

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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Follow us on twitter @stmichaelukr

Msgr. Myron Grabowsky – Parish Priest

Sunday February 22nd , 2015 First Sunday of the Great Fast

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 21 st	3:30pm 1 st Anniversary of +Anna Smetana by Smetana Family
Sunday, February 22 nd	10:30am +Eleanor Souchak Bereschak by Helen & Mary 3:00pm Stations of the Cross- Transfiguration of Our Lord , Shamokin
Tuesday, February 24 th	9:00am Typica No Bible Study
Wednesday, February 25 th	9:00am Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts & Syrokousty 6:30pm Prayer Group
Thursday, February 26 th	8:00am Typica
Saturday, February 28 th	3:30pm +Viola Mahutsky by Winifred Mohutsky & Family
Sunday, March 1 st	10:30am 40 th Day +Michael Vislosky by Michele Peters & Family 3:00pm Stations of the Cross- St. Michael's, Shenandoah

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 21 st	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary & Syrokousty 5:30pm +Florence Wapinski by Thomas & Jeanette Stock
Sunday, February 22 nd	8:30am God's Blessings on His People 3:00pm Stations of the Cross- Transfiguration of Our Lord , Shamokin
Monday, February 23 rd	8:00am Typica
Friday, February 27 th	5:00pm Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Saturday, February 28 th	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary & Syrokousty 5:30pm +Msgr Peter Skrincosky by Andrew & Anna Skrincosky
Sunday, March 1 st	8:30am God's Blessings on His People 3:00pm Stations of the Cross- St. Michael's, Shenandoah

St. Michael's Lector Schedule:

Saturday, February 21 st	Heb 11:24-26,32-12:2	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday, February 22 nd	Heb 11:24-26 32-12:2	Charles Calise
Saturday, February 28 th	Heb 1:10-2:3	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, March 1 st	Heb 1:10-2:3	Alice Breznik

St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:

Saturday, February 21 st	Heb 11:24-26,32-12:2	Bernadette Bremer
Sunday, February 22 nd	Heb 11:24-26 32-12:2	Lauralee Sadusky
Saturday, February 28 th	Heb 1:10-2:3	David Toth
Sunday, March 1 st	Heb 1:10-2:3	Dolores Sadusky

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

St. Michael:

Lenten Fish Dinners- We will have 2 Lenten Fish dinners: Friday ,March 6 & Friday , March 27th Dinner to include : Baked fish, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw , roll, dessert, coffee or tea \$8.50 a plate. Eat in or take out. . Reservations for March 6th are needed by Monday March 2nd . Reservations for March 27th are needed by Monday March 23rd . Please call 570-462-0809 to reserve your place or sign up in the back of the Church.

Desserts needed: for NEXT SUNDAY. We are asking for your help. **we need desserts** for the **Stations of the Cross on March 1st**.

Desserts needed -We also need desserts for our **Fish Dinners on March 6th & 27th**. Please help us make this fundraiser a success. Thank you !

Easter Bread Sale: We are once again selling Easter Breads made by a local church. The rolls are Nut, Poppy, Apricot, or Poppy/Raisin for \$12.00 each. The Paska's are \$7.00 for Plain and 7.50 for Raisin.. You can place your orders on the order form at the back of the church or call 570-462-0809. Order deadline is March 10th. Bread pick up will be Saturday March 28th at 12 noon. Please pay for breads when you order. Thank you.

Pierogie Sale- Thank you to everyone who works hard to make this sale happen. Our pierogie sale raised \$2,013.00. GREAT JOB! 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, March 16th .

Sick calls will be Tuesday, February 24th , weather permitting.

St. Nicholas:

Sanctuary Light- Dates Available 3/15.

Sick calls will be Thursday, February 26th , weather permitting.

Both Churches:

Deanery Lenten Raffle Once again this year , the parishes of our deanery are sponsoring a Luck Three Raffle to benefit Ukrainian Seminary Day and St. Josephat Seminary. There are 3 prizes available , \$500.00, \$200.00 and \$50.00. Tickets are \$1.00 each and are available now at the back of the church or at the rectory office . The drawing is Sunday March 29th at Stations of the Cross on Palm Sunday. Envelopes containing 5 tickets each are available at the back of the Church , please return your ticket stubs and money in the same envelope .Please feel free to take as many as you believe you can sell. More tickets are available.

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.

Lenten Services 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.

Both Churches

Divine Mercy Parish Lenten Dinners Date of Dinner: Tuesday, March 10th or March 18th **Where:** St. Stephen Church Hall **Time of Pick Up:** 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM **Cost:** \$8.00 Take Out Only! **Choice of Dinners:** Devil Crab or Fish Dinner or Chicken Finger **Dinner Deadline for Orders:** March 3rd for March 10th and March 11th for March 18th . Please contact Divine Mercy Rectory to place orders 570-462-1968.

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.

DATE CHANGE : NOW MARCH 22ND A Special Moleben Prayer and Healing Service before a Relic of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, CSsR will be held Sun., Mar. 15 at 4:00 pm in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Phila. On Sunday, March 22 at 4 p.m. a special moleben prayer and healing service before a relic of Blessed Bishop Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, C.Ss.R., will be led by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka at the golden domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 830 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, Pa. During the services Metropolitan Soroka will also bless a newly commissioned icon of Blessed Bishop Charnetsky, which will be available with the relic for prayer and veneration. During the service the faithful will be anointed with the holy oil of healing. Blessed Bishop-Martyr Charnetsky, known as “the healer of souls” was beatified by St. John Paul II on June 27, 2001 in Lviv, Ukraine. Many personal testimonies are recorded of miraculous healings through his intercession. All the faithful are invited and encouraged to attend these services and to bring their intentions for healing through the intercession of Blessed Bishop Mykola

The Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great Celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life OPEN HOUSE Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 710 Fox Chase Road, Fox Chase Manor, PA from 1:00 – 5:00 PM . We would like to share with you the joy of our vocation. Schedule for the day-1:00 – 1:30 PM -Tour the monastery 1:30 – 2:30 PM- DVD “Women of Spirit” Questions and answer session 2:30 – 3:45 PM –Refreshments 4:00 PM - Vespers This will be an opportunity to tour Manor College, Saint Basil Academy and the Basilian Spirituality Center Sponsored ministries of the Sisters Please call 215.379.3998 to reserve a place.

Lenten Confession Schedule

Monday, March 16 th	Assumption, Centralia- Fr. Fesniak Ss. Peter & Paul , Mt. Carmel – Msgr. Melnic & Fr. Ivanov Nativity, Middleport- Fr. Pitula Transfiguration, Shamokin- Msgr. Grabowsky & Fr. Hutsko
Tuesday, March 17 th	St. John, Maizeville- Fr. Hutsko Protection, Marion Heights- Msgr. Grabowsky St. Nicholas, Minersville- Msgr. Melnic & Fr. Pitula St. Michael, Shenandoah- Fr. Fesniak & Fr. Ivanov
Thursday, March 19 th	St. Michael, Hazelton- Fr Hutsko Protection, McAdoo- Fr. Fesniak & Fr. Pitula St. Michael, Frackville- Msgr. Grabowsky & Fr. Ivanov St. Nicholas , St Clair- Msgr. Melnic

POPE FRANCIS

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

Two identity cards- Tuesday, 10 February 2015

(by *L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly ed. in English, n. 7, 13 February 2015)

To know our true identity we cannot be “seated Christians” but must have the “courage to always take up the journey to seek the Lord’s face”, because we are the “image of God”. In the Mass celebrated at Santa Marta on Tuesday morning expounding on the day’s First Reading — the creation narrative from the Book of Genesis (1:20 - 2:4) — Pope Francis reflected on a question essential for every person: “Who am I?”.

Our “identity card”, the Pope said, is found in the fact that mankind was created “in the image, in the likeness of God”. But then, he added, “the question we could ask ourselves is: How can I know the image of God? How can I know what He is like in order to know what I’m like? Where can I find the image of God?”. The answer obviously cannot be found “on a computer, nor in an encyclopedia, nor in books”, because “God’s image is not in any catalogue”. There is only one way “to find the image of God, which is my identity” and that is to journey: “If we don’t take up the journey, we will never get to know the face of God”.

This desire for knowledge is also found in the Old Testament. The Psalmists, Francis pointed out, “say many times: I want to see your face”; and “even Moses says this once to the Lord”. But in reality “it isn’t easy, because taking up the journey means letting go of many securities, many opinions about what God’s image is like, and to seek it”. It means, in other words, “to let God and life put us to the test. It means taking a risk, for “only in this way can we manage to know the face of God, the image of God: to take up the journey”.

The Pope drew again on the Old Testament to recall that “the People of God did this, the Prophets did this”. For instance, “the great Elijah: after he wins and purifies the faith of Israel, he hears the queen’s threat and is afraid and doesn’t know what to do. He takes up the journey. And at a certain point, he would rather die”. But God “calls him, gives him food and drink and says: keep going”. This is how Elijah “comes to the mount and there he finds God”. His was thus “a long journey, an arduous journey, a difficult journey”, but it teaches us that “those who don’t take up the journey will never know the image of God, will never find the face of God”. It’s a lesson for all of us: “seated Christians, calm Christians” — the Pope stated — “will not know the face of God”. They have the presumption to say: “God is like this, and like this...”. But in reality “they do not know Him”.

To journey, instead, we need to have “that restlessness, which God placed in our heart and which carries us onward to seek him”. The same thing happened, the Pontiff explained, “to Job who, with his trials, began to think: what kind of God would let this happen to me?”. His friends too, “after days of great silence, began to talk, to argue with him”. But none of this was helpful: “with these arguments, Job did not know God”. Instead, “when he allowed himself to be questioned by the Lord in the trial, he meets God”. And from Job we are also able to hear “that word that will help us so much on this journey to find our identity: ‘I had heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees thee’”. And

this, according to Pope Francis, is the heart of the matter: “the encounter with God” which can happen “only by taking up the journey”.

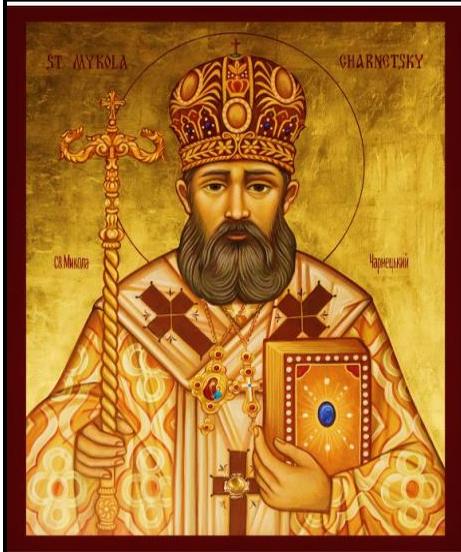
Of course, he continued, “Job took up the journey cursing”. He actually “had the courage to curse life and his history: ‘Let the day perish wherein I was born...’”. In essence, the Pope reflected, “sometimes, on the journey of life, we don’t find the meaning of things”. The Prophet Jeremiah had the same experience. “After being seduced by the Lord, he felt that curse: ‘Why me?’”. He wanted to “remain calmly seated” but instead “the Lord wanted to show him His face”.

This applies to each of us: “to know our identity, to know the image of God, we must take up the journey”; we must be “restless, not calm”. This is precisely what it means “to seek the face of God”.

Pope Francis then referred to the passage from Mark’s Gospel (7:1-13), in which “Jesus meets people who are afraid to take up the journey” and who create a sort of “caricature of God”. But that “is a false identity card” because, the Pontiff explained, “these non-restless ones have calmed the restlessness of their heart: by illustrating God with commandments”. But in doing so “they have forgotten God” and see only “the tradition of men”. And, “when they have uncertainty, they invent or make up another commandment”. Jesus says to the scribes and Pharisees who accumulate commandments: “you are ‘thus making void the Word of God through your tradition which you hand on. And many such things you do’”. This “is the false identity card, which we might have without taking up the journey,” remaining “calm, without restlessness of heart”.

In this regard the Pope highlighted a particular “curiosity”: in fact the Lord “praises them but reprimands them where it hurts the most. He praises them: ‘You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God, in order to keep your tradition’”. But then “He reprimands them there, at the most powerful point of the commandments with one’s neighbor”. In fact, Jesus recalls that Moses said: “Honor your father and your mother; and He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him surely die”. He continues: “but you say instead that if a man tells his father or his mother, that what I would give to help you, namely to feed you, to clothe you, to buy you medicine, ‘is Corban (that is, given to God) — then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother’”. In doing so “they wash their hands according to the mildest commandment, the strongest one, the only one with a promise of blessing”. And so, “they are at peace, they are calm, they do not take up the journey”. This then, “is the image of God that they have”. In reality their journey is “in quotation marks”: in other words “a journey which doesn’t move, a still journey. They deny their parents, but fulfil the laws of the tradition they have made”.

Concluding his reflection, the Bishop of Rome again compared the two Readings to “two identity cards”. The first is “the one we all have, because the Lord made us like this”; it is “the one that tells us: take up the journey and you will know your identity, for you are the image of God, you were created in the likeness of God. Take up the journey and look for God”. The other, however, reassures us: “No, relax: fulfil all these commandments and this is God. This is the face of God”. The Pope then asked the Lord to “give everyone the grace of courage to always take up the journey, to seek the Lord’s face, that face which we will see one day, but which we must look for here on Earth”.



What are relics and why does the church encourage veneration of relics?

Relics are physical objects that have a direct association with the saints or with Our Lord. They are usually broken down into three classes. First class relics are the body or fragments of the body of a saint, such as pieces of bone or flesh. Second class relics are something that a saint personally owned, such as a shirt or book (or fragments of those items). Third class relics are those items that a saint touched or that have been touched to a first, second, or another third class relic of a saint.

The veneration of relics is an ancient custom dating from the reverence shown at the graves of the martyrs even in the time of the apostles. Miracles have been worked by God in association with relics – "...not that some magical power existed in them, but just as God's work was done through the lives of [holy people], so did His work continue after their deaths. Likewise, just as [others] were drawn closer to God through the lives of [holy people], so did they (even if through their remains) inspire others to draw closer even after their deaths. This perspective provides the Church's understanding of relics." (Fr. W. Saunders, "Keeping Relics in Perspective", © 2003 Arlington Catholic Herald)

The veneration of relics is a communion with the heroes of our Christian faith, asking for their powerful intercession. Many people have reported outstanding blessings and conversions through this ministry, and many have reported healings. Attendees are encouraged to bring their articles of devotion and pictures of ill friends/family members which may be touched to the reliquaries as a means of intercessory prayer."

With the moleben with the relic and icon of the Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky," the healer of souls," in the golden domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 4 p.m. the faithful will have an opportunity to receive the blessings of this act of pious devotion and veneration as well as the blessings of healing through the anointing and through their intercessory prayers to Bishop Mykola.

**Prayer is asking for rain.
Faith is carrying an umbrella !**

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY ICONS

Today we are commemorating the triumph of the True Faith after a violent struggle that lasted over 120 years. Through the 8th and 9th centuries, a heresy known as *iconoclasm* grew in the Church. This movement fiercely opposed the veneration of icons.

The Fathers of the Church rightly understood that this was not just a controversy about religious art. Attacking the veneration of icons was an attack on the very human nature of Christ himself.

The Second Council of Nicaea in 787 condemned the teaching of the iconoclasts. The orthodox Fathers maintained that the veneration of the image of Christ was good and proper, since God Himself had entered into the material world and sanctified it by becoming human.

In 842, Empress Theodora reinstated the use of icons and put an end to the conflict. In 843, the Synod of Constantinople declared this victory of the Holy Images as "The Triumph of Orthodoxy." Since that time, this victory of the True Faith has been commemorated on this, the first Sunday of Lent. In celebration, we carry icons in procession today, proudly proclaiming the true faith and honoring its defenders.

The theme of the victory of the icons, by its emphasis on the incarnation, points us to the basic Christian truth that the one whose death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter was none other than the Word of God who became human in Jesus Christ

"Imagine The Possibilities "

The season of Lent has begun. Does this news make a difference to you, as you think about your life in the days ahead? If so, in what way? Is that good, bad or somewhere in between? Probably for most people it is not an exciting development. Others, though, find that this season offers possibilities for deeply personal inner gains.

Many people -perhaps you -have found that occasionally a few moments of quiet meditation during a day can be helpful, calming and restorative. Such times are a psychological and spiritual rest, not unlike sitting down and resting after physical exercise. Now expand that picture! Rather than thinking of a few minutes during a day, think of a few days -or weeks - during the year. What long term renewal and refreshment might take place? Can the Lenten season provide this for you?

Our daily tasks, whether dull or exciting, are of crucial importance. We earn a living; we build a loving home we contribute to the life of our whole society. Doing this, though, requires some basic orientation, some sense of overall purpose. What is it that gives wholeness to our lives?

Jesus' mission on earth seems to have been to enable us to live more creatively and productively in accord with God's plan for us. As the messenger of God, he gave his disciples and gives to us an orientation and strengthening that empower us. Perhaps during Lent we can come to sense his presence more fully and grow in understanding.

Imagine the possibilities of a life where both joy and sorrows can be seen in the context of a whole! Can we move beyond the fragmentation of our days to become more unified, more purposeful both for ourselves and for those around us? If we Will explore new horizons we may see beautiful sights ahead.

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- \$905.50 Thank You!

St. Nicholas: Contribution \$ 403.00 Thank You!

Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas-

Sanctuary Light: St. Michael- In Memory of +Nicholas Bereschak by Daughters, Mary & Helen

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

Don't give up church for Lent !