

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 6th , 2015 ~ 28th Sunday after Pentecost Feast of St. Nicholas

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Feast of St. Nicholas

Saturday, December 5 th	3:30pm +Annette Sawka by J. Sawka Family
Sunday, December 6 th	10:30am God's Blessings on His People
Tuesday, December 8 th	5:00pm +Mary Lazusky & Anna Lefchick by William & Irene Mc Andrew

Feast of Maternity of the Holy Anna

Wednesday, December 9 th	5:00pm God's Blessings on His People
	6:30pm Prayer Group
Friday, December 11 th	NO DIVINE LITURGY
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>

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 5th 8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary

Feast of St. Nicholas

Saturday, December 5th 5:30pm +Katherine, +Mary & +Rose Porchik by Andrew & Anna Skrincosky

Sunday, December 6th 11:00am +Catherine & Joseph Panchison by Panchison Family
Divine Liturgy to be celebrated by Fr. Wysochansky , Banquet to follow

Monday, December 7th 8:00am +Theodore Stock by Richard Kost

Feast of Maternity of the Holy Anna

Wednesday, December 9 th	9:00am +Anna Zucal by Theresa Panchison
Thursday, December 10 th	8:00am + Jerry, +Barbara, +Metro & +Julia Fecenko- Legacy Liturgy
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

St. Michael's Lector Schedule:

Saturday, December 5 th	Col 1:12-18	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday December 6 th	Col 1:12-18	Paul Caputo
Wednesday, December 9 th	Gal 4:22-31	Charles Calise
Saturday, December 12 th	Col 3:4-11	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, December 13 th	Col 3:4-11	Alice Breznik

St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:

Saturday, December 5 th	Col 1:12-18	Andrew Skrincosky
Sunday December 6 th	Col 1:12-18	Lauralee Sadusky
Saturday, December 12 th	Col 3:4-11	Christine Romanko
Sunday, December 13 th	Col 3:4-11	Dolores Sadusky

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

St. Michael:

Construction update: 12/3/15 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 will be Monday December 7th. We appreciate any time you are able to give to help with this fundraiser. We are sold out for this sale. This will be the last sale for 2015. The next sale will be in February.

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 or flyer included in this week's bulletin.

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

American Girl Doll Basket Raffle- Congratulations Peggy Klemovage who won the basket for her granddaughter Allison. Our profit on this fundraiser was \$158.00. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser.

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.

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 or flyer included in week's bulletin.

Sick Calls will be Wednesday, December 9th

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

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.

Liturgy requests for 2016 are being taken - Please contact the rectory during normal business hours, submit a request in writing, or email a request to stmichaelsukrainian@verizon.net

Copies of the Christmas Divine Liturgy Schedule and the Deanery wide confession schedule are available at the back of the Church.

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.

CHICKEN & HALUPKI DINNER Sunday, December 13th 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM St. Nicholas Hall, Primrose includes...chicken, halupki, mashed potatoes, filling, corn & roll \$10.00/platter....EAT IN OR TAKE-OUT Advance tickets only...call 570-544-4581

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.



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.

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

Pastoral Letter from His Beatitude Sviatoslav on the Occasion of the Proclamation of the Holy Year of Mercy in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Dearly Beloved in Christ!

Together with the Universal Church we are entering into a time of special grace -The Holy Year, which, according to the will of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, will last from 8th. December 2015 to 20th November 2016.

This year, which is also called an Extraordinary Jubilee Year, has been dedicated by the Pope to God's mercy. This is a time of God's special blessings, to undertake a pilgrimage to a Cathedral in our Local or Universal Church. This is a time for healing the wounds of body and soul, a return to God - a rediscovery of Mercy. Standing on the threshold of the Jubilee Year, let us reflect on how we accept God's Mercy, how we live it and how we testify about it to ourselves, our neighbors and all people so that we may take advantage of the many spiritual fruits of this fertile time.

When God desired to reveal himself to man, to introduce us to Himself and reveal the truth about Himself, he described Himself, first of all, as The Merciful God. Revealing His glory to Moses at Sinai, the Lord said of himself: "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex. 34: 6). God, the Father has poured upon us his merciful love in his Son Jesus Christ. This is what our Savior taught when he said to his disciples, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (Jn. 3, 16). Being a Christian is to first of all believe in God's mercy for ourselves,- to believe in God's love. The Evangelist John emphasizes this sharing of faith saying, "So we know and believed the love that God has for us" (I Jn. 4, 16).

An important aspect of this Holy Year is an invitation to everyone to receive God's mercy. It is given to us, - the Church, by the Holy Spirit - the Spirit of God's love. To personally accept and live this mercy we turn to the Holy Mystery of Penance or Reconciliation. Unfortunately, in many parts of the world this Sacrament is almost forgotten, rarely preached about and even more rarely gone to. The reasons for this sad state of affairs are many, but in the first place there is less knowledge and experience of God's presence and as a consequence, a loss of a sense of sin. Our great desire is that the faithful of our Church use the Year of God's Mercy to rediscover, appreciate and experience more frequently the Source of Mercy, which the Lord has revealed to us sinners in the Mystery of Penance. This appeal I direct to Pastors who have a duty to administer the Mystery to the faithful. I also appeal particularly to those baptized persons who call themselves Christians, but rarely confess and therefore have no ability to live God's mercy and to receive God's love.

A particular requirement of anyone who experiences this Holy Year is to share God's mercy. Our motto this year will be the words "Merciful like the Father" that resonate from the call of our Lord Jesus to his disciples: "Be merciful, as your Father is merciful" (Lk. 6, 36). These words remind us that the gift of mercy that we ourselves receive from Our Lord requires us to be merciful to our neighbors. In this way we not only express our gratitude to God for His mercy on us, but reveal to our neighbors the face and gracious presence of God in this world, a world that is so frequently scarred by human suffering, loneliness, fear and hopelessness. Faithful of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, no matter on which continent of globe they live, feel the suffering and pain of millions of citizens of Ukraine caused by an unjust war against us. Therefore, we must use every opportunity that presents itself to be merciful.

I call upon all our faithful to remember the Church's teaching on specific works of mercy for the soul and the body, for individuals and for the wider community, showing all the love and creativity and drawing on our faith

to implement them in everyday life. Mercy washes away our sins, transforms our hearts and our lives and brings us closer to God through a transformation - to become more like Him. Our mercy should primarily be directed to our family members and neighbors, so that in the words of, Pope Francis the door of every home becomes "the door of mercy". Let us be attentive to the needy members of the parish community, which for us is the Family of God: there must never be people who feel forgotten, abandoned and overlooked in their needs. Since love has no boundaries, acts of mercy have to go out and meet poor people, regardless of their nationality, social status, religious affiliation or political preferences. Let all who meet us through our sincere interest in them, good words and effective help, feel the presence of the Merciful Father.

Another of our duties this year is to become witnesses of God's mercy. Our faith teaches us to see the opportunity so that we may exercise our Evangelical vocation to witness the wonderful works of God's mercy in the world. Our brothers and sisters in our native land have always remembered this vocation. We recall how they witnessed Christ before the torturers and unjust judges in difficult times of persecution. So today - when Ukrainian soldiers and those who support them physically and spiritually have become remarkable witnesses to the strength of love in the face of external aggression. All our faithful in Ukraine and throughout the World are called to become tireless evangelists of God's mercy, which has so clearly and generously manifested itself in the history of our Church and people. Indeed, the experience of salvation in times of persecution and the power of God's love that still animates and leads our people is given to us not only for ourselves, but also as a sign of hope for a lost and fearful world. This sign, which is our history, speaks more with God's than human words: "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever" (Ps. 125: 1) and "But I will sing of your might; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been a fortress for me and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love "(Ps. 59, 17-18). So do not be silent about God's great works, the works of the Lord's mercy on us, so that all people, among whom we live, know that - He is our God, our salvation, and having recognized this, they will come closer to God in their hearts and in their works.

In this Holy Year let us place ourselves and the world under the Protection of Mary the Mother of Mercy. "God is in its midst, it will not be shaken" (Ps. 46, 6) - these words of the psalmist are found in Saint Sophia – Holy Wisdom Cathedral in Kyiv, from which flows the spring of our forefather's faith. They express the abiding confidence of our people in God's mighty protection for the city and the country through the unstoppable prayers to our Heavenly Intercessor depicted on the "Indestructible wall", The Kyiv Oranta.

Our people in different parts of Ukraine and the world venerate the Virgin and beg her help through miracle-working icons. This year, with much love let us focus our thoughts and our pilgrim steps to the princely city of Yaroslav, a city, near the western border of Ukraine and Poland, where in the territory of the Przemysl - Warsaw Archeparchy we find our ancient and miraculous Icon of the Virgin - "Doors of Mercy". God in His providence has chosen the Most Holy Virgin as the "door" through which He came to mankind in His Only Begotten Son, incarnate through the power and action of the Holy Spirit.

May this same Spirit may fill our hearts with God's love and mercy. May it transform our lives, making us a images of the presence and work of our merciful Father in the world. May we be accompanied this year by The Most Holy Virgin - Mother of Mercy, and all the saints and righteous of the Ukrainian land - faithful witnesses of God's mercy and God's love!

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+Sviatoslav

Given in Kyiv at the Patriarchal Sobor of the Resurrection of Christ on the feast of the Priest-Martyr Josephat, Archbishop of Polotsk 25 November 2015

The Feast of St. Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra, Wonderworker



St. Nicholas stands out in the Church as a "model of faith and an example of virtue." Nicholas was Archbishop of Myra in Lycia in the fourth century. He is called the Wonder-worker. His greatness lies neither in theological works nor in writing. He is a personification of a shepherd, a defender, and an intercessor. For us, Nicholas is a man of faith. He shows us what humility is and teaches us the values of moderation and poverty. All generations have acknowledged him as a holy bishop.

St. Nicholas, called "of Bari", was bishop of Myra in the fourth century. The great veneration with which this saint has been honored for many ages and the number of altars and churches which have been everywhere dedicated in his memory are testimonials to his holiness and of the glory which he enjoys with God. He is said to have been born at Patara in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor. Myra, the capital, not far from the sea, was an episcopal see, and this church falling vacant, the holy Nicholas was chosen bishop, and in that station became famous by his extraordinary piety and zeal and many astonishing miracles.

The Greek histories of his life agree that he suffered imprisonment of the faith and made a glorious confession in the latter part of the persecution raised by Diocletian, and that he was present at the Council of Nicaea and there condemned Arianism. He died at Myra, and was buried in his cathedral.

The Icon of St. Nicholas brings him into our life. He is shown with his right hand raised in blessing and his left hand clasping a scroll. As bishop, he blesses his people in the name of Christ and brings the Word of Truth to them. The Icon encloses the image of Christ holding the Gospel Book on one side of the Saint, and the Mother of God holding the Bishop's omophorion on the other side. This is an obvious reference to his choice as Bishop of Myra. It is common for events from the lives of the Saints to be shown in their icons. In a vision prior to his election as Bishop, Nicholas beheld Christ handing him the Book of Gospels, and the Mother of God placing the omophorion on his shoulders.

The celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas, on December 6, is a holiday celebrated with much joy in Ukraine, where it is a traditional custom to visit and distribute gifts. Many Ukrainian communities continue this old tradition, which helps Ukrainian children remember that before Santa Claus there was a holy man called Nicholas.

Named the patron saint of children, Nicholas was the son of a wealthy bishop and shared his fortune with the poor. He was said to have secretly left bags of gold in the night for those who could not afford dowries for their daughters. Legend says that maidens need only pray to the patron saint and they will have good husbands in the future.

With St. Nicholas we stand in faith and worship, seeing him as a model for our Christian lives and a model for Christian leadership. We ask him to pray to Christ for us.

The Feast of the Conception of St. Anne

The feast of the “Conception of St Anne, when she conceived Mary, the Mother of God” is not a so-called “Holy Day of Obligation.” It technically never has been—except that the Roman Catholic Church in the United States designated the feast they know as the “Immaculate Conception” as the patronal feast of the country. In most other places—except for Ireland and The Philippines—even the Latin Church does not consider it a “holy day of precept.”

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century (prior to the Great Schism of 1054). It spread to the West in the eighth century. In the eleventh century it received the name Immaculate Conception in the West. In the eighteenth century it became a feast of the Roman Catholic Church—the only Marian feast that came to the Western Church not by way of Rome, but from the Byzantine area to Naples; thence to Normandy during their period of dominance over southern Italy. From there it spread into England, France, Germany, and eventually, Rome.

Prior to Pope Pius IX’s definition of the Immaculate Conception as Church dogma, missals referred to it as the Feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The festal texts of this period focused more upon the action of her conception rather than a theological question of her preservation from original sin. A missal published in England in 1806 indicates the same set of prayers for the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was used for this feast as well.

In 1854, Pius IX gave the statement *Ineffabilis Deus*: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.”

Eastern liturgical texts do not express the later-defined Roman Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception. They do note December 9 as the Feast of the Conception by St. Anne of the Most Holy Theotokos. They stress that Mary was, from her conception, filled with every grace of the Holy Spirit, in view of her calling as the Mother of God; they do not explicitly say she was conceived without original sin as the understanding of this doctrine differs from the Roman Catholic articulation. All prayers affirm that Mary is “all-holy” and in eloquently poetic terms call her “completely sinless”.

The Eastern feast is not exactly nine months before the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8) as it is in the West, but a day later. This feast is not ranked among the Great Feasts of the church year, but is a lesser-ranking feast (Polyeleos).

Historically it appears that belief in Mary’s immunity from sin in her conception was prevalent among the Fathers, especially those of the Greek Church. The rhetorical character, however, of many of the passages prevents laying too much stress on them, and interpreting them in a strictly literal sense. However, the Greek Fathers never formally or explicitly discussed the question of the Immaculate Conception, about which an implicit reference may be found in the angel’s greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel said, “*Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you*” (Luke 1:28). The phrase “full of grace” is a translation of the Greek word *kecharitomene*. It therefore expresses a characteristic quality of Mary.

The U. S. Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy issued the following letter dated November 30, 2006:

To the Clergy, Sisters, and the Faithful of the Metropolitan Province of Philadelphia for Ukrainians:

As long as anyone can remember, we have celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in the United States on December 8th as a Holy Day of Obligation. This was done so we may be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of the Latin Church as this title of the Mother of God is the patron of our great country. In accordance with the decree (1.4) of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church during the Synod of 1997 (September 14th-20th), the holy days of obligation were promulgated and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception was not included as a day of obligation.

As the feast of the Conception of St. Anne is celebrated on December 9th in all of the Eastern Churches (Gregorian Calendar) and specifically in the Ukrainian Church, we, the undersigned, promulgate that the Feast of the Conception of St. Anne is to be celebrated on December 9th in the United States of America. This will enable our Church sui iuris to be of one accord in its celebration of the Liturgical life of our Church. This is to take effect immediately. Given on the Feast of St. Andrew (November 30) 2006. +Stefan Soroka +Robert M. Moskal +Richard S. Seminack +Paul Chomnycky, O.S.B.M.

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 - \$1,038.70 Thank You!

St. Nicholas: Contributions \$557.00 Thank You!

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

Sanctuary Light: St. Michael- In Memory of +Annette Sawka by Niece, Paula Sawka

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

4 Lamps of the Iconostas – In Memory of +Annette Sawka by J Sawka Family

Lamps of the Crucifix- In Memory of +Mary Lazusky &+ Anna Lefchick by William & Irene Mc Andrew

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

For a healthy heart, exercise your faith.

Get rich quick- count your blessings