

# 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  
610-427-9279 (or local 570-521-2511)  
Church Office 570-876-1241



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

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

## February 9, 2025 – The Publican and the Pharisee *Beginning of the Lenten Triodion (today is the first “Pre-Lenten” Sunday)* *Leavetaking of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple*

Please give a warm welcome to Fr. Bill Rusk, Mat. Sara, and their daughters Cora and Ruth.  
Fr Bill will be filling in occasionally when Fr John has to travel to Shillington.

### Upcoming Services

Saturday, Feb 8 – **No Vespers.**

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

Saturday, Feb 15, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Feb 16, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship (*Prodigal Son*)

**NEXT WEEK, Feb 16, is the All-Parish Meeting, following the Divine Liturgy. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> announcement.**

*Coffee Hour is offered by:*

Feb 9: *SOUPer Bowl Charity Potluck*

Feb 16: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

Feb 23: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

March 2: Susan Schlasta & Deborah Bernosky

(*Lenten*) March 9: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

(*Lenten*) March 16: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

### Announcements

**POSTPONED TO NEXT WEEK, Feb 16:** Our annual Charity Potluck for IOCC's "**SOUPer Bowl**" **Food Drive**. We are also collecting **canned goods** for a local food bank. All proceeds from the potluck will be given to local shelters or IOCC.

**TODAY begins our PASCHAL FLOWER DRIVE.** If you want to make an offering for Pascha Flowers, please find the "Easter Flowers" envelope near the middle of April. Or use any envelope and write "Pascha Flowers" on it. Or, you may use the **DONATE** button on our website and enter your name and "Pascha Flowers" in the comments. **Flower Offerings are due by March 9**, so that we can place an order from our neighborhood supplier. We will only order flowers from these donations, so your offerings determine how many flowers there will be.

#### **All of our offerings should be a prayer.**

When we make a special offering for flowers or candles or a special occasion, we should remember that **an offering is not for our own recognition**, but rather **for the prayer that is offered along with the donation**. So please do not write only your name – also **write what you pray for** – either "in memory of \_\_\_", "thanksgiving for \_\_\_", "for health of \_\_\_", or anything like that. Also, going forward, the bulletins will not publish the amounts that we give, but rather what we are asking prayers for. "*But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*" (Matt 6:3)

### 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, George Petorak, Sandy Gillott, Debbie Jadick, Susan Schlasta, Evan Kraky, Laura Piwowarski, Karen Abercia, Daniel Kitchura, Mark Klapatch, Gregory Klapatch, Jerry Soroka. **Homebound:** 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:** Abp. Anastasios of Albania (1/25). Mat. Eugenia Nehrebecki (1/2). Mat. Susanne Senyo (1/18). Gene Howells (12/30). Karen (Dippel) Wisneski (1/26). Helen Meholic (1/27). Elizabeth Johnson (12/31).

We were saddened to learn of the repose of Elizabeth (Luxmore) Johnson on 12/31. Elizabeth has connections to St Michael's in her youth, and to parishioners of some of our sister parishes in the valley. Please keep Elizabeth and her family (especially her brother Henry in Mayfield) in your God-pleasing prayers.

## Hymns of the Day

### *Resurrection (Tone 8)*

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

### *Meeting of the Lord (Tone 1)*

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! / From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / enlightening those who sat in darkness. / Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, / thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, // Who grants us the Resurrection!

### *Publican & Pharisee (Tone 4)*

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! / Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears! / Let us cry to our Savior: / "Have mercy on us, // O only merciful One!"

### *Meeting of the Lord (Tone 1)*

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb / and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. / Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. / Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, // O only Lover of Man!

### *Instead of "It is truly meet"*

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, / protect, preserve, and save those who hope in you! /// We the faithful saw the figure in the shadow and the Scriptures: / every male child that opened the womb was holy to God. / Therefore, we also magnify the first begotten Son of the un-originate Father, // the Son firstborn of the unwedded Mother!

## Today's Scripture

### *Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15*

*My Son Timothy:* You have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

### *Gospel: Luke 18:10-14*

*The Lord spoke this parable:* "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.'

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

"Research has proven, that most of the people that show up at a church's door for the first time, do so because **they already have felt a warm welcome**, in the person of the church's parishioners, **out in the community.**"

– Fr. Evan Armatas