

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

114 South Chestnut Street, Shenandoah, Pennsylvania 17976

Rectory (570) 462-0809 Fax (570) 462-0517

St. Michael's Oak St. Hall (570) 462-2424

St. Michael's Pyrohy Hotline (570) 462-2033

In case of emergency, call Fr. Oleksandr's cell phone @ 570-875-7715

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Reverend Oleksandr Dumenko – Administrator

December 05-13, 2009

27th Sunday after Pentecost, Feast of St. Nicholas

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday	December 5	3:30pm 4:00pm	Confessions +Charles & Mary Lazusky by <i>McAndrew Family</i>
Sunday	December 6	8:30am 9:00am	FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER Confessions +William Mallick by <i>Joe & Donna Paulubinski</i>
Monday	December 7	8:00am	+Katherine Komis & Stephen Crepack by <i>Special Intention</i>
Tuesday	December 8	6:00pm	VIGIL OF FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION +John Evans by <i>Wife Ann</i>
Friday	December 11	9:00am	+Olga Lebby by <i>Jerry & Irene Acalin</i>
Saturday	December 12	3:30pm 4:00pm	Confessions +Fred Koch by <i>Koch & Souchuk Families</i>
Sunday	December 13	10:30am 11:00am	Confessions For Our Parishioners

Welcome to Our Parishes!

"You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the Holy Ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the capstone. Through Him the whole structure is held together and grows into the temple sacred in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22) If you have come from some other parish or from another part of the country, we want you to know that you are welcome to join us in worship where Jesus Himself is our foundation and the Holy Spirit is our guide. It is an honor for us to see that people are seeking a spiritual home in our community.

Our Mission: Let us be a community filled with faith in God, love for our traditions and Church, and love for one another.

Important Announcements

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dues Reminder – As 2009 is slowly drawing to a close, those of you who have not yet paid your dues are reminded to do so. As you know, it is now \$25.00 per person per year. Thank you!

HOLY DAY - This notice is written to remind that the Holy Day of the Conception of St. Anne (Immaculate Conception) is celebrated on Wednesday, December 9th. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation. By decree of the Ukrainian Bishops of the Metropolitan Province of Philadelphia on November 30, 2006 this Holy Day has been re-appointed to its original celebration.

Christmas Pageant at Saint Michael's in Frackville

Saint Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in Frackville will host a Christmas Candlelight Processional Pageant on Sunday, December 6 at 4 p.m. The program will include the story of the Birth of Christ, with Scripture reading, a reenactment of the Nativity scene by the children of the parish, and an audience carols sing-a-long with many of the traditional Christmas carols. A brass ensemble will perform before the program and also provide accompaniment during the presentation. After the program, a

covered dish will be served in the parish hall and St. Nicholas will make his annual visit. The program is free and open to the public. For more information call the parish rectory: 874-1101.

Meeting of the South Anthracite Deanery Holy Name will be held on December 8, 2009 at 7pm at St. Michael's, Frackville.

Annual Festival of Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia. Choirs from different parishes will participate. Everyone is welcome.

ST. MICHAEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH MEETING! Our church is in need of a Parish Pastoral Council. Information received from Archbishop Stefan Soroka states that we need minimum six members for Pastoral Council in order to maintain our church. We invite interested people to come to the parish meeting which will be held on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:45pm at our church hall. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas confession will be held on Thursday December 10th at our church. Please avail yourself to take the opportunity to spiritually prepare yourself for the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Christmas Floral Tributes – As Christmas is approaching you can help decorate our church remembering your loved ones, both living and deceased by sponsoring a poinsettia in their name for special intention. The cost for small poinsettia is \$15.00, for large is \$25.00. All names will be displayed. You may drop your list and donation in the collection basket during the liturgy. Deadline is Monday, December. 14th.

Church decorating!!! We will be decorating our church for the Feast of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Thursday, December 17, starting at 9:30am. Volunteers to help with the decorating are needed and would be welcomed. Please come and help with this project. Thank you!

Christmas Nativity Pageant – On Sunday, December 20th in our church after Divine Liturgy, children of St. Michael's parish will present a Nativity Pageant. Everyone is welcome and feel free to invite your relatives and friends.

Visitation of the Sick and infirm: Thursday December 10th in Shenandoah and outlying areas. If there are additions to be made to the Holy Communion list, please call the rectory. Thank you.

2010 Sanctuary Lights & Liturgies – The Sanctuary Light & Liturgies schedule for 2010 is now available in the church vestibule. Also you may schedule liturgies for 2010 by contacting the rectory or dropping your requests into the collection basket during a Divine Liturgy. Thank you!

Catechism Classes - Religious education classes are held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in our church hall. All parents are reminded that it is your responsibility to see that your children attend.

St. Michael's Lector Schedule:

Saturday, December 05	Heb 13:17-21	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday, December 06		Sam Litwak
Saturday, December 12	Col.3:4-11	Michael Fufia
Sunday, December 13		Fay Datchko

Prayer Requests: Please remember our shut-ins and all those who have requested our Prayers:

Our Military Friends Serving Our Country

St. Michael

Sonia Elchishok	Mary Koleman	Jack Sims	Irene Bura
Mary Kovalich	Helen Beddall	Edward Sion	Eva Koch
Wladimir Dubiansky	Mary Kowalski	John Yawornitsky	Olga Dudish
Mike Kowalski	Evelyn Muzyka	Irene Yaroma	Helen Sims
Fay Datchko	Dolores Kozie	Anna Pappas	Denise Avillion
Olga Hatchel	Anna Smetana	Andrea Pytak	Susan Chernesky
Ellen Hitchens	Steve Kozie	Andriana Hud	Martha Hysock
Peter Bross	Anna Ratway	Kelly Jones	Olga Kurilla
Aaron Kegolis	Michael Corinchock	Tina Dixon	Marie Sion
Anne Prete	Caroline Dubiansky	Mark Nester	

WEEKLY INSPIRATION

**Food for thought: "Peace is not the absence of war but the presence of justice."
"The fall of a leaf is a whisper to the living." (Russian proverb)**

St. Nicholas

In many places St. Nicholas is the main gift giver. His fest Day is December 6, which falls early in the Advent season. Some places he arrives in the middle of November and moves about countryside, visiting schools and homes to find out if children have been good. Other places he comes in the night and finds carrots and hay for his horse along with children's lists. Small treats are left in shoes or stocking so the children will know he has come.

Where St. Nicholas is Prominent, his day, not Christmas, is the primary gift giving day. Parties may be held on the eve, December 5th, and shoes or stockings left for St. Nicholas to fill during the night. Children will find treats of small gifts, fruit or nuts, and special Nicholas candies and cookies. St. Nicholas gifts are meant to be shared, not hoarded for oneself.

St. Nicholas, *Sviatyj Mykolai*, comes to Ukraine on December 19th (in the Orthodox Julian calendar). It is a happy day with visiting and sleigh rides. Schools have plays telling Nicholas stories and the saint visits local churches. Dressed as a Byzantine bishop the good saint is often accompanied by angels. He quizzes children on their catechism before giving gifts. Today many Ukrainian churches have St. Nicholas celebrations to help children understand that the holy man Nicholas came long before Santa Claus. St. Nicholas history in Ukraine goes back to the 10th and 11th centuries. In churches, his icons are prominently placed on the iconostas, usually next to Jesus, the Mother of God, or the patron saint of the church. His icons were found also in nearly every home. In the mountains of western Ukraine where the Hutzels named the four seasons of the year after saints, winter honors St. Nicholas. *Cold Nicholas*, the familiar winter saint, is believed to bring the first snow by shaking his beard. Saint Nicholas as the patron of children since olden days makes us believe that our most cherished dreams will come true one day, he endows our hearts with kind feelings and inspires us to do good."

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

St. Michael:

Thursday, December 10, 2009: Christmas Confession

Monday, December 14, 2009: Pyrohy Sale.

Sunday, December 20, 2009: Christmas Nativity Pageant

Important Church Information

Rectory Office Hours Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Church Membership Membership in the Ukrainian Catholic Church includes the contribution of your annual dues, continual sustaining donations to your Church, and active participation in church activities. To make sure your contributions are recorded properly, please use your Church envelopes.

Baptisms Parents should attend church regularly for at least six months prior to the birth of the child. A baptism should be scheduled immediately after the birth of the child.

First Penance and Solemn First Holy Communion Anyone who plans to receive First Penance and Solemn First Holy Communion must attend Religious Instruction and Regular Liturgy with their family for at least two (2) years prior to these events.

Confession Confessions are held 1/2 hour before every liturgy & other times by request.

Marriages All couples contemplating marriage in the South Anthracite Deanery are required to attend counseling sessions. Please contact Father Oleksandr as soon as you make plans to wed.

Homebound If you are homebound and would like Father Oleksandr to visit you during First Friday visitations, please call the office to make sure your name is on the list.

Anointing of the Sick/illnesses The anointing of the Sick is not only for those who are gravely ill. This blessing of the sick is for anyone who is sick. If you are admitted into the hospital, please have the hospital or family member contact Father Oleksandr as soon as possible to inform him of your admittance. Due to hospital confidentiality rules, the hospitals no longer contact your clergy without permission to do so.

Deaths Have your funeral director contact the rectory immediately after the death to make proper funeral arrangements for your loved one. If you plan to be buried in one of our cemeteries, make sure you have a burial plot. Information is available in the rectory.

Purchase of Mass Cards, Sanctuary Lights, Votive Lights, etc. Contact the rectory during office hours for information and purchase.

Questions??? If you have any questions, contact Father Oleksandr during office hours.

Festal Tone

SLAVA ISUSU KHRYSTU! SLAVA NA VIKY!

Please remember about your church in your Testament!