

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, Rector
610-427-9279 Mobile,
570-876-1241 Rectory
johnmblack@gmail.com



Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak, *attached*
570-876-0411
Vladimir Kitchura, *Council President*
570-903-3475

June 16, 2024: The Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council in Nicaea

Fr. John will be away Pentecost Weekend, this coming Friday June 21 through Monday June 24.

Services for Pentecost will be served by Fr. Mikel Hill. Please give him a warm welcome!

On those days, in case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Fr. Michael Shepherd in Old Forge: 570-229-4829

Schedule of Services

Saturday, June 15, 6:30 p.m. – Great Vespers; Sunday, June 16, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship.

HOLY PENTECOST: The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Saturday, June 22, 6:30 p.m. – Festal Vespers with Litya

Sunday, June 23, 9:30 a.m. – Festal Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour is offered by:

June 16: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra
June 23: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

June 30: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts
July 7: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

Other events

- Sunday, June 30, 11–1: St John's Cathedral, Mayfield, is holding a Takeout-Only Turkey Dinner, at the church center. Tickets are \$15 per person. *Contact Mat. Alexandra Sorochka (570)335-2128, Sandy Suey (570)876-3576, Sasha Fedorchak (570)466-8431, or Joannie Zaleski (570)254-6882 for tickets.*
- Sunday June 30 is the FOCA Day at Knoebel's Amusement Park! (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America) *Everyone* from Orthodox parishes in the area are invited. \$5/person for dinner, served at 6pm. Knoebel's is a free-admission amusement park where you pay for ride tickets. Arrive any time after Liturgy and enjoy the park.

In your prayers...

The newly-departed: Audrey Matthews (Mat. Alexandra's aunt) (June 15).

The ill and the afflicted: Fr Michael Evans, Fr Joseph Chupek, Fr Peter Telencio, Fr Gregory White, Fr John Sorochka, Fr Michael Shepherd, Pdn. Gabriel Petorak, Peter Senio, Gregory Hansen, Olga Krutz, Maryanne Krisa, Michael Krisa, Barbara Mosley, Mary Ann Serafini, Alexis Meholic, Tom Shaw, Marilyn Petorak, Sandy Gillott.

Those who are alone or confined: Eileen Dance, John Drutarosky, Theresa Krenitsky, Nicholas Mattise, Barbara Palubniak, Peggy Petrilak, Peter Senio, Jerry & Marilyn Soroka, Paul Kostiak, Dolores Brophy, Paul & Barbara Mosley, Adam & Mary Ann Serafini.

Please also remember in prayer Deacon Nathaniel Sorochka, who will be ordained, God willing, to the Holy Priesthood on July 7 at St John's in Mayfield on their parish feast day. The priesthood is a grace-filled yet difficult path for all who would follow this calling, and all priests everywhere need the prayers and support of the entire Church. We pray that God will save and protect him and all those he will serve, and grant him many years.

\$100 was offered in loving memory of Michael & Anne Keklock; Kuzma & Irene Leschak; Kuzma & Anna Leschak; and the Hockin family: George & Anastasia, John, Michael, Julie, and Hazel (Anastasia); by Melanie Ringa. *May their memory be eternal!*

Hymns of the Day

Sunday (Ordinary troparion), Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. / O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

Ascension, Tone 4

O Christ God, Thou hast ascended in glory, / granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing, they were assured / that Thou art the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world.

Fathers of the 1st Council, Tone 8

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God, / Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. / Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith. // O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Glory ...

Fathers of the 1st Council, Tone 8

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Now & ever ...

Ascension, Tone 6

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, / and united earth to heaven, / Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, / not being parted from those who love Thee, / but remaining with them and crying: // "I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

In those days: Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them:

"You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Gospel: John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Of all religions, only Orthodox theology emphasizes union with God-in a real and actual sense-as the goal and purpose of all human life. We rarely speak of "going to heaven," as though it were a destination. We do not speak of experiencing a "beatific vision" of God, as though God could be viewed but remained at some distance from us. Rather, Orthodox Christianity speaks of theosis, the divinization of the human person. We expect, hope, and strive for actual union with the perfect, infinite, eternal, omnipresent, and changeless God.

– Presvytera Dr. Jeannie Constantinou, *Thinking Orthodox: Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Christian Mind* (Ancient Faith Publishing, 2020).