



# 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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## FEBRUARY 16, 2020

### SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

- Sun., Feb. 16** **Sunday of the Prodigal Son.** Synaxis of the Holy Prophet Simeon and Prophetess Anna  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.  
*Birthday Sunday: Happy Birthday to all who were born in February!*
- Sat., Feb. 22** **1<sup>st</sup> All Souls Saturday.** Last day of the Feast of the Encounter. Martyr Nicephoros. Finding of the relics of Bishop Innocent of Irkutsk  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy and Hramoty
- Sun., Feb. 23** **Meat-Fare Sunday.** Martyr Charalampas. Nun Scholastica, sister of St. Benedict.  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
*Panachida:* February Perpetuals: Mary Mesko (2/4). Anna Horgas (2/13). Father Peter Buletza (2/25)
- Sun., Mar. 1** **Cheese-Fare Sunday**  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

**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 Budeska. 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. *Prospora Bakers:* Trudy Trifanoff. Delores Cubakovic, and their intentions.

**February Birthdays:** Mary Eileen Peterson 2/8. Milan Trifanoff 2/15. Carole Bushak, Dolores Cubakovic and Lois Liberman 2/18. Robert Triffanoff 2/21. Bobby Triffanoff 2/26. Trudy Trifanoff 2/28. *Many, blessed and spiritually fruitful years!*

**40-Day Memorial moved:** The 40-day Memorial for John Bonga, which was scheduled for Sun., Feb. 23, has been moved to Sun., March 8, by the family's request.

**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

**1<sup>st</sup> All Souls Saturday** is this Saturday, February 22. We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the deceased of the parish at 9:00 AM, and read the Hramoty (List) of the deceased in remembrance. You probably already have an envelope in your contribution box for the All Souls Saturdays. If you would like to have your deceased loved ones remembered at all 5 All Souls celebrations, please return your list to me as soon as possible.

### PARISH STUFF

**Update! Agape Offerings:** Today: Janet Alm – Birthday Sunday. Next Sunday: No one, yet.

**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! Thank you and God bless!** Thanks for your generosity in supporting the Rankin Community Days this year. We collected \$125 for the benefit of this event. You still have time to donate if you wish to do so. Please just mark your donation clearly.

**Update! Church Repairs:** we have available at this time **\$2541 in donations** towards repairs in the church and rectory. 2019 – 2020 donations have totaled so far **\$5855**, some of it already used.

Our Gifts to God and our Church	
February 9, 2020	
Attendance	45
Communions	21
Collections	
Monthly	221.00
Sunday	1016.00
All Votive Candles	145.00
Building Maintenance	405.00
Diocesan Membership	168.00
Rankin Community Days	125.00
Special Donation - in memory of John Bonga	<u>50.00</u>
<b>Total Offerings:</b>	<b>1472.00</b>
<i>Building and Repairs Donations which are available for upcoming repairs to date are \$2541! God bless your generosity!</i>	

### DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

**New! Sunday of Orthodoxy Pan-orthodox Vespers** The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh invites you to join us on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 4:30 PM, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. **Celebrant and Homilist:** His Grace Bishop John (Abdallah) of the Antiochian Orthodox Diocese of Worcester and New England. **Also featuring** the Pan-Orthodox Choir under the direction of Fr. Tom Soroka. Vespers will be followed by fellowship and Lenten refreshments.

**New!** A Preview of Our Deanery Lenten Schedule. More details and prettier print can be found on the flyer in the hall. Each Sunday (not counting the Saturday ACROD retreat, obviously) we will gather for the following schedule:

Confessions 2:15 PM, Lenten Vespers 3 PM. Lenten Supper follows. A Collection will be taken for the benefit of Charitable Works sponsored by our Pittsburgh Deanery.

- March 15 - Palamas Sunday - St John's Ambridge
- March 22 - Cross Sunday - St John's East Pittsburgh
- March 28 - ACROD Lenten Retreat - St. Nicholas, Homestead 9 am
- March 29 - Climacus Sunday - St John's Northside
- April 5 – Mary of Egypt Sunday – St. Michael’s Rankin

**New! Young Adult Retreat at Camp Nazareth** Co-sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Y2AM, American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church and Ukrainian Orthodox Youth & Young Adult

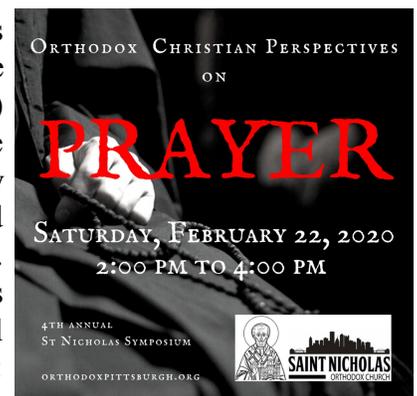
Ministries. March 13-15, 2020 | Mercer, PA | Registration fee: \$75 for the weekend. Theme: *Engaging the non-religious with the Gospel of Jesus Christ*. Have you ever felt that you'd love to share your Orthodox Christian faith with friends and family; classmates and colleagues; neighbors and the non-religious, but just don't want to come across as pushy, judgmental or...weird? If so, this retreat is for you! Join a group of fellow Orthodox Christians as we reflect on strategies for "serving Christ, His Church, and the world" by engaging people who are struggling with questions of faith, particularly those who are atheists, agnostics, doubters, inquirers, lapsed, "spiritual but not religious," or unchurched. We will reflect critically on scripture, patristic and contemporary apologetics and themes of spirituality, conversion, and apologetics. Participants will learn and practice strategies and principles for ministering to those who reject or struggle with Christian faith.

Words from one of our Young Adults: *One of my favorite things about the Young Adult Retreat I attended in the fall was being surrounded by other Orthodox Christians for an entire weekend of faith and fellowship. It was so nice to meet new people and catch up with old friends that you know "get it" in a way that is sometimes hard to explain to your non-religious friends. I am excited for the opportunity to talk about how to express what I love about being Orthodox Christian (and why I love being at Camp Nazareth so much) with our guest speaker, Fr. Sergius Halvorsen. There is also a schedule full of fun activities, good food, and church services, while still having quiet time for reflection and just hanging out. I can't think of a better way to spend my weekend. I hope you will consider joining me at the retreat. You have little to lose, and new friends, fun, and a Christ-centered weekend to gain.*

About our Speaker: *Fr. Sergius Halvorsen, Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Rhetoric at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. Fr. Sergius was not raised a Christian, and through high school and college he was an agnostic. He was baptized and chrismated in the Orthodox Church when he was 21 years old, then he attended St. Vladimir's Seminary receiving his MDiv in 1996. He went on to complete a doctorate in liturgical studies and homiletics at Drew University in 2002. From 2000 to 2011 he taught at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell Connecticut. Since 2011 he has taught at St. Vladimir's and his courses include Homiletics, Rhetoric, Christian Education and Faith and Science. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1999 and to the priesthood in 2004. Fr. Sergius is an accomplished liturgical musician, he was director of the 1995 SVS Octet, and over the last ten years has contributed to a number of "Archangel Voices" recordings. He currently lives in New Haven CT with his wife and three children. He loves gardening, hiking, biking, reading fiction and anything related to space exploration and astronomy.*

If you want to join us, the link to register is here: [tinyurl.com/spring2020youngadults](https://tinyurl.com/spring2020youngadults). If you have any questions, feel free to email [youngadultretreats@gmail.com](mailto:youngadultretreats@gmail.com) or follow us on Instagram @ya\_campnaz

**Reminder! Prostopinije (Plain Chant) Conference:** With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Nick Mihaly and Fr. David Mastroberte are in the process of planning a Diocesan Prostopinije (Plain Chant) Conference. In order to assist in the planning of such a conference, we are asking you to answer the survey provided in this email and then share the survey with your cantors, choir members and anyone else you think might be interested in attending a Prostopinije Conference. Please complete this survey by April 1. It is our hope that this can become an annual event which celebrates and teaches our unique musical tradition so that it can last and be an effective theological tool for many more generations to come! You will find the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7MD6KVG>



**New! Lenten Retreat: All Are Welcome!** This event is free and does not require a reservation (RSVP'S appreciated at [frdavidvernak@verizon.net](mailto:frdavidvernak@verizon.net) or 201-704-6217). Saturday, April 4, 10 AM to 1 PM, at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 601 Boone Ave., Canonsburg, Pa 15317. **Matushka Valerie Zahirsky's** talk about groups of Saints is titled, "Surprising Saints: Holy Peoples' Struggles and Triumphs Can Inspire Our Lives." More details on flyer in hall.

## "UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN WHO BUILD IT..." (PSALM 127:1)

"Making A Space For Prayer At Home" by Marilyn Rouvelas

Before marrying into a large Orthodox family, I came from a dysfunctional family in which my mother told me from a young age that she would divorce my father, and did when I turned eighteen. Perhaps the lack of safety in my family of origin has helped me cherish the family my husband and I have created over the past thirty-five years together, starting with our two children, their spouses, and now two grandchildren. I have known both the pain of living in a fragile family and the joy of belonging to a stable one. How does a stable family evolve?

I am not a professional in the field of marriage and family, but through the years have learned that the basic components required to establish a solid family are love, trust, forgiveness, communication, commitment, discipline, and responsible behavior. These do not come easily for any family. However, in a family who commits to living a life of prayer, they will evolve more naturally and deepen through the years. This happens when families work to establish a foundation of prayer in the home.

The Orthodox tradition of the Icon Corner provides a physical setting for the practice of regular prayer and worship. One of the most important spaces in the home, here an individual or the whole family can gather to say prayers of supplication and thanksgiving. It is a place to commemorate special family occasions and feast days. Here the family is constantly reminded through the icons that Christ and the saints are with us every day.

If you do not already have an Icon Corner, establishing one is easy. It usually contains the following items: icons of Christ, the Theotokos, family patron saints, and significant church events; cross; prayer books; Bible; seal for communion bread; censer and incense; candle; marriage crowns; and seasonal items from church holidays when appropriate, such as a piece of Festal Bread, holy water from Epiphany, palms from Palm Sunday, holy oil from Holy Unction, flowers from Good Friday, Easter egg, etc.

If possible, try to set up the Icon Corner somewhere accessible to all members of the family and locate it so that they will pray facing east. (According to Orthodox belief, Christ, the light of the world, will come again from the East.) There are variations of ways to arrange the Icon Corner. The items may go into a glass-enclosed cabinet, on open shelves, and/or hung on the walls above a small table.

Once the Icon Corner is in your home, it gently invites prayer and worship. Here the family can develop a regular religious practice in the home, essential for the religious foundation so necessary to good family life. Praying together at the Icon Corner and at the table before meals brings everyone closer together. Something remarkable happens when family members become quiet and put aside their activities to speak and listen to God. They are united in their petitions and thankfulness. They recognize God as the source of their lives and blessings.

The Icon Corner is also a powerful tool in participating in the worship cycle in the Orthodox Church. Since so many of the feast days and special events in the church are based on Christ's life and that of his mother, there is the opportunity to remember these events by displaying icons that commemorate them. (Sets of paper icons for the feast days are affordable and easily stored when not in use.) For example, at Epiphany, an icon of the baptism of Christ and holy water from church can be given a place of honor. On Good Friday, an icon of the Crucifixion and a flower from the Tomb can be highlighted. Bible readings and prayers appropriate to the day can be read, as well as writings of the Fathers. Patron saints of family members can be remembered by decorating their icons with fresh flowers. These rituals are reminders of the importance of Christ, his life and the saints for the family.

In the Orthodox teaching, each person is made in the image of God, but falls short because of sin. The goal in life is to return to that image, achieve *theosis* (become more like God). God sent Christ to redeem our fallen nature and enable us to live our lives in Him. The saints are people who exemplify such a life in Christ. When families create a physical space to acknowledge Christ as their true life, take time from their busy schedules to quiet themselves in prayer, the miracle of a solid family is closer to being realized.