From The Ambon

St Michael Orthodox Church

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Priest Michael Shepherd (frmichael@stmichaelof.org)
Chair - Tammy Wytovich (chair@stmichaelof.org)
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Secretary - Vitaliy Rakovsky (office@stmichaelof.org)
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August 2nd, 20269th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8.

Translation of the Relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople (ca. 428), and the finding of the Relics of the Righteous Nikódēmos, Gamaliel, and Abibas (ca. 428). Blessed Basil of Moscow, Fool-for-Christ (1552). Holy Fool Basil of Kamen (15th c.). Hieromartyr Stephen, Pope of Rome, and those with him (257).

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Service Schedule for August

Birthdays: Savina Shepherd (8/5); Jason Hart (8/8); Fr Michael Shepherd (8/18); Justin Kane (8/21)
Nameday:
Baptism:
Anniversary:
Travelers: Matushka Emilia Shepherd

Prosphora Schedule: PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE HELP! We need families to start baking prosphora at home. Please sign up. *The Church has a prosphora kit if you would like to borrow it. THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP. THIS IS AN OFFERING FOR THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE. Thank you to Shepherd's for today's offering*

Aug 2 Shepherds	Aug 16 Vanessa Polzella
Aug 9	Aug 23

Counting: HELP! Please sign up and count our donations. Please stay and help. Thank you David for assisting today.

Aug 2	Aug 16
Aug 9 Zachary Nikl	Aug 23

Reader's Schedule

Aug 2 Joseph/Silas	Aug 9 Michael/Blaise
Aug 16 Blaise/Daniel	Aug 23 Silas/Blaise

AGAPE Meal Plan - Please sign up downstairs

Aug 2	Aug 16
Aug 9	Aug 23

WED, Aug 5th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers w/Litya
THURS, Aug 6th: 9:00 AM - Hours & DL
The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (Second "Feast of the Savior" in August).

SAT, Aug 8th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers
SUN, Aug 9th: 9:10 AM - Hours & DL
10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1.
Afterfeast of the Transfiguration. Glorification of Ven. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (1970).4

SAT, Aug 14th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers w/Lytia
SUN, Aug 15th: 9:10 AM - Hours & DL
The Dormition ("Falling Asleep") of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

SAT, Aug 15th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers
SUN, Aug 16th: 9:10 AM - Hours & DL
11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2

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 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.*

PLEASE SING ALONG! Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies throughout the services is encouraged!

Parish Prayer List

NEWLY DEPARTED: Robert; Robert; Helen; Melissa,; *Walter* Pritchyk (6/18); Margaret Pregmon (7/22)

DEPARTED: *Matushka Karen* Mahaffey (8/8); *Barbara* Pecuch (8/9); *Alex* Dokhnenko(8/11)*; Patricia* Chesniak (8/15);

Please remember in your prayers LIVING:
Ill-afflicted *Archpriest(s) John Nightingale,* & *Theodore* Orzolek

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: *Edward* Sevensky, *Daniel* Jones, *Michae*l Sokol, *Michael* Krenitsky, *Bernie* Elko, *Nadia* Macheska, *The child of God Abigail and Danielle, Helen* Wytovich, *Marie* Pasternak, *Eli & Paula* Stavisky, *Marie* Pozella, *Hannah* Conover, *Donna* Hart, Lori,

Servants of God: *Wayne* Hart, *Mark* Bezhuly, *David & Kathy* Barsigian, *Alexa* Barsigian & *Bobby* Wolfel, *Patricia* Jones, *Anne* Buday, *Emily* Krenitsky, *Gregory* Krenitsky, *Barbara* Sevensky, *Beverly* Elko, *Nicole* Earl, *Anna* Tyrpak, *Sandy & Danny* Pregmon, *Marie* Pritchyk, *Michael & Euphemia* Keklak, *Justin & Elisabeth* Kane, *Maria & Vitaliy* Rakovsky, *Ekaterina & Anna*, *George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia* Coyoy, *Mat. Emilia, Reader Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina* Shepherd, *Reader Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas* Hart, *Tammy* Wytovich, *Paulette* Ezbiansky, *Uriel* Vo *& Maura* Elko & *Gabriel*, *Mary* Krevko, *Elisabeth, Jacob, & Juliette* Halford, *Tammy, Justin, Niko, & Katya* Williams, *Paul* Dunay, *Anastasia, Sophia, & Luke, Darlene* Shaffer, *Sophia, & Anastasia* Polzella, *David* Jadick, *Sandra* Condone, *Timothy* & *Holly* Granville, *Maxim* Granville, *Christopher* Yeisley, Mother *Katherine*, *Diane, Elena, Simeon, Isaac, Vincent* Bonello,

Catechumens: *Marley, Tulia, & Magnolia* Connolly, *Neva* Yeisely, *Zachary* Nikl,

Seekers: *Rebecca* Burns, *Ken* Nikl, *Mitch, Christina, & James*

Treasury "... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." Jesus Christ

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.

JULY Income: $8,453.35
JULY Expenses: $19,083.15
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: $3,740.85
Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: $14,963.58

Words of Wisdom
From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistles: (128) 1 Corinthians 3:9-17
Gospels: (59) Matthew 14:22-34

EPISTLE
Deacon: Let us attend!
Priest: Peace be unto all!
Reader: And to thy spirit.
Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 8th Tone, a Psalm of David: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God.
Choir: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God.
Reader: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.
Choir: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God.
Reader: In the 7th Tone: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him.
Choir: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him.
Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: The reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.
Deacon: Let us attend!

[(128) 1 Corinthians 3:9-17] Brethren: We are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. * According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. * For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. * Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw -- * each man's work shall become manifest; for the day shall disclose it, because it shall be revealed with fire, and the fire shall test what sort of work each one has done. * If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he shall receive a reward. * If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss, though he himself shall be saved, but only as through fire. * Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? * If any one destroys God's temple, God shall destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.
Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA
Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: The Alleluia in the 8th Tone: Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Reader: Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Reader: In the 6th Tone: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPELS
[(59) Matthew 14:22-34] At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. * And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, * but the boat by this time was out on the sea, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. * And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. * But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. * But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." * And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is Thou, bid me come to Thee on the water." * He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; * but when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." * Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why didst thou doubt?" * And

when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. * And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly Thou art the Son of God." * And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

3:15 ***Saved Only as Through Fire*** **Avoiding False Assurance.** Caesarius of Arles: There are many people who understand this text incorrectly, deceiving themselves with a false assurance. They believe that if they build serious sins upon the foundation of Christ, those very offenses can be purified by transitory flames, and they themselves can later reach eternal life. This kind of understanding must be corrected. People deceive themselves when they flatter themselves in this way. For in that fire it is slight sins which are purged, not serious ones. Even worse, it is not only the greater sins but the smaller ones as well which can ruin a person. Sermons 179.1. Bray, G. L., ed. (1999). *1–2 Corinthians* (p. 34). InterVarsity Press.

14:26–27 ***Take Heart; Have No Fear*** **It Is a Ghost!** St John Chrysostom: "When the disciples," it is said, "saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit! And they cried out for fear." This is the way he constantly deals with our fears. He does not hesitate to bring on worse things, even more alarming than those before. They were troubled here not only by the storm but also by the distance from the land. Note that he did not too easily remove the darkness. He did not come quickly to their rescue. He was training them, as I said, by the continuance of these fears and instructing them to be ready to endure. The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 50.1.

Bearing All Challenges. St John Chrysostom: Accordingly, neither did he present himself to them at once. For it is written that "in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea." He was instructing them not too hastily to seek for deliverance from their pressing dangers but to bear all challenges courageously. In any case, just when they looked to be delivered, their fear was again heightened. The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 50.1. Simonetti, M., ed. (2002). *Matthew 14-28* (p. 13). IVP.

Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events Church Attendance

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

Remember that at the Great Entrance after each petition the priest will say "may the Lord God remember thee in His Kingdom……," the people should respond with "Amen." And at the end of the petitions, the priest will raise the chalice and say "You and all Orthodox Christians, may the Lord God remember thee in His Kingdom…… the people respond with "And to thy Holy Priesthood (Episcopacy), may the Lord God remember thee in His Kingdom always now and ever unto ages of ages." This is dialogue, a prayer if you will, between the concelebrant and the people.

Choir practice: Aug 9th at 4:00PM

Coffee Hour/Agape Meal: Please stay and join us for a cup of coffee so we may break bread with each other.

Parish Council Meeting: August 9th after Liturgy. Thank you to those who came to the last meeting. Remember, All are invited!

WISH LIST! Please consider purchasing from our wish list as this will reduce our cost of expenses and will allow us to increase and focus our giving in other vital areas needed. Currently we are looking for small wooden boxes that we can dedicate at reliquaries. https://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/stmichaelsorthodoxchurcholdforgewishlist

St. Michael's Greeters Ministry *"I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."* Matthew 25:35 Our objective is to welcome visitors to the Parish, help them "feel at home" during the worship service, provide them with information about Orthodoxy and the Parish, invite them to Parish activities, introduce them to people of like interests, invite them back, follow-up to thank them for visiting us, and identifying whether we can help them in the future. Most people leave a church once they enter because no one greeted them. Please sign up to greet people. This also extends to calling our

shut ins or those we haven't seen in awhile to let them know we have not forgotten them. If you would like to call people let Fr Michael know.

Please sign up for coffee hour! There are sign up sheets downstairs by the offering basket. Also, please donate at coffee hour. Donate what you would spend on a cup of coffee. This is to replenish our plastic wear and supplies for coffee hour.

SPONSORS - An appeal for sponsors for our relics. We need wooden boxes donated, reliquaries purchased and donations to pay for the cost to put the icon of the saint in the lid of the box. We are estimating $300 to complete one reliquary/box. If you would like to sponsor your saint and we have that relic; please let us know. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. We have one donor already.

Ok church ladies get together dates! Shores Sisters in Towanda on August 29th. Lunch and shopping. Exact time TBD. October 10th Fall brunch at Emily Hart's House - 11 am.

House blessing for the Shepherd's new home will be in mid-late August. TBD. All are invited.

If you would like to volunteer to assist in Sunday School please see Matushka or Emily Hart.