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FROM THE AMBIVON

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

512 WINTER ST., OLD FORGE, PA

Priest Michael Shepherd (frmichael@stmichaelof.org)

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26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1.

Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias—635-605 B.C.). Ven. Savva (Sabbas), Abbot of Zvenigorod, disciple of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh (1406). St. Theodulus, Eparch of Constantinople (ca. 440). Ven. John the Silent of St. Sabbas' Monastery (558). Hieromartyr Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria (606). Monastic Martyr Cosmas of St. Anne's Skete (Mt. Athos).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for November

Birthdays:

Nameday: Barbara Sevensky (12/4); Daniel Jones (12/17); David Jadick (12/31)

Anniversary:

Baptism:

Travelers:

Prospora Schedule: We need families to start baking prospora at home. Please sign up. We are out. Thank you to Justin and Amaya for today's prospora. *The Church has a prospora kit if you would like to borrow it.*

Dec 10: Emily Hart & Maura Elko

Dec 17:

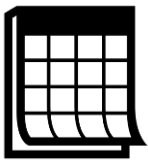
Counting: Thank you Joseph Hart for assisting in counting today's offerings. Please sign up and help our Treasurer count.

Dec 10: Tammy Wytovich

Dec 17:

Visitors: *PLEASE JOIN US FOR DOWNSTAIRS for an Agape Meal. Thank you to everyone who donated. Please donate what you would spend for a cup of coffee at the agape meal to replenish our supplies.*

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by prayer, fasting, and a recent (monthly) confession. If you have questions please ask Fr Michael! Visitors, if you did not introduce yourself to Fr Michael at Vespers, please refrain from Holy Communion.*



Service Schedule

INVITATION TO ST NICHOLAS IN OLYPHANT
 TUES, Dec 5th: @ 5:00 PM 9th Hour - Great Vespers w/Litya
 WED, Dec 6th: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours - Divine Liturgy
 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia
 600 E. LACKAWANNA ST., OLYPHANT, PA 18447

SAT, Dec 9th: @ 4:50 PM 9th Hour - Great Vespers. Confession following
 SUN, Dec 10th: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours - 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2.
 Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugegraphus, of Alexandria (ca. 313).

NATIVITY SCHEDULE

FRI, Dec 22nd: @ 9AM Nativity Royal Hours
 SAT, Dec 23rd: @ 4:50 PM 9th Hour - Great Vespers. Confession following
 SUN, Dec 24th: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours - Divine Liturgy Eve of the Nativity of Christ
 Compline and Matins w/Litya @ 5:00PM
 MON, Dec 25th: Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM - Nativity of Christ



Announcements

Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Silent Prayers and Confession: Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or you can make an appt for confession.

Catechumen/Inquirers/Continuing ED Class: Every Saturday 3:30pm-4:30pm. COME AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH!

Bible Study: Every Thursday 11am - Noon. Bring a sack Lunch. I am working my way through Romans if you want to join me.

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day. Come help! Please come and help maintain the Church and its grounds.

Parish Council Meeting: 10DEC23 All are invited. (Every first Sunday of the Month) Please come and see the great things our parish council is doing and the vision we have.

16DEC23 Potluck Dinner: 6PM-8PM Nativity Saints Display from our youth and Talent Contest.

Update on Fundraising:

1. Repaint Cupolas -	estimated Cost: \$13K	raised: \$10K
2. Paint ceiling dark blue for cosmos -	estimated Cost: \$12K	raised: \$7K
3. Repair walls from leaks -	estimated Cost: \$5K	raised: 0
4. New Carpet -	estimated Cost: \$5K	raised: \$25

Matushka Emilia has resigned as church treasurer. I have asked Maura Elko if she would take up this ministry and she has accepted. In accordance with our bylaws I have appointed Maura Elko as the treasurer for the remainder of Matushka Emilia's term. Matuska Emilia will continue to assist and train Maura to do this job. It is the hope of the parish council that by allowing Maura to be trained now for the this ministry that she will be voted for as treasurer in February for a 3 year term.

Parish Prayer List

Newly Departed: *Alexander Horek (11/14); Evelyn Bunevitch (11/27)*

Departed: *Michael Toczko (12/1); Peter Mizgala (12/2); Helen Sorok (12/9); Dorothy Polanchik (12/11); Robert Sorok (12/23);*

Please remember in your prayers LIVING

Ill-afflicted *Archpriests Michael Evans, John Nightingale, & Theodore Orzolek*

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: *Christine Sevensky, Mike Jadick, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Matushka Paula Soucek, The children of God Abigail and Nathan.*

Servants of God *Emily Krenitsky, Gregory Krenitsky, Barbara Sevensky, Bernie & Beverly Elko, Sandra Condon, Marie Pasternak, Ann Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmon, Walter Pritchuk, Michael & Euphemia Keklak, Elizabeth Jackson, Justin Kane, Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky, Ekaterina & Anna, Joe & Kelly Cigna, George, Natasha (and her unborn child), & Rosa Coyoy, Paul & Ann Newmeyer, Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Charissa & Debra, Nadia Macheska, Paulette Ezbiansky, Maura Elko*

Catechumen - *Jason Vo, Santo Joseph Cerminaro, Mikayla Brown*

How Much is my tithe

Weekly	2%	4%	5%	10%
\$200	\$4	\$8	\$10	\$20
\$500	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50
\$750	\$15	\$30	\$37	\$75
\$1000	\$20	\$40	\$50	\$100
\$1500	\$30	\$60	\$75	\$150

WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE: We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.
November Income: \$14,176.00
Expenditures: \$12,733.41
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$3,225.62
Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,902.49



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

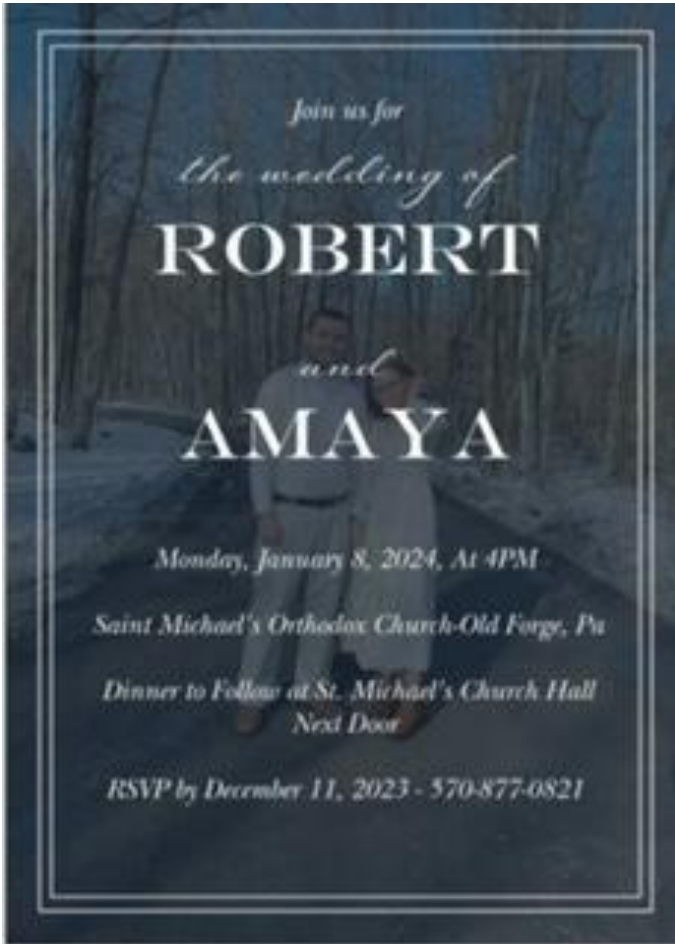
Ephesians 5:10 Learn What is Pleasing to God Learning What Delights God.

Ambrosiaster: From the abundance of his holiness and goodness it is possible to know what works delight God. ... In his holiness we are purified. In his mercy we are brought to full and perfect righteousness. **Epistle to the Ephesians 5.10.**

Learning Through Word and Spirit. Theodoret: You share in the Word. You have received the grace of the Holy Spirit. Now you are made able to discern what is pleasing to God. **Epistle to the Ephesians 5.10.**

Luke 18:18–23 Jesus Responds to the Question Flattery Mixed with Fraud and

Deceit. Cyril of Alexandria: The Jewish crowds ... with their princes and teachers ... looked at Christ as being a mere man like one of us, and not as God who had become man. They approached him to test him and lay the nets of their cleverness for him.... He is called here a ruler. He fancied himself to have learned the law and supposed that he had been accurately taught it. He imagined that he could convict Christ of introducing laws of his own and of dishonoring the commandment spoken by most wise Moses. It was the Jews' goal to prove that Christ opposed and resisted the former commandments and established new laws by his own authority, in opposition to those previously existing. Their wicked conduct toward him had a false pretext. He comes near and makes a pretense of speaking kindly. He calls him "Teacher," designates him "good," and professes himself desirous of being a disciple. He says, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Observe how he mixes flattery with fraud and deceit, like one who mingles vinegar with honey. He supposed that he could deceive him in this way. **Commentary on Luke, Homily 122.**



EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Please join us for the wedding of Robert and Amaya!

Monday January 8th, 2024 at 4PM here at St Michaels Orthodox Church. Dinner to follow next door at the hall.

Please RSVP by December 11th, 2023 by calling 570-877-0821.