

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

Email- stmichaelsukrainian@verizon.net Website- www.first-ukrainian.com

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

Follow us on twitter @stmichaelukr

Msr. Myron Grabowsky – Parish Priest

Sunday February 1st, 2015 Sunday of the Prodigal Son

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 31st 3:30pm +Michael P Bereschak by Sisters, Mary & Helen
 Sunday, February 1st 10:30am God's Blessings on His People
Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon
 Monday, February 2nd 9:00am +Marie Sion by Theresa Panchision
 Tuesday, February 3rd 5:00pm God's Blessings on Harvey Birch by Charles Calise & Helen O'Connell
 No Bible Study
 Wednesday, February 4th 5:00pm +Edward Kalinowski by Teeka Garbarino
 6:30pm Prayer Group
 Friday, February 6th 8:00am Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
 Saturday, February 7th 3:30pm +Helen Mellon by J. Sawka Family
 Sunday, February 8th 10:30am +Charles & +Mary Lazusky by William & Irene Mc Andrew

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 31st 8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary
 5:30pm 2nd Anniversary +Michael Skrincoosky by Margaret Skrincoosky
 Sunday, February 1st 8:30am +Frank & +Mary Homa by Frank and Dorothy Homa
Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon
 Sunday, February 1st 4:00pm Birthday Remembrance +Martha Homovich by Tom Shoopak
 Thursday, February 5th 8:00am +Virginia Covach by Husband, Bill Covach
 Saturday, February 7th 8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary
 5:30pm +Msgr. Peter Skrincoosky by Skrincoosky Families
 Sunday, February 8th 8:30am God's Blessings on His People

St. Michael's Lector Schedule:

Saturday, January 31 st	1 Cor 6:12-20	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, February 1 st	1 Cor 6:12-20	Sam Litwak
Saturday, February 7 th	1 Cor 8:8-9:2	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday, February 8 th	! Cor 8:8-9:2	Michelle Caputo

St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:

Saturday, January 31 st	1 Cor 6:12-20	Andrew Skrincoosky
Sunday, February 1 st	1 Cor 6:12-20	Theresa Panchision
Saturday, February 7 th	1 Cor 8:8-9:2	Christine Romanko
Sunday, February 8 th	! Cor 8:8-9:2	Lee Ann Smulligan

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 .

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.

Divine Liturgy cancellation- 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:

Tax Receipts- Anyone who needs a donation receipt for tax purposes please contact the office from 10am - 3pm Monday-Thursday, and we will be happy to provide it ☺ Thank You.

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 11am. Thank you for your understanding.

Food Donation PLEASE HELP - Our cupboard is almost 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.

Women's Day Come gather with women of the Archeparchy to pray, reflect and grow spiritually while being inspired to contribute actively to the spiritual development of your family members and fellow parishioners. The Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Holy Confession) will be available shortly before Divine Liturgy and throughout the Day. *Our day begins at 11:00 a.m. with Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Grace, Metropolitan Stefan Soroka. You may join us on either date : SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2015, at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church 217 President Street, Passaic, New Jersey 07055 OR SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2015 at Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church 1564 Allentown Road, Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446* for a registration form please contact the rectory.

Marriage Preparation- For those contemplating marriage in the near future , a preparation workshop will be offered Saturday April 18th and Saturday May 2nd in Melrose Park Pa . Anyone interested should contact the rectory for more information.

Both Churches

Special Collection – Thank you for your generous contributions to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your gift is an expression of solidarity with the suffering people of this region. Through joining in this collection, you are helping to restore the Church and build the future. Please visit www.uscb.org (search Church in Central and Eastern Europe) to learn more about what your donations have accomplished.

THE MEETING OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON



Monday, February 2nd we will celebrate the Meeting of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple with Simeon. The gospel reads: *“Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now let thou thy servant depart in peace...”* (Luke 2:28-29). In this beautiful scene, the aged Simeon takes the Baby Jesus up in his arms and expresses his delight and joy to God in a brief prayer. We often picture Jesus taking little children in his arms but this thought of another receiving Jesus into his arms is much less familiar to us. Taking Jesus into his arms was an act of will by Simeon. The Spirit had prepared him to meet Jesus at the correct moment and had providentially brought them together. There are critical moments in life when everything depends upon immediate submission to the impulse of the Spirit. The impulse may come as a voice, or as a feeling of right or wrong. But the voice does not always give the answer we expect or hope to hear. More often it presents a challenge that we may or may not choose to answer. The decision is always ours. Simeon was driven under the impulse of the Spirit to hurry into the Temple, and when he was confronted with the Christ Child, he accepted Him into his arms immediately overlooking the poverty, the humility, or the apparent insignificance of the family. The impulse of the Spirit told him this was to be his only opportunity to see Christ. He seized it. This was the end of his long vigil of waiting. *“Lord, now let thou thy servant depart in peace.”* Are we waiting for a closer relationship with Christ? We must, like Simeon, seize the many opportunities the Church gives us to worship Him, to learn about Him, and to share our love and knowledge of Him with others so that we may repeat with Simeon: *“Lord now let thou thy servant depart in peace.”*

The storm shall pass. Meanwhile, dance in the rain!

POPE FRANCIS

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

Going out to give life Tuesday, 9 December 2014

(by *L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly ed. in English, n. 50, 12 December 2014)

The Pontiff began his homily Tuesday morning with the day's First Reading from the Book of Isaiah (40:1-11), in which the Prophet proclaims God's comfort to Israel. This prophetic promise passes through all history to reach us today. But when is it fulfilled in the Church?

Pope Francis recalled that, as "a person is comforted when he feels the Lord's mercy and forgiveness, the Church celebrates; she is happy to go out of herself". The joy of the Church is to "give birth", and to "come out of herself in order to give life". In other words, the joy of the Church is to "go out in search of those sheep who are lost", and to witness to "that very tenderness of the shepherd, the tenderness of the mother".

In recalling the words from the Gospel of Matthew (18:12-14), the Pope highlighted the impetus that drives the shepherd "who goes out", who "goes to look for" the lost and missing sheep. Yet, this zealous shepherd "can keep count like a prudent businessman". He loses one of 99, but his balance sheet still shows plenty of assets. However, Francis indicated, he "has the heart of a shepherd, he goes out to search" and, when he finds that one, "he celebrates, he is joyful".

"The joy of going out in search of faraway brothers and sisters" is born in the same manner. "This is the joy of the Church". It is precisely in this way that the Church "becomes mother, becomes fruitful". On the contrary, the Pontiff admonished, when the Church doesn't do this, "she stands still inside, she is closed within herself", even though "she might be well organized". And in this manner she becomes "a discouraged, anxious, sad Church; a Church who is more spinster than mother; and this Church isn't useful", such a Church is no more than a museum.

The end of the passage from Isaiah returns to the image of a shepherd who "will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young". This is "the joy of the Church: going out of herself and becoming fruitful", as in the time of Israel, when Isaiah proclaimed to the people those words of comfort offered by the Lord. Thus, in rereading this passage the Church opens herself to joy. She receives strength. Because the people are in "need of comfort". The same presence of the Lord "comforts, always comforts, either firmly or mildly, but it always comforts". Indeed, the Pope stated, wherever the Lord is, "there is comfort and peace". Even in tribulations, he added, "peace is there", the peace "that is the presence of the Lord who comforts".

Unfortunately, men tend to run away from consolation. "We have mistrust, we are more comfortable in our things, and also more comfortable in our shortcomings, in our sins". It is here that man feels more at ease rather than "when the Spirit comes and comfort comes". This

leads us to a condition beyond our control: the state of “abandonment in the Lord’s comfort”. It is in this situation that peace and joy arrive, as recalled in this beautiful expression of Hezekiah: “‘unto peace he hath changed my bitterness’, for the Lord went there in order to comfort”. It is also recited in the “Psalm of the prisoners in Jerusalem, in Babylon: ‘When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream’ — they didn’t believe it! — ‘our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy’”.

Indeed, when “the comfort of the Lord” arrives, “it disturbs us. It’s He, not we, who commands. And the strongest comfort is that of mercy and of forgiveness”, as Isaiah proclaims: “cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins”. From this point came the Pope’s call for reflection on how God’s generosity cannot be transcended. “You have sinned 100 times, partake 200 times of joy: this is how God’s mercy is when He comes to comfort”, Francis explained.

Nevertheless, man tries to back away, because “this gives us some fear, a bit of mistrust: ‘It’s too much, Lord!’”. In order to render understandable the infinite quality of God’s mercy, the Pontiff returned to the words of the Prophet Ezekiel, in Chapter 16, following “the list of so many sins of the people, so very many, he says at the end: ‘But I will not abandon you; I will give you more, this will be my punishment: consolation and forgiveness’”. He is truly like this, “our God, the God who comforts in mercy and in forgiveness”. This is why it’s good to repeat: “Let yourselves be comforted by the Lord, He alone can comfort us”.

Francis added that we so often “‘hire out’ small consolations”, but these consolations “are useless, they may help but they aren’t useful”. In fact, what’s useful to us is only what “comes from the Lord, with his forgiveness and our humility. When the heart humbles itself, that comfort comes” and we can be carried forth “by this joy, this peace”.

The Pontiff concluded with an invocation to the Lord, that “He grant us the grace to work, to be Christians” who are “joyful in the fruitfulness of Mother Church”, and that He save us from the danger of “falling into the attitude of these sad, impatient, mistrustful, anxious Christians” who, in the Church, have all that is perfect, yet bear no fruit. The Pope asked God to console us with “the comfort of a Mother Church who goes out of herself” and with “the comfort of Jesus’ tenderness his mercy in the forgiveness of our sins”.



Worry ends where faith begins !
Learn to accept the apologies you
never get !



PENANCE AND SELF-DENIAL

Today more than ever there is a crying need for self-denial and control. Greed and selfishness characterize many segments of society. Advertising preys on this and bombards us with a barrage of high-tech, high-powered come-ons to the good life of unbridled pleasure and self-gratification.

Out in this pervasive consumer wilderness, the lone voice of the Church cries out, strongly advocating penance and discipline. In the past, “*giving up*” took on a character of its own and was largely disconnected from the rest of Christian life. It almost became an end in itself. Breaking certain penances carried the penalty of sin. No meat on

Friday certainly stands out, as do fast and abstinence during Great Lent. Giving up a favorite pleasure like sweets or movies was strongly urged. A successful Great Lent meant not breaking these rules.

Our Church views penance in a more positive way, as a means to a higher end, used to bolster higher principles of Christian life. The chosen penance of Great Lent and the other three Lenten Seasons of the year, should help us renew our baptismal commitment as Christians, since that is what these seasons are all about. We need to subordinate our penances to the purposes they serve. Therefore, the penance or discipline chosen should be in light of this renewal. Even as simple a practice as “*giving up*” should have as its purpose strengthening us to live a Christian life more fully.

Highly recommended are penances that take us from quiet, self-conscious isolation to sharing ourselves with the community. Becoming involved, serving others, growing in the knowledge and understanding of our faith, attendance at the extra church services, additional private prayer, using our time and talents and resources to promote justice and peace — any one of these far outweighs giving up sweets.

Lenten Services

Sunday, February 15th Forgiveness Vespers – Protection of the Mother of God, Mc Adoo

Sunday, February 22nd Stations of the Cross- Transfiguration of Our Lord ,Shamokin

Sunday, March 1st Stations of the Cross- St.. Michael’s, Shenandoah

Sunday, March 8th Stations of the Cross- Ss. Peter & Paul, Mt Carmel

Sunday, March 15th Stations of the Cross- St. Michael’s , Frackville

Sunday, March 22nd Stations of the Cross- St. Nicholas , St Clair

Sunday, March 29th Stations of the Cross- St. Nicholas, Minersville

Confession Schedule will be available next week

BLESSING OF CANDLES

In many parishes candles are blessed on the Holy Day of the Meeting of the Lord (Streteniye) on February 2. This is done to emphasize the reference to Christ as “a Light” in Luke 2:32. These blessed candles are used in the church and are usually available for use in the home. In some parishes, people bring their own candles, sometimes beautifully decorated, to be blessed. These candles are used at the Holy Supper on Christmas Eve, at the blessing of the home, in the room of the sick or dying, at Pascha, etc. They are sometimes called “thunder” or “hromnitza” candles and are lighted during storms and lightning.

The lighting of candles is a must in the Ukrainian Church. No service can be held without them. We can trace their use down the centuries from Acts 20:8 where the disciples met for services and “there were many lamps.” In the 2nd century, Tertullian wrote: “we never hold a service without candles in order to represent Christ, the Uncreated Light, without Whom we would in broad daylight wander as if lost in darkness.”

This custom continued as we note St. Jerome wrote in the 4th century. In all Eastern Churches, candles are lit in the daytimes not to dispel the darkness but as a sign of joy to feel that Light of which we read in the Psalms.” Psalm 119:105: “Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.”

Three centuries later St. Sopronius wrote: “Lampadas and candles represent the Eternal Light”

The Holy Canons of the Church formulated at the 7th Ecumenical Council (787) that the holy Icons, relics, Cross and Holy Gospel were to be honored by censing and candles lighted before them.

Candles are held by the faithful at various services held in the church. A few of them are at weddings, baptisms, funerals, memorial services, Holy Thursday, and Holy Friday, etc.

There are many symbolic meanings given but they all point to the “Light.” St. Seraphim wrote: “Let our heart glow with love and our life shine with light before our Lord like the flame of a taper before His Icon.”

Next time you are in church, light a candle for a special intention. It is a centuries and centuries old tradition.

A NOTE ON GIVING – CHURCH SUPPORT

Does God “need” our money? Well, when you consider that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, which in essence means He owns it all and as a matter of fact has created everything containing any value...well...you get the point. God is not a “needy” God, however, we need to learn to be givers!

He wants you to do this cheerfully, with merry hearts delighting that you have the opportunity to give.

You are in a position to receive God’s blessings because you have the opportunity to give to the Church of Our Lord. Your faithfulness in giving is appreciated, but most importantly, never overlooked by God.

Your faith will be rewarded.

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- \$1,414.60 Thank You!

St. Nicholas: Contribution- \$819.00 Cemetery \$500.00 Thank You!

Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas- In Memory of +Midred Kreiger by Michael & Janet Buchinsky

Sanctuary Light: St. Michael- In Memory of +Peter & +Anna Slatick by Son, John

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- In Memory of +Anna Lefchick & +Mary Lazusky by Bill & Irene McAndrew

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

Few burdens are heavy when everybody lifts