

# 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/>

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**January 21, 2023: 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
*Saint Maximus the Confessor*

## Services and Events

**Saturday, Jan 20**, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions

**Sunday, Jan 21**, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

*Wednesday, Jan 24 – St. Xenia of St Petersburg*

*Thursday, Jan 25 – St Gregory the Theologian*

**Thursday-Friday, Jan 25-26** – 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Assembly, Harrisburg

**Friday, Jan 26**, est. 5:00 p.m. – 40<sup>th</sup> Day Panikhida for Rebecca Hanchak

**Saturday, Jan 27**, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions

**Sunday, Jan 28**, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

*Tuesday, Jan 30 – Three Hierarchs (Ss. Basil, Gregory, & John Chrysostom)*

*February 2 is the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple.*

**Thursday, Feb 1**, 6:30 p.m. – **Small Festal Vigil**

**Friday, Feb 2**, 9:30 a.m. – **Festal Divine Liturgy**

*Coffee Hour is offered by:*

Jan 21: Maryann Dube & Susan Schlasta

Jan 28: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

Feb 4: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

Feb 11: **SOUPer Bowl Sunday**. Crockpot Potluck. All donations for IOCC. *We will also collect nonperishables for a local food bank.*

Feb 18: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

Feb 25: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

## Today's Scripture

*Epistle: Colossians 1:12-18*

*Brethren*, Give thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

*Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14*

*The Lord spoke this parable:* "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'" But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

## Hymns of the Day

*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 Maximus the Confessor (Tone 8)*

O Champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship, / the enlightener of the universe and the adornment of hierarchs; / all wise Father Maximus, thy teachings have gleamed with light upon all things. // Intercede before Christ God to save our souls!

*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!

*Glory ...*

*St Maximus (Tone 8)*

Let us the faithful fittingly praise the lover of the Trinity, / the great Maximus who taught the God-inspired faith, that Christ is to be glorified in His two natures, wills, and energies; // and let us cry to him: "Rejoice, herald of the faith!"

*Now & ever ...*

*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!

## Announcements

**HOUSE BLESSINGS!** Very few people have signed up! Please see the sign-up calendar at the bottom of the stairs. If none of those are convenient times for you, please let me know. I will also be reaching out to those who are shut in, to find a time to bless their residence. *If you are able to come to church, please do, and sign up in person.*

Please **pick up your 2024 envelopes** downstairs in the Church Basement.

**Save the Date:** On **Saturday, March 2**, the Diocese will host a **Women's Retreat** at Holy Trinity in Stroudsburg: "*Compassion: From God to us; from us to others*". The guest speaker will be Presbyteria Kerry Pappas, a licensed marriage & family therapist and a counselor to many Orthodox lay, clergy, and seminarian families.

## Donations & Memorials

- **THANK YOU** to **Mark & Greg Klapatch**, who have donated \$380 of their lawn services at both the Church and Rectory, for the previous year 2023. May God grant them many years!

*Thank You to all who contributed to our drive for the Cross liners and Gospel ribbons.  
We will be placing the order for these in this coming week.*

## In your prayers...

***The Newly-Departed:*** **Archpriest Moses Berry** (Jan 12), **Archpriest Ivan Moody** (Jan 18), **Irene Gurka** (Dec 16), **Rebecca Hanchak** (Dec 17).

**Please keep in your prayers our brother in Christ, Fr Gregory White**, the priest at Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, who has suffered a heart attack. *May the divine Physician grant him recovery, and comfort his family and the faithful of Holy Resurrection.*

*Those who are ill or recovering from illness or injury:* **Fr Michael Evans**, **Fr Joseph Chupek**, **Fr Peter Telencio**, **Pdn. Gabriel Petorak**, **Edward & Karen Hojnicky**, **Gregory Hansen**, **Olga Krutz**, **Maryanne Krisa**, **Michael Krisa**, **Barbara Mosley**.

*Those who are alone or confined:*

- **Eileen Dance**, Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation #202, 10 Hart Place, Carbondale, PA 18407
- **John Drutarosky**, Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation #307, 10 Hart Place, Carbondale, PA 18407
- **Theresa Krenitsky**, Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation #307, 10 Hart Place, Carbondale, 18407
- **Nicholas Mattise**, Personal Care at Allied Terrace, #218, 100 Terrace Lane, **Scranton, PA 18508**
- **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**, Glenmaura Senior Living, 11 Glenmaura National Blvd, Moosic, PA 18507
- **Paul Kostiak**, along with **Dolores Brophy**, 631 Jefferson Ave, Jermyrn, PA 18433
- **Paul & Barbara Mosley**, 623 Cemetery St, Mayfield, PA 18433
- **Bill Hummer**, c/o Oakwood Terrace, 400 Gleason Dr, Moosic, PA 18507

### *On Prayer, during the Storms of Life*

"Then at a certain moment [the disciples on the boat] lose heart, and **the storm that was outside comes inside** -- the storm is **within them** too. Anguish, death no longer simply circle round, they come inside. And then they turn to Christ and do what **we very often do with God:** we look at God in time of stress and tragedy, and **we are indignant that He is so peaceful**. The story in the Gospel underlines it by saying that Christ was sleeping with His head on a pillow ... They are dying and He is comfortable. This is exactly what we feel about God so often: *'How dare He be blissful; how dare He be so comfortable when I am in trouble?'* And the disciples do exactly what we do so very often. Instead of coming to God and saying 'You are peace, you are the Lord, say a word and my servant will be healed, say a word and things will come right', they shake Him out of His sleep and say 'Don't you care that we are perishing?' In other words ... 'If you can do nothing better, then at least die in anguish with us.'

Christ reacts, He gets up and says 'Men of little faith!' and brushing them aside, He turns towards the storm and, projecting His inner stillness, His harmony and peace on the storm, He says 'Be still, be quiet' and everything is quiet again."

– Met. Anthony Bloom, *Beginning to Pray*

## St Maximus the Confessor

*writing about the mysteries of God, the Church, and the Human Being*

... **The holy Church of God is a human being**, which has the sanctuary as its soul, the divine altar as its mind, and the nave as its body. And therefore the Church is as the image and likeness of a human being who was made “according to the image” and “likeness of God.” ... And, conversely, he said that **man is a mystical Church**—through the body as through the nave, man virtuously **cleanses** the practical part of the soul **by the outworking of the commandments** according to moral discipline.... Through the mind as through the altar, man summons by means of another kind silence—the often-sung “silence in the inner sanctuaries” of the unseen and unknowable majestic voice of divinity. And, in as far as it is possible for man, he ... becomes such as one who has been made worthy of the visitation of God ought to be, and **is imprinted with his radiant splendor**.

The Church brings together all things to the mystery performed on the divine altar. And, therefore, the one who is able to be initiated in prudence and wisdom through the rites that are celebrated in the Church establishes his very soul as a Church truly of God and divine.

... **All holy Scripture** in its entirety is a human being ... this historical letter of all holy Scripture ... is the body. And **the mind of the Scripture** and the aim towards which it refers is **the soul**.... Scripture in its essence is, and is written, and **is said to be Scripture, when it is engraved in the mind through spiritual grace**.

*Concerning the Conclusion of the Mystical Liturgy:* After the cleansing comes the imparting of the mystery at the conclusion of all these things. The mystery transforms those who partake in a worthy manner into itself and, by grace and participation, renders them similar to the one who is good as the cause of everything that is good. And they are “lacking in nothing” from him in as far as it is possible and attainable for men, so that even they are able to be and to be called gods by adoption according to grace, because the whole of God fills the whole of them with himself and leaves nothing in them empty from his presence.

– Maximus the Confessor, *On the Ecclesiastical Mystagogy* (St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2019), 58, 68-70,80.

*“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!*



Presented by The Diocese of Eastern PA and the Women’s Group of Holy Trinity

### **THE GIFT OF COMPASSION:**

#### **From God to Us —Through Us, to Others**

~Extending and Receiving Compassion ~Compassion vs. Empathy  
~Compassion in Scripture ~The Many “Faces” of Compassion

**Saturday, March 2nd - 10am-3pm**

Holy Trinity Church, 1501 Trinity Ct, Stroudsburg, PA

Our featured speaker:  
Presbytera Kerry Pappas

Kerry is a priest wife and licensed marriage and family therapist. She works extensively with seminarian and clergy families, primarily through the Center for Family Care Team of the GOA. Kerry’s work of over 40 years takes her around the country leading women and couples in interactive exercises and dialogue.



This event is open to all women of our diocese and beyond.  
There is no charge and lunch and snacks will be provided.

Please bring a friend and enjoy a day of reflection and fellowship.

Please RSVP to Sara Rusk at [rusksara21@gmail.com](mailto:rusksara21@gmail.com) by February 24.

### *St Maximus the Confessor*

Our venerable and God-bearing Father Maximus the Confessor (ca. 580-662) was an Orthodox Christian monk and ascetical writer known especially for his courageous fight against the heresy of *Monothelism*, and defending the teaching that Jesus Christ has two wills (human and divine) corresponding to his two natures. He was born in the region of Constantinople, was well educated, and spent some time in government service before becoming a monk (later abbot) at the monastery of Chrysopolis. During the Persian invasion of the Empire (614), he fled to Africa.

During the height of the Monothelism heresy, Maximus was brought to Constantinople by the heresy's supporters and questioned. The saint and two of his disciples were subjected to the cruelest torments. Each one's tongue was cut out, and his right hand was cut off. Then they were exiled to Skemarus in Scythia, enduring many sufferings and difficulties on the journey. He died shortly thereafter. Some twenty years after his death, Maximus was exonerated by the Sixth Ecumenical Council and recognized as a Father of the Church.

Saint Maximus gave the Church a great theological legacy. Many of his writings are still widely read today; some are doctrinal, many others describe the contemplative life and offer spiritual advice. Some are explanations of difficult passages of Holy Scripture, and explanations of divine services entitled "*Mystagogia*" ("*Introduction to the Mystery*"). In some of his letters to various people are contained explanations of the Orthodox teaching on the Divine Essence and the Persons of the Holy Trinity, on the Incarnation of the Word of God, and on "theosis" ("deification") of human nature. Elsewhere, he deliberates on the nature of the soul and its conscious existence after death. Among his moral compositions, especially important is his "Chapters on Love." Saint Maximus the Confessor also wrote three hymns in the finest traditions of church hymnography, following the example of Saint Gregory the Theologian.

"Nothing in theosis is the product of human nature," Saint Maximus writes in a letter to his friend Thalassius, "for nature cannot comprehend God. It is only the mercy of God that has the capacity to endow theosis unto the existing... In theosis man (the image of God) becomes likened to God, he rejoices in all the plenitude that does not belong to him by nature, because the grace of the Spirit triumphs within him, and because God acts in him" (Letter 22).

If you are remembering evil against someone, then pray for him; and as you remove through prayer the pain of the remembrance of the evil he has done, you will stop the advance of the passion. And when you have attained brotherly love and love for mankind, you will completely cast this passion out of your soul. Then when someone else does evil to you, be affectionate and humble toward him, and treat him kindly, and you will deliver him from this passion.

– St. Maximus the Confessor