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From The Ambvon

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

512 WINTER ST., OLD FORGE, PA

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28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3.

Sunday of the Forefathers. Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael (600 B.C.). Ven. Daniel the Confessor, in schema Stephen, of Spain and Egypt (10th c.).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for December

Birthdays:

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

Anniversary:

Baptism:

Travelers:

Prospora Schedule: HELP! We need families to start baking prospora at home. Please sign up. *The Church has a prospora kit if you would like to borrow it.*

Dec 17:

Dec 24:

Dec 31:

Counting: HELP! Please sign up and help our Maura Elko count.

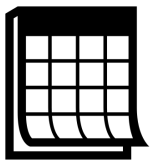
Dec 17:

Dec 24:

Dec 31:

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

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

SAT, Dec 30th: @ 4:50 PM 9th Hour - Great Vespers. Confession following

SUN, Dec 31st: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours - 30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. Holy
Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord.

Leavetaking of the Nativity. Sunday after Nativity.



Announcements

Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

House Blessing Season is coming! Please schedule with Fr to have your house blessed. If several people live in an area, we can all be a part of each other's housing blessings. We can do 4 or 5 in one day. Start at one house and travel to the next and end at a house where we can have a meal together.

Silent Prayers and Confession: Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or you can make an appt for confession. If you haven't confessed during the Nativity Fast, please come see me. My week is filling up fast with appointments for confession and I will avail myself all the way up to Nativity for confession.

Catechumen/Inquirers/Continuing ED Class: Every Saturday 3:30pm-4:30pm. COME AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH! (No Catechumen Class Next Saturday)

Bible Study: Every Thursday 11am - Noon. Bring a sack Lunch. I am working my way through Romans if you want to join me. (No Bible Study this week)

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

Parish Council Meeting: 14Dec22 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.

Annual Parish Meeting: IAW our bylaws; the annual parish meeting will be held on the second Sunday of February. 11Feb24. An Agenda will go out after the new year.

January 7th Potluck Meal: After Liturgy Theophany Saints Display from our youth and Talent Contest.

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. Singers, Please see me today about the service.

Cemetery Increase: Due to increasing prices of cemetery care and cost, opening and closing of grave sites, the parish council has unanimously voted to increase the cost of membership fees from \$600 to \$1000. All non-members (non-communicant members {please refer to bylaws}, Orthodox that are not members of our parish, or family members of St Michaels parishioners) will remain at \$2525.

December Panikhida: Dec 30th at 4PM.

Calling All Readers! If you are interested in reading during the services please let me know and we can go over the fundamentals of reading in the church in a class. We just had three go through a Readers Class and hopefully will be reading in February. Once this is complete and have my blessing you can ask Joseph to be placed on the reader's schedule.

Parish Prayer List

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

Departed: *Ed Weiss (12/1); Michael Toczko (12/1); Peter Mizgala (12/2); Helen Sorok (12/9); Dorothy Polanchik (12/11); Walter Buranich (12/19); 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.

December Income: \$18,438.58

Expenditures: \$5,532.62

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: Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Colossians 3:9–10 Put Off the Old Nature, Put on the New Nature

Moral Choice, Not Physical Substance. St John Chrysostom: Moral choice rather than human nature is the determining factor and rather constitutes “the human condition” than the natural determinants. For human nature itself does not cast one into hell, nor does it lead one into the kingdom, but this happens by men themselves. We neither love nor hate anyone so far as he is man, but so far as he is such or such a man. If then our real essence as human beings is the body, which in any case cannot be accountable, how can one say that the body is evil? But what does Paul say? “With his doings.” He means freedom of choice, with its accompanying acts. **Homilies on Colossians 8.**

To Bestow Gifts on All the World. St Cyril of Alexandria: What was the nature of the invitation? “Come, for look, all things are ready.” God the Father has prepared in Christ gifts for the inhabitants of the earth. Through Christ, he bestowed the forgiveness of sins, cleansing away of all defilement, communion of the Holy Spirit, glorious adoption as children, and the kingdom of heaven. To these blessings, Christ invited Israel, before all others, by the commandments of the gospel. Somewhere he has even said by the voice of the psalmist, “But I have been sent as a king by him,” that is, by God the Father, “on Zion's holy mountain to preach the commandment of the Lord.” **Commentary on Luke, Homily 104.**