From The Ambon

St Michael Orthodox Church

512 Winter St., Old Forge, PA

Phone: 570-457-3703
Web: www.stmichaelof.org Facebook: stmichaelof1891PA
Priest Michael Shepherd (frmichael@stmichaelof.org)
Chair - Tammy Wytovich (chair@stmichaelof.org)
Vice Chair - Danny Pregmon (vicechair@stmichaelof.org)
Secretary - Vitaliy Rakovsky (office@stmichaelof.org)
Treasurer - Joseph Hart (treasurer@stmichaelof.org)

August 30th, 2026, 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Translation of the Relics of Rt. Blv. Great Prince St. Alexander Nevsky (1724). Sts. Alexander (340), John (595), and Paul the New (784), Patriarchs of Constantinople. Repose of Ven. Alexander, Abbot of Svir (1533). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Daniel, Prince of Moscow (1652). St. Christopher of Palestine (6th c.). St. Fantinus of Calabria (9th c.). Synaxis of the Serbian Hierarchs: Ss. Savva I (1237), Arsenius I (1266), Savva II (1269), Eustathius I (ca. 1285), James (1292), Nikódēmos (1325), and Daniel (1338), Archbishops; Joannicus II (1354), Spyridon (1388), Ephraim II (after 1395), Macarius (1574), Gabriel I (1659), Patriarchs; and Gregory, Bishop.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Service Schedule for August

Birthdays: Magnolia Connolly (8/4); Tulia Connolly (8/6); Savina Shepherd (8/5); Jason Hart (8/8); Zacharia Nikl (8/11); Fr Michael Shepherd (8/18); Justin Kane (8/21)
Nameday:
Baptism: Michael & Euphemia Keklak (8/7)
Anniversary:
Travelers:

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.*

Aug 30 Shepherd	Sep 13
Sep 6	Sep 20

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

Aug 30 Sopia Polzella	Sep 13
Sep 6 Vanessa Matkosky	Sep 20

Reader's Schedule

Aug 30 Uriel/Silas	Sep 13 Michael/Blaise
Sep 6 Daniel/Joseph	Sep 20 Joseph/Blaise

AGAPE Meal Plan - Please sign up downstairs

Aug 30 Ice Cream Social	Sep 13
Sep 6	Sep 20

SAT, Sep 5th: 3:00 PM Baptism of Marley, Tulia, & Magnolia
5:00 PM Great Vespers
SUN, Aug 30th: 9:10 AM - Hours & DL
14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5.
Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossæ.

MON, Sep 7th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers
TUES, Sep 8th: 9:00 AM - Hours & DL
The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

SAT, Sep 12th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers
SUN, Sep 13th: 9:10 AM - Hours & DL
15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6.

SUN, Sep 13th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers
MON, Sep 14th: 9:10 AM - Hours & DL
The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross.

SAT, Sep 19th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers
SUN, Sep 20th: 9:10 AM - Hours & DL
16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7.
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday after Elevation

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: *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: *Edward* Sevensky, *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*, *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, *Zachary* Nikl

Seekers: *Rebecca* Burns, *Ken* Nikl,

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

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.
AUG Income: $13,448.45
AUG Expenses: $17,844.35
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: $3,740.85
Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: $14,963.58

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

Today Readings

Epistle: (166) 1 Corinthians 16:13-24
Gospel: (87) Matthew 21:33-42

1 COR 16:14 *Do Everything in Love*
DO ALL IN LOVE. AMBROSIASTER: Where there is strife and dissension, there is no love. COMMENTARY ON PAUL'S EPISTLES.

ALL TROUBLES AVOIDABLE BY LOVE. St John CHRYSOSTOM: If love had been present, the Corinthians would not have been puffed up, they would not have divided into factions, they would not have gone to law before heathens, or indeed at all. If there had been love in the church, that notorious person would not have taken his father's wife, they would not have looked down on their weaker brethren, and they would not have boasted about their spiritual gifts. Homilies on the Epistles of Paul to the Corinthians 44.2. Bray, G. L., ed. (1999). *1–2 Corinthians* (p. 188). InterVarsity Press.

MATTHEW 21:39–41 *WHAT WILL THE LANDOWNER DO?*
THEY CAST HIM OUT OF THE VINEYARD AND KILLED HIM. St John CHRYSOSTOM And where do they wish to kill him? "Outside the vineyard." Do you see how he prophesies even the place where he was to be slain? Well, they did cast him out, and they killed him.

And Luke indeed says, "He declared what they must suffer." When they heard this, they said, "God forbid!" He then asks them to remember the testimony of Scripture: "He looked at them and said, 'What then is this that is written: The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner.' Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces." Matthew's account does not contradict Luke's. They passed the sentence against themselves, as Matthew says, and again, when they perceived what they had said, they added, "God forbid." By the words of the prophet against them, he sought to persuade them that this certainly would come to pass.

He signified only in a hidden way that he would "give the vineyard to others," not mentioning the Gentiles and not affording his opponents a handle to use to attack him. It was for this reason that he spoke in parables, that they themselves might pass the sentence. THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, HOMILY 68.2.
Simonetti, M., ed. (2002). *Matthew 14-28* (p. 142). 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. Confession can also be done prior to or after Vespers.

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: Sep 5th 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: Sept 6th after Liturgy. Thank you to those who came to the last meeting. Remember, All are invited! Next one is Oct 4th

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! October 10th Fall brunch at Emily Hart's House - 11 am.

St. Michael's Men's Night When: When: Thursday, October 15th @ 7:30pm **Where:** Hart Home 307 1st St, Dalton, PA 18414 Come on out for an evening of card games, fellowship, and camaraderie! Please bring a snack or drink to share. See you there!

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

Inter-Parish Associations promote communication, camaraderie, and cooperation across Orthodox Christian parishes of all jurisdictions in a given geographical area. They are local (city/town level), the parishes are the Members, and their leadership includes both clergy and laity. Their purpose is to break down barriers across Orthodox Christian jurisdictions and, as a unified Orthodox Christian community, witness Christ's love in local society.

Annual Meeting is in a couple of months and we are starting to prepare for it now. As a reminder; to be considered a member of this parish please sign the statement of intent. If read properly, like reading scripture, the statement of intent reminds us of our responsibility as a member of St Michaels Orthodox Church. One has been attached to this bulletin. Please return to Fr Michael or Zacariah Nikl. He will be our POC in updating our census. We will use the statement of intent to update our address/phone numbers. Also, in order to vote at our annual meeting a current statement of intent needs to be on file.

Please remember that only members of St Michaels Orthodox Church can be a poc/lead any ministries of the church pending background checks if needed. This also means that only members of this church can assist the treasurer in his duties e.g. counting. As a reminder before doing anything in the church is to be done let it be done with the blessin gof the priest and "Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Co 14:40

St John's Edwardsville Annual Food Fest - Sep 12th 11:00AM -3:00PM. Halushki, Frozen Pierogies, Freshly Grated Potato Pancakes, Goulash, Pulled Pork, Bake Sale, and Basket Raffle. Eat in or take out. POC Elizabeth at 570-905-5531