

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2024



Icon by Fr Alexander Jasiukowicz

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/>

St Michael's Orthodox Church

Rev. John Black, Rector
johnblack@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

Schedule of Services

The Nativity Fast continues all the way until the receiving of Communion at the Liturgy of Christmas Day.

Saturday, Dec 21, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Dec 22, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. *Sunday Before the Nativity.*

Monday, Dec 23, 9:00 a.m. – Royal Hours of the Nativity at All Saints Olyphant

Tuesday, Dec 24, 6:30 p.m. – Vigil of the Nativity & Carols. *Last opportunity for confession before Christmas Liturgy.*

Wednesday, Dec 25, 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy of the Nativity & Carols. *(Please note, NINE o'clock, not 9:30)*

Thursday, Dec 26, 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy at **All Saints Olyphant** followed by potluck luncheon. All of our faithful are invited! *The is the 2nd Day of the Nativity and also the “Synaxis” (the high feast day) of the Mother of God.*

Saturday, Dec 28, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions.

Sunday, Dec 29, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. *Sunday After the Nativity.*

Tuesday, Dec 31, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Litya for the Feast of the Circumcision / St Basil.

Wednesday, Jan 1, 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Circumcision / St Basil, w/ prayers for the New Year

Coffee Hour is offered by:

Dec. 22: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

Dec. 29: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

Jan. 5: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

Jan. 12: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

Hymns of the Day

Resurrection (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, /
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure
body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, /
granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven
therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to
Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy
Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou
Who lovest mankind!”

Holy Fathers (Tone 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith, / for the
three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames
as though in the waters of rest; / and the Prophet
Daniel appeared / a shepherd to the lions as
though they were sheep. // So by their prayers,
O Christ God, save our souls!

Pre-feast of the Nativity (Tone 4)

Prepare, O Bethlehem, / for Eden has been opened to all! / Adorn
yourself, O Ephratha, / for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the
Virgin in the cave! / Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with
the Divine Fruit; / if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die
like Adam. // Christ comes to restore the image which He made in
the beginning!

Holy Fathers (Tone 1)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! / The Lamb is
on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her
womb. / The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,
// and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Pre-feast of the Nativity (Tone 3)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave / to give birth to the eternal
Word. / Hear the glad tidings / and rejoice, O universe. / With the
angels and shepherds, / glorify Him who is made manifest // a little
Child, the eternal God.

Next Year's Offering Envelopes are available downstairs. **Thank you** to Gloria and Eva who not only worked to sort and arrange them for distribution, but also assisted in updating our master list of names and addresses.

Thank you to *Garden Party Landscaping* for their generous gift of \$270. *May God grant them many years!*

If you have not sought **confession** in many months, please do so soon – **do not wait** for next year's Lent. Confession has been offered this entire past year, at the end of almost every evening service (like Saturday Vespers). Please do your best to come at one of those times, instead of right before Liturgy. *Confessions will not be heard on Christmas Morning, except by special arrangement.*

Today's Scripture (Sunday Before the Nativity)

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40

Brethren: By faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise as in a strange country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he looked for the city that hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God ...

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, to whom it was said, "in Isaac shall thy seed be called," accounting that God is able to raise him up, even from the dead, so to say, from which he also received him. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment....

... And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and of Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the [other] Prophets ... who by faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the enemies. Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain by the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented; of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good report through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect without us.

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

THE BOOK OF THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF DAVID, THE SON OF ABRAHAM.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

NOW THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST TOOK PLACE IN THIS WAY. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Est. Attendance: 10/20: 23. 10/27: 38. 11/3: 40. 11/10: 37. 11/17: 30. 11/24: 26. 12/1: 31. 12/8: 29. 12/15: 27.

Please especially pray for: Daniel Kitchura, who was recently hospitalized. **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, Mark Klapatch, Gregory Klapatch.

Please remember those who are homebound or in nursing homes. How wonderful it would be if every parishioner of St Michael's sent them a Christmas card or letter!

- **John Drutarosky**, Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation Center #307, 10 Hart Place, Carbondale, PA 18407-1593
- **Theresa Krenitsky**, Carbondale Nursing & Rehabilitation Center #307, 10 Hart Place, Carbondale, PA 18407-1593
- **Barbara Palubniak**, 629 Hill St, Mayfield, PA 18433-2113
- **Peggy Petrilak**, 127 Petrilak Lane, Greenfield Twp, PA 18407
- **Nicholas Mattise**, 100 Terrace Ln, Apt 218, Scranton, PA 18508-2621
- **Jerry & Marilyn Soroka**, 1227 Layton Rd, Clarks Summit, PA 18411-8771
- **Paul Kostiak**, along with **Dolores Brophy**, 631 Jefferson Ave, Jermyn, PA 18433-1631
- **Paul Mosley**, 623 Cemetery St, Mayfield, PA 18433-1916
- **Adam & Mary Ann Serafini**, 509 Jefferson Ave, Jermyn, PA 18433-1662
- **Florence Zielinsky**, 62 Beech Grove Rd, Honesdale, PA 18431-4164

The newly-departed: Fr. Michael Evans (11/14), Monk Michael (11/20), Mat. Marie Meyendorff (11/24), Mat. Jeanne Ciarciaglino (12/16).

Remember the departed this month: Archbishop Kiprian (12/14/1980), Fr. Paul Borick (12/14/1997), Fr. John Kuchta (12/20/1999), Mat. Anne Pawlush (12/7/2021), Fr. Igor Soroka (12/18/2021), Fr. Damian Krehel (12/23/1976), Mary Jubinsky (12/1/2002), Anastasia Hockin (12/2/1951), Joseph Kiehart (12/3/2015), Dorothy Gurka (12/5/1976), Michael Rusniak (12/5/1979), Millie Serniak (12/5/1997), Joseph Gamalia (12/6/2010), Alexander Meholic (12/7/2000), Eva Zeleniak Whitiak (12/8/2016), Anna Keklock (12/10/1966), Mary Gamalia (12/10/1984), David Essig (12/10/2021), George Hobora (12/14/1952), Mary Kutch (12/14/1995), Kenneth Joseph Kovaleski (12/15/1974), Michael Gursky (12/15/1994), Anna Jubinsky (12/15/1994), Elizabeth Zrowka (12/15/2015), Beatrice (Hockin) Deak (12/16/1994), Irene (Myshak) Gurka (12/16/2023), Rebecca Hanchak (12/17/2023), Samuel Gurka (12/18/2001), Alexander Herbert (12/19/1980), Mary (Hockin) Goncharuk (12/20/1975), John Onufrak (12/20/1980), Julia Kennedy (12/20/2010), Theodore Herbert (12/21/1968), Peter Jubinski (12/21/1973), Anna Franchak (12/22/2007), Joseph Gurka (12/22/2008), Olga Palese (12/23/2003), Dolores Dreater (12/23/2011), Michael Urda Sr. (12/24/1968), Michael Yurchak (12/24/1991), Michael Onufrak (12/25/1983), Rose Utter (12/25/2007), Julia Vahal (12/26/1986), Justine Swirka (Mikloiche) (12/28/1976), Aleck Shust (12/30/1987), Eleanor Bazink (12/30/1994), Agnes Kuhar (12/31/2020).

If we truly understand the message of Christmas, which teaches us to love and serve the poor, let us first of all turn to Christ. Only He can teach us how to really love the poor, not for our own glory- not even for a social ideal—but **for the love of man** as He Himself has loved us. **Jesus Christ is the first among the poor**; no one has so totally impoverished himself as He did. And, moreover, He did so **voluntarily**. For let us never forget that He is the second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God, and that He has lowered Himself to the point of becoming a defenseless child, lying in straw at the feet of animals. **As soon as He took our human condition upon Himself, He was rejected**; there was no place for Him in any house: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner" (Ps 117 [118]:22). Rejected again and again, He was forced to flee into Egypt. We see Him there as a slave, poor and exiled, Him who is the King of the universe!

... Even for those who have forgotten Christ, or have never known Him, Christmas is a symbol of peace on earth and love among men, if only for twenty-four hours or for a single night (as in, for example, truces during wars, cease- fires, or messages of peace from all the governments of the world). This is appropriate, for Christ is the God of Mercy, the Prince of Peace, "and of his peace there will be no end" (Is 9:6).

The peace of this world is often only a period of calm between two wars. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, a peace without end. His Kingdom will not fall like all other kingdoms, reigns, governments, and dictatorships. **The peace of Jesus Christ allows us to participate now in His Kingdom which is to come**. Let us learn how to carry this peace of Christ within us from this moment on. Let us, like the shepherds, hear the exclamation of the angels during Christmas night: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men" (Lk 2:14). Let us be witnesses of this marvelous reconciliation between heaven and earth, between God and man! We shall never exhaust the Nativity message, its beauty and its mystery. We have spoken of peace and poverty. It is through Jesus that we can understand these two aspects: He is peace, **and** He is the poorest among the poor. Now we can look deeper into the meaning of the Nativity by studying the most essential aspect of this feast, its deepest meaning which reveals to us the mystery of the Incarnation: God made man.

– Olga Dunlop, trans., *The Living God: A Catechism for the Christian Faith*, vol. I (Crestwood, NY: SVS Press), 30-32.



DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

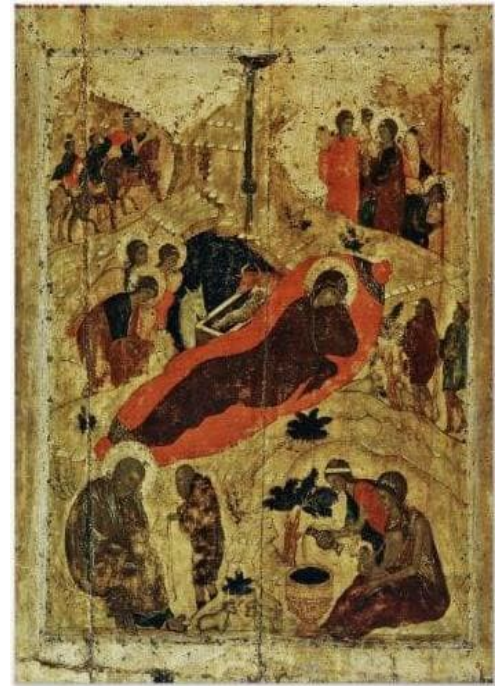
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia • Orthodox Church in America

*December 4, 2024
Feast of the Nativity of our Lord*

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Dear Rev. Frs., Matushki and Faithful,

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, proclaiming the present mystery; for He has broken the middle wall of partition, and the flaming spear will turn about, and the cherubim will admit all to the tree of life. As for me, I will return to enjoy the bliss of paradise from which I was driven away before, by reason of iniquity; for the likeness of the Father, and the Person of His Eternity, which it is impossible to change has taken the likeness of a Servant, coming from a Mother who has not known wedlock; free from transubstantiation, since He remained as He was, true God, and took what had not been, having become Man for His love of mankind. Wherefore, let us lift our voices unto Him crying, O Thou Who was born of the Virgin, O God, have mercy upon us. (Idiomelon By Germanus from Great Vespers on the Eve of the Nativity)



Have a blessed Feast of the Nativity and a Joyous New Year! May our Lord bless you with good health, length of days and a happy and peaceful New Year!

Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

+ Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania



St Michael's Orthodox Church
2024 Christmas Flower & Candle Offerings

Please keep those names offered here in your God-pleasing prayers.

In Memory Of

Nicholas Hanchak
by his daughter Kim Lasewicz

Andrew Petrilak and Ken Kovalski, Sr.
by Roxanne Neutts

Joseph and Ann Marie Piwowarski
by Thomas & Laura Piwowarski

Robert Telep
Kikita & Mary Hrichuk
by Millie Telep & Family

Gabriel and Barbara Petorak
Frank and Mary Bowan
by Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak

Dolores and Paul Serniak
Archpriest Peter Telencio
by Debbie Bernosky
and Steve & Kathy Serniak

Alex and Elizabeth Hockin
by their families

For Health or Thanksgiving

George, Marilyn,
& Joshua Petorak

Barbara Essig

Susan Schlasta

John Hockin

Thomas & Helen Grancey

Dolores Levine

Peter & Sarah Jubinski

The Klapatch Family

Thank you to everyone who offered Flowers and Candles
to beautify the Temple for the Nativity of Our Lord.

*We raised \$440 which exceeded our goal of \$400 (extra amounts were applied to Candles).
Thank you to Marilyn who coordinated our Christmas Flowers delivery
and to Vlad who decorated our Temple with them.*

