

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



Pdn. Gabriel Petorak, *attached*
570-876-0411
Vladimir Kitchura, *Council President*
570-903-3475

March 23, 2025 – 4th Sunday of Great Lent

St John of Sinai, the author of “The Ladder of Divine Ascent”

This Week

Sat March 29, 6:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions

Sun March 30, 9:30am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship. *Memorial for Andrew Homish, Steven Susko, Helen Gurka Susko, Mary Gurka Wallace, & Ivan Pavlov.*

Tues April 1, 4pm – Monthly Parish Council

Wed April 2, 6:30pm – Great Canon with the Life of St Mary of Egypt

Fri April 4, 6:00pm – Full Akathist to the Theotokos, St Nicholas, Olyphant

Sat April 5, 6:30pm – Great Vespers (Fr Bill Rusk)

Sun April 6, 9:30am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship (Fr Bill Rusk)

Sun April 6, 4:00pm – Pan-Orthodox Vespers @ All Saints Olyphant

Coffee Hour is offered by: (all coffee hours are Lenten until Pascha)

3/23: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak 4/13 (*Palm Sunday*): Susan Schlasta &
3/30: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts Deborah Bernosky
4/6: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff 4/20: PASCHA

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 Piwowski, 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: Mitered Apr. Daniel Skvir (3/23). Archpriest Paul Harrilchak (3/12). Priest Jonas Worsham (3/8).

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 (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!”

St John of the Ladder (Tone 1)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! // Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

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!”

Glory... St John of the Ladder (Tone 4)

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, / to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, // O our father and teacher John.

Now & ever ... 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!

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Brethren: When God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

Announcements

Today we will celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the repose of **Andrew Homish** (3/26/24) and **Steven Susko** (4/10/24); along with **Helen Gurka Susko & Mary Gurka Wallace** (offered by John Susko); and **Ivan Pavlov** (offered by his family: Svetoslav, Mary, Polina, Valentina, Andriana, & Ivailo).

This Wednesday April 2, we will celebrate the **Great Canon for the 5th Thursday**, with the reading of the *Life of St Mary of Egypt*. This is a unique opportunity to hear this moving account of her life within the context of the divine services. We hope to see you there.

THANK YOU to everyone who has offered donations and prayers for our Flower Drive. So far, prayers have been offered *in memory of*: Henel & Nicholas Myshak, Olga & Andrew Grancey, Alex & Elizabeth Hockin, Rebecca and John Hanchak, members of the Leschak and Keklock families, the Deak & Jubinski Families, Dorothy & Eugene Skorupa, Joseph & Eleanor Siniawa, Robert Furiosi, and Paul Sernak. And *for the health of*: Camille Palese, George & Marilyn Petorak, Josh Petorak, Rdr. Jon & Anna Marie Black, Gloria & Tom Shaw and family, and Miles & Roxanne Neutts. *If you still want to make an offering, please do so soon – place it in the collection basket, mail it to the Church address, or use our online DONATE button.*

People feel unhappy and they don't know why. They feel that something is wrong, but they can't put their finger on what. They feel uneasy, confused, frustrated, alienated and estranged – and they can't explain it. They have everything and yet they want more; and when they get it, they are still empty and dissatisfied. **They want fulfillment and it never seems to come.** Everything is fine and yet everything is wrong.... Here in America, this is almost a national disease. It is covered over by frantic activity and endless running around; it is buried in activities and events; it is drowned out by television programs and football games. **But when the movement stops and the dial is turned off and everything is quiet...** then the dread sets in, the meaninglessness of it all, the boredom and the fear..

... St. Augustine said more than 1500 years ago, *“and we will be forever restless until we rest in Him.”* Our lives are made for God and **we will be unsatisfied, unfulfilled and frustrated until we find our home with Him.** Nothing in this fallen world can, of itself, bring us the peace that we seek. God alone can do that because He alone is our home. And we are His...

– Fr Thomas Hopko, *The Lenten Spring*