

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

114 South Chestnut Street, Shenandoah, Pennsylvania 17976

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

North Morris Street, Saint Clair, Pennsylvania 17970

Rectory (570) 462-0809 Fax (570) 462-0517 St. Michael's Oak St. Hall (570) 462-2424

St. Michael's Pierogie Hotline (570) 462-2424

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Like us on Facebook @St Michael's Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Follow us on twitter @stmichaelukr

Msgr. Myron Grabowsky – Parish Priest

Sunday January 25th, 2015 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 24 th	3:30pm +Anna Smetana by Robert & Lois Patrick
Sunday, January 25 th	10:30am God's Blessings on His People
Tuesday, January 27 th	NO DIVINE LITURGY No Bible Study
Wednesday, January 28 th	NO DIVINE LITURGY 6:30pm Prayer Group- Sister Natalya & Sister Zenovia will lead this evening
<i>Three Holy Hierarchs</i>	
Thursday, January 29 th	5:00pm + Richard Singmaster by Betty Ann & Staff
Saturday, January 31 st	3:30pm +Michael P Bereschak by Sisters, Mary & Helen
Sunday, February 1 st	10:30am God's Blessings on His People

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 24 th	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary 5:30pm +Rita Renhert by James & Anna Renhert
Sunday, January 25 th	8:30am + Mary Toth by Bob & Sue Prokop
Monday, January 26 th	NO DIVINE LITURGY
<i>Three Holy Hierarchs</i>	
Friday, January 30 th	8:00am Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday, January 31 st	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary 5:30pm 2 nd Anniversary +Michael Skrincosky by Margaret Skrincosky
Sunday, February 1 st	8:30am +Frank & +Mary Homa by Frank and Dorothy Homa

St. Michael's Lector Schedule:

Saturday, January 24 th	2 Tim 3:10-15	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday, January 25 th	2 Tim 3:10-15	Stephanie Rarick
Saturday, January 31 st	1 Cor 6:12-20	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, February 1 st	1 Cor 6:12-20	Sam Litwak

St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:

Saturday, January 24 th	2 Tim 3:10-15	Bernadette Bremer
Sunday, January 25 th	2 Tim 3:10-15	Dolores Sadusky
Saturday, January 31 st	1 Cor 6:12-20	Andrew Skrincosky
Sunday, February 1 st	1 Cor 6:12-20	Theresa Panchison

A shut mouth gathers no foot.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

St. Michael:

Pierogie Sale- The next pierogie sale is sold out .. but we still need your help. Any time you can give to help prep and make pierogies is appreciated. The next sale is Monday , February 16th .

Thank you to everyone who cleaned up the Church after Christmas. It was a big job and it was done with grace. Thanks again.

Condolences- Sincere sympathy is offered to the friends and family of +Robert Beddall who feel asleep in the Lord. We pray Almighty God grant him a place of rest where there is no sorrow or mourning but life everlasting. May the memory of +Robert be eternal. Vichnaya Pamyat

St. Nicholas:

Divine Liturgies- Msgr. would like to send some of the older Liturgy requests that have not been filled to the Archbishops Chancery. This would allow these older requests to be said in a timelier manner. If you have requests that are still open please contact the rectory if you wish for them to be sent to the Chancery. Thank you for your help and understanding on this issue.

Sanctuary Light- Dates Available 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/15 & 3/29.

Condolences- Sincere sympathy is offered to the friends and family of +Paul Dash who feel asleep in the Lord. We pray Almighty God grant him a place of rest where there is no sorrow or mourning but life everlasting. May the memory of +Paul be eternal. Vichnaya Pamyat !

Divine Liturgy cancelation- If there is a two hour delay or cancelation of the St. Clair schools due to bad weather , we will not have Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas.

Both Churches:

Msgr. Grabowsky will be away at a conference from Sunday, January 25th to Thursday January 28th. We welcome Fr. John Wysochansky to celebrate Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 25th. If you have an emergency, please leave a message on the rectory phone and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Fr. Michael Hutsko and Fr. Mark Fesniak will be covering urgent issues during Msgr's absence. All other issues will be handled by the rectory. The rectory is open from 10am to 3pm Monday to Thursday, weather permitting.

Rectory Office Closings- If local schools are canceled due to bad weather the office will be closed. If there is a 2 hour delay school opening the office will not open till 11 am. Thank you for your understanding.

Food Donation PLEASE HELP - Our cupboard is getting bare .. We are in need of donations to continue to help those in need in our community. Nonperishable items with unexpired dates are appreciated, pasta, sauce, peanut butter, jelly, fruits, veggies, macaroni & cheese, soups, canned pasta's, tuna, canned meats, rice, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars and snacks, mixes that only need water. Toiletry products such as toilet paper, soap & shampoo are also welcome.

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate cordially invite you to St. Mary's Villa, on Sunday, February 8th as we celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life as declared by Pope Francis. We encourage you to "Come and See" and visit with the Sisters Servants for an afternoon. The Open House is from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. The address is 150 Sisters Servants Lane, Sloatsburg, NY 10974. A schedule of the day is posted. If you would like to join us or have any questions regarding this day, please call Sr. Kathleen at 845-753-2840 or email at srkath25@gmail.com by February 2, 2015. We would like to plan accordingly for the number people attending the Divine Liturgy and lunch.

Both Churches

Special Collection – The collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe eases the way for people of the region by helping Catholic organizations offer affordable shelter, train seminarians, and provide pastoral care and catechesis. Your donation today help to restore the Church and build the future in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Please be generous to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Visit www.uscb.org (search Church in Central and Eastern Europe) to learn more about the important projects funded by the collection.

THE FIVE DAYS OF ALL SOULS (SOROKOUSTY)

LAST WEEK FOR SUBMISSIONS- PLEASE

We need to update our All Souls Lists 2015.

We will be returning to the traditional listing of only the Family Name of the one making the request and only the first names of the departed.

If you wish your departed loved ones remembered in the Dyptychs on these special days , please fill out the form below and return it in the special offering envelopes marked “Sorokousty” included in your envelope box .

All Requests must be returned by Sun. February 1st.

—————clip here—————

Kindly include the following names of these beloved souls in the DYPTYCHS to be commemorated during the Panahyda on the 5 All Souls Days. If your list has not changed since 2014 simply check here. _____ Remember to complete the form with your own name, so we can contact you with any questions.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

use extra paper if necessary — please print!!!

YOUR NAME: _____

FROM THE LETTERS OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH #11. “These are the last times for the rest, let us be shamed, and fearful of God’s long suffering, lest it become a judgment made against us. For we should either be fearful of the wrath that is to come or else love the gracious gift which is now present to us – one of the two, as long as we obtain true life in Jesus Christ. Apart from Him there is nothing of value for you.”

POPE FRANCIS

MORNING MEDITATION IN THE CHAPEL OF THE *DOMUS SANCTAE MARTHAE*

Hardened hearts Friday, 9 January 2015

(by *L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly ed. in English, n. 3, 16 January 2015)

A hardened heart is unable to comprehend even the greatest miracles. But “how does a heart become hardened?”, Pope Francis asked during Mass at Santa Marta on Friday morning.

In the passage of the Gospel according to Mark (6:45-52), we read that the disciples “did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened”. Yet, Francis explained, “they were the Apostles, the ones closest to Jesus. But they didn’t understand”. Even witnessing the miracle, even having “seen that those people — more than 5,000 — had eaten of five loaves”, they didn’t comprehend. “Why? Because their hearts were hardened”.

The Pope said that many times in the Gospel, Jesus “speaks of hardness of the heart”, He rebukes “the stiff-necked people”, He weeps over Jerusalem, “which doesn’t understand who He is”. The Lord is faced with this hardness: it is “such work” for Jesus “to make this heart more docile, to remove the hardness, to make it loving”, Francis continued. And this work continues after the Resurrection, with the disciples of Emmaus and many others.

However, the Pontiff asked, “how does a heart become hardened? How is it possible that these people, who were always with Jesus, every day, who heard Him, saw Him... their hearts hardened. But how can a heart become like this?”. The Pope recounted: “Yesterday, I asked my secretary: Tell me, how does a heart become hardened? He helped me think a bit about this”. Francis went on to indicate a series of circumstances that each person might face in his or her own personal experience.

First of all, Francis said, the heart “becomes hardened through painful experiences, through harsh experiences”. This is the situation of those who “have lived a very painful experience and don’t want to begin another adventure”. This is just what happened to the disciples of Emmaus after the Resurrection, and the Pontiff set the scene: “‘There is too much, too much commotion, so let’s get away from here, because...’. — Because what? — ‘Eh, we were hoping this would be the Messiah, He wasn’t there, I don’t want to delude myself again, I don’t want to create illusions!’”.

This is a heart hardened by a “painful experience”. The same thing happened to Thomas: “No, no, I don’t believe it. Unless I place my finger there, I won’t believe it”. The disciples’ hearts were hard “because they had suffered”. And in this regard, Francis recalled a popular Argentine saying: “One who burns himself with milk will cry when he sees a cow”. In other words, he explained, “that painful experience keeps us from opening our heart”.

Another reason the heart becomes hardened is “becoming closed inside oneself: making a world within oneself”. This happens when man is “closed inside himself, in his community or

in his parish". It is a closing off which "can turn round many things": such as "pride, sufficiency, thinking that I'm better than others", or even "vanity". The Pope indicated: "There are 'mirror' men and women, who are closed within themselves to watch themselves, constantly"; they could be defined as "religious narcissists". They "have hard hearts because they are closed, they aren't open. And they try to protect themselves with these walls they build around themselves".

There is yet another reason that the heart becomes hardened: insecurity. It is experienced by those who think: "I don't feel secure and I am trying to hang on to something to be secure". This attitude is typical of people "who really stick to the letter of the law". This happens, the Pontiff explained, "with the Pharisees, with the Sadducees, with the doctors of the law in the time of Jesus". They would have objected: "But the law says this, it says this up to here...", and thus "they would make another commandment"; in the end, "the poor souls, they were leaning on 300-400 commandments and they felt secure".

In reality, Francis pointed out, all of them "were secure people, but as a man or woman in a prison cell is secure behind the bars: it's a security without freedom". However, it is actually freedom that "Jesus came to bring us". St Paul, for example, rebukes James and Peter "because they do not accept the freedom that Jesus has brought us".

Hence the response to the initial question: "How does a heart become hardened?". The heart in fact, "when it hardens, is not free and if it isn't free it's because it does not love". This concept is expressed in the day's First Reading (1 Jn 4:11-18), in which the Apostle John speaks of "perfect love" which "casts out fear". Indeed, "'there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love.' He isn't free. He always fears that something painful or sad might happen", which could cause us to "go the wrong way in life or to risk eternal salvation". Instead, this is only imagined, simply because that heart doesn't love. The disciples' hearts, the Pope explained, "were hardened because they still hadn't learned how to love".

Thus, here, we can ask: "Who teaches us how to love? Who frees us from this hardness?". The Pope's answer: "the Holy Spirit alone" can do so. "You can take a thousand courses in catechesis, a thousand courses in spirituality, a thousand courses in yoga, Zen and all these things. But all of this will never be able to give you the freedom of the Son". Only the Holy Spirit "moves your heart to say 'Father'"; He alone "is capable of casting out, of breaking this hardness of the heart" and of making it "docile to the Lord. Docile to the freedom of love". It is no coincidence that the disciples' hearts were "hardened until the day of the Ascension", when they said to the Lord: "Now the revolution will happen and the Kingdom will come!". However, "they didn't understand a thing". In reality, "only when the Holy Spirit came, did things change".

Therefore, the Pontiff concluded, “let us ask the Lord for the grace to have a docile heart: that He save us from the slavery of a hardened heart” and “lead us to that beautiful freedom of perfect love, the freedom of the children of God, which the Holy Spirit alone can give”.

PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



We prepare for the coming of Great Lent, today, January 25, 2015 marks the Sunday of the Pharisee and Tax Collector (Publican). This parable found in the fourteenth chapter of Luke, speaks of the Pharisee and the tax collector who go to the Temple to pray. The Ukrainian Church places this gospel each year just before the beginning of Lent to remind us about the virtue of humility. Humility in this context really raises the question as to whether our own good works, our own noble efforts, justify us before God, or whether we are radically dependent on god’s good pleasure for our justification. The Pharisee was proud of his virtue and looked down on everyone else. The publican was aware of his sinfulness and begged for mercy. Jesus draws two conclusions from the parable.

The first conclusion is particular: The humble publican went home justified; the proud Pharisee did not. The second conclusion is general: “For all who exalt themselves will be humbled but those who humble themselves will be exalted.” If you take a moment and really think about this parable you will find yourself asking questions that challenge the very simplicity of the story. Doesn’t Jesus seem to be quite hard on the Pharisee? Wasn’t he, all in all, a pretty good guy? Is there something wrong with being faithful to prayer and fasting and justice? What was so great about the tax collector? The incisive moral point of this parable is the contrast between two views of justification before God. The Pharisee believes he is justified because he has perfectly performed the works of the law. The publican realizes that he has no self-justification and has no choice but to throw himself on the mercy of God. In so doing, he finds justification. The Christian doctrine of justification would be more fully developed by St. Paul, particularly in his Letter to the Romans (see Chapters 3,4, and 5). But St. Paul’s doctrine is rooted in the teaching of Jesus in this parable. The heart of the doctrine is that we cannot justify ourselves; we can only be justified by faith in Jesus Christ. Though the Pharisees as a specific religious sect have disappeared from the scene, many of us Christians are still far too pharisaical. We sorely need to learn the lesson of this parable. It is for this reason that our church places this Gospel so close to Lent, the time of preparation and repentance. It is for this reason that our Church is always chanting “Lord have mercy.”

ASAP: Always Say A Prayer

FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

In the name of the Christian Community, the dedicated and devoted Fathers of the Church taught and defended the faith in the True God, who blessed them and their endeavors. Among such personalities of the Church of Christ are the three outstanding theologians and Fathers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom. These renowned and eminent Fathers are recognized as the Three Hierarchs and Doctors of the Church of Christ. They are acknowledged as such by the One Undivided Ecumenical Church, East and West, which designated a feast day by honoring the Three Hierarchs as Doctors of the Saints. This feast day dates back to the tenth century and is celebrated on January 30th.

GO TO CONFESSION!

Jesus healed people in many different ways. Some he healed by merely thinking the thought, some he healed by saying a word, some he healed by a touch but he healed the man born blind (the Gospel according to Saint John) by spitting on the ground, mixing his spittle with the dirt with his finger and then applying the mud to the eyes of the blind man telling him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. In much the same way, Jesus heals our self-inflicted wounds caused by our sins. He tell us to go to the priest to obtain forgiveness and healing. In humbling ourselves by asking a man, the priest, to hear our confession we give Jesus the opportunity to use the priest as he used mud to absolve us from our sins and to heal us. The priest is the mud. It is Jesus who heals.

The Lesson of the Coffee Bean

A daughter complained to her father about how hard things were for her.” As soon as I solve one problem,” she said, “another one comes up. I’m tired of struggling.”

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen where he filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In one he placed carrots, in the second, eggs, and in the last, ground coffee beans. He let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

The daughter impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After a while, he went over and turned off the burners. He fished out the carrots and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them a bowl. He poured the coffee into a bowl.

Turning to her he asked, “Darling, what do you see?” “Carrots, eggs, and coffee,” she replied.

He brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hardboiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. She smiled, as she tasted its rich flavor.

She asked, “What does it mean, Father?” He explained that each of them had faced the same adversity – boiling water – but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg was fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. By being in the boiling water, they changed the water.

He asked his daughter, “When adversity knocks on your door, which are you?”

Church Information

Rectory Hours- Monday – Thursday 10:00am- 3:00 pm - phone 570-462-0809 Closed holidays

Baptisms: Please contact the rectory a week or more in advance.

Confessions: By appointment, before Divine Liturgy or check your bulletin schedule.

Marriages: Those planning marriages must be active members of the parish, and must contact the pastor at least 6 months in advance. Marriage preparation for couples is required

Emergencies & Pastoral Care: Please call the pastor if a parishioner is hospitalized or home bound and is in need of the Eucharist or Anointing of the Sick.

New Parishioners are urged to register in the rectory office. Moving? Change of address? Please notify the rectory.

Letters of Recommendation: for Sponsors of the sacraments will be issued only to active members of the parish who are registered with the parish, receiving sacraments and supporting the parish.

Mass Cards, Sanctuary Lights, and Other Candles etc.: Contact the rectory during office hours for information.

Questions: Please contact the rectory, or see Msgr. Myron.

Weekly Contributions

Parishes Weekly Income: **St. Michael:** Contribution- \$2,657.50 Thank You!

St. Nicholas: Contribution- \$1,622.00 Thank You!

Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas- In Memory of+ Monsignor Peter Skrincosky by Mr & Mrs Andrew Skrincosky

Sanctuary Light: St. Michael- God's Blessings on Rest Haven Staff & Residents by Toni Poppert Huntzinger

Seven Branch Candlestick- God's Blessings For & In Memory of the Blaschak & Wolfe Families

4 Lamps of the Iconostas – God's Blessings and Good Health for my Family.

Lamps of the Crucifix

Lights of the Tetrapod- Deceased Members of +Szczyglak Family by Andrew Szczyglak

Lights of the Tabernacle-

God bless you for your love and devotion to your parish!

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

Our Military Friends Serving Our Country,

St. Michael

Sonya Elchishak
Eva Koch
Dolores Kozie
Martha Hysock
Sandy Bankes*
Edward Sion

Olga Kurilla
Helen Beddall
Irene Flaherty
Tom Prete
Susan Chernesky
Maya Usewicz

Susan Enders
Dolores O'Connell Leahy
Roseanne Nause
Helen Sims
Mary Mazur
Keilbasa Family*

Christine Lenhart*
& Rosemary (Mother)
Bill McAndrew*
Andrea Pytak

St. Nicholas

Helen Salak
Helen Seamon
Mary Mistishen
Joseph Luckenbill
Robert O'Connor

Peter Kadingo
Jeanette Stock
Mary Kadingo

Laura Seasock
Anna Skrincosky
Catherine Washuta
Elizabeth Gulas

Joseph Salak
Elmer Gulas
Walter Mistishen
Andrew Skrincosky

Items in this bulletin are from Fr. Daniel & St Josephat's Bulletin , Archbishop Chancery, Vatican Website , Father Fields & Mustard Seeds by M. Kelly

Shout with joy and your blessings will echo!