



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 17, 2019

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

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

8:15 – 8:45 AM Holy Mystery of Confession

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

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

Wed., Mar. 20 Martyred Bishops Basil, Ephrem, Capiton et al.

6:30 PM Holy Mystery of Confession

7:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Fri., Mar. 22 **Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste**

6:30 PM Holy Mystery of Confession

7:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

SAT., MAR. 23 **2ND ALL SOULS SATURDAY.** Martyr Codratus and companions

8:15 – 8:45 AM Holy Mystery of Confession

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy and reading of the lists of the deceased (Hramoty)

Sun., Mar. 24 **Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonika.**

8:15 – 8:45 AM Holy Mystery of Confession

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Panachida: Barbara Banosky - 40 day memorial

2:30 PM **Holy Mystery of Confession**

3:00 PM **Lenten Mission here at St. Michael's**

Holy Mystery of Confession: See Schedule.

PEOPLE STUFF

Prayer List: *Deceased:* Barbara Banosky

Living: Fr. Joseph Cervo. Pañi Joanna Ferencz. Pañi Dorothy Hutnyan. Pañi Donna Smoley. Fran Acmovic. Dana Andrade. Gloria Andrade. Michael Artim. Gregory Michael Aurilio. Jane Barclay. Donald Bodnar. Charlene Borsic. Jaime Budeska. 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.

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.

LENTEN FASTING: *[Those who are interested will find a little booklet in the vestibule detailing all the guidelines for the Lenten Fast]*

Traditional Guidelines:

- On **weekdays (Monday through Friday inclusive)** in the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth weeks, one meal a day is permitted, to be taken in the afternoon following Vespers, and at this one meal xerophagy *[Strict Fast]* is to be observed.
- On **Saturdays and Sundays in Lent**, with the exception of Holy Saturday, two main meals may be taken in the usual way [i.e., cooked], around mid-day and in the evening, with wine and olive oil; but meat, animal products and fish are not allowed.
- **March 22: Holy 40 Martyrs of Sebaste.** Wine and oil are permitted on certain days like this feast because they are a minor feast day and because of special services which are celebrated on that day. The rule would ordinarily apply only if a person is attending the services for that day.

A Pastoral Interpretation: Try to fast and pray more than last year, with more focus and concentration. Who knows, in fifty or sixty years, if we keep trying, we may become more perfect!

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

Update! 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. 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.

- **For Our Mission on March 24:** We are asking for donations of Baked Goods for the dessert for the Mission. Everyone is welcome to bring a dessert on that day: Fasting (no dairy) and non-fasting (dairy) desserts are all welcome! Thanks much!

Update! Agape Offerings: Today:

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 **\$3266** donated toward this new work. Total cost of this work was **\$3800**. *We thank you for your generosity. God bless!*

Our Gifts to God and our Church March 10, 2019

Attendance	31
Communions	17

Collections

Monthly	245.00
Sunday	921.00
All Candles	191.00
Building Maintenance	365.00
Diocesan Membership	144.00
Church Repairs	15.00
Total Offerings:	1881.00

Correction: Last week numbers were correct, but the total was wrong. Total collection for alst week was **\$3294.00**

Building and Repairs Donations to Date
\$3266! *God bless your generosity!*

DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

New! Spaghetti Dinner in support of the Charest Family Summer Hosting. Father John Charest is the new pastor at Saints Peter and Paul [Gold Domes] in Carnegie, and is continuing the process of bringing 3 orphans from Ukraine to live with him, Pani Laryssa, and Sebastian—with the ultimate goal of adoption. Details on the Spaghetti Fundraiser are on the Flyer on the Hall Bulletin Board.

New! Lenten Retreat at Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in the North Hills. See flyer on hall bulletin board for details. Please direct questions on the retreat to Father Michael Senyo, Dean of the Cathedral. Contact info is on the flyer.

Lenten Family Retreat: Presentation of Christ Orthodox Church, East Pittsburgh, PA. March 30, 2019, 10 AM to 2 PM. Theme: “Repentance in the Modern World”. Retreat Schedule includes

- *Service Project* benefitting the homeless community of McKeesport
- *Presentations* by Fr. Alex Goussetis
- *Lunch and Fellowship*

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.

CONFESSION AND COMMUNION

By Fr. Seraphim von Abele

Holy Scripture speaks of "the righteous judgment of God, who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Romans 2:5-6). The Lord teaches that on the Last Day, those who have done good will come forth from the grave "to resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation"(John 5:29).

Apostle John writes, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves...If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us" (1John 1:9). The Lord Himself gave to the Apostles this ministry of "remitting," or absolving sins, and through them, to Priests of the Church: "Whosoever sins you remit, they are remitted unto them" (John 20:23).

Unless our sins are forgiven, we will be eternally lost; and in order for our sins to be forgiven, we must repent. As Holy Scripture teaches, we must acknowledge, or "confess," our sins—not before God alone, but also before men (see St. James 5:16); and our sins must be "remitted," or absolved, by one who is appointed to this ministry by God—by a Priest of the Church.

Further, the Lord taught, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood, you have no life in you...Whoever eats my flesh and drinks by blood, has eternal life"(St. John 6:52-54). How do we eat His flesh and drink His blood? He answered that question at the Last Supper: "Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My Body. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, All of you, drink of it; for this is My Blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins...Do this in remembrance of Me" (St. Matthew 26:26-28, St. Luke 22:19). To have eternal life, we must receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

We see from this clear testimony of Holy Scripture that outside the Mysteries of Confession and Holy Communion, we have no assurance of eternal life. Those who live without these Mysteries, outside the saving enclosure of the Orthodox Church—the non-Orthodox Christians, lapsed and nominal Orthodox, and pagans—might be saved. We simply don't know. But why would you want to stake your eternal fate on an impious and presumptuous gamble, when a sure and trustworthy path has been shown to you by God Himself?

If we are seeking salvation, our constant way of life must be: self-condemnation, repentance, Confession, Communion. This is the essence of Orthodox spiritual life.

God says, "I have set before you life and death...Therefore choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:19). Obey the counsel of St Paul to "work out your own salvation in fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). Choose eternal life by coming to the Mystery of Confession, and by worthily approaching the Mystery of Holy Communion!

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.