From The Ambon

St Michael Orthodox Church

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March 15th, 2026 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 7. Veneration of the Cross. Martyrs Agapius, Publius (Pausis), Timolaus, Romulus, two named Dionysius, and two named Alexander, at Cæsarea in Palestine (303). Hieromartyr Alexander of Sídē, in Pamphylia (270-275). Martyr Nicander of Egypt (ca. 302).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for March

Birthdays: Maura Elko (3/2); Matushka Emilia Shepherd (3/3); Tammy Wytovich (3/4); Marie Pasternak (3/7); Gabriel Miazu (3/12); Sophia Polzella (3/21)
Nameday:
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.*
Mar 22
Mar 29

Counting: HELP! Please sign up and count our donations. Please stay and help.
Mar 22
Mar 29

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

WED, Mar 18th: @ Confession 4PM-5PM
5:00PM Presanctified Liturgy (Every Wednesday)

SAT, MAR 14th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers
SUN, MAR 15th: 9:10 AM - Hours and Liturgy
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 8. St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*).

Please see calendar for the Lenten schedule

Parish Prayer List

NEWLY DEPARTED:
DEPARTED: *Stephen* Polanchik (3/3); *Joseph* Kuzmich (3/8); *Cheryl* Purvis (3/8); *Diane* Yacopchak 03/11); *Michael* Buday (3/18); *Michael* Brown (3/15);

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, *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, *Marie* Pozella

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*, *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, & Juliette* Halford, *Tammy, Justin, Niko, & Katya* Williams, *Paul* Dunay, *Anastasia, Sophia, & Luke, Darlene* Shaffer, *Sophia, & Anastasia* Polzella, *David* Jadick, *Sandra* Condone, *Holly* Granville, *Maxim* Granville, *Christopher* Yeisley, and *Gabrie*l, Mother *Katherine*, *Diane, Mitch, Christina, & James*

Catechumens: *Marley* Connolly, *Neva* Yeisely, *Zachary* Nikl,
Seekers: *Vincent* Bonello, *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

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.
MAR Income: $10,403.97

Words of Wisdom
From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: (311) Hebrews 4:14-5:6
Gospel: (37) Mark 8:34-9:1

EPISTLE
Deacon: Let us attend!
Priest: Peace be unto all!
Reader: And to thy spirit.
Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone, a Psalm of David: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
Choir: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
Reader: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.
Choir: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
Reader: O Lord, save Thy people
Choir: And bless Thine inheritance.
Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.
Deacon: Let us attend!

[(311) Hebrews 4:14-5:6] Brethren: Since we have a great High Priest Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. * For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. * Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. * For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. * He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. * Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. * And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. * So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him Who said to Him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten Thee"; * as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

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

ALLELUIA
Deacon: Wisdom!
Reader: In the 8th Tone: AL-LE-LU-IA!
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Reader: Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old.
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Reader: God is our King before the ages: He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL
[(37) Mark 8:34-9:1] The Lord said: If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. * For whoever would save his life shall lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's shall save it. * For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? * For what can a man give in return for his life? * For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him shall the Son of Man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." * And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.

Hebrews 5:1–6 ***Acting on Our Behalf***

A PROOF FOR THE WEAK. ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: The blessed Paul wishes to show that this covenant is far better than the old. He does this by first laying down remote considerations … just as in the epistle to the Romans, having argued that faith effects that which the labor of the law or the sweat of the daily life could not, an argument of which they were not easily persuaded … so now here also he opens out the other path of the priesthood, showing its superiority from the things which happened before. And as, in the matter of punishment, he brings before them not hell alone, but also what happened to their ancestors, so now here also, he first establishes this position from things present. For it were right indeed that earthly things should be proved from heavenly, but when the hearers are weak, the opposite course is taken. ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS 8.1.

HE DID NOT USURP THE PRIESTHOOD. ST EPHREM THE SYRIAN: And in consequence of his weakness Jesus "felt a proper compassion" for sins, because he had clothed himself with the flesh of sin. And he had the duty "to offer a sacrifice both for his people and for himself and his sins." He did not obtain the high priesthood by usurpation, but just like Aaron, whom God elected with the leafy staff. COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS 5. Heen, E. M., & Krey, P. D. W., eds. (2005). *Hebrews* (p. 70). InterVarsity Press.

Mark 8:34 ***Let Him Deny Himself and Take Up His Cross***

WHAT SEEMS HARD, LOVE MAKES EASY. AUGUSTINE: How hard and painful does this appear! The Lord has required that "whoever will come after him must deny himself." But what he commands is neither hard nor painful when he himself helps us in such a way so that the very thing he requires may be accomplished.… For whatever seems hard in what is enjoined, love makes easy. SERMONS ON NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS 46.1.

SUFFERING MOMENTARILY. AUGUSTINE: Turn, rather, to these teachings, my very dear friend: take up your cross and follow the Lord. For, when I noticed that you were being slowed down in your divine purpose by your preoccupation with domestic cares, I felt that you were being carried and dragged along by your cross rather than that you were carrying it. What else does the cross mean than the mortality of this flesh? This is our very own cross which the Lord commands us to carry that we may be as well armed as possible in following him. We suffer momentarily until death is swallowed up in victory. Then this cross itself will be crucified. The cross will be nailed to the fear of God. We would hardly be able to carry it now if it forever resisted us with free and unfettered limbs. There is no other way for you to follow the Lord except by carrying it, for how can you follow him if you are not his? LETTER 243, TO LAETUS. Oden, T. C., & Hall, C. A., eds. (1998). *Mark (Revised)* (p. 106). InterVarsity Press.

Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Church Attendance

Feb 28, Saturday Vespers 31
Mar 1st Liturgy 47
Communed 24

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 after Vespers. Catechumens - If you will not be there please let Fr Michael know.

Parish Council Meeting/Annual Meeting: Next one is Mar 22nd. ***ALL ARE INVITED***.

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.

CONFESSION: It is important that every Orthodox Christian continues to receive the Mystery of Confession on a monthly basis and especially during the Lenten season. In the coming weeks, Fr. Michael will be available for Confession after the Liturgy of the Presanctified, after Great Vespers (Sat), or by appointment. If you wish to come before these services, please let him know ahead of time. Please, note that Friday, April 3rd (the day before Lazarus Saturday) is the last day when Fr. Michael will hear Confessions before Pascha. When we enter Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, our focus must be exclusively on walking with our Lord through His passion.

Pascha Flowers: Donations towards adorning the church this Lenten season and Pascha are being accepted so that our parish will be beautifully adorned for all of the feasts. General Donations for Palm Sunday may be given to Jason Hart. Please write "Flowers for Lent" in the memo. If you would like to honor a loved one by making a donation for Holy Pascha flowers "In Memory of" or "For the Health of" a loved one, please sign up in the Church Vestibule/Narthex. Please leave donations at the candle stand, mail them to the Church, OR drop it in the rectory mailbox attention Jason Hart. As always, your loved ones will be remembered in our services in prayer. Envelopes can be picked at the candle stand.

BBQ Tickets - Tammy & Sandy plan to start handing out the tickets for the BBQ. Everyone will get two; if you need more please see them.

3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

3/15/2026

St. Michaels,

Kid's Corner!

Christ is in our midst.

Hey, Kids!

If you read the story of the paralyzed man being let through the roof to Jesus in the Bible, you'll see how big the faith was of the people helping the man down into the house. They trusted Jesus so much that they went so far as to let the sick man down through the roof! Wouldn't you be surprised if a man suddenly appeared over your dining table? I would be! But the men were so desperate for Jesus that they did it! And that's what we should be too- desperate for Jesus' love and healing! If we put our trust in Him he will heal us of our sins! we should be desperate for Him- even if we have to go through a roof to reach Him!

FUN FACT! Did you know that cats are the only animals allowed inside the church? I have a cat...we have a carrier....hmmm....

TRIVIA! what book of the Bible is this verse in? "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

JOKE OF THE DAY: what did the sheep in the stable do when Jesus was born? They baaaaawed their heads!

Thanks, kids! See you next week on Kids Corner and remember: Christ is in our midst!