



Saint Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

146 Third Avenue, Rankin, PA 15104
Pastor: Very Reverend Nicholas Ferencz, PhD
Cantor: Professor Jerry Jumba
Parish President : Carole Bushak



Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! Slava vo v'iki!

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MARCH 3, 2019

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT MEAT-FARE SUNDAY

- Sun., Mar. 3** **Sunday of the Last Judgment. Meat-Fare Sunday.** Bishop Leo the Great of Rome. Bishop Colman of Lindisfarne
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.
 Panachida: Joe Mascilak - 1 year anniversary
- Mon., Mar. 4 Apostles Archippus, Philemon and Apphias of the 70
7:00 PM ***Parish Council Meeting***
- Sun., Mar. 10** **Sunday of the Fall of Adam and Eve. Cheese-Fare Sunday.** Archbishop Tarasius of Constantinople. King Ethelbert of Kent
8:15 – 8:45 AM Holy Mystery of Confession
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
 Forgiveness Vespers
 Holy Mystery of Confession
- Mon., Mar. 11** ***Clean Monday.*** Bishop Porphyrius of Gaza
 STRICT FAST TODAY ESPECIALLY!!!!
- Wed., Mar. 13 Confessor Basil the Decapolite. Nuns Marana and Kyra. New martyr Kyranna of Thessalonika
6:15 – 6:45 PM Holy Mystery of Confession
7:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- Fri., Mar. 15 Martyred Bishop Theodotus of Cyrene
6:15 – 6:45 PM Holy Mystery of Confession
7:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- Sat., Mar. 16 Miracle of Theodore the Recruit and the Koliva.
8:15 – 8:45 AM Holy Mystery of Confession
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
 Panachida: Pañi Patricia Patrick – 40-day memorial

Sun., Mar. 17 **Sunday of Orthodoxy.** Monk Gerasimos of the Jordan

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

Panachida: March Perpetuals: William Dorogy, Rose Marie Novak, Anna Bonga, Stephen and Mary Sefchik, Michael Lesko, Sr., Irene Simonoff.

Holy Mystery of Confession: Before Divine Liturgy. After Divine Liturgy or any other time, just ask.

PEOPLE STUFF

Prayer List: *Deceased:* Mary Jane Alm. Fr. Nicholas Palun. Pañi Patricia Patrick. Barbara Banosky

Living: Fr. Joseph Cervo. Pani Joanna Ferencz. Pani Donna Smoley. Fran Acmovic. Dana Andrade. Gloria Andrade. Michael Artim. Gregory Michael Aurilio. Jane Barclay. Donald Bodnar. Charlene Borsic. Jaime Budesa. Barbara Chappie. Steve Bournius. Rebecca, David & Bradley Noah Cozad. Mary Ann Crouse. George & Margaret Dorogy. Christina Duranko. Breanne Glass. Dorothy Glass. Eddie Gombos. Jennifer Hartrick. Shirley Hrubic. Kevin Ianni. Gary Ingelido. Alisha Krass. Carson Krass. Savanna Lee Krass. Joan Martell. Brian Masterovsky. Michael Mehalik. Zoe Mehalik. Helen Mihalik. Bill & Patti Novotnak. Frank Palmieri. Diane Phillips. Millie and Edward Phillips. Michael Platt. Anna Senich. Bernice Sindak. Terry Slezak. Margaret Stemler. Milton and Thelma Supak. Diana Terezis. Bobby and Dee Triffanoff. John Varoscak. Paul & Valerie Yednak. Jeanne Zajac. *Prospora Bakers:* Trudy Trifanoff. Delores Cubakovic, and their intentions.

Eternal Memory! Barbara Banosky fell asleep in the Lord this past Monday, Feb. 18 after a difficult illness. Please pray for the repose of Barb's soul, and also pray for her family and friends at this difficult time. We will celebrate a 40-day memorial for Barb on Sunday, March 31. *Blessed repose!*

Welcome! We welcome to our church this morning all visitors, guests, relatives, and friends of Saint Michael Church. We pray your visit with us is spiritually rewarding, holy and life-giving. Visit often!

F(E)ASTING

The next Feast is the Annunciation to Holy Mary Theotokos, on Sunday, April 7.

MEAT-FARE WEEK: The Fasting Period begins traditionally next week, on Monday, March 4. The day before is Meat-fare Sunday, when we say "farewell" to all meat. This was set up to ease us into the stricter discipline of Great Lent, since the following Sunday, Cheese-fare, is the last day for eating all dairy products. Diocesan regulations do not require such a fast, but we may want to consider it for ourselves. It is a good way of putting our toe in the waters of fasting to try it out, before we jump in. Let us ask God that He give us the strength to celebrate a GREAT Fast of our own this coming Lent!

LENTEN FASTING: *The First Week of Lent is "Clean Week", when we try to cleanse body and soul of all physical and spiritual evils. We are called to fast as completely as possible (meaning: eating as little as possible all week), but especially on Monday, the first day of Lent, and Wednesday and Friday, when we have the opportunity to receive the Holy Eucharist at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.*

Our Gifts to God and our Church

February 24, 2019

Attendance	33
Communions	22

Collections

Monthly	110.00
Sunday	785.00
All Candles	141.00
Paschal Candle Offering	20.00
Church Repairs	10.00
Building Maintenance	50.00
Diocesan Membership	96.00
St. Cyril Food Pantry	20.00

Total Offerings: **1232.00**

Building and Repairs Donations to Date
\$3251! God bless your generosity!

ALL SOULS SATURDAYS: Reminder: we celebrate three more All Souls Saturdays during Lent, and the final one the day before Pentecost. Check the calendar. All are welcome to come and pray for their deceased loved ones.

PARISH STUFF

Re-New! Sunday Deanery Lenten Missions are coming up soon. See article below. Confessions will be available starting at 2:30 PM. Lenten Vespers begins at 3:00 PM. Confessions will be available before the Lenten Vespers begins. Make sure you put these Dates in your Calendar! *March 24:* Here at St. Michael's. *March 31:* St. John's, East Pittsburgh. *April 14:* St. John's, North Side.

Re-New! The *Lottery Jackpot* goes off today!

Update! House Blessings: This will be the last week I will be doing house blessings. If you would like your house blessed after this, and we have not already made arrangements, please call or write me and I will gladly schedule a time with you.

Update! Agape Offerings: *Today:* Sharon Mascilak. God Bless and thanks for helping out!

Update! Church Repairs: *We thank all of our parishioners* for your ongoing, active interest in the well-being of our parish. God bless us every one! So far, we have **\$3251** donated toward this new work. Total cost of this work was **\$3800**. *We thank you for your generosity. God bless!*

DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

Archangel Icons Studio presents Icon Workshops. Iconographer- Michael Kapeluck. Three different dates: June 10-15, 2019. July 22 - 27, 2019. August 12-17, 2019. The workshop will be an intense 6 days where the student will create an icon using acrylic/gouache techniques. Learn basic color mixing, drawing and painting techniques. Be instructed in the history and theology of the icon. Receive personal instruction and demonstration for each stage of painting. Gain a deeper understanding of the mystical art of the icon and its place in the Church. For more information, contact Michael at kapeluck@verizon.net, or go to the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Archangel-Icons-274475679286152/>

ACRY Annual! This is an exciting time for the A.C.R.Y. Annual and Diocesan Yearbook. For the first time in its long history it will be available in full-color from front to back and available as a downloadable digital file. If you are an A.C.R.Y. member or have purchased a hard-copy of the A.C.R.Y. Annual, you may access and download your digital copy by visiting and entering your Free-Access Code found on Page 3 of the book: www.issuu.com/store/code. If you are not an A.C.R.Y. member and have not purchased a hard copy of the A.C.R.Y. Annual, you may purchase a downloadable version for just \$6 by visiting: https://issuu.com/acryannual/docs/2019_acry_annual_january_2019_for_o. Any questions regarding access to the digital version of the A.C.R.Y. Annual can be forwarded to Father Matthew Stagon at (973) 627-1462 or Father William Bennett at (212) 254-6685.

Young Adult Spring Retreat. March 29–31 at Camp Nazareth. Open to Young Adults 19–35. Fee: \$75. Theme: “Staying Sane in a Troubled World.” Keynote Speaker: Dr. Al Rossi. More info on flyer in the hall.

2019 Diocesan Events Now Being Scheduled! Don't miss out! Check it out!

- **Second Annual Senior Retreat at Camp Nazareth!** From May 13-16, 2019. Online Registration begins February 1, 2019. For more information, contact Camp Nazareth: (1) visit acrod.org; (2) call 724-662-4840; (3) email campnazareth@acrod.org.
- **DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT**, sponsored by the National ACRY. St Nicholas Church, Homestead, PA, Sat April 6, 2019, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. *Presenters will be* Metropolitan Gregory, “Focusing on the Ladder of

Divine Ascent and Our Spiritual Journey One Step at a Time”, and Fr. David Urban, “Windows to Heaven – Icon of Divine Ascent and the Feasts of the Church.” *Registration Deadline is March 31, 2019.*

New! PITTSBURGH AREA SUNDAY LENTEN VESPERS SERIES! The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh is pleased to offer for the first time in the Pittsburgh region a series of Sunday Lenten Vespers services to be held in Orthodox parishes of various jurisdictions around the Pittsburgh area. Each service will take place at 5:00pm and will be followed by Lenten refreshments. All Orthodox Christians in the area are invited to join the Orthodox clergy of the area in praying these beautiful Lenten services together. The order of services and their locations is as follows:

- March 17: **Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church**, 2110 Haymaker Rd., Monroeville, PA. Speaker: His Eminence Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern PA, OCA. Pan-Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh Singing Vespers. Lenten Dinner following.
- March 24: **Our St. Michael Parish Lenten Mission**, celebrating as always Lenten Vespers. Two of our priests will be available for Confessions beginning at 2:30 PM. Vespers begins at 3:00 PM, followed by a Lenten Supper.
 - **If you cannot make it to our parish, you are welcome to attend Vespers at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church**, 1128 Summit St., White Oak, PA at 5:00 PM. They will be celebrating **Festal Great Vespers of the Annunciation** (New Calendar).
- March 31: **St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, East Pittsburgh Lenten Mission**, celebrating as always Lenten Vespers. Two of our priests will be available for Confessions beginning at 2:30 PM. Vespers begins at 3:00 PM, followed by a Lenten Supper.
 - **If you cannot make it to our Deanery Mission, you are welcome to attend Vespers at Saint Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral**, 290 Thompson Run Rd., Pittsburgh, PA
- April 7: **Saints Peter & Paul Ukranian Orthodox Church**, 220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA
- April 14: **St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, North Side Pittsburgh Lenten Mission**, celebrating as always Lenten Vespers. Two of our priests will be available for Confessions beginning at 2:30 PM. Vespers begins at 3:00 PM, followed by a Lenten Supper. *And by-the-way*, I guess some people were not aware that there is an upper entrance into the church, accessed from the Woodland Ave. (Rectory side) of the church property. There are only a couple of steps up into the side door of the church from there.
 - **If you cannot make it to our Deanery Mission, you are welcome to attend Vespers at Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church**, 3230 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA. Veneration of Relic of Saint John Maximovitch following Vespers.

Don't forget, of course, the Annual Lenten Retreat at St. Nicholas in Homestead on Sat., Apr. 6.

SUNDAY THEMES FOR GREAT LENT

February 18, 2016. By Fr. Ted, in Evangelism, Great Lent, Orthodox Church

While there is a popular notion about the unchanging nature of Orthodox liturgical practices, any study of history shows that Orthodox liturgical practice has undergone numerous and significant changes over history. One area where we can note significant change is the themes assigned to the Sundays of Great Lent. The big change in Sunday lenten themes begins in the 12th Century when Sundays of preparation were introduced into the liturgical practice. This somewhat further lengthened the time of Great Lent and these additional pre-Lenten Sundays found their way into the Triodion, the Liturgical book guiding Great Lent. According to Archimandrite

Job Getcha in his book, *The Typicon Decoded* (p 38), The Ancient Triodia of the Orthodox Church had the following themes for the Sundays of Great Lent:

1. Sunday of the Holy Prophets
2. Sunday of the Prodigal Son
3. Publican and Pharisee
4. Good Samaritan
5. Rich man and Lazarus
6. Palm Sunday

The themes were all based in Scripture. At some point, maybe about the 12th Century, the Gospel lessons associate with these themes were moved, some to the Sundays before Great Lent. In their place, a lectionary taken from Mark's Gospel became the determining factor for the Gospel lessons each Sunday of Lent.

The *Lenten Triodion* [the book with all the hymns for Lent] apparently underwent further change so that by the 14th Century new themes emerged to form the Contemporary *Triodion*. For one thing a pre-Lenten Preparatory Period was added to the Church Calendar. These are, for those in the Orthodox Church, the now familiar pre-Lenten Sunday themes:

1. Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee [used to be the 3rd Sunday of Lent]
2. Sunday of the Prodigal Son [used to be the 2nd Sunday of Lent]
3. Meatfare Sunday [Gospel of the Last Judgment]
4. Cheesefare Sunday [How to Fast]

The Meatfare and Cheesefare themes are not Gospel themes, but, of course, there are Gospel lessons on these Sundays (Last Judgment and fasting). The themes seem to reflect a more monastic development. One might say the Church began emphasizing more Lent and fasting as themes in their own right. Some modern critics would say the emphasis moves away from Christianity to “churchianity”. The practice of the religion is being emphasized more in the Church's message.

The ancient themes of the Lenten Sundays which were displaced to before Lent, were replaced by the following themes in the contemporary *Triodion*:

1. Sunday of Orthodoxy
2. St. Gregory Palamas
3. Veneration of the Cross
4. St. John Climacus
5. St. Mary of Egypt
6. Palm Sunday

One can see what is happening: the expansion of Great Lent by creating the Preparatory Sundays, and then transferring what were the original and ancient Lenten themes to the Preparatory Sundays. What in the ancient



***Meat-Fare Sunday:
The Last Judgment***



***Cheese-Fare Sunday:
The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise***

church were the main themes and emphases of Great Lent get moved to before Lent, as they are seen as really only preparing the faithful for Lent. Lent is about something else which the ancient themes no longer reflected. Scriptural/ Gospel themes for Great Lent are replaced by new Lenten themes which are mostly monastic.

It could be argued that the first two themes (Sunday of Orthodoxy/ Icons and Gregory Palamas) represent theological issues/ triumphs, but these were theological issues which had heavy monastic support. The replacement of the original Scriptural themes after the 12th Century with monastic themes is consistent with other liturgical changes that take place at the same time in Orthodoxy reflecting the ever increasing monastic influence over Orthodox liturgical practice.

The use of the Markan lectionary in Great Lent strikes me as in some ways being more catechetical. The focus of them is on teaching, "who is Jesus?" That seems to me to be what the question both the Epistle and Gospel lessons is answering. But the monastic Sunday themes reflect the dominance monasticism had over Orthodox liturgical life, Orthodoxy spirituality and the Church itself at this point in Orthodoxy's history. The ancient "cathedral" rite and the liturgical practice which governed the non-monastic churches will disappear, and monastic practice will come to dominate the Orthodox Church.

There may be pastoral reasons why this occurred, but I don't know exactly why the changes occurred. Archimandrite Job's book explains the changes but doesn't tell us completely why the changes occurred. What is clear is that the unchanging nature of the Orthodox Church isn't its liturgical practice. One would hope the liturgical changes were done to try to preserve the unchanging theology and Gospel of the Church. What might be interesting for some future Great Council of the Church is to discuss the reasoning behind all of the liturgical changes which occurred beginning in the 12th Century that led in the next couple of centuries to the monastic take over of church life and practice. It would be good to discuss the disappeared cathedral rite and the "secular" parishes which once predominated in Orthodoxy. How can we best serve the contemporary membership of our Church? The Church's liturgical life has undergone great changes over time so there should be no reason why we can't discuss today what liturgical practice is best for the catechetical and evangelical work of the church in the 21st Century.

Fr. Ted Bobosh is a priest in the Orthodox Church in America. He has degrees from the Ohio State University, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and Fordham University. He is the parish priest of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Dayton, OH.

Accessed from <https://frted.wordpress.com/2016/02/18/sunday-themes-for-great-lent/> April 8, 2016