



## 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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**JANUARY 19, 2020**

### FEAST OF THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

*SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.*

- Sat., Jan. 18** **VIGIL OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD.** Martyrs Theopemptus et al.  
6:45 PM Theophany Canon  
7:00 PM Velikij Povečerije - Great Compline with the Blessing of the Jordan Water.
- Sun., Jan. 19** **THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.
- Sat., Jan. 25 *Saturday after Theophany.* Martyr Tatiana  
9:00 AM *Taking down Christmas decorations and cleanup.*
- Sun., Jan. 26** **Sunday after Theophany.** Bishop Hilary of Poitiers. Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus.  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
*Panachida:* January Perpetuals: Sveton Simonoff (Jan 4). Michael Lesko, Jr. (Jan 10).  
Joseph Zeok (Jan 11). Mary Palovscik (Jan 14). Michael Beresh (Jan 17). Steve Stegena  
(Jan 25). Michael Hritz *and* Peter Belinsky (Jan 31).  
*Annual Parish Meeting*

**Holy Mystery of Confession:** Before Divine Liturgy and other services. We can also meet other times (after Liturgy, or by appointment). Just let me know.

### PEOPLE STUFF

**Prayer List:** *Deceased:* Fr. Stephen Shuga. Edward Pehanich, Sr. Stelian Popescu, father of Pañi Alexandra Urban. Elizabeth Beck.

*Living:* Fr. Joseph Cervo. Pañi Dorothy Hutnyan. Pañi Eleanor Pribish. Dana Andrade. Gloria Andrade. Gregory Michael Aurilio. Walter Bolbat. John Bonga. Donald Bodnar. Charlene Borsic. Jaime Budesca. Barbara Chappie. Steve Bournius. Rebecca, David & Bradley Noah Cozad. Mary Ann Crouse. Martha Danchak. George & Margaret Dorogy. Patty Ferrence. Breanne Glass. Dorothy Glass. Eddie Gombos. Jennifer Hartrick. Joseph Hlavac. Shirley Hrubic. Kevin Ianni. Gary Ingelido. Andrea Kerkentzes. John Latzo. Jeanne Lesko. Bobby Malackany. Joan Martell. Sharon Mascilak. Bill and Barbara McCauley. Jake McLaughlin. Helen Mihalik. Frank

Palmieri. Diane Phillips. Millie and Edward Phillips. Anna Senich. Peter Simonoff. Bernice Sindak. Terry Slezak. Milton and Thelma Supak. Diana Terezis. Bobby and Dee Triffanoff. Josh Walendziewicz. Paul Worst. Paul & Valerie Yednak. Jim Zajac. *Prospora Bakers*: Trudy Trifanoff. Delores Cubakovic, and their intentions.

**Another January Birthday!** Shirley Hrubic celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 29! *Many, blessed and spiritually fruitful years!* There is a Birthday Card in the hall for Shirley. Please sign it and send your congratulations to her!

**New! Pañi Joanna and I** want to thank all of you who have remembered us in your prayers, your thoughts, your cards and your gifts. **May God bless you all!**

**Welcome!** We welcome to our church this morning all visitors, guests, relatives, and friends of Saint Michael Church. We invite *everyone* present today to chant the Liturgy along with the cantor.

<b>Our Gifts to God and our Church</b>	
January 12, 2019	
Attendance	38
Communions	24
<b>Collections</b>	
Monthly	60.00
Sunday	840.00
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>210.00</b>
All Votive Candles	158.00
Building Maintenance	330.00
Diocesan Membership	<u>78.00</u>
<b>Total Offerings: 1676.00</b>	
<i>Building and Repairs Donations which are available for upcoming repairs to date are \$2441! God bless your generosity!</i>	

### F(E)ASTING

**FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD:** Please see Schedule for service times. We celebrate **Velikij Povečerije [Great Compline]** with the **Blessing of the New Jordan Water** on **Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7 PM.** The Divine Liturgy is today.

All are encouraged to bring your Holy Water container to receive some of the newly blessed water.

- *Note: if you have leftover water from last year or previous years, pour it out on the ground in your garden or wherever people do not walk. Then clean out your jar/bottle and bring it to church for the New Water.*
- If you forgot bring your holy water container, or do not have one, we have some in the hall. See Carole Bushak.

### DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

**IOCC Pittsburgh News:** To participate in any or all of the events below, see [ioccc.org/pgh](http://ioccc.org/pgh).

- **Annual Soup Sampling Fund Raiser Saturday**, February 8, 11 AM to 2 PM, at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Road, Mount Lebanon (across from the Galleria). Details on flyer in hall.
- **Emergency Health Kit Drive & Assembly Project** - same time and place as the Soup Sampling. Flyer in hall.
- Team IOCC at the **Pittsburgh Marathon Weekend** - May 2, 2020

**Reminder from our local tax expert: IRS News that could save you some money! Are you taking a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA? You probably can make contributions to St. Michael's AND save on federal income taxes.** Once you have reached age 70 1/2, there is a minimum amount that you are required to take from your IRA. However, you can ask that bank to make a check payable to St. Michael's. When this is done, this is not taxable. Your 1099R form will not include this dollar amount. For example, \$1,000 can save most of us \$120 or \$220 in taxes. If this helps you save on taxes, we would be happy to get a few larger checks instead of weekly contributions. Perhaps on your budget, you can contribute the savings -- \$1,120 or \$1,220 would benefit St. Michael's.

To take advantage of this opportunity, just contact the bank or broker or the financial institution that holds your funds. Tell them you want to make a qualified charitable contribution from your IRA. If you are paying any federal income taxes, then this will save something. *For example*, generally speaking, single people are taxed for any adjusted income over \$12,200, and married couple are taxed for any adjusted income over \$24,200. This may help to reduce your taxable income. Also, as an added bonus, this also reduces your income for the calculation of your Medicare premiums for many people.

Of course, as with anything that involves money and taxes, you should seek advice from qualified sources before you go ahead. *Also*, Christina Duranko has offered to help anyone with questions, etc.

## PARISH STUFF

**Reminder! Church Un-Decorating!** This Coming Saturday, January 25, at SPT (9:00). We definitely need some help with putting some of the heavy stuff back in storage. Any help you can give will be appreciated!

**New! The December Financial Report**, including current bank balances, is posted on the hall bulletin board.

**New! “Sandwiches for the Homeless”**, otherwise known as the **“Pittsburgh Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood Lunch Program,”** is a charitable work that the Orthodox Churches of the Pittsburgh area have been doing for, literally, decades. Currently, it provides 120 lunches every Saturday of the year for those who are in need. Many years ago, our parish was involved in this good work, but it has been a while since we have been engaged.

At this month’s Parish Council meeting, we decided to commit our parish to helping out with this great work. We have a confirmed date of Saturday, June 20, 2020. We will be discussing this program at the Annual Meeting next Sunday, where you will learn further details, and learn how you can support and be involved with this program. We hope to have active involvement by a lot of us, so please come to the meeting to learn more.

**Reminder! Home Blessings** I very much would like to bless everyone’s home with the New Jordan Water this year. I also realize that that is not always possible. If you would like to have your home blessed, please fill in the little form in the vestibule, or email or text me that you would like to have me come this year. I will contact you to make arrangements!

**Reminder! Divine Liturgy Intentions: Praying for the Living and the Deceased.** This is just a reminder of something we’ve been doing for some time now. If you would like to have someone remembered during today’s Liturgy, just put their name(s) on the form in the vestibule (Allen, Denny, Bobby or any one of the guys back there can help you out). The list is brought to the altar after the Gospel Entrance, and we will remember them at the Anaphora.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Official Announcement: The Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 26, after the Divine Liturgy.

**Update! Christmas Candle Offering for Special Intention:** We continue to collect for Christmas Candles through Christmas.

James and Jeanne Zajac – In memory of Deceased Family members.

All the following donations (in no special order) are for Special Intentions:

Patricia Vargo

Alan Bache

Suzanne and Michael Mehalik

**Update! Agape Offerings:** *Today:* No one. *Next week:* Annual Meeting Brunch.

**New! Birthday Sundays!** At the Parish Council meeting last week, we discussed trying out something new for the *Agape*. Once a month we are going to remember all those who were born in that month both upstairs (in prayer) and downstairs (at the *Agape*). The Birthday Sundays for February and March are already spoken

for. If you would like to be a part of this way of honoring each other on your birthday, just sign up on the Agape sheet in the hall.

**Reminder! Parish “Library.”** It has been sitting there in the hall for at least a year now, with no real explanation, so I thought one would be a good idea. We are slowly putting together a small library of theological, religious and spiritual writings for everyone’s use and benefit. The small bookcase we have is slowly filling up with books that we hope will be interesting and valuable to anyone. You are free to browse the library and, if you find anything of interest, take it with you, read it, enjoy it, absorb it. If you want to talk about anything you have read, or have any questions, I will be happy sit with you. If you think you have a book you would like to donate, please see Fr. Nik for requirements, etc.

**Update! Church Repairs:** we have available at this time \$2441 *in donations* towards repairs in the church and rectory. 2019 – 2020 donations have totaled so far **\$5855**, some of it already used.

## **FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

January 6/19. *From [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)*

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but “to bury human sin by water,” to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify “the nature of water” and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.