

St Michael's Orthodox Church

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

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December 1, 2024 – 23rd Sunday After Pentecost (13th Sunday of Luke)

Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Most-holy Theotokos into the Temple

We are almost halfway through the Nativity Fast. We use these times to renew our spiritual disciplines, increasing in prayer and fasting. Most especially, consider reaching out to the poor... "And you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Schedule of Services

Saturday, Nov 30, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions.

Sunday, Dec 1, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. *Demonstration of the Liturgy of Preparation, at 9:30.*

Small memorial service for the repose of Ionka Kostova Bartolova, offered by her family.

December 6 is the Feast of **St Nicholas**, and the **120th Anniversary** of the founding of St Nicholas Church, Olyphant.

Please join the parishioners of St Nicholas (600 East Lackawanna St, Olyphant) for services:

Thursday, Dec 5, 6:00 p.m. – Great Vespers w/ Litya

Friday, Dec 6, 9:30 a.m. – Festal Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. *Banquet to follow. See signup downstairs if you are interested.*

Saturday, Dec 7, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions.

Sunday, Dec 8, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship.

Coffee Hour is offered by:

Dec 1: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

Dec 15: Susan Schlasta & Deborah Bernosky

Dec 8: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

Dec. 22: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

Announcements

Our Cookie Walk is this coming Saturday! Please see the downstairs signup sheet if you are making a batch of cookies. Please take a flyer from the candle desk and spread the word.

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, Laura Piwowarski, Karen Abercia, Theodore Bazil. **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. Dennis Swencki (10/20), Fr. Michael Evans (11/14), Monk Nicodemus (10/24), Monk Michael (11/20), Leo Radionoff (10/28), Paul Urda (10/29), Mona Lewen (Archbishop Mark's sister) (11/6). *(The list of annual departed names will return next week. I am still working on compiling December names from various years.)*

Offerings: \$25 for Christmas Candles & \$25 for Christmas Flowers were offered in memory of Alex and Elizabeth Hockin, by their families. \$50 in memory of Ionka Kostova Bartolova, by her son Svetoslav, daughters Polina & Kamelia, and grandchildren Andriana, Valentina, and Ivailo. *May their memory be eternal!*

Please consider offering out of your abundance in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for God's blessings in your life during this Nativity Fast. You can make a special offering for Christmas flowers to adorn the temple, or remain anonymous.

If you know of anyone who is sick, injured, or struggling with anything in their life; please contact us so they can be added to our prayers. (Names can also be added to the private prayer list in the altar and not mentioned in the bulletin, if privacy is needed.) Please, always let the priest know whenever someone is pregnant, recently had a baby, is engaged, or is planning a wedding, so we can add them to our prayers as well.

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Brethren: God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 (10th Luke)

At that time, a certain man came to put Jesus to the test, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Hymns of the Day

Resurrection (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.

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!"

Prophet Nahum (Tone 2)

We celebrate the memory / of Thy prophet Nahum, O Lord; / through him we beseech Thee: // "Save our souls!"

Resurrection (Tone 6)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

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!

When we come to the life-giving chalice on Sunday morning, we come in the totality of who we are and all that we have done. We stand at the chalice marked by the experiences of the past week-with all our sins, all our brokenness, all our ongoing struggles, all our spiritual victories. To experience the fullness of the Lord's saving presence at that holy moment and to find healing for our sinful brokenness and strength for future victories, we need to be fully there....

When we rise from our beds, therefore, we must consciously determine to meet Christ, who waits for us in the Liturgy, even if this encounter will hurt and change us. For it will only hurt our false selves; the pain that we endure brings our ultimate healing. So, when we open our eyes on Sunday morning, we must act and speak as those who will soon meet Christ. This affects how we relate to one another on the way to church. How can we speak cruel and cutting things to our family members on the way to the service and then expect Christ to bless us at the chalice? How can we open our mouths to insult others just hours or minutes before opening our mouths to receive Christ's Body and Blood? We take our first steps in the "Communion line" when we step from our beds. We must arise in expectation and walk in humility and kindness as we journey to the Kingdom.

– Fr. Lawrence Farley, *Let Us Attend: A Journey Through the Orthodox Liturgy* (Chesterton, IN: Conciliar Press, 2007), 11-12.

Est. Attendance: Oct 6: **29**. Oct 13: **27**. Oct 20: **23**. Oct 27: **38**. Nov 3: **40**. Nov 10: **37**. Nov 17: **30**. Nov 24: **26**.