



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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	CarpathoRussian	Greek	Serbian	Russian
CHRIST IS BORN!	Christos Raždajetsja!	Christos Gennatai!	Hristos se Rodi!	Kristos Rozhdaetsya!
GLORIFY HIM!	Slavite Jeho!	Doxasate!	Voistinu se Rodi!	Slav'te ego!

JANUARY 13, 2019

LAST DAY OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS AND BEFORE THEOPHANY

Sun., Jan. 13 *Last Day of Christmas. Sunday after Christmas and before Theophany.* Nun Melania.

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

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Panachida: Vaia Costianes (Pani's mom) – 11 year anniversary.

Mon., Jan. 14 *Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord. Feast of St. Basil the Great.* Civil New Year.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

7:00 PM *Monthly Parish Council Meeting*

Fri., Jan 18 *Vigil of Theophany. Martyrs Theopemptus et al.*

7:00 PM Great Compline (Povečerije) and the Great Blessing of the Jordan water.

SAT., JAN. 19 **THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Sun., Jan. 20 *Sunday after Theophany. Synaxis of St. John the Baptist.*

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Special Intention: Margaret Hixon - family.

Holy Mystery of Confession: Before Divine Liturgy. After Divine Liturgy or any other time, just ask.

PEOPLE STUFF

Prayer List: *Deceased:* Helen Ferencz. Madalynn Allshouse. Mary Jane Alm.

Living: Pani Donna Smoley, Dana Andrade. Gloria Andrade. Michael Artim. Gregory Michael Aurilio. Jane Barclay. Donald Bodnar. Charlene Borsic. Jaime Budeska. Barbara Chappie. Steve Bournius. Rebecca, David & Bradley Noah Cozad. Mary Ann Crouse. George & Margaret Dorogy. Christina Duranko. Breanne Glass. Dorothy Glass. Eddie Gombos. Jennifer Hartrick. Shirley Hrubic. Kevin Ianni. Gary Ingelido. Alisha Krass. Carson Krass. Savanna Lee Krass. Joan Martell. Brian Masterovsky. Michael Mehalik. Zoe Mehalik. Helen Mihalik. Bill & Patti Novotnak. Frank Palmieri. Diane Phillips. Millie and Edward Phillips. Michael Platt. Anna Senich. Bernice Sindak. Terry Slezak. Margaret Stemler. Milton and Thelma Supak. Diana Terezis. Paul & Valerie Yednak. Jeanne Zajac. *Prospora Bakers:* Trudy Trifanoff. Delores Cubakovic, and their intentions.

Prayer List Adjustments: To pray for the living and the deceased is one of the most important things that we do. Sometimes, however, the prayer list becomes outdated, as folks forget to make corrections. Now, at the beginning of the New Year, we ask you all to go over the Prayer List and let me know if any adjustments need to be made. You can email me or hand me a note after Liturgy to make corrections. Thanks for helping out with this!

Eternal Memory! *Helen Ferencz*, Fr. Nik's aunt, fell asleep in the Lord on Jan. 1. Also on Jan. 1, *Madalynn Allshouse*, Briana Nesbitt's niece, fell asleep in the Lord. We will celebrate a 40 day memorial for both Helen and Madalynn on Sunday, Feb. 10.

Please also remember Mary Ann Alm, Janet Alm's sister-in-law, who passed away on Jan. 7. Please pray for the souls of the newly departed, and for their families in this difficult time.

Pani Joanna and I wish to *thank all of you* who remembered us in your prayers, your thoughts, with cards and gifts. May God bless you this New Year!

Welcome! We welcome to our church this morning all visitors, guests, relatives, and friends of Saint Michael Church. We pray your visit with us is spiritually rewarding, holy and life-giving. Visit often!

Our Gifts to God and our Church

Week of January 6, 2019

Attendance, Sunday	38
Attendance, Christmas Eve	13
Attendance, Christmas Day	82
Communions, Sunday	24
Communions, Christmas	42

Collections

Monthly	2200.00
Sunday	1550.00
All Candles	224.00
Christmas Vigil	370.00
Christmas Day	2833.00
Building Maintenance	50.00
Diocesan Membership	144.00
110 th Parish Anniversary	110.00

Total Offerings: 5501.00

Building and Repairs Donations to Date
\$2601! God bless your generosity!

F(E)ASTING

No Fasting! This week we continue the celebration of the Nativity Feast by refraining from fasting from now through this Thursday, Jan. 17.

We Fast on **Theophany Eve**, Friday, Jan. 18, as on Christmas Eve, from meat and dairy.

THE FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, AND ALSO THE FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT is celebrated tomorrow, Mon., Jan. 14. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:00 AM.

THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST is celebrated on Saturday, Jan. 19. We will have the Great Compline with the blessing of the New Jordan Water on Friday, Jan. 18, at 7:00 PM. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Saturday at 9:00 AM.

Don't forget to *Bring your Holy Water bottles* to church so that you can take some of the newly blessed Jordan Water home!

PARISH STUFF

Re-New! The *Lottery Jackpot* at the Parish Bazaar last October went so well that we would like to run another one on March 3, 2019, (before Lent begins) as a Fund-raiser. Here is how you can help:

- We are asking folks to help us out by donating lottery tickets again from now until March, just like you did for the Bazaar drawing.. Each time you go to buy lottery tickets, please consider buying one for the Parish.
- We will be selling the raffle tickets for the *Lottery Jackpot* soon. Tickets will again be \$5 each.
- Thanks in advance for your support of this project.

Reminder! For Sale! We have for sale the following items. Please see Carole Bushak to order yours.

- Orthodox License Plate frames. These are really nice. There are 3 different styles. They are only \$5.00 each.
- Holy Water Bottles: as in the past, we are selling Holy Water bottles for \$2.00 each.

Reminder! The Parish Council meets for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 14, at 7 PM.

Important! Official Announcement: The Parish Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 27, immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

New! House Blessings: Yes, believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about House Blessings! I would be very happy to bless everyone's house if you would want it. But, I know that sometimes it does not work out well. If you would prefer that I not call you to arrange House Blessing, please let me know. You can email me, text me, or hand me a note, and I will be happy to accommodate you. *[just don't tell me on Sunday at Liturgy or in the hall and expect me to remember. It doesn't work. Ask Pañi Joanna.]*

Reminder! Future Flower Offerings: Since we are not using the Flower Offerings for flowers, we are using those donations to help cover the cost of the large, special, Decorated candles that we use in front of the Icon Screen during Festal times of the year. Those candles cost over \$100 each, so it will take us a while to cover the cost of those candles which we have purchased. New envelopes in your box will list the offering as "Christmas Candles" and "Easter Candles." Thank you for your generosity.

New! Thanks & God Bless! To all who helped undecorate the Church yesterday. We really appreciate it!

Update! Agape Offerings: A New Sign up List is now available for **the New Year!** Please look over the dates and help us with this important weekly event!

Church Repairs: *We thank all of our parishioners* for your ongoing, active interest in the well-being of our parish. God bless us every one! **Donations toward Repairs:** So far, we have **\$2601** donated toward this new work. Total cost of this work was **\$3800.** *We thank you for your generosity. God bless!*

DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

New! Orthodoxy on Tap! Join us for Pens Hockeuy and Orthodoxy Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7 PM at Primanti Bros., 1539 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

IOCC Upcoming Events! Soup Tasting and Youth Emergency Kit Assembly - February 9, 2019 - Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church (Mt Lebanon).

Reminder! 2019 Diocesan Events Now Being Scheduled! Don't miss out! Check it out!

- **Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series Launches** - The title of the series is "Raising Believing Children". The first Workshop in the Series will be hosted by Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Rockaway, NJ on March 2, 2019. For info, visit our Diocesan Website- acrod.org.
- **Second Annual Senior Retreat at Camp Nazareth!** From May 13-16, 2019. Online Registration begins February 1, 2019. For more information, contact Camp Nazareth: (1) visit acrod.org; (2) call 724-662-4840; (3) email campnazareth@acrod.org.
- **7th Annual Camp Nazareth Family Camp 2019!** Friday, May 31 - Sunday, June 2. Registration closes after Friday, May 24. Visit campnazareth.org for more information.
- **Camp Nazareth Summer Camp 2019!** The time for Summer Camp is Rapidly Approaching!!! The clock is ticking!! REGISTER ONLINE STARTING MAR. 1, 2019!!! Pittsburgh Deanery will be on Week 1: July 14-20, 2019. Register Online Starting March 1, 2019, at - campnazareth.org.

LET'S LOOK AT AN ICON... OR RATHER LET'S "SEE" AN ICON:

By Fr. Jonathan Bannon, Rockford, IL

An Icon of Theophany:

Composition: This is a very telling icon, we see the largest figure is Christ. An ancient technique at giving prominence and a type of focal point to the most important part of a composition, Christ being baptized. To emphasize this everyone is leaning towards Him, angels ready to minister and John the Baptist is reaching in a most humble manner preparing to baptize as the Lord desired for our sakes.



His Gaze: Though Christ is being baptized we see He is very focused, not surprised by the temperature of the water, rather he is looking to heighten the warmth of our hearts so He gazes forward staring straight ahead at us the participant desiring we too enter and receive the Holy Spirit, that we too turn back (repentance) as John preached who prepared His way and as Christ continued as He began His ministry bringing His Light into the World.

Theology in color: We see the very story without words but rather a rich symbolism in color and gesture. Look for an ax in the icon below, what is this about? In Matthew we hear St. John's preaching, "And now also the ax was laid to the root of the trees: therefore every tree which brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." (Matthew 3:10) Christ is the Vinedresser, The True Vine, (He has many titles) He is God with Authority, He is merciful and a Judge! So He comes telling us how to be with Him, how to be Blessed as we hear in the Sermon on the Mount! If we do not repent (Turn around, change direction) as St. John tells us, if we do not bear good fruit in our lives for Christ then we too will be cut down and cast to the fire, withered like the fig tree.

There are variants to this icon with figures in the water that are fleeing from Christ. Explore other images online and there is a great website to learn more of how to enter the atmosphere of the icon here: <https://iconreader.wordpress.com/2011/01/06/baptism-of-christ-the-theophany-icon/>