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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Sunday, February 1st, 2026

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE — Tone 1. Beginning of the Lenten Triodion. Forefeast of the Meeting. Martyr Tryphon of Lampsacus near Apamea in Syria (250). Martyrs Perpetua, a woman of Carthage, and the Catechumens: Saturus, Revocatus, Saturninus, Secundulus and Felicitas (202-203). Ven. Peter Galata, Hermit, near Antioch in Syria (429). Ven. Vendemianus (Bendemianus), Hermit, of Bithynia (ca. 512). Ven. Bridget (Brigid) of Ireland (523).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for February

Birthdays: Barbara Sevensky (2/14);
Nameday: Blaise Shepherd (2/3);
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. Thank you Matushka for today's offering.*
Feb 8
Feb 15
Feb 22
Counting: HELP! Please sign up and count our donations. Please stay and help.
Feb 8
Feb 15
Feb 22
PLEASE SING ALONG! *Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies throughout the services is encouraged!*
Coffee Hour/Agape Meal: *Please stay and join us for a cup of coffee so we may break bread with each other. This will allow us to get to know each other and see how we can help each other.*

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.*

Service Schedule

SUN, Feb 1st: 5:00 PM Great Vespers w/Litya
MON, Feb 2nd: 9:00 AM - Hours and Liturgy
The Meeting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple.

SAT, Feb 7th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers
SUN, Feb 8th: 9:10 AM - Hours and Liturgy
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON-Tone 2.

Please see calendar for the Lenten schedule

Parish Prayer List

NEWLY DEPARTED:
DEPARTED: *Andrew* Kurtzo (2/4); *Helen* Buranich (2/6); *Anna* Zupko (2/6); *Jean* Wasko (2/7); *Nicole* Serniak Cochrane *(2/11); Ann* Freeman (2/18); *Walter* Pritchyk Sr. (2/28); *Alexandra* Teczko (2/14); *Femia* Pasternak (2/14); *Martha* Matechek *(2/21) Anthony* Bellenzeni 2/13; *Alice* Stavisky Bellenzeni 10/20

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, *Margaret* Pregmon, *Daniel* Jones, *Michae*l Sokol, *Michael* Krenitsky, *Bernie* Elko, *Nadia* Macheska, *The child of God Abigail, Helen* Wytovich, *Marie* Pasternak, *Eli & Paula* Stavisky, *Derek, Natalie* Kelley, Maura & Uriel

Servants of God: *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, *Walter & Marie* Pritchyk, *Michael & Euphemia* Keklak, *Justin & Elisabeth* Kane, *Maria & Vitaliy* Rakovsky, *Ekaterina & Anna*, *Joe & Kelly* Cigna, *George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia* Coyoy, *Mat. Emilia, Reader Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina* Shepherd, *Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas* Hart, *Tammy* Wytovich, *Paulette* Ezbiansky, *Uriel* Vo *& Maura* Elko, *Mary* Krevko, *Elisabeth & Jacob* Hallford and their newly born child *Juliette*, *Tammy, Justin, Niko, & Katya* Williams, *Paul* Dunay, *Anastasia, Sophia, & Luke, Darlene* Shaffer, *Vanessa, Sophia, & Cameron* Polzella, David Jadick, Sandra Condone, Holly Granville

Catechumens: Zachary Nikl
Seekers: *Vincent* Bonello

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.
JAN Income: $3,373.02

Words of Wisdom
From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: (296) 2 Timothy 3:10-15
Gospel: (89) Luke 18:10-14

EPISTLE
Deacon: Let us attend!
Priest: Peace be unto all!
Reader: And to thy spirit.
Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 1st Tone, a Psalm of David: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.
Choir: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.
Reader: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just.
Choir: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.
Reader: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us,
Choir: As we have set our hope on Thee.
Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy.
Deacon: Let us attend!

[(296) 2 Timothy 3:10-15] Timothy, my son: Now thou hast observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, * my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. * Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus shall be persecuted, * while evil men and impostors shall go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. * But as for thee, continue in what thou hast learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom thou didst learn it * and how from childhood thou hast been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct thee for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

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

ALLELUIA
Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: In the 1st Tone: AL-LE-LU-IA!
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Reader: God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me!
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Reader: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL
[(89) Luke 18:10-14] The Lord said this parable: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. * The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. * I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get." * But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" * I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted.

Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Church Attendance

Jan 3, Saturday Vespers 10
Jan 4, Sunday Liturgy 42
Communed 24

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

Parish Council Meeting/Annual Meeting: Next one is Feb 15th in conjunction with the annual meeting.

Thank you to all who volunteered at the Diocesan Assembly. It was a great success. A special thank you to Tammy and Sandy for coordinating everything.

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: Saturday's @ 4pm prior to vespers. If you would like to sing in the choir please make every effort to be at the practice.

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.

STOMC Mens Group! New details coming!

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.

HOUSE BLESSING: Please schedule your House blessing. I will bless houses right up to the beginning of lent.

Dear Faithful,
Christ is baptized!
In the river Jordan!

It is that time of year again! Your parish council is preparing for our Annual Meeting. The annual meeting will be on February 15, 2026 and we have asked for an amendment to this date.

With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Mark we asked that you discern and think about the following amendment to parish bylaws:

ARTICLE FOUR: THE PARISH MEETING

1) Meetings.

a) Parish meeting. The parish meeting shall be the highest administrative body of the Parish, and all major decisions of the Parish, not within the particular authority of the Metropolitan or Diocesan Authority, shall be made by the Parish at its annual or special meeting.

i) Annual Meeting. The annual parish meeting shall be held on the second Sunday of February.

To be amended to: ……..i) Annual Meeting. The annual parish meeting shall be held on the second Sunday of January.

The members of the parish council are currently preparing their briefs and it is our goal to get an annual meeting packet by Wednesday 4FEB posted online and available for pickup by 8FEB for review to ensure a swift meeting will happen.