

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

Msgr. Myron Grabowsky – Parish Priest

Sunday, September 6th 15th Sunday After Pentecost

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 12th 3:30pm +Jason Mitchell by the Mitchell Family
 Sunday, September 13th 10:30am God's Blessings on His People
Exhalation of the Cross
 Monday, September 14th 9:00am God's Blessings on His People
 Tuesday, September 15th No Divine Liturgy
 Wednesday, September 16th No Divine Liturgy
 6:30pm Prayer Meeting
 Saturday, September 19th 8:00am Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
 3:30pm +John Sawka by Paula Sawka
 Sunday, September 20th 10:30am God's Blessings on His People

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 12th 8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary
 5:30pm +Peter Laguna by the Laguna Family
 Sunday, September 13th 8:30am +Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn OSBM
Exhalation of the Cross
 Sunday September 13th 4:00pm +Lee Covach Bruno by Father, Bill
 Thursday, September 17th No Divine Liturgy
 Friday, September 18th 8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary
 Saturday, September 19th 5:30pm +Kristin Prokop by Andrew & Anna Skrincoosky
 Sunday, September 20th 8:30am +Mary Toth 2nd Anniversary by Toth & Rennick

St. Michael's Lector Schedule:

Saturday, September 12 th	Gal 6:11-18	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday, September 13 th	Gal 6:11-18	Sam Litwak
Monday, September 14 th	1 Cor 1:18-24	Charles Calise / Sam Litwak
Saturday, September 19 th	Gal 2:16-20	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, September 20 th	Gal 2:16-20	Michelle Caputo

St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:

Saturday, September 12 th	Gal 6:11-18	Andrew Skrincoosky
Sunday, September 13 th	Gal 6:11-18	LeeAnn Smulligan
Sunday, September 13 th 4:00pm Holy Day	1 Cor 1:18-24	Theresa Panchison
Saturday, September 19 th	Gal 2:16-20	Christine Romanko
Sunday, September 20 th	Gal 2:16-20	Susan Miller

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

St. Michael:

Construction update: 9/10/15 The construction crew continues to work on the front steps. The workers have begun to put on the gold coating on the domes, and will continue next week. Please be careful around the scaffolding and construction equipment. If you have any questions, please contact the rectory.

Catechism Classes- Registration for Catechism Classes for the 2015-2016 school year will be Sunday September 13. If you are unable to register your child at that time, please contact Alice Breznik or the rectory to register your child. Classes will begin the following week- September 20th at 9:00am.

DATE CHANGE Pierogie Sale- The first fall Pierogie Sale will be **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST** **We are already sold out!** Help is needed on the 21st. Please donate your time (no matter how limited) to this worthy fundraiser.

Healing Service- There will be a Healing Service on Wednesday, September 23rd.

St. Nicholas:

Sanctuary Light – Dates available for Sanctuary Candle 9/20, 10/4 & 10/25 & 11/1

Both Churches:

Food for the poor- OUR PANTRY IS BARE. Please, help by donating to our food pantry. 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

Clergy Conference- Please note that Msgr. Grabowsky will be away at a Clergical Conference from Monday September 14 to Thursday September 17th. The rectory office will be open these days from 10am to 3pm.

77th Annual National Convention- of the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America will be held on October 16, 17, & 18, 2015, At the Holiday Inn – Lansdale. 1750 Sumneytown Pike, Kulpsville, PA 19443; (215) 368-3800. Discount room rates with buffet breakfast available; reserve on or before September 28, 2015. For more info. Call or e-mail Gene at (267) 664-3857; eluciw@comcast.net Join us for all or some of the events!

“Honoring Our Past – Building Our Future” Registration forms are available in the rectory.

Healing Mass with Padre Pio’s Relic- Friday September 18th at 7:00pm. Celebrant & Homilist Fr. David Kozak Asst. Pastor St. Peter’s Church, Reading. Confessions from 6:15-6:45pm. All are welcome at Divine Mercy Church 224W. Cherry St. Shenandoah, PA. For more information call Fr. Johnson at 570-599-5265 or the parish office at 570- 462-1968.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY— It’s hard to believe, next Sunday is Catechetical Sunday. Parents should be sure to have their children ready for the blessing. And, if you are already beyond the phase in life that you have children in school, be sure to be present to pray for the next generation of holy people. They’re here, looking up to you as an example. Aunts, uncles, older brothers and sisters along with grandparents are all included in the term “family” and, as such share in the imagery of God. God is Trinity—three persons, yet one God. Family is not confined to the number “three” but the principle is the same. Each individual shares a common bond with each other individual—that makes them “one”. Our children’s classes are scheduled for Sunday, September 20th at 9:00am, and we will be offering Bible study for adults in October.

Pope’s Visit – Ribbons have been included on the artwork arch created for the Papal visit later this month for the intentions of St. Michael’s & St. Nicholas Parishes. If you would like more information please see Msgr.

Harvest Fest- St Mary’s Church -94 Walnut Rd, Hamburg Friday October 2nd & Saturday October 3rd. Food, Fun & Activities for all ages. Friday oldies band, Saturday Golden Tones Polka Band, 4:30 Polka Mass. Rain or Shine. For info call 610-562-7657 or www.rc.net/allentown/stmaryhamburg

Papal Tickets - The Archeparchy has a limited number of STANDING tickets available for 2 events during the Papal Visit for parishioners only. If you are interested please let Fr. know TODAY. We need the names of all the people intending to attend and your phone number. Your request is not a guarantee of tickets. The parish will be awarded a limited number after the Chancery receives all the requests. We must submit the names TODAY Sunday September 13th.

The events available are:

Saturday evening, September 26th—7:00 p.m. Festival of Families

Sunday, September 27th—4:00 p.m. Papal Mass on the Parkway (Art Museum area)

Blessed is the Family: A Catechesis on the Beatitudes and Eastern Catholic Family Life



The covenant of marriage and family is one of the pillars of Eastern Catholic life. The *family* is a communion of persons in a mutual exchange of life and love that is intended to be a living icon of the Holy Trinity. The union of husband and wife in the *Crowning of Matrimony* is intended to be the font from which a family springs, and serves as the enduring sign of the mystery of the sacrificial and fruitful love of Christ the Bridegroom for the Church, His Bride. Marriage and family together in this sense form the primordial sacrament of human life and society, calling together man and woman in a sacred bond that bears fruit in the form of children through a mutual self-giving. According to Christian ideals, marriage and family manifest the glory of the New Creation and the Kingdom of God, and serve *along with*

the local parish as the first school of virtues in living the Gospel of Jesus Christ through faith, hope and charity.

During His earthly life, Our Lord Jesus Christ identified certain principles of Christian living which should inform every aspect of the life of His disciples, including the life of a Christian family. These principles are expressed in the form of eight proverbs known as “the Beatitudes” (cf. Matthew 5:3-12). The word “beatitude” comes from the Latin word *beatitudo*, which means “happiness,” since they begin with Our Lord declaring His disciples *happy* (or, a more common translation, *blessed*) if they follow His teachings. Happiness here is not intended to mean simply an emotional state of mind, but rather the joyful fruit of the Spirit in a life of blessedness as the saints experience. To be happy or blessed is a foretaste in this life of the life of Paradise to come in the Heavenly Kingdom.

So how do these eight proverbs of Our Lord apply to Christian marriage and family? Let us explore each one in light of the call to a faithful Eastern Catholic family life.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The first of these eight proverbs pertains to *poverty in spirit*. More often than not, when we hear the word “poverty,” it evokes images of those who are lacking in basic material possessions, perhaps they are even homeless. Jesus, however, teaches about the importance of a spiritual poverty; that is, a proper detachment from the idols of every age – *wealth, pleasure and power* – with a proper

attachment to the gifts that endure – faith, hope and love. Those who are of His Kingdom do not attempt to serve or fill their lives with these idols, even if they have material goods. For married couples and families, this means that one seeks to be a good steward of the material possessions one has earned or received without becoming possessed by them. This includes being willing to be generous to others, including the Church and charitable organizations and individuals in need. Hospitality is a virtue that should be cultivated in the family, so that guests are welcomed and cared for with generous and joyful hearts. What is more, the character of a Christian family should be marked by a concern for the poor and needy, seeing the face of Christ in the distressing disguise of a poor brother or sister. This poverty may be the poverty of material goods or the poverty of loneliness. Whatever may be the cause, the love that should define their family life should overflow to love for neighbor, as Christ Himself taught. Poverty of spirit also overflows into a generous welcoming and care for new life in the form of children, who come into this world needy and helpless. Parents should ensure that their children are clothed, fed and housed not only with material goods, but emotional and spiritual goods as well. Children should also be taught the virtues of both gratitude and generosity as a way of instilling the teaching of this Beatitude. The promise that follows such generosity of spirit is nothing short of the Kingdom of Heaven

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

The second of these eight proverbs pertains to *mourning*. Mourning here refers to grieving over some loss or trouble that befalls a person or family. Jesus wishes to instill in His disciples two important virtues here in relationship to mourning: *hope in the face of loss* and *compassion for others*. Within the life of a family, one most certainly experiences occasions of loss, whether it involves the loss of a loved one in death, the loss of property or a job, or the loss of a relationship. Loss is part of the experience of exile from Paradise that our first parents experienced, and that we unfortunately have inherited as their heirs in the flesh. Grief is a natural response to an unnatural event – *death* – which is the curse of the ancestral sin. Yet as Christians we are not to be a people who grieve as though we have no hope. Christ promises to comfort those of us who are afflicted, and in His own divine compassion, to be with us as we share in His Cross with the hope and comfort of the Resurrection to come. What is more, Christian families are called to give comfort and compassion to those who suffer and mourn, whether within or outside of the family. Children should be taught to lament the suffering of others, rather than to mock them. What is more, they should be taught to reach out and provide the comfort of prayer and friendship to those who are mourning. This is especially true with those who are elderly, sick, dying or grieving. Christian disciples must learn to be the hands and feet of Christ to those who suffer, knowing too that others may serve us in the same way through our own travails.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

The third of these eight proverbs pertains to *meekness*. Meekness here refers to the virtue of humility and love demonstrated by the attitude and example of service to others, even to our enemies. Here we can look to the example of Jesus, who, though being the Son of God, emptied Himself of any glory that was His by right to take the form of a servant, being born in our likeness in order to redeem and restore us as God's children. The Christian life is about participating in the meekness of Jesus Christ, thinking of others before ourselves and being good stewards of the graces and gifts that we have received. A person who is meek knows that all of life is a gift from God, and that even his own good works and deeds ultimately come from God. Within the life of a family there are many opportunities to

demonstrate meekness, by serving and being generous with others, by forgiving wrongs committed by others, by avoiding the sin of pride and by praying for and demonstrating respect for those in leadership. Meekness also demonstrated by Christ when He did not curse His enemies or destroy them even though it was most certainly within His divine power to do so, but rather He forgave them, doing good even to those who hated or harmed Him. Parents should teach their children the grace of forgiving even their enemies as a way to follow the example of Jesus. The promise of the inheritance of a blessed land is what awaits those who imitate the meekness of Christ.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

The fourth of these eight proverbs pertains to *hungering and thirsting for righteousness*. Righteousness here refers to the good, true, beautiful and just in this life and in the next. The Christian life of a disciple flows from the gift of righteousness given initially by the Holy Spirit in the mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation and then the reception of the Holy Eucharist. But the Christian life must not end at this initiation. Here the family is chiefly responsible to teach a child to hunger and thirst to feed this great gift by developing a truly spiritual life and continuing to attend the worship of the liturgy and receive the Sacred Mysteries of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This includes also participating in the Mystery of Repentance or Confession, which in the Eastern Christian tradition is sometimes referred to as a *baptism of tears*. Discipleship is truly a lifelong process that is nurtured early on in the context of family. For a married couple, *matrimony* becomes a particular expression of this path of discipleship, and husbands and wives should strive to support each other's spiritual growth. Here the common disciplines of the Church for times of fasting, prayer, almsgiving and repentance, as well as active participation in the life of a local parish can be great schools of virtue. What is more, the thirst for righteousness should extend beyond the home and the parish to the marketplace and the public square, where work and engagement in society should be informed by the Church's constant teaching about the dignity of human life, of work and the family.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

The fifth of these eight proverbs pertains to *mercy*. Mercy here refers to demonstrating compassion and forgiveness towards others who are in need or who have wronged us in some way. Jesus was certainly the model of mercy towards sinners, and the ministry of the Church is largely focused on continuing the ministry of mercy Jesus taught and commissioned His apostles to communicate through preaching, worship and discipleship. Within the life of a family, there are certainly opportunities to demonstrate mercy and forgiveness, since no experience of life in community can come without the need to forgive others or to seek the forgiveness of others due to some sin or failure. Parents should be sure to teach and model forgiveness and humility towards one another, their friends and colleagues, and even members of their own family including their own children. But mercy is more than forgiveness, it also involves compassion and service to those in need. This service can take the form of *bodily needs* (providing food, clothing, shelter, healing, visitation, ransoming the captive and burying the dead) or *spiritual needs* (instruction in the faith, encouragement and counsel, correction, patience with the wrongdoing of others, forgiveness, comforting and prayerful intercession). These *works of mercy* given freely and generously to others will also invite the generous mercy of God towards us, even in our own weakness and sin, as promised in this Beatitude.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.

The sixth of these eight proverbs pertains to *purity of heart*. Very often *purity* is reduced to the sexual dimension of life. It is certainly accurate to say that *purity of heart* relates in some way to sexual purity. But the problem is that it cannot be reduced to this concern. *Purity of heart* is that inner vision and grace of the Holy Spirit that empowers us to recognize and respect the *image and likeness of God in others*, even if they do not respect or know their own dignity. When we see the words of Jesus in this light, we recognize that He desires to inspire within the hearts and minds of His disciples a way of looking at the world through a supernatural lens – to see the world, all creation and most importantly other human persons as God sees them in the light of His Kingdom. This means beginning to see the world *iconographically*; that is, as revealing and being related in some way to a spiritual and sacred way of living, with all things pointing ultimately to God. This in turn helps us to discern the revelation of God's very presence, the imprint of His Word upon the whole of creation. Within the family, this means that parents should model the respect and dignity that should be shown to all human persons beginning with each other and their children, their grandparents and relatives, etc. Parents should be aware of how their own actions and what they say and what they do is received by the child. Parents are truly the stewards of their children's purity of heart, so seeking to limit entertainment to things which edify and only in moderation, while at the same time teaching children the value of creation especially through activities outdoors helps to instill this virtue. The liturgy of the Church is the unique and special place where children and adults learn to see the world in the light of the Kingdom of God and thus develop *purity of heart*. The graces experienced and given in Church serve to both heal and empower the spiritual senses to perceive the presence of God in all aspects of life, giving our existence a particularly liturgical and sacramental character. Returning to the matter of sexual purity, children should be taught to both respect and protect their own dignity, as well as others, according to what is appropriate to their age and development. As Christian disciples we should remember that while sexual purity is not the most important of Christian virtues, it is an essential one as Jesus Himself taught. Husbands and wives do this especially by living faithfully according to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church regarding both marital fidelity to one's spouse by avoiding the temptations to adultery in body (e.g., infidelity) and mind (e.g., pornography) and a generous openness to life by rejecting all forms of artificial contraception which inhibit or destroy the gift of one's fertility to the other spouse. In this way, the great and sacred gift of human sexuality with all of its generous life-giving and love-giving dimensions in the context of the commitment of married love, serves to build up and edify the life of the family.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.

The seventh of these eight proverbs pertains to *peacemaking*. Peace here refers to more than just the absence of conflict; it is rather a state of reconciliation and responsible harmony with other persons and with creation. When God formed Adam and Eve in the garden, this state of Paradise was a state of *peace* between themselves and God, between and within themselves as creatures, and with the whole of God's creation, both visible and invisible. When sin erupted into the world through their disobedience, the ancestral curse brought division and disharmony in these relationships. Jesus Christ as the New Adam and Prince of Peace came to establish a New Creation and a New Kingdom where humanity is reconciled and healed and lives in a peaceful fellowship in all of its relationships. The family is intended to be a place of reconciliation and healing, a place of peace. That being said, there are many challenges to this peace, including human frailty and sin, as well as pressures from both within and without. Parents should strive to model a life of peace and reconciliation, most importantly by working

to avoid engaging in arguments and excessive displays of anger, but rather seeking to live in peace with each other, enjoying the potential for friendship and charity that should define Christian family life. Parents should also be discerning regarding forms of media which encourage gratuitous violence and aggression. The truest source of peace in the family is found in prayer together, inside and outside of the church. Families should have a place of prayer in the home and make time for prayer, both before and after meals, as well as before bedtime. Parents and children should seek the mercy and peace of Confession as well, seeking God's grace to live a life of reconciliation with Him and others through sincere repentance. In this way they might receive the blessing of truly being called the children of the Heavenly Father.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The eighth and final proverb pertains to *suffering for righteousness*. Jesus makes reference to the persecution that He knows will come for His disciples who seek to live according to His teachings and life of His Kingdom. This persecution can come in many forms, some more dramatic than others. Sometimes it is simply being pressured by others to choose or endorse what is evil because of what is accepted and encouraged in the workplace or in society. Other times it comes in the form of the powers of the State opposing, inhibiting or undermining the Church and the family for standing for her teachings on Christian faith and morals. Christian families very often bear the brunt of these pressures and persecutions because of their desire to live according to the commandments of God. It is important to remember that the standard of Christian discipleship is never to be found in the ways of the world, but rather in God alone as demonstrated by the lives of His saints and martyrs. Christian children in many ways are particularly vulnerable to this persecution in certain school environments, their neighborhoods, and the media, where religious views are generally and openly mocked or challenged. Parents must teach their children the importance of bearing up under such persecution for the sake of their faith in Jesus Christ. The traditional religious family today is frequently treated as an object of ridicule by the media and social activists, and even in some cases governmental bodies. Here the Church must act and use all means necessary to explain and defend the integrity of marriage and the family, even to the point of suffering persecution. The promise of Jesus of the gift and reward of the Kingdom of Heaven for those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness is a source of great hope and consolation.

Conclusion

Jesus concludes His teaching on the Beatitudes with this final promise: "Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven!" May we seek to love and support the grace of covenant of Christian marriage and family life with hope that it offers a model of holiness and participation of life in Kingdom of the Most Holy Trinity.

(Catechetical Directors of the Eastern Catholic Churches of America, August, 2015)



**A Church is a gift from God
Assembly required!**

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:** Contributions - \$909.25 Thank You!

St. Nicholas: Contributions \$1,076.00 Cemetery \$100.00 Thank You!

Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas- Special Intentions by Michael& Janet Buchinsky

Sanctuary Light: St. Michael- In Memory of +Jason Mitchell by Mitchell Family

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

4 Lamps of the Iconostas – God's Blessings on St. Michael's & our construction project.

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 Kozié
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
Frank Homa
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

Instead of pointing a finger, lend a hand.