

St Michael's Orthodox Church

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

305 Walnut Street, Jermyn, Pennsylvania 18433

<https://stmichaeljermyn.org/>

Rev. John Black, *Acting Rector*

(610) 427-9279 Mobile

(570) 876-1241 Rectory

johnmblack@gmail.com

Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak

(570) 876-0411



Vladimir Kitchura, *Council President*

(570) 903-3475

Vasili Dubee, *Reader & Cantor*

St Michael's Church Phone

(570) 876-4710

November 26, 2023: 25th Sunday After Pentecost (10th Sunday of Luke)

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.

The Nativity Fast has begun.

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.

We also use this time to examine ourselves to see where our spiritual stumblings are; to take an **honest self-inventory** and seek repentance and guidance with the aid of a priest in the Sacrament of Confession.

In the Orthodox Church in America, our minimum standard is to seek confession four times a year.

*For the value of fasting consists **not** in abstinence from food, but in **withdrawing from sinful practices**; since he who limits his fasting only to an abstinence from meats, is one who especially disparages it.*

*Do you fast? **Give me proof of it by your works!** Is it said by what kind of works? If you see a poor man, **take pity** on him! If you see an enemy, **be reconciled** to him! If you see a friend gaining honour, **do not envy** him! If you see a handsome woman, **pass her by!** For do not fast only with the mouth, **but also with the eye, and the ear, and the feet, and the hands,** and all the members of our bodies.*

– St. John Chrysostom, whose relics are in our temple

Services and Events

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

Sunday, Nov 26, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy and Fellowship. Small Memorial Service for all members of the St Michael's family that have reposed in Novembers of years past.

Monday, Nov 27, 5:00 p.m. – Basement Cleanup

Saturday, Dec 2, 9:00 a.m. – Deanery Retreat (Liturgy, brunch, & presentation) at All Saints, Olyphant

Saturday, Dec 2, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, Dec 3, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy and Fellowship

*December 6 is the **Feast of St Nicholas!***

*Please join us at **St Nicholas Church in Olyphant** (600 East Lackawanna Street) to honor their parish feast day!*

Tuesday, Dec 5, 5:00 p.m. – Festal Vespers with Litya

Wednesday, Dec 6, 9:30 a.m. – Festal Divine Liturgy

Saturday, Dec 9 – COOKIE WALK

Coffee Hour is offered by:

- Nov 26: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak
- Dec 3: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

- Dec 10: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff
- Dec 17: Maryann Dubee & Susan Schlasta

Donations

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!*

Thought for the week:

If money didn't exist, how would you give of yourself, to God and to neighbor?

Announcements

Our next **Cleanup Day** is **Monday, November 27, beginning at 5pm**. We will continue in the Church Basement.

Saturday, December 2: Deanery Retreat at **All Saints in Olyphant** (211 Willow Ave). Divine Liturgy at **9am**, followed by **Brunch** and then a Talk/Q&A at **Noon** 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 end by 2 PM. 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.

Saturday December 9 is our **Christmas "Cookie Walk"**. Please consider baking your favorite family or heirloom recipe to sell to the public. *Please see the sign-up sheet at the bottom of the stairs, or ask anyone on the Events Team.*

*If you know of anyone who is **sick, injured, or struggling** with anything in their life; please contact us so they can be added to our prayers. (Or, if you wish, names can be added to the private prayer list in the altar and not mentioned in the bulletin.) Please also (always!) let the priest know whenever someone is **pregnant, recently had a baby, is engaged, or is planning a wedding**, so we can add them to our prayers as well.*

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 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.**

... Confession is a major theme of the Gospels. Even before Christ began His public ministry ... John [the Baptist] required confession of those who came to him for baptism in the River Jordan for a symbolic act of washing away their sins ... The Gospel author John [the Theologian] warns us not to deceive ourselves: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:8,9).

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

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

Brethren: I, a prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Today's Hymns

Sunday Troparion (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

St Innocent of Irkutsk (Tone 3)

You illumined the earth by your deeds, O radiant light of the Church. / You healed those who drew near to you in faith, and so glorified God. / Therefore, O holy Father Innocent, we beseech you: / "Encompass this land with your prayers, // and protect us from all harm and misdeed!"

Sunday Kontakion (Tone 8)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

St Innocent of Irkutsk (Tone 4)

O faithful, let us all praise with love / the pastor whose very name means innocence, / the preacher of the faith in Mongolia, / the glory and adornment of the flock of Irkutsk, // for he is the protector of this land and an intercessor for our souls!

For the Mother of God (Tone 6)

Steadfast protectress of Christians, / constant advocate before the Creator; / despise not the entreating cries of us sinners, / but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. / Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, // for you always protect those who honor you!

We are blessed to have the relics of St Innocent of Irkutsk here at St Michael's. St Innocent brought the Orthodox Christian faith to Siberia and Mongolia despite resistance from the Communist regimes in both China and the Soviet Union. He reposed in 1731, and his relics were found incorrupt in 1764.

The Faith We Hold

Baptism is the most decisive event in our lives. But **how little attention** it has received! Participation in the Feast of the Resurrection, our common baptismal feast, is a vivid reminder of how "we too might walk in newness of life." And **what is that newness of life** which is present at the Easter Feast? We experience it **when we take part in the Eucharist**. Thus it is most natural and important that **all** baptized members of the Church **should partake** of Holy Communion.

... The baptismal practice of the early Church helps us to understand that **the baptism of an infant**, [his/her] becoming a member of the Church, **is not a private occasion** for the home, but is explicitly **a feast common to the whole congregation**. When a child is baptized in church during the Liturgy, we experience even in our day how baptism and the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit make a person **a member of the people of God**. The newly-baptized child ... can then already, **in the same Liturgy**, partake of the sacrament of redemption, Holy Communion, the fulfilment of all spiritual longing.

– Abp Paul of Finland, *The Faith We Hold* (SVS Press, 1980), 38-41.

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, Maryanne Krisa, Michael Krisa, William Hummer, Barbara Mosley.

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: 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 Konkak (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)	

“An Orthodox parish has only one God-given reason for being. It exists to be the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ. Whatever the original reasons and conditions for its founding, whatever other services and activities it may provide, whatever other desires and needs it may fulfill for its members, a community of Orthodox Christians must be Christ’s one holy Church. **If it is not**, then it is neither Christian nor Orthodox, whatever else it may be and do.

“A parish must be *the* Church of Christ, and not simply *a* church, because, according to the Orthodox faith, every local community of Orthodox Christians with a priest must be, and theologically understood actually is, **the one Church of Christ**. Theologically speaking, there are not *many* Orthodox Churches; there is only *one*. An Orthodox parish is this one Church, or it is not an Orthodox church at all. **Each parish, therefore, must be the one and only Church of Christ.**

“Everything in the parish, and everything about it, **must be holy** because God and Christ are holy. **There can be no part of a parish that is not sanctified** by the holiness of God and His Son Jesus Christ, “the holy One of God.” There can be no aspect of a parish not inspired and empowered by God’s Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of God and of Christ. Everything in and about a parish—its organization, structure, administration, finances and properties, as well as its theological and moral teachings and practices, and its liturgical and sacramental rites and services—must be of God. They must be determined by God, inspired by God and submitted to God for His glory and the good of His people.”

– Fr Thomas Hopko, “The Orthodox Parish in North America”, *Thirteenth All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America*, Orlando, 2002.