



# 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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Rectory Phone: 412 271-2725. E-mail: [stmichaels@stmichaelsrankin.org](mailto:stmichaels@stmichaelsrankin.org)  
Hall Phone: 412-294-7952 WEB: [www.stmichaelsrankin.org](http://www.stmichaelsrankin.org)

## FEBRUARY 2, 2020

### SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

**Sun., Feb. 2** **Sunday of Zacchaeus.** Monk Euthimius the Great

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

*Oath of Office of Newly Elected Parish Council*

Sat., Feb. 8 Monk Xenophon and his wife Mary. Translation of the Relics of the Holy Monk Theodore the Studite.

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM **Annual IOCC Soup Sampling Fund Raiser and Emergency Health Kit Drive & Assembly Project** Holy Cross Orthodox Church, Mount Lebanon

**Sun., Feb. 9** **Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee**

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

*Panachida:* 40 day memorials for Edward Pehanich, Sr., Stelian Popescu and John Kobasa.

***No Fasting This Week!***

**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:* Elizabeth Beck. John Bonga.

*Living:* Fr. Joseph Cervo. Pañi Dorothy Hutnyan. Pañi Eleanor Pribish. Dana Andrade. Gloria Andrade. Gregory Michael Aurilio. Walter Bolbat. Donald Bodnar. Charlene Borsic. Jaime Budesa. 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. 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. *Prophora 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 invite *everyone* present today to chant the Liturgy along with the cantor.

### F(E)ASTING

**TODAY! (Believe it or not) IS ALREADY THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS,** which kicks off the **Pre-Lenten Season** – that time of year which is intended to get us prepared to celebrate the **Great Lenten Fast**, which of course is given to us to prepare ourselves to properly celebrate the Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. *(No one can say*

the Church does not give us fair warning about what is coming up!) As part of that Pre-preparation time, we are called to *not fast* during the week of the **Publican and the Pharisee** – Feb. 9 – 16. More about all of this in future bulletins (of course).

**Newly Blessed Holy Water** – All are encouraged to bring your Holy Water container to receive some of the newly blessed water (or get a container from Carole Bushak). The New Water is now in the Church Vestibule in the Holy Water Font!

### DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

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

### PARISH STUFF

**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!

**Update! Agape Offerings:** *Today:* Annual Meeting Brunch. *Next Sunday:*

**Reminder! Birthday Sundays!** 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.

**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.

**New! The Parish Annual Meeting** took place last Sunday. Highlights include:

- **Election of Parish Council and Officers.** The following will take the **Oath of Office** during the Divine Liturgy: Carole Bushak (*President*), George Hrabchak (*Vice-President*), Arlene Cubakovic (*Financial Secretary*), Barbara Simonoff (*Treasurer*), Jeanne Zajac (*Recording Secretary*), Joan Martel (*Envelope Secretary*), Christina Duranko (*Chief Auditor*). Also, *Trustees:* Alan Bache, Anna Zamule, Dennis Baron, Janet Alm, Dolores Cubakovic, Elsie Ingelido, Sharon Mascilak, Denise Mihalik, Suzanne Mehalik, Sharon Stemler, Trudy Trifanoff, John Varoscak, James Zajac. Please pray for those who have accepted the responsibility of leading our parish.
- **Lottery Raffle:** We are only going to do two Raffles a year, one at the October Bazaar and one this spring. Chance tickets will be on sale starting March 1. Drawing will be April 26. It was decided to guarantee a minimum prize of \$400 worth of tickets, regardless of whether or not folks donate prize tickets. If we fall

### Our Gifts to God and our Church

January 26, 2019

Attendance	33
Communions	21

#### Collections

Monthly	330.00
Sunday	855.00
Christmas	<b>10.00</b>
All Votive Candles	151.00
Building Maintenance	5.00
Diocesan Membership	426.00
Special Donation	<u>1000.00</u>

**Total Offerings: 2867.00**

*Building and Repairs Donations which are available for upcoming repairs to date are **\$2441!** God bless your generosity!*

short in donations, the parish will subsidize the rest out of the lottery profit. Folks are welcome (but not obligated) to donate prize lottery tickets. Thanks to all ahead of time for supporting this Fund Raiser.

- *Building Repairs:* We are working on getting more bids for work to be done on the church to stop the leaking and water problems.
  - In regard to those who are regularly supporting these efforts to get the building in good shape: We will have available contribution envelopes available which will be labeled “Building Repairs”. This will ensure that the donations which are intended to cover this specific part of our expenses will be properly recorded and set aside for those major repairs, and not confused with the ordinary “Building Maintenance” envelopes. Look for the envelopes in the vestibule.
- *Income back up again:* Our parish income is once again back up, \$4000 over 2018's income. Expenses were down a bit, but we still wound up with a deficit of \$4000, which is tremendously better than 2018's \$11,500 deficit. I would like to commend our parishioners and parish on your support of our church. The vast majority of our income comes from *you!* This is a huge testimony to your generosity and your love for our parish! May God bless us all!
- *Parish Charitable Works:*
  - “Sandwiches for the Homeless”: As already noted in previous bulletins, our parish will once again (after a hiatus of a number of years) participate in the “Sandwiches for the Homeless” program sponsored by the Pittsburgh Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood. So far, we have committed to providing this service on Saturday, June 20, 2020. More info later.
  - Rankin Community Days: This community event has been a good neighborhood-building event in the past. Last year they were unable to hold the event because of lack of funds. We have committed to hold a second collection on Sunday, Feb 9, to help support this year’s event. Even if you no longer live in Rankin, please support this effort to help our parish neighborhood.
  - South Side Food Pantry: At the present time, the pantry is unable to receive food and goods to distribute. However, the pantry is still working, and hopes to be back up to speed within the next few months. Meanwhile, monetary contributions are still being collected to be distributed whenever possible. You can contribute to the Pantry jar in the hall.

## **HOLY MONK MAXIMOS THE CONFESSOR**

January 21/February 3, from *The Menologion*

The Monk Maximos the Confessor was born in Constantinople in about the year 580 and raised in a pious Christian family. In his youth he received a very diverse education: he studied philosophy, grammatics, rhetoric, he was well-read in the authors of antiquity and he mastered to perfection theological dialectics. When Saint Maximos entered into government service, the scope of his learning and his conscientiousness enabled him to become first secretary to the emperor Heraclius (611-641). But court life vexed him, and he withdrew to the Chrysopoleia monastery (on the opposite shore of the Bosphorus -- now Skutari), where he accepted monastic tonsure. By the humility of his wisdom he soon won the love of the brethren and was chosen hegumen of the monastery, but even in this dignity, in his own words, he "remained a simple monk". But in 633 at the request of a theologian, the future Jerusalem Patriarch Saint Sophronios (Comm. 11 March), the Monk Maximos left the monastery and set off to Alexandria.

Saint Sophronios was known in these times as an implacable antagonist against the Monothelite heresy. The Fourth OEcumenical Council (year 451) had condemned the Monophysite heresy, which confessed in the Lord Jesus Christ only one nature (the Divine, but not the Human nature, of Christ). Influenced by this erroneous tendency of thought, the Monothelite heretics introduced the concept that in Christ there was only "one Divine will" ("thelema") and only "one Divine effectuation or energy" ("energia"), -- which sought to lead back by another path to the repudiated Monophysite heresy. Monotheletism found numerous adherents in Armenia, Syria,

Egypt. The heresy, fanned also by nationalist animosities, became a serious threat to church unity in the East. The struggle of Orthodoxy with the heresies was particularly complicated by the fact, that in the year 630 three of the Patriarchal thrones in the Orthodox East were occupied by Monothelites: at Constantinople -- by Sergios, at Antioch -- by Athanasias, and at Alexandria -- by Cyrus.

The path of the Monk Maximos from Constantinople to Alexandria led through Crete, where indeed he began his preaching activity. He clashed there with a bishop, who adhered to the heretical opinions of Severus and Nestorius. At Alexandria and its surroundings the monk spent about 6 years. In 638 the emperor Heraclius, together with the patriarch Sergios, attempted to downplay the discrepancies in the confession of faith, and the issued an edict: the so-called "Ecthesis" ("Ekthesis tes pisteos" -- "Exposition of Faith), -- which ultimately decreed that there be confessed the teaching about "one will" ("mono-thelema") operative under the two natures of the Saviour. In defending Orthodoxy against this "Ecthesis", the Monk Maximos resorted to people of various vocations and positions, and these conversations had success. "Not only the clergy and all the bishops, but also the people, and all the secular officials felt within themselves some sort of invisible attraction to him, -- testifies his Vita.

Towards the end of 638 the patriarch Sergios died, and in 641 -- the emperor Heraclius also died. The imperial throne came to be occupied by the cruel and coarse Constans II (642-668), an open adherent of the Monothelites. The assaults of the heretics against Orthodoxy intensified. The Monk Maximos went off to Carthage and he preached there and in its surroundings for about 5 years. When the successor of patriarch Sergios, patriarch Pyrrhos, arrived there in forsaking Constantinople because of court intrigues, and being by persuasion a Monothelite, -- there occurred between him and the Monk Maximos an open disputation in June 645. The result of this was that Pyrrhos publicly acknowledged his error and even wanted to put into writing to Pope Theodore the repudiation of his error. The Monk Maximos together with Pyrrhos set off to Rome, where Pope Theodore accepted the repentance of the former patriarch and restored him to his dignity.

In the year 647 the Monk Maximos returned to Africa. And there, at a council of bishops Monotheletism was condemned as an heresy. In the year 648, in place of the "Ecthesis", there was issued a new edict, commissioned by Constans and compiled by the Constantinople patriarch Paul, the "Typus" ("Tupos tes pisteos" -- "Pattern of the Faith"), which overall forbade any further deliberations, whether if be about "one will" or about "two wills", as regarding the acknowledged "two natures" of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Monk Maximos thereupon turned to the successor of the Roman Pope Theodore, Pope Martin I (649-654), with a request to examine the question of Monotheletism at a conciliar consideration by all the Church. In October of 649 there was convened the Lateran Council, at which were present 150 Western bishops and 37 representatives of the Orthodox East, amongst which was also the Monk Maximos the Confessor. The Council condemned Monotheletism, and its defenders -- the Constantinople patriarchs Sergios, Paul and Pyrrhos, were consigned to anathema.

When Constans II received the determinations of the Council, he gave orders to arrest both Pope Martin and the Monk Maximos. This summons took 5 years to fulfill, in the year 654. They accused the Monk Maximos of treason to the realm and locked him up in prison. In 656 he was sent off to Thrace, and again later brought back to a Constantinople prison. The monk, together with two of his students, was subjected to the cruellest torments: for each they cut out the tongue and cut off the right hand. Then they were sent off to Colchis. But here the Lord worked an inexplicable miracle: all three of them found the ability to speak and to write. The Monk Maximos indeed foretold his own end (+ 13 August 662). On the Greek Saints-Prologue (Calendar), 13 August indicates the Transfer of the Relics of Saint Maximos to Constantinople, but possibly it might apply to the death of the saint. Or otherwise, the establishing of his memory under 21 January may be connected with this -- that 13 August celebrates the Leavetaking of the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Over the grave of the Monk Maximos shone three miraculously-appearing lights, and there occurred many an healing.