



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!

Rectory Phone: 412 271-2725. E-mail: stmichaels@stmichaelsrankin.org
Hall Phone: 412-294-7952 WEB: www.stmichaelsrankin.org

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

MEAT-FARE SUNDAY: THE LAST JUDGMENT

- 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). *Also,* Theodore "Shorty" Taylor – 45 years, John Stovar, Sr – 35 years, Helen Stovar-2 years by Jeanne Zajac.
- Sun., Mar. 1** **Cheese-Fare Sunday**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Forgiveness Vespers for the Beginning of Lent
Holy Mystery of Confession
Birthday Sunday: Happy Birthday to all who were born in March!
- Mon., Mar. 2** **Clean Monday.** Bishops Leo of Rome and Colman of Lindisfarne
STRICT FAST TODAY ESPECIALLY!!!
7:00 PM *Monthly Parish Council Meeting*
- Wed., Mar. 4** **Clean Wednesday.** Bishop Leo of Catania
6:15 – 6:45 PM Holy Mystery of Confession
7:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- Fri., Mar. 6** **Clean Friday.** Finding of the relics of the Holy Martyrs of Eugenia
6:15 – 6:45 PM Holy Mystery of Confession
7:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- Sat., Mar. 7** **Miracle of Theodore the Recruit and the Koliva**
8:15 – 8:45 AM Holy Mystery of Confession
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- Sun., Mar. 8** **Sunday of Orthodoxy.** First and Second Findings of the head of St. John the Baptist.
8:15 – 8:45 AM Holy Mystery of Confession
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.
Panachida: John Bonga: 40-day Memorial
4:30 PM Vespers at **Holy Trinity Church**, North Hills (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237)

Holy Mystery of Confession: As listed above for Lent. We can also meet other times (after Liturgy, or by appointment). Just let me know.

PEOPLE STUFF

Prayer List: *Deceased:* 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 Budesá. Barbara Chappie. Steve Bournius. Rebecca, David & Bradley Noah Cozad. Mary Ann Crouse. Martha Danchak. Nicholas Duranko. George & Margaret Dorogy. 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. Teresa Onuska. Frank Palmieri. Diane Phillips. Millie and Edward Phillips. Anna Senich. Peter Simonoff. Bernice Siudak. 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.

Congratulations and God Bless! To **Peggy Trifanoff**, who received the Holy Mystery of Chrismation last Sunday. Her sponsor was Bobby Triffanoff. May God grant many, blessed years!

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.

FASTING

Meat-fare Sunday: The Great Lent is upon us! Today is traditionally the last day that folks ate meat until Pascha. You may want to try to ease into Lent by doing a little bit extra this week. More on Fasting in next week's bulletin (I am sure you can't wait!)

PARISH STUFF

Update! Agape Offerings: *Today:* Jeanne Zajac – honor of Peggy Trifanoff's Chrismation. *Next Sunday:* Denise Mihalik – March Birthdays, especially her mom Helen's birthday.

New! March Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday, March 2, at 7 PM.

New! Spring Lottery Ticket Raffle will be held on Sunday, April 26. Chance tickets are being mailed out to everyone, as we usually do. Once again, we want to emphasize that you are welcome purchase 0, 1, 2 or 15 tickets, as you wish. There is no obligation to buy. Chance Tickets are \$5 each.

Here are the terms of the Lottery: LOTTERY BASKET RAFFLE. St. Michael Orthodox Church, Rankin, PA. Prize: **At least \$400 worth of Lottery Tickets.** 1 (one) winner guaranteed. Winner does not have to be present to win. NOT based on State Lottery numbers. Maximum of 500 tickets sold. DRAWING SUNDAY, October 20, 2019. DONATION \$5

Prize Contributions: As discussed at the annual meeting, some folks wanted to continue to donate toward the prize by donating Lottery Tickets. If donations do not cover the prize, the parish will cover the difference, to be repaid by ticket sales.

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 16, 2020

Attendance	36
Communions	24

Collections

Monthly	280.00
Sunday	705.00
All Votive Candles	146.00
Building Maintenance	15.00
Diocesan Membership	<u>364.00</u>

Total Offerings: 1510.00

*Building and Repairs Donations which are available for upcoming repairs to date are **\$2541!** God bless your generosity!*

New! PITTSBURGH DEANERY LENTEN MISSIONS AND SERVICES! The Clergy of our Pittsburgh Deanery invite and encourage all to be a part of the special Lenten services in our area.

Confessions will be available before all Deanery Services, with a variety of priests available. *ALL* are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to receive this Holy Mystery during Lent!

- **March 8, Sunday of Orthodoxy:** Vespers at *Holy Trinity Church*, North Hills (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237) 4:30 pm
- **March 15, Remembrance of St. Gregory Palamas:** *St. John the Baptist, Ambridge, PA.*, Speaker: Seminarian Dan Katz. 2:30 PM Confessions, 3:00 PM Vespers, followed by Lenten repast.
- **March 22, Veneration of the Holy Cross:** *St. John the Baptist, East Pittsburgh, PA.* Speaker: Fr. Nik Ferencz 2:30 PM Confessions, 3:00 PM Vespers, followed by Lenten repast.
- **Saturday, March 28: Annual ACROD Lenten Retreat, St. Nicholas, Homestead, PA.** Retreat Master: Metropolitan Gregory. Starts at 9 AM.
- **March 29, Remembrance of St. John Climacus:** *St. John the Baptist, North Side, PA.*, Speaker: Fr. Joseph Fester. 2:30 PM Confessions, 3:00 PM Vespers, followed by Lenten repast.
- **April 5, Remembrance of St. Mary of Egypt:** *St. Michael, Rankin, PA.* Speaker: Fr. Vincent Draginis. 2:30 PM Confessions, 3:00 PM Vespers, followed by Lenten repast.

DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

Reminder! 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.

Reminder! 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.

Reminder! Lenten Retreat: All Are Welcome! This event is free and does not require a reservation (RSVP'S appreciated at 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.

REASONS TO FAST

Father Alexander Lebedeff, http://www.stjohndc.org/Russian/homilies/e_9606t.htm

God Himself established fasting. In the Old Testament, preparation for a special holy occasion included fasting and prayer. The New Testament often mentions fasting. Our Lord fasted Himself for 40 days before going out to preach. Fasting is clearly not optional inasmuch as Our Lord said, regarding fasting, “When you fast” (Matt. 6:16), rather than, “If you fast.” Our Lord, speaking of His disciples, said that after His departure, they would fast: when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, then they shall fast.

Our Lord also said that we can overcome the devil only through prayer and fasting. When His disciples reported to Him that they had been unable to cast out a demon, Our Lord explained to them that this kind goes only through prayer and fasting. If we are given but two weapons – prayer and fasting – in our battle against the demonic powers, we should not cast one of these weapons aside and ignore it. What soldier who knows only two weapons work against a particular enemy would throw one away?

It is amazing to me that most Protestants ignore fasting although it is documented in the Scriptures. So much for *sola scriptura*. They neglect fasting no matter how many times the Scriptures mention it. The Church has established fasting periods that actually total up to about half of the year, averaging about 180 days when you add them all together. Each of the seasons has its particular fasting period: the winter fast before Christmas; the spring fast of Great Lent; the summer Apostles fast; and the fall Dormition fast.

Apart from being a spiritual discipline, fasting is very healthy. Everyone should avoid meat and dairy products two days a week to help keep animal fats and related cholesterol problems under control. Modern physicians are making no great discovery; the Church has known [fasting’s health value] for two thousand years. The original commandment that God gave to our ancestors Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden was a fasting commandment: eat of the fruit of all the trees but this one. If the fall of mankind and the loss of paradise were the result of breaking a fasting commandment, we should probably not ignore the fasts.

HIEROMARTYR BLAISE, BISHOP OF SEBASTE

February 11/24, from www.oca.org

The Hieromartyr Blaise (Blasius), Bishop of Sebaste, was known for his righteous and devout life. Unanimously chosen by the people, he was consecrated Bishop of Sebaste. This occurred during the reign of the Roman emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Licinius (307-324), fierce persecutors of Christians. Saint Blaise encouraged his flock, visited the imprisoned, and gave support to the martyrs.

Many hid themselves from the persecutors by going off to desolate and solitary places. Saint Blaise also hid himself away on Mount Argeos, where he lived in a cave. Wild beasts came up to him and meekly waited until the saint finished his prayer and blessed them. The saint also healed sick animals by laying his hands upon them.

The refuge of the saint was discovered by servants of the governor Agrilaus, who had come to capture wild beasts to loose on the Christian martyrs. The servants reported to their master that Christians were hiding on the mountain, and he gave orders to arrest them. But those sent out found there only the Bishop of Sebaste. Glorifying God Who had summoned him to this exploit, Saint Blaise followed the soldiers.

Along the way the saint healed the sick and worked other miracles. Thus, a destitute widow complained to him of her misfortune. A wolf had carried off a small pig, her only possession. The bishop smiled and said to her, “Do not weep, your pig will be returned to you...” To the astonishment of everyone, the wolf came running back and returned his prey unharmed.

Agrilaus, greeting the bishop with words of deceit, called him a companion of the gods. The saint answered the greeting, but he called the gods devils. Then they beat him and led him off to prison. After many tortures, St. Blaise was beheaded in the year 316. We pray to Saint Blaise for the health of domestic animals, and for protection from wild beasts.