

St Michael's Orthodox Church

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

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September 29, 2024 – 14th Sunday After Pentecost

With great sadness but hope in the Resurrection we share with you that the Mitred Archpriest Vladimir Petorak reposed in the Lord on Saturday, Sept 28. Fr. Vladimir served at both Holy Resurrection in Wilkes-Barre and later in Alden Station.

Schedule of Services

Saturday, Sept 28, 6:30 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions. **Last 6:30 Vespers this year.**

Sunday, Sept 29, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Tuesday, Oct 1, ~4:00 p.m. – Monthly Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, Oct 5 – No Vespers.

Sunday, Oct 6, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

*Beginning October 12, all Saturday Evening services move to **4pm**, until mid-March.*

Coffee Hour is offered by:

Sept 29: Susan Schlasta & Deborah Bernosky

Oct 6: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

Oct 13: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

Oct 20: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

Announcements

THANK YOU to all of you who worked so hard for our first Community Breakfast. We were glad to share a meal with about 25 people including our parishioners and neighbors.

Saturday Oct 12, 11–2, is our **Cabbage Roll takeout dinner!** 2 large cabbage rolls, mashed potatoes, green beans, & dessert. \$15. Sign-up sheet in the foyer. More information to follow. We need volunteers to make cakes.

Sunday October 20, 2024, is an Annual Parish Meeting, prescribed by the By-Laws of the Parish and chosen at our last meeting on March 3 2024. Our By-Laws prescribe an October date for the Annual Meeting; however the common practice in recent years has been to hold it in Jan/Feb/March. At this meeting, the Parish can decide whether to formally amend the by-laws to reflect that practice. This is the first of three notices for this meeting.

Today's Scripture

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Brethren: He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36 (2nd Sunday of Luke)

The Lord said: "As you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."

Hymns of the Day

Resurrection (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

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 Kyriakos (Tone 1)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / thou wast a wonder-worker, O our God-bearing Father Kyriakos. / Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! // Glory to Him Who, through thee, grants healing to all!

Resurrection (Tone 5)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, / resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

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!

The Church has not grown out of dogmatic formulas, nor even Holy Scripture, but out of right worship, uniting us into one Spirit in the one Body of Christ.

We must always know and remember what it means to be Orthodox: our whole life is to become a Liturgy, an Anaphora; a constant offering up of our talents, our time, our hearts, and our world to Christ. Our life can become a prayer when we continually turn our hearts to Christ and His saints for help. For what is prayer if not the turning of the heart to dialogue with God rather than a circular monologuing with our ego and passions? In this way, we will not only go to the Liturgy once or twice a week in the Church building, but rather we bring the Liturgy into every part of our lives, calling down the Holy spirit to sanctify our families, our workplaces, our cars, our homes, and even our enemies.

– Archim. Sergius (Bowyer), *Acquiring the Mind of Christ: Embracing the Vision of the Orthodox Church* (STM Press, 2015), 6-7.

In your prayers...

The ill and the afflicted: Fr. Dennis Swencki, Fr. Daniel Donlick, Fr Michael Evans, Fr Joseph Chupek, Fr Peter Telencio, Fr Gregory White, Pdn. Gabriel Petorak, Dn Geoffrey LoBalbo, Mat. Myra Kovalek, Eileen Dance, Gregory Hansen, Olga Krutz, Maryanne Krisa, Michael Krisa, Barbara Mosley, Mary Ann Serafini, Alexis Meholic, Tom Shaw, Marilyn Petorak, Sandy Gillott, Debbie Jadick, Susan Schlasta. ***Those who are alone or confined:*** Eileen Dance, John Drutarosky, Theresa Krenitsky, Nicholas Mattise, Barbara Palubniak, Peggy Petrilak, Jerry & Marilyn Soroka, Paul Kostiak, Dolores Brophy, Paul & Barbara Mosley, Adam & Mary Ann Serafini, Florence Zielinsky.

Remember the departed this week: The newly-departed Archpriest Vladimir Petorak (9/28/2024) and Michael Jadick (9/26/2024). Together with: Sophie Koulomzin (9/29/2000), David Butler (10/1/2019), Mary Hobora (10/1/1981), Lydia Popoff (10/1/2023), Marian Gamalia Terpak (10/1/1977), Elizabeth Micklick (10/3/1980), Stephen Kostiak (10/4/1974), Mary Meholic (10/4/2013), Theodore Frank Dechko (10/5/1986). Please also remember in prayer our neighbor Corey Nichols who reposed on Sept 8, and his parents James and Cheryl.

At one time the expression of mourning was viewed in a negative way, because its healing significance was not understood. People tried to conceal their grief, hiding it in the secret depths of their hearts. Now, a completely different approach is taken ... mourning must not be stifled—it must run its full course, for otherwise it will punish the person in the form of various illnesses, physical and psychological.... Medicine and pastoral counselling advise outside people to avoid intervention into someone's grieving, but rather to stand beside the bereaved person with compassion.

One must never minimize the gravity of one's grief experience. Anyone who wishes to help ... must acknowledge the force of this suffering and suffer along with them, for by proffering thoughtless and light-hearted consolation to the sufferer, one can add to one's pain. The grieving person must be understood and helped, in whatever way is possible, but one must never be challenged to some sort of heroism in his/her state of mourning.

– Stephan Jarmus and Andrew Jarmus, *On the Issues of Aging, Sickness and Dying* (Winnipeg: Ecclesia Publishing, 1989), 36.