



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

MARCH 15, 2020

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

COMMEMORATION OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONIKA

Sun., Mar. 15 Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonika. *The traditional theme of the 3rd week of Lent: The Prodigal Son* Martyred Bishop Theodotus of Cyrene

Before Liturgy: Holy Mystery of Confession

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

Panachida: March Perpetuals: William Dorogy 3/1. Rose Marie Novak 3/7. Anna Bonga 3/8. Stephen and Mary Sefchick 3/11. Irene Simonoff 3/12. Michael Lesko, Sr. 3/17. Ronald Lesko 3/29. *Also* The Reading of the Hramoty of the Deceased.

3:00 PM Vespers at the Deanery Mission at *St. John's in Ambridge*. Seminarian Dan Katz preaching.

Wed., Mar. 17 Martyr Conon. New Martyr John the Bulgarian

6:30 PM Holy Mystery of Confession

7:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Thu., Mar. 19 42 Martyrs of Ammorium. Job of Solovki. Finding of the Holy Cross by St. Helen

Fri., 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

Sat., Mar. 21 3rd All Souls Saturday. Confessor Theophylact. Apostle Hermas of the 70

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

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy and the reading of the Hramoty of the Deceased.

Sun., Mar. 22 Veneration of the Holy and Life-giving Cross. *The traditional theme of the 4th week of Lent: the Publican and the Pharisee. Also, the Holy Cross. 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste.*

Before Liturgy: Holy Mystery of Confession

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

Panachida: John Bonga: 40-day Memorial

3:00 PM Vespers at the Deanery Mission at *St. John's in East Pittsburgh*. Fr. Nicholas Ferencz preaching.

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:*

Living: Fr. Joseph Cervo. Pañi Eleanor Herbert. Pañi Dorothy Hutnyan. Pañi Eleanor Pribish. Fr. Jonathan Tobias. Pañi Deborah Zak. 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. 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 & Valerie Yednak. Jim Zajac. *Prosphora 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

The next Feast is the Annunciation to Holy Mary Theotokos, on Sunday, April 7.

Traditional Fasting Guidelines: *This Week:* On **weekdays** (Monday through Friday inclusive) 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.

ALL SOULS SATURDAYS: *3rd All Souls Saturday* is this Saturday, March 21. All are welcome to come and pray for their deceased loved ones.

PARISH STUFF

Update! Agape Offerings: Today: Canceled. Next Sunday:

Update! Corona Virus Update:

- See the Box Insert
- *Reception of Holy Communion:* We ask that everyone be sensitive to the needs and concerns of our fellow communicants, and refrain from licking the communion spoon, or closing your mouth while receiving. Just open wide, and I will place the *particle* in your mouth. You can wipe your lips, if necessary, on the communion cloth.
- *Antidor (the blessed bread distributed at Communion time and at the end of the Liturgy):* Either the Altar Servers or I will be distributing the Bread rather than each person taking it. We will be wearing gloves during the distribution. Please just hold out your hand(s) and we will drop the bread into them.

Our Gifts to God and our Church

March 8, 2020

Attendance	41
Communions	19

Collections

Monthly	
Sunday	600.00
All Votive Candles	179.00
Building Maintenance	
Diocesan Membership	178.00
Dona. in memory of John Bonga	550.00
St. Cyril Food Pantry	175.00
Total Offerings:	1682.00

Building and Repairs Donations which are available for upcoming repairs to date are \$2691! God bless your generosity!

- **No!** For now: no kissing icons, the chalice, the cross, the priest's hand, etc. I know that we Orthodox (of all flavors) tend to be touchy-huggy-kissy folks, but let's try to restrain ourselves during this time of crisis. The six-foot rule is a pretty good one to observe if at all possible.
- *Hospital and home visits:* I will be curtailing home and hospital visits, in order to minimize the risk of carrying infection (either way - from me to you or you to me). Of course, *please* call me for any emergency. However, at this time I will not be making my ordinary home and hospital visits or communion calls.

The [Spring Lottery Ticket Raffle](#) will be held on Sunday, April 26. Chance tickets are being mailed out to everyone, as we usually do. You can also pick up tickets from Carole Bushak.

Church Repairs: we have available at this time **\$2691 in donations** towards repairs in the church and rectory. 2019 – 2020 donations have totaled so far **\$6005**, some of it already used.

DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

Reminder! Today, 1st Deanery Mission at *St. John the Baptist Church, 450 Glenwood Dr., Ambridge, PA 15003.* Pastor: Fr. Vincent Dranginis. *Speaker:* Seminarian Dan Katz. 2:30 PM Confessions, 3:00 PM Vespers, followed by Lenten repast.

Reminder! Next Sunday, 2nd Deanery Mission at *St. John the Baptist Church, East Pittsburgh.* Pastor: Fr. Joseph Fester. *Speaker:* Fr. Nicholas Ferencz 2:30 PM Confessions, 3:00 PM Vespers, followed by Lenten repast.

Reminder! The Divine Liturgy is broadcast on the web every Sunday live! At 9:00 AM. Go to <https://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/>. Other Lenten services are also broadcast – see the information on the same webpage.

New! 53rd Annual Ukrainian Pysanky Sale at Ss Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie PA. For info call 412-527-5359. More information on the flyer in the church hall. *If you have never been, take the opportunity to go!* It is an incredible show and sale!

New! Ukrainian Pysanky Workshop! St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Carnegie, PA. Wed., Mar 18, Sat., Mar. 28, Mon., Mar 30 and Tues, Mar. 31. *Please see the flyer in the hall for more info and directions!*

SOME NOTES ABOUT THE RECEPTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

(I stole them from Fr. Dave Urban's parish messages)

Here are recent quotes from hierarchs around Orthodoxy concerning this question that has come up around the world:

- Patriarch Daniel of Romanian: "we must firmly reaffirm the Orthodox belief that the Holy Eucharist is not and can never be a source of sickness and death, but a source of new life in Christ, of forgiveness of sins, for the healing of the soul and the body."
- Bishop Irenei of Western Europe: "The Mysteries of Christ are the true medicine of our souls and bodies, and bring nothing but life - and life eternal. Any whose hearts are troubled by present matters should pray fervently for an increase of faith so that fear can be cast aside."
- Metropolitan Klimis of Peristeri (near Athens): ""The Holy Communion is life. It is a miracle. It is a blasphemy to believe that the virus can be transmitted by receiving Holy Communion" he urged the faithful to do it without fear. "Anyone who does not believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist must not receive Holy Communion."
- Antiochian Metropolitan Joseph: "Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is without any question or doubt the Medicine of Immortality, not a source of disease."
- Ukrainian Bishops Antony, Daniel, and Jeremiah: "We must during times like the present, never doubt in the power of the Chalice, dear brothers and sisters. It contains true LIFE and true LOVE by which no harm

could ever enter our lives. When the common spoon of communion is dipped into the Chalice following the communion of one individual, it is cleansed by the Blood of our Lord beyond our broadest comprehension of what "cleansing" is in human terms. Throughout all the history of our more than two millennium Church, we can recall no thread of witness or even a shadow of one, indicating that any disease has ever been spread through the Chalice containing the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord."

- **AND, By the way** - in 1998 after various studies, the CDC, Center for Disease Control, reported there had never been an outbreak of infection related to sharing the chalice. Zero.

EMAIL FROM FR. NIK TO OUR PARISHIONERS ON FRI., 3/13

Hello all!

Glory to Jesus Christ!

My dear parishioners,

I am writing about the effects of this growing pandemic on our parish. Day by day it seems to be getting worse, and I am becoming very concerned about the well-being of our parishioners and our parish.

" I have been talking with parishioners and others about what we should be doing as a parish.

" The clergy of our Pittsburgh Deanery, lead by our Dean Fr. Joseph, have been discussing the appropriate measures to take in our parishes and the deanery as a response to this growing health threat.

" Metropolitan Gregory sent out a letter today addressing this issue, which you will find in the bulletin.

So, in calendar order, here are some decisions which have been already made:

I have decided that it is prudent to cancel the Presanctified Liturgy this evening, and the Divine Liturgy for All Souls tomorrow.

We will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy on Sunday as usual, together with a Panachida at the end of Liturgy with the reading of the Hramoty of the Deceased. I especially encourage anyone who is elderly, infirm, or whose health is compromised to stay home and pray there. You can tune in to the Cathedral Divine Liturgy which is podcast live every Sunday at www.ACROD.org.

We will not be holding the agape this Sunday, although it is not yet canceled for forever.

We are asking that everyone on the Parish Council who is present on Sunday morning to meet for a short while to discuss how we should be acting in the near future as a response to the pandemic. Of course, all decisions will be contingent on further developments (for good or bad) as time goes on, so we will try to reach out as quickly as possible to all of you whenever new decisions are made on the diocesan, deanery or parish levels. If we were not able to reach any Council members today, we still would like your participation in the Sunday meeting if possible.

As of now, the Ambridge Deanery Mission is still on. Anyone who feels able to attend is welcome to do so, as long as you are being careful of your health and of the health of those around you. The fate of the rest of the Deanery Missions will be determined on a week to week basis.

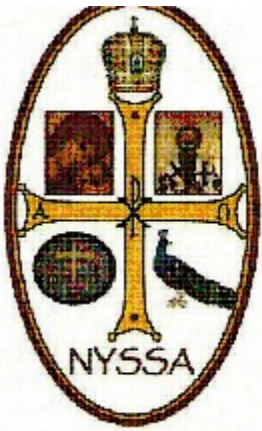
The bulletin this week will still have the regular schedule of liturgical services listed for this week, pending the Council meeting on Sunday. I figure it is easier to cancel events than to try to re-schedule them.

That's all I got for now.

Be healthy,

God bless our parishioners, our parish and our Church!

Fr. Nik



Office of the Metropolitan
312 Garfield Street
Johnstown, PA 15906

Protocol No. 7/2020

God is with us!

Dear Reverend Clergy and Faithful Laity of the Diocese,

I am writing to you today with a sense of urgency, as we confront the new Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic that is potentially affecting not only our physical and spiritual health but also our way of life in the United States of America. If you have turned on the television, listened to the radio, or followed the announcements on your phones for the last three weeks or so, you would think that the world is coming to an end. Local public and private schools are shutting down for several weeks. Professional sports leagues are suspending their schedules. Colleges and universities are closing down their on campus activities and doing everything on-line for the remainder of the spring semester. Even the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball March Madness Tournaments have been cancelled. What will we do for the next three weeks without our madness? How about going to Church and observing Great Lent in a more meaningful way.

Several Priests and lay people have contacted the Chancery and/or me personally asking for some guidance/directives on what to do as we deal with this current health issue. Some have even offered their own suggestions. Various Christian Churches, Roman Catholic and Protestants, have made pronouncements concerning the Coronavirus. Some of the Orthodox jurisdictions here in the United States and others around the world have made pronouncements encouraging their faithful.

Here are my thoughts and directives concerning this issue:

- 1) Anyone who is not feeling well should refrain from attending Church services until they are feeling better. Stay home. There is no need to put others at risk. This is to protect both the person who is ill and those who are not. Those at home can view Church services via the Internet on our Diocesan website (www.acrod.org) or say their prayers at the home's prayer corner.
- 2) Parishes should provide hand sanitizers in the Narthex of the Church for the faithful to use prior to entering the Nave of the Church. Hand washing (warm water and soap) is also critical.

- 3) Venerating of icons and the hand cross is usually with a kiss. At this time it might be prudent to reduce or eliminate these activities. It is very difficult for me to tell a faithful individual who for many years has kissed these religious items to stop. It is a personal choice. If you wish to kiss an icon and/or the cross, go ahead. If you choose not to, just bow.
- 4) The Kiss of Peace which is observed in many of our Diocesan parishes should be avoided. Instead, at the appropriate time, parishioners should acknowledge each other with a bow.
- 5) Parishes should celebrate all Church services as usual. There is no need to cancel any of our opportunities to be with our God in His house. Worshipping Him. Thanking Him. Asking for His assistance in our time of need.
- 6) The Eucharist will be distributed as usual. Parishioners are reminded to approach the Chalice with their mouths wide open, in order to receive the Body and the Blood of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. This gift from God is the medicine of our lives. Either we believe that indeed it is the Body and the Blood of Christ or we don't. In the Orthodox understanding it is and so the Eucharist cannot ever be a vector/method/way of illness or death.
- 7) Anointing with oil should be with individual cotton-tipped swabs or individual cotton balls.
- 8) Various items such as antidoron, flowers, palms, pussy willows, etc. should be distributed as usual. It might be helpful if the Priest quickly sanitizes his hands just prior to the distribution.
- 9) Following Church services a thorough cleaning and disinfecting should be performed on all exposed surfaces (for example door knobs, candles stands, liturgical items, etc.).

As we move forward additional directives may be announced if necessary, however as a minimum these are to be followed by all the parishes in our Diocese. Let us not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by this current stress in our lives. Focus on Great Lent as we journey towards Pascha.

“But the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you: do not be afraid, nor be terrified.” (Deut. 31:8)

Working in His Vineyard with much love,

+Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

