

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, December 13th, 2015 ~ Sunday of the Forefathers

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 12 th	3:30pm +John Evans by Anne Evans
Sunday, December 13 th	10:30am +Stephen Rusin by Daughter, Dolores & Len Kozlosky <i>Fundraising Meeting to immediately follow Divine Liturgy</i>
Tuesday, December 15th	8:00am +Ann Wildey & Family 6:00pm-7:00pm Confessions
Wednesday, December 16 th	8:00am +Joseph Serafin by Charles Calise & Helen O'Connell 6:30pm Prayer Group
Friday, December 18 th	8:00am Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday, December 19 th	3:30pm God's Blessings on His People
Sunday, December 20 th	10:30am +Metropolitan Joseph Schmondiuk

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 12 th	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary 5:30pm God's Blessings on His People
Sunday, December 13 th	11:00am + His Beatitude, Myroslav Ivan Cardinal Lubachivsky
Monday, December 14 th	8:00am +Michael Skrincosky by Lucy O'Conner
Wednesday, December 16th	6:00pm -7:00pm Confessions
Thursday, December 17 th	8:00am + Walter Salak by Rosie Chattin
Saturday, December 19 th	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary 5:30pm +Mary &+ Patrick Antonio by the Skrincosky Families
Sunday, December 20 th	11:00am + Virginia Covach by Husband, Bill

St. Michael's Lector Schedule:

Saturday, December 12 th	Col 3:4-11	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, December 13 th	Col 3:4-11	Alice Breznik
Saturday, December 19 th	Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday, December 20 th	Heb 11:9-10 & 31-40	Michael Fulfa

St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:

Saturday, December 12 th	Col 3:4-11	Christine Romanko
Sunday, December 13 th	Col 3:4-11	Dolores Sadusky
Saturday, December 19 th	Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40	Michael Prokop
Sunday, December 20 th	Heb 11:9-10 & 31-40	Theresa Panchison

Anyone interested in being lector for Christmas Liturgies , please call the rectory before Wednesday.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

St. Michael:

Construction update: 12/9/15 The electrical work is continuing. Please be careful around the scaffolding and construction equipment. If you have any questions, please contact the rectory

Candles for the 2016 year are now available, the signup sheet for the Sanctuary Light (donation \$15.00) is now in the back of the Church. If you are interested in the Tetrapod (donation \$6.00) Crucifix (donation \$6.00) or the Tabernacle Lamps (donation \$30.00) Please contact the rectory .

Pierogie Sale Thank you to everyone who helped make this last Pyrohy Sale of 2015 a success. Our profit from this sale was \$1,459.40. Our next sale will be in February, and we are already sold out. Thanks again to everyone for all their hard work. Pierogie workers see Carol, Winnie or Father for a special treat.

Confession Schedule- Confessions at St. Michael's will be Tuesday, December 15th from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Complete confession schedule available at the back of the church .

Fundraising Meeting- Sunday December 13th, after Divine Liturgy(11:30) . We are asking anyone interested in helping with St. Michael's fundraising to please attend this meeting. We hope to lay out a plan for the new year. If you are unable to attend , please let Steffy Rarick or Msgr. know that you wish to be involved. Thank you.

Sick Calls will be Wednesday, December 16th

Bread Sale- Pick up for the Bread Sale is Saturday, December 19th at 12:00 noon. Help is needed for a few hours that day to hand out the bread. If you still have a bread order, please call the rectory this week.

Thank you to the Kossar Estate for their generous donation.

Thank you to the Odd Fellows Shenandoah Lodge #591 for their donation to our food pantry in memory of + Robert Beddall.

2016 Offering Envelopes are in the back of the church. If the information is incorrect , or if you do not have envelopes please notify the rectory.

St. Nicholas:

Sanctuary Light- Reservations for the Sanctuary Candle for “2016” may be submitted at your convenience. Envelopes for this special offering are available in the vestibule of our church.

Confession Schedule- Confessions at St. Nicholas will be Wednesday, December 16th from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Complete confession schedule available at the back of the church.

2016 Offering Envelopes will be available on December 19th in the Church Hall.

Memorials- Donations have been received from Daniel Kelly & Edward & Patricia Bruno in memory of +William Covach.

Feast of St. Nicholas- Thank you to all volunteers and guests for participating with an enjoyable dinner and wonderful fellowship in honor of our patron saint.

Both Churches:

Rectory Office Hours- Due to a family emergency the rectory office will only be open for limited hours for the next few weeks. Please call the office before coming down to avoid an unnecessary trip. Please feel free to leave a message or send an email during this time. Emails & phone messages will be checked on a daily basis. We are sorry for this inconvenience.

Food for the poor- 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.

Trinity Academy is in need of an adult to supervise "Trinity Cares," the after school care program. Hours are 2:30 to 6:00 on some days, but hours vary day by day according to family needs. Interested? Call Sr. Mary Ann at 570-462-3927.

Clothing Donations- We have been approached by a family in need of clothes for their children. Their sizes are **Boy- 2 to 3T , Girl- 3 to 4T, Girl 7 to 8 Children's, Boy 8 to 9 Children's.** Anyone who is willing to donate clothing to this family should give the clothes to Msgr. or drop them off at the rectory. Thank you.

Annual Festival of Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 3 p.m. at the golden-domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia. Choirs from different parishes will participate. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Display- Traditional Ukrainian Christmas at the treasury of Faith Museum 810 N Franklin St Philadelphia 215-627-3389 Sundays- December 20th, December 27th , January 3rd from 10:30-12:30pm, & January 10th , 12:30-2:30pm.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Trinity Academy will present "The Greatest Gift for Jesus" on Monday, December 21, 2015 at Marian High School, Hometown. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. Please join us as we celebrate this joyous Christmas Season



In this Season of Advent, St. Philip's Fast, we are in a time of fasting and abstinence as we prepare spiritually for the season of Christmas and the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our Church has spiritual bouquets available and may be purchased in the memory of or in honor of a loved one. They will be remembered in the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day.

Poinsettias will also be purchased to beautify our church during this season of the Nativity of Jesus Christ. Donations will also be accepted in memory of or in honor of a loved one and will help defray the cost of the flowers.

Spiritual Bouquet- In Memory of / In Honor of (living)

Christmas Flowers- In Memory of / In Honor of (living)

From

Please print your requests, and circle in Memory of or in Honor of . Feel free to use additional paper if more room is needed. **Please submit by December 21** , if your requests are not received by the 21st they will not appear in the Christmas bulletin. You may place your envelope in the collection basket, or contact the rectory. Thank you for your help in this matter.

There is no right way to do the wrong thing

POPE FRANCIS

MORNING MEDITATION IN THE CHAPEL OF THE DOMUS SANCTAE MARTHAE

A daily struggle Friday, 20 November 2015

(by *L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly ed. in English, n. 48, 27 November 2015)

Based on the day's Liturgy, Francis spoke again of the Church and the risks you take when you allow the temptation of worldliness to overcome you: when, instead of being faithful to the Lord, you let yourself be seduced by money and power.

In the homily of the Mass at Santa Marta on Friday, the Pope emphasized that “in recent days” the Church has called us to ponder “the process of worldliness, of apostasy that ends in persecution”. The Scripture passages of the day proposed a reflection on “that worldliness of the People of God who wanted to replace their covenant with the customs of all the pagan people”. A drift, the Pontiff explained, that leads to “single-mindedness”; and those who did not adhere were “persecuted”, after “many martyrs” and “so much suffering”. An example can be found in the Readings over the previous few days, in the story of the elderly scribe Eleazar, “who gave an example, to the very end, of his fidelity to the law”.

In the excerpt from the first Book of the Maccabees (4:36-37, 52-59) we read how “these pagans, this spirit of worldliness” were defeated. Judas and his brothers immediately said: “Behold, our enemies are crushed; let us go up to cleanse the sanctuary and dedicate it”. In this way, the Pope explained, the whole People of God felt happy, because they found that they had rediscovered “their true identity, that of their covenant with the living God; not that of worldliness, which was proposed to them”. The Pope noted that the temple was re-consecrated “with songs and harps and lutes and symbols. All the people fell on their faces and worshiped and blessed Heaven, that had prospered them. So they celebrated the dedication of the altar with burnt offerings, with gladness and praise”.

An “attitude of celebration” is seen in these lines. And, Pope Francis said, “celebrating is something that worldliness does not know how to do, cannot do”, because “the worldly spirit leads us at most to have a little fun”, and to make “a little noise”; but “joy comes only from fidelity to the covenant and not from these mundane proposals”.

“The same” happened to Jesus, the Pontiff explained, when he went to the temple and “began to drive out those who sold, chasing them all away, saying to them: ‘It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer; but you, however, have made it a den of robbers’”. It is a similar situation: at the “time of the Maccabees it was precisely the worldly spirit that had taken the place of worshiping the living God”. Here too we encounter “the worldly spirit”, although “in a different way”. At that time, the Pope explained, recalling the Gospel of Luke (19:45-48) which had been read shortly before, “the leaders of the temple, the chief priests and scribes, had changed things a bit. They had entered into a process of decay and had rendered the temple impure, they had blemished the temple”.

But this message is also relevant for Christians today, because “the temple is a symbol of the Church”. And, the Pope said, “the Church will always — always! — suffer the temptation of worldliness and the temptation of power that is not the power Jesus Christ wills for her”. Jesus does not say: “No, do not do

this, do it outside”, but instead: “You have made a den of robbers here!”. The Pope commented that “when the Church enters into this process of degradation the end is awful. Very bad!”.

Francis focused on this fundamental concept, recalling again the images of the Old Testament where we see “that poor elderly priest” who was “there, weak” and “allowed his priest sons to become corrupted”. It is a current danger. In fact, the Pope said, “there is always the temptation of corruption within the Church”. One falls into it when, “instead of being attached to fidelity to the Lord Jesus, the Lord of peace, joy and salvation”, one is “seduced by money and power”. We read the same in the Gospel today, where the “chief priests, the scribes, were attached to money, power, and had forgotten the spirit”. What’s more, “to justify themselves and say that they were right, that they were good, they replaced the Lord’s spirit of freedom with rigidity”.

In this regard, the Pope recalled that Jesus, in Chapter 23 of the Gospel of Matthew, speaks precisely “of their rigidity”. We see that people, just as we read in the passage from the Old Testament, “had lost their sense of God, even the capacity for joy and the ability to praise: they did not know how to praise God, because they were attached to money and power, to forms of worldliness”.

At this point the Pope continued to analyze the Gospel scene, noting that the chief priests and scribes “were angry”. Jesus did not chase them from the temple, but those “who were doing business, the businessmen of the temple”; however, “the chief priests and the scribes were connected with them”, because they evidently received money from them. This was, Pope Francis said, the “holy bribe”. They “were attached to money and worshiped it as ‘holy’”.

The words in the Gospel passage are very strong, and say that the chief priests, the scribes and the leaders of the people “sought to destroy him”. The same had happened in the time of Judah Maccabee. “Why?” the Pope asked. He explained the difficulties faced by those who opposed Jesus: “They did not know what to do because all the people hung on his every word, listening”. Jesus’ strength, therefore, “was his word, his testimony and his love. And where there is Jesus, there is no place for worldliness, no place for corruption”.

All this is clear even today: “This is the struggle each one of us faces, this is the daily struggle of the Church”, which is called to be “always with Jesus”. And Christians must “always hang on his every word, to hear his word; and never seek security where there are things of another master”. After all, “you cannot serve two masters: either God or riches; God or power”.

That’s why, Pope Francis concluded, “it is good for us to pray for the Church, to think of the many martyrs today who suffer and die in order to avoid entering into this spirit of worldliness, single-mindedness and apostasy. Today!”. Recalling that “today the Church has more martyrs than in the early days”, the Pope urged that “it is good for us to think about them, and also to ask for the grace” to never enter “into this process of degrading into the worldliness that leads us to become attached to money and power”.

**An Honest crumb tastes better than a dishonest feast .
Jesus will help you through your holiday.**

Preparation for Holy Confession

The gift of God's forgiveness is received through private prayer, corporate worship, the disciplines of prayer and fasting, penitential services and above all through the sacrament of Holy Confession.

The values of Holy Confession are twofold. First, through this sacramental act of the ordained priest and the Christian believer we have the assurance of divine forgiveness, according to the words of Christ (John 20:23). Second, Holy Confession provides the opportunity to talk about one's deep concerns, to receive counsel and to be encouraged toward spiritual growth.

Holy Confession is appropriate whenever an Eastern Christian feels the need for it. It is also a part of our total spiritual preparation during fast periods leading up to the great feasts of Pascha, Christmas, the Dormition of the Theotokos and the Feast of the Twelve Apostles. However, Holy Confession is especially necessary when a serious sin has been committed, when habitual sin has overwhelmed a Christian or when a Christian has stopped growing spiritually and needs a reexamination of priorities.

How can one prepare for Holy Confession? Preparation is a prayerful examination of feelings, thoughts, words, acts, attitudes, habits, values, priorities, goals, direction and way of life. Our entire existence should be lived in Christ. The goal of this sincere search of conscience under the light of the Holy Spirit is to affirm our true selves in Christ.

Pray and think about your confession over several days. Ask God to help you perceive your sins and make a thorough confession of them. Reflect on Psalm 51 and read the following prayer of repentance: "O Lord my God, I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. I have also omitted to do what Your Holy Law requires of me. But now with repentance and contrition, I turn again to Your love and mercy. I entreat You to forgive me all my transgressions and to cleanse me from all my sins. Lord, fill my heart with the light of your truth. Strengthen my will by Your grace. Teach me both to desire and to do only what pleases You. Amen."

Now, make a prayerful examination of your conscience regarding all things, reflecting on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. Specify your sins so you can make a thorough Confession, without confusion or lapse of memory.

HOUSE BLESSING 2016

I (we) would like you to come and bless my (our) home if possible this year during the Theophany (Jordan) Season. (2016) **(Please print)**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Please return by January 4th. Thank you

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

I am the Lord your God and you shall have no other gods before Me. Has God been the source, center & hope of my life? Have I put myself, others or things before God? Have I failed to trust in God's existence, love and mercy? Have I valued anyone or anything above God? Have I given to anyone or anything the love, honor & worship that belongs to God alone. Have I made an idol of any person, idea, occupation or thing.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. Have I blasphemed God's holy name in any way? Have I sworn a false oath? Have I broken any solemn vow or promise?

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. Have I worshipped regularly on Sundays & major feast days & have I helped others do the same? Have I worked unnecessarily on Sundays or major feast days or caused others to do so? Have I spent the Lord's day in wholesome & edifying ways?

Honor your father and mother. Have I loved & respected my parents as I should? Have I neglected them or failed to help them? Have I disobeyed them or caused them pain by my words or deeds?

You shall not kill. Have I caused the harm, injury or death of anyone? Have I wished my own or anyone's harm or death? Have I been cruel to animals or destroyed any life unnecessarily?

You shall not commit adultery. Have I committed any immoral acts alone or with others or caused others to do so? Have I committed immoral acts in my heart?

You shall not steal. Have I taken anything from anywhere that was not my own or caused others to do so? Have I cheated anyone, or damaged or destroyed things that are not mine? Have I paid my debts or given to the poor in proportion to my means?

You shall not bear false witness. Have I given false testimony against anyone, spoken evil, told lies or spread rumors? Have I disclosed the sins & faults of another or made careless statements that are damaging to another? Have I engaged in idle gossip?

You shall not covet. Have I looked with envy, jealousy or hatred toward the possessions, talents or achievements of others? Have I grieved that God has bestowed greater blessing on others than on me?

Christmas Divine Liturgy Schedule

St. Michael's

Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24th Time: 4:00pm

Christmas Day: Friday, December 25th Time: 10:30am

Synaxis of the Mother of God: Saturday, December 26th Time: 10:00am

St. Nicholas

Vespers & Divine Liturgy: December 24th Time 8:00am

Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24th Time: 7:30pm

Christmas Day: Friday, December 25th Time 8:30am

Synaxis of the Mother of God: Saturday, December 26th Time 8:00am

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 - \$1,328.00 Thank You!

St. Nicholas: Contributions \$1,629.00 Thank You!

Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas- In Memory of +Rosalie Rehnert, 20th Anniversary by James & Anna Rehnert

Sanctuary Light: St. Michael- In Memory of +Helen Sims by Niece, Nancy Sawka

Seven Branch Candlestick- God's Blessings for & in Memory of the Blaschak & Wolfe Families

4 Lamps of the Iconostas – In Memory of & God's Blessing for the Rusin & Kozlosky Families

Lamps of the Crucifix- Christmas Blessings on My Family & Friends.

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

Lights of the Tabernacle- In Memory of + Michael Krajcirik by Theresa Krajcirik

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 Bereschak
Helen Sims
Mary Mazur
Keilbasa Family*

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

St. Nicholas

Helen Salak
Margaret Skrincosky
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

Check out our updated website at www.first-ukrainian.com

It's still under construction - let us know what you think .