

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 20th , 2015 ~ Sunday before Christmas of the Ancestors

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

| | |
|--|---|
| Saturday, December 19 th | 3:30pm God's Blessings on His People |
| Sunday, December 20 th | 10:30am +Metropolitan Joseph Schmondiuk |
| Tuesday, December 22 nd | 8:30am God's Blessings on Chuck and Dolores |
| Wednesday, December 23 rd | 5:00pm +Walter Yesko by Wife, Helen No Prayer Group |
| <i>Christmas Eve</i> | |
| Thursday, December 24 th | 4:00pm God's Blessings on the People of St. Michael's |
| <i>Christmas Day</i> | |
| Friday, December 25 th | 10:30am God's Blessings on the People of St. Michael's |
| <i>Synaxis of the Theotokos</i> | |
| Saturday, December 26 th | 10:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary |
| <i>Feast of St. Stephen</i> | |
| Saturday, December 26 th | 3:30pm +Michael & +Anna Kaczmarczyk by Daughter, Anne |
| Sunday, December 27 th | 10:30am 1 year Anniversary+ Fr. Peter Osinski by Andrew Szczyglak |

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

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|--|---|
| 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 |
| Monday, December 21 st | 8:00am +John & +Julia Plasha by Russell & Marie Plasha |
| Thursday, December 24 th | 8:00am Vespers & Divine Liturgy |
| <i>Christmas Eve</i> | |
| Thursday, December 24 th | 7:30pm God's Blessings on the People of St. Nicholas |
| <i>Christmas Day</i> | |
| Friday, December 25 th | 8:30am God's Blessings on the People of St. Nicholas |
| <i>Synaxis of the Theotokos</i> | |
| Saturday, December 26 th | 8:00am God's Blessings on His Grace, Archbishop Stefan Soroka on his Name Day |
| <i>Feast of St. Stephen</i> | |
| Saturday, December 26 th | 5:30pm +Eugene Rehnert & 20 th Anniversary +Rosalie Rehnert by Jim & Anna Rehnert |
| Sunday, December 27 th | 8:30am God's Blessings on His People |

St. Michael's Lector Schedule:

| | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Saturday, December 19 th | Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40 | Winifred Mohutsky |
| Sunday, December 20 th | Heb 11:9-10 & 31-40 | Michael Fuflla |
| Thursday, December 24 th <i>Christmas Eve</i> | Gal 4:4-7 | Michael Fuflla |
| Friday, December 25 th <i>Christmas Day</i> | Gal 4:4-7 | Charles Calise |
| Saturday, December 26 th | Gal 1:11-19 | Nancy Sawka |
| Sunday, December 27 th | Gal 1:11-19 | Stephanie Rarick |

St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:

| | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Saturday, December 19 th | Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40 | Michael Prokop |
| Sunday, December 20 th | Heb 11:9-10 & 31-40 | Theresa Panchison |
| Thursday, December 24 th <i>Christmas Eve</i> | Gal 4:4-7 | Bernadette Bremer |
| Friday, December 25 th <i>Christmas Day</i> | Gal 4:4-7 | Theresa Panchison |
| Saturday, December 26 th | Gal 1:11-19 | David Toth |
| Sunday, December 27 th | Gal 1:11-19 | Leeann Smulligan |

**Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!****St. Michael:**

Construction update: 12/18/15 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. 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.

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.

Memorial Fund - A donation has been received in memory of +Joseph Lesko by his wife, Mary Lesko and niece, Maryann Weachock.

Thank You Many thanks to Theresa Krajcirik for her generous donation of a ATV to St. Michaels. The sale of the ATV netted a profit of \$1,800.00.

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.

Offering Envelopes for 2016 are available in the Church Hall.

Both Churches:

Fasting: Thursday, December 24 will be a fast day for those 14 to 59 years of age, people should abstain from eating meat. There will be NO Fast on Friday, December 25th.

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.

Faith Lights Our Way- There will be a meeting for Teens from 8th to high school on Sunday, January 3rd. Weather permitting, we will be snow tubing. More details to follow. Any questions contact Sr. Natalya at 570-544-3639.

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..

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 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

Please submit by this Monday, December 21st.



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.

Christmas Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude Sviatoslav

To the Most Reverend Archbishops and Metropolitans, God-loving bishops, honorable clergy, reverend religious, and beloved brothers and sisters in Ukraine and throughout the world.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased! (Luke 2:14)

Christ is born!

Let us glorify Him!

The evangelist Luke proclaims the words spoken by the angel who appeared to the shepherds: "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2: 10-11)

The joy of the Nativity of Christ, the good news of the birth in human flesh of the Son of God Himself, is like a powerful beam of eternal sunlight that descends today from heaven to earth.

Christ is born! These are the words with which the heavenly powers gladdened the hearts of the shepherds who stood watch over their sheep. *Christ is born!* These tidings transformed night into day, sadness into consolation, waiting into the fulfilment of hope. *Christ is born!* This joy, which comes down from Heaven, inspires a person to act: to seek the Eternal God in a new-born babe, to serve Him as a neighbor, and to share this joy with others.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.

These are words from the Heavenly Liturgy, in which the angelic choirs praise God for His love towards His people. As participants and witnesses of this supernatural reality, the shepherds learn the true reason for the joy of Christmas. The Savior has been born; in Him is disclosed the very core of our faith – faith in God's merciful love towards His creation, which makes us people upon whom His favor rests.

So it is that this heavenly hymn relates to each one of us! The angels glorify God on high for the simple reason that He eternally bestows His good will upon His people, that is, He desires for them what is good. He is our highest benefactor. The eternal active love of God the Father flows throughout the history of the whole world and is incarnated in the person of His beloved Son, who is born today in Bethlehem. The Evangelist John teaches us about the good will of God in these words: "the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins." (1 John 4: 9-10)

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace...

Peace is one of the essential expressions of God's love for His people. No wonder the Old Testament prophets foretold that the coming of the Messiah on earth would bring peace on earth, grant people the gifts of love and justice, eliminate all evil and hatred, and restore harmony throughout the world. And so today we hear that Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Eternal King, upon whose shoulders rests all authority and honour, is the very same One of whom Isaiah spoke, now born at last. The peace, which the Lord brings, does not mean a temporary truce or a simple absence of war. A person obtains true peace only by reconciling with God and personally uniting with Him. The new-born Jesus unites and

reconciles within Himself both God and mankind. As a result of this union and reconciliation, Christ becomes the source of peace in the whole world. The Apostle Saint Paul teaches us this about Christ – “For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility” (Ephesians 2:14)

How long God’s people awaited this peace, which Christ brought with His Nativity! With what eagerness the shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, and with what persistence the wise men from the East journeyed to the place of His birth. But how they must have been awed by the fact that they found that long-awaited peace, not in an earthly ruler, not in the cleverness of a skilled diplomat, not in the power of a well-formed army, but in a fragile new-born homeless infant. And what’s more, the foretold Prince of Peace, upon the moment of His birth, was forced to become a displaced person, a fugitive fleeing to escape the persecution of King Herod. This Wondrous Divine Wisdom, through the Mystery of the Nativity, teaches us that God’s love, heavenly peace and glory come only when we humble ourselves before the least one among us, and that only in serving the needy will we meet God.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

With God’s help, we have lived through yet one more year – one more year of war. The suffering of our people has not ended; our trials have not come to an end. But we have survived and we carry on. To the surprise of the whole world, we have survived in the midst of immeasurable pain, loss of blood, and tears. In a war situation we’ve had to rethink the value and meaning of the words "peace" and "mercy", "courage" and "humanity", "allegiance" and "responsibility." We have learned that such zeal is found in prayer. By releasing the power of prayer, together with the whole world, we sincerely and persistently continue to entreat God for peace.

The road to peace has become for us the road to our neighbor. We are learning to be in solidarity. We are learning to recognize the needs of our soldiers at the front as our needs. We are learning to be concerned about the pain of those who have lost family members and friends, and the pain of the wounded and imprisoned, as if it were our own pain. In the midst of ever greater needs, economic hardships, corruption still present everywhere and lack of effective political management, we have not lost compassion for our neighbor, but have become more responsible and bolder in defending dignity. We continue to share with those in need: what we have, what we know and can do, what we believe in – and what we are. The way to our victory in Christ is that which unites, reconciles and makes us community. Solidarity, compassion and trust give us hope in God and reveal to us the true road to peace.

It is in this nationwide solidarity in faith, hope and love that we feel the active presence of God among us and His real birth in our homeland. The path to our neighbor has become for millions of Ukrainians the path to God’s love. We might say that in this wondrous good will of God for us, in this solidarity, we have discovered the key to victory, for, as the Apostle Paul teaches us: “When God is with us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

Let us celebrate this Christmas together with those who have become displaced, those who have lost their loved ones, their possessions and their homes. In this Holy Year of the Mercy of God, may the doors of our homes, open to the needy, be, in the words of Pope Francis, the doors of the mercy of God. Hence whoever walks through them may experience the flow of God’s merciful love, love which

forgives our sins, heals the wounds of our souls and bodies, transforms sadness into joy, and makes all that is weak strong and invincible.

By welcoming the refugees, the poor and the suffering, we welcome into our homes, into our families and into our communities the Son of God Himself- the Font of God's peace. Let us not ask what language they speak, what church they attend, or what beliefs they hold. Rather let us be interested in what hurts them, where their loved ones are, and how we may help them. With our prayers and acts of mercy let us approach together with them the manger in which Christ is resting. It is in them, precisely, that we will be able to welcome the new-born Savior. And it is precisely in this way that we will enter into reconciliation with God and with our brothers and sisters, and bring God's peace to our greatly suffering Ukrainian land.

On this joyful bright feast of the Nativity of Christ, I wish to express to all of you, dearly beloved in Christ, heartfelt greetings. I desire to convey this joy to every home, to the dugouts at the front, to the hospitals where the wounded are recovering, to the dwelling places of hundreds of thousands of displaced brothers and sisters, to those in Ukraine, and those in the diaspora- to all I desire today to send a word of comfort and hope, the source of which is the birth of the Savior.

With the good news of the Nativity of Jesus Christ, I wish to visit those of you who have opened the doors of your hearts to God and neighbor, and I wish to pass through the Doors of Mercy together with you in this Holy Year. While sharing the joyful news of the birth of Christ-God, I long to shake the hands of our brave soldiers who safeguard our Christmas, to comfort the sorrowful, to wipe the tears of those who are weeping, to strengthen the faith of those who doubt that good will triumph over evil.

Standing today before the altar of God, I sense an extraordinary solidarity with the vast family of our particular Church, which has gathered together around the Lord's Table here on earth and in God's glory on high. May the new-born Savior hear all our prayers, keep our nation and our leaders in peace and wellbeing and bestow upon them His heavenly blessing.

Wishing you a blessed Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, a tasty kutia and a happy new year!

Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

+ Sviatoslav

Issued in Kyiv,

at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the feast of the praiseworthy First-Called Apostle, Saint Andrew, and the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Divine Mercy December 13, 2015

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

Tw'as the month before Christmas
When all through our land,
Not a Christian was praying
Nor taking a stand.
Why the PC Police had taken away
The reason for Christmas - no one could say.
The children were told by their schools not to sing
About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.
It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say
December 25th is just a ' Holiday'.
Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit
Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!
MP3s from Madonna, an X BOX, an I-Pod
Something was changing, something quite odd!
Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa
In hopes to sell books by Franken & Fonda.
As Targets were hanging their trees upside down
At Lowe's the word Christmas - was nowhere to be found.
At K-Mart and Staples and Penny's and Sears
You won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears.
Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-si-ty
Are words that were used to intimidate me.
Now Daschle, Now Darden, Now Sharpton, Wolf Blitzen
On Boxer, on Rather, on Kerry, on Clinton!
At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter
To eliminate Jesus, in all public matter.
And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith
Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace
The true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded
The reason for the season, stopped before it started.
So as you celebrate 'Winter Break' under your 'Dream Tree'
Choose your words carefully, choose what you say
Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS,
not Happy Holiday!
Please, all Catholic and Protestant Christians join together and
wish everyone you meet
MERRY CHRISTMAS
Christ is The Reason' for the Christ-mas Season!



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 - \$ 979.00 Cemetery - \$995.00 Thank You!

St. Nicholas: Contributions \$ 887.00 Thank You!

Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas- In Memory of +Michael & +Margaret Leschick by Jim, Alexandra, Cesya, & Abrea Cuono

Sanctuary Light: St. Michael- In Memory of +Robert Kalavage by Wife, Carol

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

4 Lamps of the Iconostas – In Thanksgiving for the Blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ's birth. Glorify Him.

Lamps of the Crucifix- In Loving memory of +Dr. Daniel M Paul , +Helen & +Albert Bauser , +Robert Thomas , + Helen & +Dante Paul by Jane Bauser Paul.

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 Kozie
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