

**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 May 24<sup>th</sup> 2015, Pentecost Sunday**

**SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**10:00am Memorial Day Service at St Nicholas Mahanoy City Cemetery**

3:30pm 40th Day +Debbie Loftus by Loftus Family

*Pentecost Sunday*

**Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

10:30am God's Blessings on His People

**Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**

8:00am Gods Blessings & Health for Helen Savitsky by Betty Ann & Staff

**10:00am Memorial Day Service at St Michael's Cemetery**

Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

8:00am +Conley Jean Kirk by Charles Calise & Helen O'Connell

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

3:30pm +John Evans by Anne Evans

Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

10:30am +Nicholas Bereschak by Daughters Mary & Helen

**SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE**

Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary

5:30pm +Michael & +Mary Uranium by Mary Ann Uranium

*Pentecost Sunday*

**Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am +Catherine& +Joseph Panchison by Panchison Family

**1:30pm Memorial Day Service at St. Nicholas St Clair & Holy Trinity**

**Cemeteries**

Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

8:00am + Dr. Peter Skrincosky- Legacy Liturgy

Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00am 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary +Martha Homovich by Patricia Zahay (time subject to change/ possible jury duty)

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary

5:30pm +Dr. Peter Skrincosky MD by Andrew & Anna Skrincosky

Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

8:30am God's Blessings on His People

**St. Michael's Lector Schedule:**

Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Acts 2:1-11

Winifred Mohutsky

Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

Acts 2:1-11

Alice Breznik

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

Heb 11:32-12:2a

Nancy Sawka

Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

Heb 11:32-12:2a

Michael Fufla

**St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:**

Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Acts 2:1-11

Bernadette Bremer

Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

Acts 2:1-11

Theresa Panchison

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

Heb 11:32-12:2a

Andrew Skrincosky

Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

Heb 11:32-12:2a

LeeAnn Smulligan

Thank you God for holding me together, when it feels as if I am falling apart !

## Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

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### ***St. Michael:***

**Memorial Day Service Schedule:** St. Nicholas, Mahanoy City Cemetery will be Saturday May 23rd at 10:00am. St Michael's Cemetery will be Monday at 10:00am.

**Sanctuary Light** available for the following dates; 8/16,8/23,8/30 & 12/27

**Memorial Donation:** Thank you to the St. Michael's Ladies Auxiliary for their donation in Memory of + Olga Kurilla

### ***St. Nicholas:***

**Sanctuary Light-** Dates Available 7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23 & 8/31

**Memorial Day Service** for St. Nicholas, St Clair and Holy Trinity Cemeteries will be Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm.

### ***Both Churches:***



**DEANERY YOUTH GATHERING:** Join us for the Second Annual Deanery Youth Gathering on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at Knoebel's Amusement Resort. We had a great time last year and hope that you and your family can join us this year! Everyone from 6<sup>th</sup> grade through College are invited. Bring your friends, and don't forget your family to this fun filled event. Your day will begin at 11:00am at "Pavilion C". Lunch will be at 12 noon and we are excited about our speakers at 1:00pm. The day will conclude at 5:00pm with a prayer service & discussion. Blocks of time have been set aside for you

& your friends to enjoy the park. Teens that participate will receive lunch & free ride tickets for the park. Ride tickets are available for families to purchase at a discounted price. The whole family is invited to join us for lunch, we're having hotdogs, hamburgers, barbeque, drinks and chips . We ask that each family please bring a dish to share with the group. Please , reserve your spot with your pastor by July 5<sup>th</sup> so we have an accurate head count for lunch. Everyone is responsible for their own transportation. For more information please see our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/southanthraciteyouth>. or call 570-462-0809 / 570-339-0650 Follow us on twitter @deaneryyouthorg . See you at the Knoebel's!

**UKRAINIAN SEMINARY DAY:** The 81st Annual Ukrainian Seminary Day will be held Sunday, July 26th at St. Nicholas Church Picnic Grounds in Primrose (just outside Minersville) PA. This annual event is sponsored by the 12 parishes and faithful of the South Anthracite Deanery under the leadership of their respective pastors. Plans for the day already include a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, delicious ethnic and regional foods prepared by the parishes of the deanery, a concert and dance performance by the Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, pysanky demonstrations and classes for the youth, polka music by the fabulous John Stevens' Doubleshot Orchestra, a theme basket auction, many vendors selling traditional Ukrainian and Eastern European items and exciting games for the kids. We invite everyone from near and far to attend and support this annual event in support of our St. Josaphat Seminary in Washington, DC. **The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael's Hall in Frackville beginning at 7:00PM.** Again, we encourage the participation and input from the faithful of all our parishes. Please plan to attend and get involved. Your participation is greatly desired and appreciated!

**Seminary Day Raffle tickets are available in the back of the Church.**

**Seminary Day Ad & Patron Forms are available in the back of the Church.**

**Food for the poor-** We are in need of donations for the needy in our community. Non- expired, Non-perishable foods are needed, as well as personal hygiene products, toilet paper and paper towels. Diapers and wipes are also welcome. Thank you for your giving spirit



# POPE FRANCIS

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

*Wherein lies the scandal* ~Monday, 11 May 2015

(by *L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly ed. in English, n. 20, 15 May 2015)

The Copts who were beheaded because they were Christians, died “with the name of Jesus on their lips”; they truly understood “the scandal of the Cross”. The “path of martyrs” is part of everyday Christian life, also in the family, in the defense of human rights and in the experience of the sick. It is the Holy Spirit who helps us know how to give witness and to welcome “the whole truth”. Pope Francis said this at the Mass he celebrated on Monday in the Chapel of Santa Marta. At Mass he also recalled his telephone call on Sunday to the Coptic Patriarch Tawadros on the occasion of the day of friendship between Copts and Catholics, celebrated on the second anniversary of their meeting in the Vatican on 10 May 2013.

“In the first prayer today” at the beginning of Mass, the Pontiff said, “we asked for the grace to experience at all times the fruit produced by the paschal observance”. In fact, he said, “Easter is fruitful” because “it is the life that Jesus Christ, the Lord, gave us through his Cross and Resurrection”. “How can this fruitfulness be implemented?”. The answer, Pope Francis noted, can be found in today’s liturgy in John’s Gospel (15:26-16:4).

“The Lord prepares his disciples for the future”, the Pope said, and “there is a phrase which may seem a bit strange: falling away”. According to John, Jesus says: “I have said all this to you to keep you all from falling away”. What needs to be understood is “to what falling away is Jesus referring. The falling away due to the persecutions that will occur, or the falling away after the Cross”.

The Lord “adds a promise”. He says: “When the Paraclete comes, the Spirit of truth, he will bear witness”. And then, in that same address. He affirms, “I have yet many things to say to you but you cannot bear them now. When the Paraclete, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth”. Basically, the Pope explained, Jesus “is speaking to us about the future, about the cross that awaits Him and He is speaking to us about the Spirit, who prepares us to bear Christian witness”.

Moreover, Francis continued, “in these days the Church calls us to reflect a lot on the Holy Spirit. Jesus says that the Holy Spirit who will come, whom He will send, will lead us to the truth, i.e. will teach us things that I have not taught,” — the Pope added, citing a passage from the day’s Gospel — “these things that he must say and the burden of which the disciples are still not able to bear”. Furthermore, the Lord also affirms that “the Spirit will make them remember the things that I have said, and that with life fell into oblivion”. Francis continued, explaining what the Spirit does: “he makes us remember the words of Jesus and he teaches us the things that Jesus was not yet able to tell us, because we were not able to understand”.

“In this way the life of the Church is a path on which the Spirit guides us”. The Spirit “reminds us, teaches us that he leads us to the entire truth”, the Pope underlined. And “this Spirit, who is our partner on the journey, helps prevent us from falling away from the cross”. Speaking to the Corinthians, St Paul says: “The Cross is a folly to those who are perishing”. Then he adds: “The Jews demand signs”. “How many times in the Gospel do the Jews, the doctors of the law demand that Jesus” give them a

sign, the Pope said. The “Greeks or the pagans, seek wisdom, new ideas”. But “we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly for pagans”.

The Cross of Christ is scandalous. The Pope clarified, “Jesus prepares the hearts of His disciples with the promise of the Paraclete”. And he says: “I have said all this to you to keep you from falling away” from the Cross. According to John, the Lord says: “They will put you out of the synagogue, indeed the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think they are offering service to God”. And today, the Pontiff said, we “are witnesses to those who are killing Christians in the name of God because they are disbelievers, according to these people”. This “is the Cross of Christ”. Jesus’ words in the Gospel of today’s liturgy are still relevant: “They will do this because they have not known the Father, nor me”. Jesus reminds us that what happened to Him will also happen to us. Therefore we must not fall away, we must be certain that “the Spirit will guide us and help us understand”.

In fact, Pope Francis said, “yesterday I had the joy of calling Coptic Patriarch Tawadros, because it was the day of friendship between Copts and Catholics” and “we spoke about several things”. He added “I recalled his faithful who were beheaded on the beach because they were Christians. These faithful people, through the strength given to them by the Holy Spirit, did not fall away. They died with the name of Jesus on their lips. That is the strength of the Spirit. The testimony. It is true, theirs was a martyrdom, the supreme testimony”.

There is also, the Pope continued, “the witness of every day, the witness which makes the fruitfulness of Easter present — which we asked for at the beginning of Mass — that fruitfulness which the Holy Spirit gives us, which guides us to the full truth, the entire truth, and which makes us remember what Jesus tells us”.

Thus, Pope Francis said, “a Christian who does not take this dimension of martyrdom seriously, does not understand the path that Jesus taught: the everyday path of martyrdom, the path of martyrdom in defending human rights, the path of martyrdom in defending one’s children: fathers, mothers who defend their family, the path of martyrdom of the many, many sick people who suffer for the love of Jesus. We all have the possibility to carry forward the fruitfulness of Easter on this path of martyrdom, without falling away”.

Later, in the celebration of the Eucharist — “the memorial of the Cross” in which “the fruitfulness of Easter is made present” — the Pontiff asked “the Lord for the grace to receive the Holy Spirit who makes us remember the things of Jesus who will guide us to the truth and prepare us every day to bear this witness, to make this small martyrdom every day or a great martyrdom, according to the Lord’s will”.



May we remember  
those who sacrificed all  
that we may be free.

# The Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit



## Pentecost

The festival of Pentecost has its roots in the Old Testament. It began as a harvest feast and later added the giving of the Law of Moses on Mount Sinai as the "harvest" of the Old Covenant. Our Christian Feast of Pentecost is celebrated on the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ. On this feast the Descent of the Holy Spirit effected a New Covenant. It was precisely this Descent of the Spirit, which revealed to the world the knowledge of the mystery of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial, undivided and yet distinct. It was the fulfillment of the revelation concerning the Persons of the one God as three.

The Icon of Pentecost is a marked contrast with the biblical description of the Descent of the Spirit. The Book of Acts of the Apostles (2:2) records that "suddenly from up in the sky there came a noise, like a strong, driving wind which was heard all through the house where they were seated." In contrast, the Icon is characterized by serenity and composure. The postures of the Apostles reveal serenity. All of them are seated, some gesturing as if in subdued conversation with one another. The gift of the Holy Spirit remains the inner life of grace. The event of Pentecost forms the Church and is the inauguration of the Kingdom of God.

The twelve Apostles form a semi-circle to express the unity of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. They are pictured in an inverse perspective--their figures grow larger as they recede into the background. The center place, which is unoccupied, is reserved for Christ, the invisible head of the Church. Some ancient icons symbolize Christ's invisible presence with an altar, the throne of His glory.

The Evangelists are shown holding books; another has a scroll as a sign of having received the gift of teaching. Above the semi-circle, beyond the edge of the panel, there is a symbol of heaven from which rays or tongues of fire descend. This is a sign both of the sanctification of the Apostles and Disciples, and of their baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire.

The world, to which the Apostles would preach, is represented at the bottom of the Icon by one symbolic figure of a king. He is known as "Cosmos" as he represents the whole world enveloped by sin. He sits in a dark place since the whole world had formerly been without the light of faith. He is bent over to show he was made old by the sin of Adam. Through the power of the Holy Spirit the twelve Apostles brought light to the whole world by their teaching.

The Icon of the Descent of the Holy Spirit represents the great event of sanctification, which took place in the apostolic community. At the same time, it is an expression of the sanctification of our lives in the Church by the Holy Spirit Who is constantly glorified: "Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life." (*God With Us Icon Series*)

## Hope rises with the Son!



## *A Brief History of Memorial Day*

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

*The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.*

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Miss.; Macon, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Boalsburg, Pa.; and Carbondale, Ill.

In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, N.Y., the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (In addition to Memorial Day, Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11. The date was chosen because of the armistice of World War I, the 11<sup>th</sup> month, the eleventh day, the eleventh hour.)



### **ATTENTION 2015 GRADUATES:**

If you are graduating from High School, College, or Graduate School this year please inform the rectory as soon as possible. If you are graduating from high school, let us know what college you will be attending or where you will be working. If you are graduating from college or graduate school, please tell us your plans. We want to know our graduates accomplishments so that we may acknowledge your hard work.

## 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.

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## Weekly Contributions

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**Parishes Weekly Income:** **St. Michael:** Contribution-\$ 1,107.5 Cemetery \$ 1,065.00

Cemetery Mahanoy City \$ 480.00 Thank You!

**St. Nicholas:** Contribution \$1,143.00 Cemetery \$205.00 Thank You!

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

**Sanctuary Light: St. Michael-** In Memory of +Jill Davies by Godmother, Nancy

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

**4 Lamps of the Iconostas –**Thank You to the Blessed Mother & all Mothers Who Have Touched my Life.

**Lamps of the Crucifix-** Happy Birthday & God's Blessings on Alice Breznik by a Friend

**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

Helen Beddall

Irene Flaherty

Tom Prete

Susan Chernesky

Maya Usewicz

Susan Enders

Dolores O'Connell Leahy

Helen Sims

Mary Mazur

Keilbasa Family\*

Christine Lenhart\*

& Rosemary (Mother)

Bill McAndrew\*

Andrea Pytak

### St. Nicholas

Helen Salak

Helen Seamon

Mary Mistishen

Joseph Luckenbill

Peter Kadingo

Jeanette Stock

Mary Kadingo

Laura Seasock

Anna Skrincosky

Catherine Washuta

Elizabeth Gulas

Joseph Salak

Jim Rehnert

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 & The Church Signs Calendar 2015

## **Become a member of the Witness protection program**