

# 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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**February 18, 2024: 37<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Zacchaeus Sunday.** *St Leo the Great, Pope of Rome (461).*

## Schedule of Services

**Saturday, Feb 17,** 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions.

**Sunday, Feb 18,** 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship.

*Thursday, Feb 22, 6:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal.*

**Saturday, Feb 24,** 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions.

**Sunday, Feb 25,** 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship.

*Saturday, March 2 – Women's Retreat, Stroudsburg*

**Saturday, March 2,** 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions.

**Sunday, March 3,** 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship.

## Announcements

Our **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held **Sunday March 3**. This is the **second notice** of this date. The Annual Meeting is our opportunity to gather *in council* to discuss the various temporal needs of the Church in this place. It is a *sacred task*, and the duty of everyone who calls St Michael's their home.

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. Please RSVP to Sara Rusk at [rusksara21@gmail.com](mailto:rusksara21@gmail.com) by February 24, or let me or Mat. Alexandra know.

*Coffee Hour is offered by:*

Feb 18: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

Feb 25: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

March 3: Maryann Dubee & Susan Schlasta

March 10: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

## Today's Scripture

*1 Timothy 4:9-15 (Epistle)*

*My son Timothy,* This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

*Luke 19:1-10 (Gospel)*

*At that time,* Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

## Hymns of the Day

*Sunday Troparion (Tone 4)*

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!"

*St Michael the Archangel (Tone 4)*

O Commander of the heavenly hosts, / we who are unworthy beseech you ceaselessly / that you would encompass us with the shelter of your prayers, / and cover us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory. / We fall down before you, crying out: / "Protect us all from harm, // O Michael, Prince of the powers on high!"

*St Leo the Great (Tone 3)*

Thou wast the Church's instrument / in strengthening the teaching of true doctrine; / thou didst shine forth from the West like a sun / dispelling the errors of the heretics. // Righteous Leo, entreat Christ God to grant us His great mercy.

*Sunday Kontakion (Tone 4)*

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

*St Leo the Great (Tone 3)*

Seated upon the throne of the priesthood, glorious Leo, / thou didst shut the mouths of the spiritual lions. / With divinely inspired teachings of the honored Trinity, / thou didst shed the light of the knowledge of God upon thy flock. // Therefore, thou art glorified as a divine initiate of the grace of God.

*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!

## In your prayers...

The Newly-Departed: Archpriest Moses Berry (Jan 12), Archpriest Ivan Moody (Jan 18).

*We offer prayers for:*

- Archbishop Nathaniel, of the Romanian Episcopate of the OCA, who had emergency heart surgery.
- The Troutman family (Doreen & Harry, along with John Meholic) who lost their home to fire.
- Fr Gregory White, of Holy Resurrection in Wilkes-Barre, recovering from a heart attack.

*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, Mary Ann Serafini.

*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, PA 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, Jermyn, PA 18433  
Paul & Barbara Mosley, 623 Cemetery St, Mayfield, PA 18433  
Bill Hummer, c/o Oakwood Terrace, 400 Gleason Dr, Moosic, PA 18507  
Adam & Mary Ann Serafini, 509 Jefferson Ave, Jermyn, PA 18433

## Donations & Memorials

- Our parish collected a total of \$224 for International Orthodox Christian Charities' *SOUPer Bowl of Caring* food drive, in addition to *many* bags of food donations. *THANK YOU!*
- \$350 was offered to St Michael's in thanksgiving by Gerald & Marilyn Soroka.

## *Paradise Lost*

**Man is nostalgic for paradise**; that is to say, for his original state, his **original beauty**. Whether it be in art, festivities, the passionate love ... or in the rites of those archaic religions ... it is none other than this, deep down, that man is seeking. For paradise remains at once **present yet inaccessible** at the very heart of things, at the heart of man himself. By virtue of his true nature, he is rooted in God: *As the potter molds the clay, thou hast fashioned me, giving me flesh and bones, breath and life (1.10)*. “The Lord God formed man from out of the dust from the ground, and he breathed in his face the breath of life, and man became a living soul” (*Gen 2.7*). Thus man's very existence is supported by the divine breath. He is made “in the image and likeness of God” (*Gen 1.26*)—an image, as the Fathers make clear, that is **dynamic**. It is called to be **fulfilled** in “likeness”; that is, **in participation** in the divine life within a relationship of faith and love with the living God. **Unless he freely assumes this “iconic” condition, this condition of being an icon or image of God, man is not truly human**. It is this image that leads him into the communion enjoyed by the Trinity and that enables him, in relation to his neighbor, to become himself a being of communion.

In paradise, Adam ... names the living creatures (*Gen 2.19*), discerning their spiritual essences, giving consciousness and words to their mute celebration. He is destined to exercise a cosmic priesthood, transfiguring the universe and transforming it into “Eucharist,” into thanksgiving. Whereas the process of creation involved a series of successive **separations**, man's own task is to bring about the corresponding **syntheses** that will foster the reintegration of all creation in the kingdom. It was the glory of the cosmos together with God's own glory that **clothed** Adam and Eve in paradise ... The Great Canon alludes to this *first garment that the Creator wove for [us] (2.7)*, a garment that was indistinguishable from the *garment of [our] flesh (2.15)* but that was translucent to glory. But this state of glorious plenitude became obscured.

... St Andrew's Canon takes up the theme of “imitation”: *I have rivaled in transgression Adam the first-formed man, and I have found myself stripped naked of God, of the eternal Kingdom and its joy, because of my sins (1.3)*. Such [imitation] is a sort of identification, as if Adam's choice were at once **personal and collective**, having become coextensive with the human species throughout the entire duration of history ... The perversion consists in the setting up of a reciprocal bond of **possessiveness between the soul and created matter**, without reference to God, rejecting his presence. Instead of a relationship of communion with the world tree bathed in divine glory, the soul has allowed itself to be mesmerized by the *beauty of the tree (2.9)*, has wished to harness universal existence for its own profit, succumbing to *the passionate thought in my flesh, showing me what seems sweet; yet whenever I taste from it, I find it bitter (1.5)*. The ruse of the devil, says St Maximus the Confessor, was—and remains—to turn man's intelligence away from God, fixing it prematurely on perceptible **things that man can control for himself**, with the result that he becomes an usurper and no longer priest-king of the universe.

– Olivier Clément, *The Song of Tears: An Essay on Repentance Based on the Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete* (Yonkers, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2021), 19-21.