

**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](mailto:stmichaelsukrainian@verizon.net) Website- [www.first-ukrainian.com](http://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

---

**Friday, December 25, 2015 Christmas Day & Sun, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Feast of St. Stephen**

---

**SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE**

*Christmas Eve*

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm God's Blessings on the People of St. Michael's

*Christmas Day*

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30am God's Blessings on the People of St. Michael's

*Synaxis of the Theotokos*

Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary

*Feast of St. Stephen*

Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm +Michael & +Anna Kaczmarczyk by Daughter, Anne

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> 10:30am 1 year Anniversary+ Fr. Peter Osinski by Andrew Szczyglak

Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm+ Ann Wildey & God's Blessing on her Family

Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm God's Blessing & Good Health for Barbara Hyland by Theresa Krajcirik

6:30pm Prayer Group

Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 8:00am Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

*Circumcision of Our Lord*

Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 5:00pm God's Blessings on the His People

Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 3:30pm + Metropolitan Constantine Bohachevsky

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:30am +Julie Hancher by Mr & Mrs James Flynn & Anna Dapriano

**SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE**

*Christmas Eve*

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm God's Blessings on the People of St. Nicholas

*Christmas Day*

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 8:30am God's Blessings on the People of St. Nicholas

*Synaxis of the Theotokos*

Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> 8:00am God's Blessings on His Grace, Archbishop Stefan Soroka on his Name Day

*Feast of St. Stephen*

Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm +Eugene Rehnert & 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary +Rosalie Rehnert by Jim & Anna Rehnert

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> 8:30am God's Blessings on His People

Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> 8:00am+ Joseph Lutzkanin by Andrew & Anna Skrincoosky

*Circumcision of Our Lord*

Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00am +Regina Skrincoosky by Andrew & Anna Skrincoosky

Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart of Mary

5:30pm Pap, +Walter Salak by Mark Fox & Family

Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:30am God's Blessings on His People

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

Thursday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Gal 4:4-7	Michael Fufla
Friday, December 25 <sup>th</sup> <i>Christmas Day</i>	Gal 4:4-7	Charles Calise
Saturday, December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Gal 1:11-19	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, December 27 <sup>th</sup>	Gal 1:11-19	Stephanie Rarick
Saturday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2Tim 4:5-8	Winfred Mohutsky
Sunday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2Tim 4:5-8	Sam Litwak

**St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:**

Thursday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Gal 4:4-7	Bernadette Bremer
Friday, December 25 <sup>th</sup> <i>Christmas Day</i>	Gal 4:4-7	Theresa Panchison
Saturday, December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Gal 1:11-19	David Toth
Sunday, December 27 <sup>th</sup>	Gal 1:11-19	Leeann Smulligan
Saturday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2Tim 4:5-8	Bernadette Bremer
Sunday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2Tim 4:5-8	Susan Miller

**Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!**

***St. Michael:***

---

**Construction update:** 12/23/15 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.

**Bread Sale** Thank to everyone who participated in our Christmas Bread sale . Our profit on this sale is \$235.00. Great Job!

**Memorial Fund:** Donations have been received in Memory of +Joseph Lesko from Henry & Helen Weachock. & Ken & Joann Fugowski.

***St. Nicholas:***

---

**Both Churches:**

---

**Fasting** Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> will be a fast day\_for those 14 to 59 years of age, people should abstain from eating meat.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> to high school on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

**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.

## **THE BIRTHDAY OF THE SAVIOR**

*Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

Christ is being born today



Christ is being born today in the world, and we are as confused as people were in the centuries before Christ's birth, who had lost faith in that which they had worshiped and they did not know what else to seek. We however do not need to search something more. Only God, the living God, who became man, who is one of us, nearby and beloved to us, can dissolve the dizziness and the despair both of the individual soul as well as of today's human condition. So let us go near Him with trust, let us approach Him with the realization that he did not stand far from the tortures and the afflictions of the earth: He is among us.

+Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh (Great Britian)

## **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 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you

**PASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF  
THE U.S.A.  
TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS SISTERS,  
SEMINARIANS AND BELOVED FAITHFUL**

***CHRIST IS BORN!***

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ this year will be celebrated within a Holy Year announced by Pope Francis. This extraordinary jubilee is dedicated to Divine Mercy. It began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8<sup>th</sup>) and will conclude on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Our Holy Father expressed the hope that the whole Church will find “the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the Mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time”. Pope Francis calls us to enter a journey that begins with a spiritual conversion. He calls all of us to live this year in the light of the Lord’s words: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful”. (Luke 6:36)

The story of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ gives us glaring hints at how we might accept God’s mercy, how we may live it and how we witness it to the world which surrounds us.

God’s mercy is evident in how he intervened with the birth of His only begotten Son, Jesus in a time equally difficult and challenging as today. Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room in the Inn. God’s love for humanity could not be curtailed by the busyness of that world. God’s mercy is not withheld. Is there room in our hearts for Jesus amidst the busyness of today’s demands and schedules? Are we aware of how much God’s mercy surrounds us?

We are struck with the obedience of the shepherds who respond to the angel instructing them to seek the newborn King. We witness the serenity and peace of seeking Jesus in their simplicity and obedience. The three kings or astrologers seek Jesus and are clever enough to deceive Herod in avoiding telling him of the whereabouts of the newborn Jesus. Dedication to seek the truth of the Gospel and avoiding those who might derail us from meeting Jesus is exemplified. We come to understand what assists us in understanding and accepting God’s mercy.

God’s presence and mercy was not desired by the authorities in Jesus’ time. You will remember how Herod ordered the slaughter of all children under the age of two in his efforts to rid himself of Jesus’ presence. The world today is filled with incidents and societal efforts to rid our surroundings of God’s presence amidst us. Egoistic authorities attempt to exert domination over others to advance specific ideologies and the building of empires. We see this in our native Ukraine, in Syria and its neighboring countries, and in other parts of the world. We are humbled by today’s witnesses and martyrs of faith who defend the rights of believers. They reveal the heavenly Father’s mercy and summon our imitating them in our expression of mercy.

Joseph obediently listened to a warning given in a dream and protected Jesus and his mother Mary by fleeing into Egypt. We are called to understand the plight of today’s refugees in light of our witnessing God’s mercy showered upon Joseph, Mary and Jesus who themselves were refugees. Our

response to the plight of refugees should be no less than that which our heavenly Father showered upon the Holy Family.

Pope Francis speaks to us of a journey leading to spiritual conversion. Recall Jesus as a boy becoming lost as the Holy Family made a journey through the desert. His parents found Jesus in the temple teaching others. When you and I lose sight of our purpose in life or lose our way in the busyness and temptations of the world, we can find Jesus Christ, in His Holy temple, His Holy Church. God's mercy is present in and through His Holy Church and its ministers. Jesus is among us! God's mercy awaits to be generously poured out upon you as you enter into a deeper journey of faith. That journey ought to begin with availing oneself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation often. God's mercy is revealed as He listens to the outpouring of your sorrows and sins. In His love for you, expressed through His priest, God reveals His understanding and love for you. God directs you to renewed life in Him in the compassionate advice offered by the priest and in the penance given. God's mercy is poured out upon you as you receive absolution of your sins.

Pope Francis asks that the door of every home become "the door of mercy". Ensure that the door of your home, the door of your Church, and the door of your heart all richly reflect openness to reveal the mercy of your heavenly Father. Express God's mercy by inviting and showing others whom you know, and strangers amidst you to God's Holy Door, the door leading to God's mercy.

We join our Holy Father in entrusting this Holy Year to the Mother of Mercy, "that she may turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey". The door of the hearts and minds of your bishops of our Ukrainian Catholic Church in USA are open widely, expressing our love and appreciation for all in our Church. We remember you in our prayers humbly offered to Jesus Christ, as together, we celebrate His birth. May each of us grow in our openness to receiving God's mercy. May we embrace the challenge to be as merciful as our heavenly Father. May we rejoice in offering rich testimony and witness to God's mercy in the life of the world.

We joyfully impart our episcopal blessings upon all as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and enter this jubilee year enthusiastically seeking our spiritual conversion.

### ***Christ is Born!***

+Stefan Soroka (*author*)

**Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States**

+Richard Seminack Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM Eparch of Stamford

+ Bohdan Danylo Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma

+John Bura Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

**A baby changes everything!**

**Merry Christmas !**



## *The Icon of the Nativity of Christ*



Icons have a long history in the Byzantine tradition, especially in Ukraine. They can be paintings on wood plaques or on plaster walls, mosaics of stone or tiles, or enamel work on metal. Some might feel that icons do not compare in beauty to realistic paintings or other works of art, but that is exactly why icons are different and special in their own right.

The icon is meant to be a representation of a sacred subject—it is meant to reflect truths not of this world; because of this, icons could not be expected to look life-like. Whatever the subject of the icon, it is a symbol of something in the spiritual realm—it is not beautiful for the sake of beauty alone, as many life-like paintings are, but only in a way that aids in its depiction of spiritual beauty. Because the icon is made to help the viewer see Divine reality, because it is meant to be looked upon as a religious image, it does not emphasize the carnal or physical world. In fact, in its abstractness, its starkness, its singularity, and its somber use of color, the icon is purposely avoiding the representation of “real life”—and when one understands the purpose of the icon, one can better appreciate the solemn spiritual truths which it is depicting.

As part of this tradition of iconography, the Nativity icon usually represents certain facts surrounding the Birth of Jesus Christ. Although different nativity icons will at a glance seem to vary, if one examines them as a whole, there are several of the same symbolic representations expressed on all of them.

Nativity icons are meant to show two things to the viewer: first, that the Birth of Christ was a real event—one that happened here on earth; and second, the effect that this miraculous event, that is the fact that Jesus, who is God and therefore Divine, also became man with His birth, had on the world and on all creation.

The Birth of Christ is a celebration of joy. The fact that God became man and entered into our human life is seen in the Icon of the Nativity. Wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger is the Christ Child. All the details of the Icon relate to His presence. This presence shines radically with the black opening of the cave in which He was born. This contrast is often seen in the Fathers' writings in terms of the spiritual light of Christ's birth radiating through the shadow of death encompassing man. The black mouth of the cave, then symbolically, is precisely this fallen world in which the "Sun of Righteousness" has dawned, this wilderness which the "Light of Wisdom" has illumined.

The Virgin Mother is shown half-sitting, supported by a hammock-type bed used by the early Jews in their travels. Striking is the absence of the usual sufferings of childbirth which is iconographically seen to be an indication of the virgin-birth of Christ.



As in the Gospel, all mankind is called to this event. The Wise Men represent the learned and astute, and the shepherds represent the humble of this world. A multitude of Angels give glory to God and announce this good news to mankind.

In the Icon, several episodes are grouped together and shown simultaneously. In the bottom left corner, Joseph sits in painful thought, while the Devil, under the guise of an old and bent shepherd, suggests new doubts and suspicions to him. In the opposite corner, two women are seen bathing the new-born Infant, to show the real humanity of Jesus.

All of creation takes part in the birth of the Savior. In the cave, the Infant lies guarded by an ox and a donkey. While the Gospels do not speak of them, all icons of the Nativity portray them because of the manifest fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, "An ox knows its owner, and an ass its master's manger." (Is. 1: 3) The mountainside is a backdrop to the event. While it bears little correspondence to the terrain of Bethlehem in Judea, it parallels a line from the prayer of the Prophet Habakkuk: "God comes from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Haran. Covered are the heavens with His glory, and with His praise the earth is filled." (Heb. 3: 3)

One final detail is the tree painted across from the image of Joseph, included not only in its own right as an offering to Christ, but also as a symbol of the Tree of Jesse. In the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "*But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him.*" (Is. 11: 1-2)

The Icon of the Nativity calls us to praise and glorify the Birth of Christ. With the hymns of Vespers we too say: "*What shall we bring to You, O Christ, Who, for our sake, was born on earth as man? Every creature brings thanks to you: Angels their songs; the heavens a star; Wise Men gifts; Shepherds amazement; the earth a cave; the wilderness a manger; but we -the Virgin Mother.*"

---

### ***In the midst of the glare***

of computers monitors, neon signs flat screen TV's , sirens, flashing Christmas lights, Handheld video games.

### ***In the midst of the glare***

of cell phone screens, store marquees, blinking Rudolph noses, traffic signals , halogen headlights , flashing answering machines.

### ***In the midst of the glare***

*I still hold inside the soft glow of a star.*

*Quite. Ancient. Timeless.*

*Beckoning me to hope,*

*to peace,*

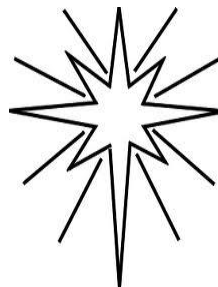
*to joy,*

*to faith*

*to love.*

*To Bethlehem.*

*Anne Goodrich*



## 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 - \$ 1,544.00 Building Fund \$1,000.00 Thank You!

**St. Nicholas:** Contributions \$ 1,728.00 Thank You!

**Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas-** In Memory of + Susan & +May Kritak Family by Jim, Alexandra, Cesya, & Abrea Cuono

**Sanctuary Light: St. Michael-** God's Blessings on the People of St. Michael's & our Fundraising Efforts.

**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

### 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](http://www.first-ukrainian.com)