

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

December 8, 2024 – 24th Sunday After Pentecost (12th Sunday of Luke)

The Nativity Fast continues...

This is our opportunity to “re-calibrate” our spiritual compass. Please make a renewed effort this year to fast not only from meat, dairy, and luxurious foods; but also from anger, greed, indulgence, laziness, and talkativeness; so that we may approach the Nativity of Our Lord with a pure heart.

We also use this time to examine ourselves to see where our spiritual stumblings are; to take an **honest self-inventory** and seek repentance and guidance with the aid of a priest in the Sacrament of Confession.

In the Orthodox Church in America, our minimum standard is to seek confession four times a year.

*For the value of fasting consists **not** in abstinence from food, but in **withdrawing from sinful practices**; since he who limits his fasting only to an abstinence from meats, is one who especially disparages it.*

*Do you fast? **Give me proof of it by your works!** Is it said by what kind of works? If you see a poor man, **take pity** on him! If you see an enemy, **be reconciled** to him! If you see a friend gaining honour, **do not envy** him! If you see a handsome woman, **pass her by!** For do not fast only with the mouth, **but also with the eye, and the ear, and the feet, and the hands**, and all the members of our bodies.*

– St. John Chrysostom, whose relics are in our temple

Schedule of Services

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

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

Thursday, Dec 12, 4:00 p.m. – *Akathist* to our Venerable Father, Herman of Alaska

Saturday, Dec 14, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions.

Sunday, Dec 15, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship.

Coffee Hour is offered by:

Dec 8: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

Dec 15: Susan Schlasta & Deborah Bernosky

Dec. 22: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

Dec. 29: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

Announcements

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE OUR “COOKIE WALK” A SUCCESS! Thank you to all who came and visited our sale! We hope to see you again soon. Please know, *you are always welcome at St Michael's.*

We are seeking more donations for **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**. Please consider making an offering so we can beautify the temple for the Nativity of Our Lord. You can offer in memory of a loved one, or remain anonymous. *We are only buying flowers according to donations offered ahead of time. Please write “Christmas flowers” on the envelope.*

Our diocese's **Teen Winter Retreat** is Friday 1/31 through Sunday 2/2, at Refreshing Mountain Retreat Center, Stevens, PA. *All Orthodox youth ages 12-18 are welcome. Fee waived for Teens in the OCA Diocese of Eastern PA; \$200 otherwise. Our diocesan youth had a wonderful time there last year. Please spread the word. Registration: www.accounts.DOEPA.org*

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. Michael Evans (11/14), Monk Nicodemus (10/24), Monk Michael (11/20), Mat. Marie Meyendorff (11/24), Leo Radionoff (10/28), Paul Urda (10/29), Mona Lewen (Archbishop Mark's sister) (11/6).

I do not yet have a complete list of annual departed names for the month of December. I hope to post one list for the entire month near the end of the month. -Fr J

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 2:14-22

Brethren: Christ Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19 (12th Luke)

At that time, as Jesus entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Hymns of the Day

Resurrection (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief
Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou
didst change weeping into joy, / and Thou didst command
Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art
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 7)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
/ for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its
powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and
cry: / "The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you
faithful, into the Resurrection!"

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!