follow through on. I am grateful to the entire Parish Council for all their hard work on so many different aspects of this task. We give thanks to God for everything, even those things that are difficult to be thankful for. We give thanks for both the joys and sorrows of life, for both the sweet and bitter moments. May God grant rest eternal and blessed repose to all those who have gone before us who made the Center possible and labored there in years past! May God grant many years to all who have labored in the Center and now continue to labor in new ways to support our holy community! Let us now "walk forward" with one mind, to meet whatever challenges and opportunities our Lord may grant unto us in the future. *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you ... By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* (John 13:34-35)

**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.

**Saturday, November 18** is also our very first **"Super Saturday" for children, teens, & young adults.** This month's activity is all about the *preparation* for the Divine Liturgy. We will **bake Proskophora** together (the bread for the Liturgy) and learn about *Proskomedia* (the small ritual done prior to the Divine Liturgy where that bread is prepared for the Eucharist). Followed by board games, Vespers, and pizza. We hope to get started at 1:30 and end by about 5:30. *ALL children & teens, even from our parish's "extended family", are invited.*

On **Sunday, November 19**, the *Proskomedia* will begin at **9:30**, in the main part of the Church. This ritual is normally hidden inside the Altar before the beginning of Liturgy, so this is a great opportunity to see it up close. This is 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.*

**Saturday, December 2:** Our Deanery (our group of NEPA OCA parishes) is holding a **retreat for all members of our parishes** at **All Saints in Olyphant** (211 Willow Ave). Divine Liturgy at **9am**, followed by Brunch and then a Talk/Q&A with Nathan Hoppe, the longest-serving field missionary of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). Mr. Hoppe will talk about the importance of the mission mindset in the parish, and reflect on his international missionary labors over the years. The lecture will begin at noon, followed by Q&A, ending by 2 PM. Choir members from the Deanery are also invited to participate. This is a free event, but please sign up (in the narthex) by Nov. 26, so our hosts at All Saints can plan for the day. We look forward to gathering once again with our brothers and sisters throughout the Wilkes-Barre Deanery.

**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. *Please see the sign-up sheet at the bottom of the stairs, or ask any member of the Events Team.*

*If you know of anyone who is sick, injured, or struggling with anything in their life; please contact Fr John so they can be added to our prayer list. Please also (always!) let the priest know whenever someone is pregnant, recently had a baby, is newly-engaged, or is planning a wedding. The Church should be one of the first, rather than the last, places to seek guidance and help regarding significant life changes.*

*"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: Ephesians 2:4-10*

*Brethren:* God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

### *Gospel: Luke 8:26-39*

*At that time,* a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'

So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

He Who rejoices in the glory of God and in everything that reminds him of it **in this life** will also rejoice in the age to come. **He who in this life strove toward God** will rush to Him joyfully when he hears the words, "Come unto Me, ye blessed ones" at the dread judgment.

All those who do not know how to rejoice in the glory of God, in whom the divine realm and its laws cause discontent, who love darkness or gloom, who do not love the light, will not respond to the call of "Come unto Me." They will shrink back in indignation, dissatisfaction, in jealousy and anger, from the humble and the meek who will go toward the light, from God Himself, Whom they will begin to blame for being in their disposition. They will even shrink from themselves, though they will not want to admit their guilt. Such a state is true suffering.

Hades is not a place, no, but a state of the soul. It begins here on earth. Just so, **paradise begins in the soul** of a man here in the earthly life. Here **we already have contact with the divine**, on the day of the Bright Resurrection and **when we worthily receive Holy Communion**.

It is necessary to prepare for confession: the whole infection must be removed, for if there is any left, suppuration will begin. It is necessary to pray for repentance and for the joy of purification, so that a ray of light will touch our soul and it will come to love the light.

It is necessary to pray to meet the Risen Christ with a clean heart, to taste of the joy of the kingdom of heaven at least in the smallest degree.

– St. John Maximovich, *Homily on the First Sunday of Great Lent*

## 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.

There are also many who need our fervent prayers who have asked not to be named. Please ask God to have mercy on all those we pray for, both known and unknown. "The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects." (James 5:16)

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.

### *November*

Abp. David (Mahaffey) (11/27/2020)	Samuel Zielinski (11/11/2014)	Anna Kerilla (11/23/2006)
Apr. Nicholas Fedorchak (11/22/1998)	Philip Demora (11/12/1992)	Dennis Buberniak (11/23/2008)
Apr. Joseph Martin (11/9/2018)	Nina Jubinski (11/13/2014)	John Demora, Jr. (11/24/1984)
Anna Urda (11/1/2002)	Anna Kosar (11/14/1981)	Barbara Franchak (11/25/2011)
John Pash, Sr. (11/2/1978)	Eva Franchak (11/15/1992)	Carol Konkal (11/25/2021)
Ralph Orson Sloat (11/4/1993)	Antoinette Kitchura (11/15/1987)	Olga Petorak (11/25/2013)
Ronald Serniak (11/5/2021)	Nena Franchak (11/16/2014)	Olga Hockin Sviatko (11/25/2016)
Emily Stawisky (11/7/1995)	Sandra Franchak Evans (11/17/2011)	Helen Wahal (Vahal) (11/25/2005)
Nicholas Urda (11/8/1981)	Mary Urda (11/18/1969)	Alice Mosley (11/26/1997)
Amelia Chup (11/9/2015)	Joseph Zrowka (11/18/2005)	Olga Nayduch Jaye (11/26/2008)
John Franchak (11/10/1996)	Antoinette Kutchmanich (11/21/1981)	William Urda (11/26/1971)
Mary Franchak (11/10/2011)	Ann Pusey (11/21/2016)	Marie Blackman (11/27/1994)
Andrew (Bill) Kutch (11/10/1982)	Elizabeth Day (11/22/1992)	Stephen Pelack (11/27/1969)
Mary Gurka Petorak (11/10/1971)	Nicholas Gurka (11/22/2006)	Anna Petorak (11/27/2001)
William Joseph Raban (11/10/1999)	Nicholas Wargo (11/22/1975)	Mary Petorak (11/29/1968)
Walter Fedorchak (11/11/1979)	Paul Urda (11/22/1973)	Anna Chup Lasichak (11/30/1962)
Steve Franchak (11/11/2021)	Michael Kosar (11/23/1985)	

**Spiritual Guidance.** The spiritual struggle of a Christian **has never been easy**. He has to contend not only against the obvious temptations of the world and against the corruption in himself, not only "against flesh and blood, but against... the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Eph 6:12)

In addition to the decisive support which participation in the life of the Church offers him, he is comforted by the knowledge that there exists a "great cloud of witnesses," **those who have already been through the same struggles** and know how to advise and encourage people who follow in their footsteps. **The spiritual experience of numerous ascetics** is contained in crystallized form in the writings of the Fathers. **We can draw on their spiritual wisdom** when it is hard to find living examples and guides for the spiritual life, as is the case in our time.

Humble enjoyment of the teachings of the Fathers, whether in the monastic cell of an elder or through books, **is a basic part of Orthodox devotional life**. "He who has learned obedience," the Fathers advise, "will himself be heard and will enter boldly into the presence of the Crucified One," for the Crucified Lord Himself was "obedient unto death." (Phil 2:8)

– Abp Paul of Finland, *The Faith We Hold* (SVS Press, 1980), 26.