

# 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  
johnmblack@gmail.com  
570-521-2511 or 610-427-9279  
Church Office 570-876-1241



Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak, *attached*  
570-876-0411

Vladimir Kitchura, *Council President*  
570-903-3475

**November 17, 2024 – 21<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost (9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke)**

*St Gregory, Wonderworker of Neocaesarea*

## Schedule of Services

*Saturday, Nov 16, 9:00 a.m. – Noon? – Church Cleanup Project*

*Saturday, Nov 16, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions.*

*Sunday, Nov 17, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. Please welcome Fr Mikel Hill today. Fr John will be in Union Dale.*

**November 21 is the Great Feast of the Entry (Presentation) of the Theotokos into the Temple.**

**Wednesday, Nov 20, 4:00 p.m.** – Small Vigil (Great Vespers & Litya) *We will try 4pm to see if it is better for everyone.*

**Thursday, Nov 21, 9:30 a.m.** – Festal Divine Liturgy

*Saturday, Nov 23, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions.*

*Sunday, Nov 24, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. Memorial Service for the (approx.) 40<sup>th</sup> Day of Fr. Peter Telencio, Fr. Dennis Swencki, Eileen Dance, & Mary Brzuchalski.*

*Coffee Hour is offered by:*

Nov 17: Millie Telep & \_\_\_\_\_ (need a volunteer)

Dec 1: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

Nov 24: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

Dec 8: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

## In your prayers...

**The ill and the afflicted:** Fr. Daniel Donlick, Fr Gregory White, Pdn. Gabriel Petorak, Dn Geoffrey LoBalbo, Mat. Myra Kovalek, 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, Karina Goetter, Evan Kraky.

**Homebound or in hospitals:** John Drutarosky, Theresa Krenitsky, Barbara Palubniak, Peggy Petrilak, Nicholas Mattise, Jerry & Marilyn Soroka, Paul Kostiak, Dolores Brophy, Paul Mosley, Adam & Mary Ann Serafini, Florence Zielinsky.

**The newly-departed:** Archbishop Peter of Chicago (ROCOR) (11/8), Fr. Vladimir Petorak (9/28), Fr. Joseph Chupeck (10/2), Fr. Peter Telencio (10/15), Fr. Dennis Swencki (10/20), Fr. Michael Evans (11/14), Monk Nicodemus (10/24), Michael Jadick (9/26), Eileen Dance (10/16), Mary Brzuchalski (10/17), Leo Radionoff (10/28), Paul Urda (10/29), Mona Lewen (Archbishop Mark's sister) (11/6). **Departed this week:** Apr. Nicholas Fedorchak (11/22/1998), Mat. Irene Borick (11/19/2014), Sandra Franchak Evans (11/17/2011), Mary Urda (11/18/1969), Joseph Zrowka (11/18/2005), Antoinette Kutchmanich (11/21/1981), Ann Pusey (11/21/2016), Elizabeth Day (11/22/1992), Nicholas Gurka (11/22/2006), Nicholas Wargo (11/22/1975), Paul Urda, Sr. (11/22/1973), Michael Kosar (11/23/1985), Anna Kerilla (11/26/2006), Dennis Buberniak (11/23/2008).

*The names of the Departed in the weekly bulletin are a work in progress, derived from parish historical records and other sources. Most of the names are later than 1970; a few names are from the decade prior. If a name is missing or incorrect, or if you would like someone added even if they are not in our historical records, please let us know.*

## Announcements

**Friday, December 6** is the Feast of St Nicholas, and the **120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Nicholas Church in Olyphant**. We will be celebrating with them instead of having our own services. Everyone from the surrounding parishes is invited to both the Hierarchical Liturgy and to the banquet afterwards. *Please see the forms downstairs if you are interested in the banquet.*

**Saturday December 7 is our Cookie Walk!** It will be here sooner than we think. Please see the downstairs signup sheet if you are making a batch of cookies. And spread the word!

If you are wearing lipstick, it must be blotted before approaching the chalice or venerating the cross.

## Today's Scripture

*Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20*

*Brethren:* Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

*Gospel: Luke 12:16-21 (9<sup>th</sup> Luke)*

*The Lord spoke this parable:* "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'"

So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, *Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.*'

"But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

## Hymns of the Day

*Resurrection (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 over-thrown! / 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!"

*Resurrection (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 Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)*

Commanders of God's armies / and ministers of the divine glory, / princes of the bodiless angels / and guides of mankind, / ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy, // supreme commanders of the Bodiless Hosts.

*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!

**There is a difference between being a churchgoer**, loving the Church, serving the Church ... **and being a Christian**.... Let us ask ourselves **what the Church is**. Let us ask ourselves what we mean by proclaiming the Creed, and by adhering to and preaching the doctrine of the Church; what we mean by the services we should perform or in which we take part; what we mean by everything that is our churchmanship.

The expression *churchianity* was coined by C.S. Lewis. Isn't it a word that describes the parable of Christ ... in which the Lord Jesus Christ pronounced his condemnation on the barren fig tree? Had it been barren, leafless, dead, Christ would not have condemned it. He might even had spoken a word of life and brought it into newness. **But this tree stood there gloriously adorned with leaves**, telling everyone around that it was enough to come up to it in order to find a harvest of ripe fruits. But **there was nothing but leaves**. The appearance was there; of reality, there was nothing. The words spoken by Christ are frightening. He said, "*there will never be a fruit on your branches until the end of the world.*"

The sinners who came to Christ needed salvation, indeed they were barren, but they did not hide their barrenness under any appearance. Remember the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee. The Pharisee could pride himself before God on all sorts of deeds. He was pious. He did more even than God had commanded in the law. But when he praised God, he praised him for one thing only—that God had created a man like him, and not a man like the Publican. He had covered himself, as though with leaves, with all the good deeds he could imagine—uselessly. He had learned nothing. **There was appearance; he had still to learn reality**. And God did not condemn him, because there was time for him. But what of us? ... When I say "what of us?" it is because we have so much more than the Pharisee had.

– Metropolitan Anthony Bloom, *Churchianity vs. Christianity* (Yonkers, NY: SVS Press, 2017), 16–17.

*Estimated Attendance:* Sept 29: 28. Oct 6: 29. Oct 13: 27. Oct 20: 23. Oct 27: 38. Nov 3: 40. Nov 10: 47.