

**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

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**Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

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**SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE**

Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 3:30pm +Anna Smetana by Mr & Mrs Edward Mohutsky  
Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30am +Olga Hatchell by Mr & Mrs James Flynn  
**Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> No Divine Liturgy**  
**Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> No Divine Liturgy**  
6:30pm Prayer Group  
*Three Holy Hierarchs*  
Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm God's Blessings on His People  
Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm God's Blessings on His People  
Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> 10:30am God's Blessings & Good Health of Bohdan & Boris

**SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE**

Saturday, January 23<sup>th</sup> 8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart of Mary  
5:30pm 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for+ Robert Corby by Wife, Helen & Family  
Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 8:30am God's Blessings on His People  
**Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> No Divine Liturgy**  
*Three Holy Hierarchs*  
Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 8:00am Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> 8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart of Mary  
5:30pm 40th day +Barbara Kull  
Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> 8:30am God's Blessings on Metro & Helen Tarris by Son, Leonard & Rita

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

Saturday, January 23rd	1 Cor 6:12-20	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, January 24th	1 Cor 6:12-20	Charles Calise
Saturday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>	1 Cor 8:8-9:2	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday, January 31 <sup>st</sup>	1 Cor 8:8-9:2	Alice Breznik

**St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:**

Saturday, January 23rd	1 Cor 6:12-20	Michael Prokop
Sunday, January 24th	1 Cor 6:12-20	Theresa Panchison
Saturday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>	1 Cor 8:8-9:2	David Toth
Sunday, January 31 <sup>st</sup>	1 Cor 8:8-9:2	Leeann Smulligan

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Welcome Fr. Roman, who will be celebrating Divine Liturgy this weekend.

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## Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

### **St. Michael:**

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**Candles for the 2016** are available, the signup sheet for the Sanctuary Light (donation \$15.00) is 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 . **Dates Available This Month !**

**Pierogie Sale.** Our next sale will be Monday, February 8th , and we are already sold out.

**Home Blessings –** Home blessings will begin on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> for Shenandoah .

**Lenten Confessions** will be Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael's.

**Fundraising Committee Meeting-** Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. after Divine Liturgy. Weather Permitting

### **St. Nicholas:**

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**Easter -** Lent begins on Monday February 8<sup>th</sup>

**Home Blessings –**Home blessings will be done by Fr. Roman in the St. Clair Area on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> weather permitting. Please contact the rectory to request a home blessing.

**Lenten Confessions** will be Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Nicholas

**Divine Liturgy cancelation-** If there is a two hour delay or cancelation of the St. Clair schools due to bad weather , we will not have Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas. Instead the Liturgy will be said at St. Michael's. Any questions please see Msgr. Myron.

**Sanctuary Light** – Available Dates- 2/7, 2/21, 2/28, 3/13 & 3/27.

### **Both Churches:**

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**Msgr. Myron will be away from January 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 27<sup>th</sup> at a conference. Fr Roman Sverdan will be covering for Msgr. while he is away, and the rectory will be open for normal business hours.**

**Food for the poor- Our cupboards are almost bare .** Please, help by donating to our food pantry. Non- expired, Non-perishable foods are needed. Personal hygiene products, toilet paper and paper towels, laundry detergent etc.. Diapers and wipes are also welcome. Thank you for your giving spirit.

**50/50** Spectacular Trinity Academy is excited to have the 50/50 Spectacular again this year! Tickets are \$1 each and can be purchased in the school office. The drawing will be held Friday, June 10, 2016! Contact the school at 570-462-3927 for information.

**PYSANKY CLASSES:** Classes in the traditional art of decorating Easter Eggs...pysanky...will be held at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, West Avenue and Beech Sts., Mt. Carmel, every Thursday evening from 6:00PM until 7:30PM during the lenten season. Classes will begin on February 11th and continue each week through March 17th. These classes are for all levels of expertise from beginner to expert. We are fortunate to again have Rose Demsko of Ranshaw, a renowned expert and accomplished artist, teach these classes. The pysanky classes are free of charge and open to everyone in our community and to all age groups. However, children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent. Attendees are required to bring along at least two uncooked eggs. All other supplies will be provided by Rose. For more information or to register, please call Ss. Peter and Paul Church Office at 570-339-0650.

**Women as Caregivers-** Sunday March 6, 2016 at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington D.C. or April 24th 2016 at St. Vladimir Ukr. Catholic Church at 430-Noth Seventh Ave, Scranton Pa. Come join the women of the Archeparchy as our speakers address, within the framework of Sacred Scripture and the tenets of Eastern Christian Spirituality, the pastoral and practical aspects of caring for family members with special need and of suggestions for caregivers on how to care for themselves spiritually, pastorally & practically. Both sessions begin at 10:30. to register please contact the rectory for the needed form, or pick one up the back of the church.

**10-year Anniversary Commemorative Program Book** This year marks Trinity Academy's 10th Anniversary. We will be holding a Dinner/Dance (Gala) to celebrate this milestone event on April 23, 2016. To further celebrate this milestone, a commemorative book will be made featuring the history of our school and our legacy schools. All attending the gala will receive a copy. Others unable to attend will have the opportunity to purchase one. You are cordially invited to take part in this book by sending your well wishes to Trinity by placing an ad. All the forms can be found on our website at [www.trinitymatters.com](http://www.trinitymatters.com). All ads will be in full color. We would love for you to include any special memories you may have or perhaps a photo from years gone by. Please join us as we celebrate the past, present and future of Trinity Academy! If you have any questions, please contact Mary Kate Sternik at [MSternik@trinitymatters.com](mailto:MSternik@trinitymatters.com) Contact the rectory for an order form.

**Lenten Dinners** - Divine Mercy Parish is sponsoring three Lenten Dinners which will be held at St. Stephen Church Hall 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM. All dinners will be take out only. The choices will be a fish platter, a devil crab platter or chicken finger platter. Cost of each platter: \$ 8.00. All dinners will be catered by A & C Catering, Mahanoy City You may contact the rectory for an order form .

### **THE DAYS OF ALL SOULS (SOROKOUSTY)**

*We need to update our All Souls Lists 2016.*

*We will be returning to the traditional listing of only the Family Name of the one making the request and only the first names of the departed.*

*If you wish your departed loved ones remembered in the Dyptychs on these special days , please fill out the form below and return it in the special offering envelopes marked "Sorokousty" included in your envelope box . Use extra paper if necessary — please print!!!*

**All Requests must be returned by Sun. January 31<sup>st</sup> .**

**clip here** \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly include the following names of these beloved souls in the DYPTYCHS to be commemorated during the Panahyda on the All Souls Days. If your list has not changed since 2015 simply check here. \_\_\_\_\_ Remember to complete the form with your own name, so we can contact you with any questions.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Pysanky Classes**

*Ukrainian Easter Eggs*

Tuesdays from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

**February 23rd, March 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd**

Cost \$45.00 including supplies

**To register call Paul at 570-668-5789 or email [nicolec3@ptd.net](mailto:nicolec3@ptd.net)**

Class size is limited so register today. Classes being taught by Paul Corinchock  
St. Michael's Hall 300 W Oak St Shenandoah, Pa 17976 570-462-0809



# POPE FRANCIS

MORNING MEDITATION IN THE CHAPEL OF THE *DOMUS SANCTAE MARTHAE*

## *A struggle with God Tuesday, 12 January 2016*

(by *L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly ed. in English, n. 2, 15 January 2016)

The power of prayer, which is the true driving force of the life of the Church, was the focus of Pope Francis' homily for the Mass at Santa Marta on Tuesday morning.

The Pontiff's reflection was inspired by the day's reading from the First Book of Samuel (1:9-20), which speaks of three protagonists: Hannah, Eli the priest, and the Lord. The woman, explained the Pope, "with her family, with her husband, went up to the Temple every year to worship God". Hannah was a devout and pious woman, full of faith; however, she "bore within her a cross that caused her a great deal of suffering: she was barren. She wanted a son".

The description of Hannah's fervent prayer shows how she "struggled with God", she implored him at length, with "deep distress, weeping bitterly". The prayer ends with a vow: "O Lord of hosts, if you look with pity on the misery of your handmaid, if you remember me and do not forget me, if you give your handmaid a male child, I will give him to the Lord for as long as he lives". With deep humility, Francis explained, recognizing herself as "miserable" and as a "handmaid", she "vowed to offer her son".

Therefore Hannah, the Pope emphasized, "gave her all in order to attain what she wanted". Her entreaty was noticed by the elderly priest Eli, who "watched her mouth". Hannah "was praying silently", only her lips were moving, and her voice could not be heard. The image offered by the Scripture is extraordinary, because it reflects "the courage of a woman of faith who, with her sorrow, with her tears, asks for the Lord's grace".

In this regard the Pontiff commented that in the Church there are "many such good women", who "pray as if it were a challenge", and as an example, he recalled the figure of St Monica, Augustine's mother, "who with her tears managed to attain the grace of her son's conversion".

The Pope then analyzed the character of Eli, who was not wicked but was "a poor man" for whom Francis feels "a certain fondness", because "in myself too", he admitted, "I find defects that bring me close to him and enable me to really understand him".

This elderly priest "has become lukewarm, has lost his devotion" and "does not have the strength to stop his two sons", who are "delinquent" priests. Yes, they are truly wicked men "who exploit people". Eli a "poor and feeble man", is therefore incapable of "understanding this woman's heart". In seeing Hannah moving her lips in anguish, he thinks: "This woman has drunk too much!". The episode holds a lesson for all of us: "how easily", Francis said, "do we judge people, how easily do we lack the respect to ask: 'What must she have in her heart? I don't know, but I say nothing'". He then added: "When the heart lacks pity, we also think badly, judge badly, perhaps to justify ourselves".

Eli's misunderstanding is such that "finally he says to her: 'How long will you make a drunken show of yourself?'". Hannah, in her humility, does not respond: "Old man, what do you know about it?". On the contrary, she says: "It isn't that, my lord". And despite knowing all the deeds of Eli's sons, she does

not rebuke Eli or point out: “What do your sons do?”. Instead she explains to him: “I am an unhappy woman. I have had neither wine nor liquor; I was only pouring out my troubles to the Lord. Do not think your handmaid a ne’er-do-well; my prayer has been prompted by my deep sorrow and misery”.

In these words Pope Francis identified Hannah’s “prayer with sorrow and misery”. She “entrusted her sorrow and misery to the Lord”. And in doing so, the Pontiff added, Hannah reminds us of Christ. Indeed, “Jesus experienced this prayer in the Garden of Olives, when his sorrow and misery were so great that his sweat became blood, but he did not rebuke the Father: ‘Father, if you are willing, remove this from me, but thy will be done’”. On the contrary, “Jesus responded in the same way as this woman: meekness”. Pope Francis then observed how at times “we pray, we ask the Lord, but so often we do not know how to reach that struggle with the Lord, with tears, to ask, to ask for grace”.

In this regard Francis described an event that happened in the Shrine of Luján, in Buenos Aires, where there was a family with a nine-year-old daughter who was very ill. “After weeks of treatment”, the Pope recalled, the little girl “did not manage to escape that illness, it had worsened and the doctors, at around six o’clock in the evening” said that she had only a few hours left to live. So “the father, a humble man, a laborer, immediately left the hospital and went to the Shrine of Our Lady in Luján”, 70 kilometers away. When “he arrived around 10 o’clock in the evening, everything was closed, and he grabbed hold of the gate and prayed to Our Lady and struggled in prayer”. This, Pope Francis continued, “is a fact that really happened, at the time when I was there. The man remained like this until five in the morning”.

He “prayed, he wept for his daughter, he struggled with God for his daughter through the intercession of Our Lady. Then he returned. He arrived at the hospital at about seven or eight, and went to find his wife. She was crying and the man thought that the girl had died, but the wife said: ‘I don’t understand, I don’t understand.... The doctors came and said that they don’t understand what happened’. And the little girl went home”.

Essentially, the Pope observed, with “that faith, that prayer before God, convinced that he is capable of all, because he is the Lord”, the father in Buenos Aires recalled the woman from the biblical text. The one who not only obtained “the miracle of having a son a year later and then, the Bible says, she had many others”, but she also succeeded with the miracle of “awakening the lukewarm spirit of that priest”. When Hannah “explains to that priest — who had completely lost all spirituality, all piety — why she was weeping, he who had called her ‘drunk’, says to her: ‘Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him’. He released from under the ashes the little priestly flame that was in the embers”.

Here then is the final lesson. “Prayer makes miracles”, Francis said. It even makes them for those “Christians, be they lay faithful, or priests, or bishops who have lost their devotion”.

Additionally, he explained, “the prayers of the faithful change the Church: it is not we, the Popes, the bishops, priests, nuns who bring the Church forward, it is the saints! And the saints are these people”, like the woman in the Bible passage: “Saints are those who have the courage to believe that God is the Lord and that he can do all”. The Pope then prayed that the Father “give us the grace to trust in prayer, to pray with courage and also to awaken piety, when we have lost it, and to go forward with the People of God to the encounter with him”.

## An Invitation to Mercy

What greater example of God's mercy toward sinners is there than the invitation to the tax collector, Matthew, to become a follower of Jesus?

Saint Bede the Venerable, an English monk of the seventh and eighth century, said, "Jesus saw him through the eyes of mercy and chose him."

The tax collector abandoned earthly wealth as soon as Jesus invited him. He joined a band of men whose leader had no riches at all.

Matthew immediately took Jesus into his home and arranged a party, inviting the only friends he had—other tax collectors and sinners.

As they sat at the banquet table, Pharisees pointed an accusing finger. But Jesus said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Sharing a meal—breaking bread together—is one of the most intimate things we do as humans. When Jesus sat and ate with Matthew, it was a signal of His great mercy toward sinners, and an invitation to us to sit with Him at the communion table.

Our prayer today: *Matthew gave a banquet at his earthly residence for you, Lord. Grant that I set a pleasing banquet for you in my heart through my faith and love.*

## "His Mercy Endures Forever"

In announcing the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis drew our attention to Psalm 136, where the phrase "His mercy endures forever" is repeated no less than 26 times. By one count, this refrain appears in the Bible 41 times.

Why is this refrain so ubiquitous in both Old and New Testaments?

Francis explains: "To repeat continually 'His mercy endures forever' seems to break through the dimensions of space and time, inserting everything into the eternal mystery of love. It is as if to say that not only in history, but for all eternity man will always be under the merciful gaze of the Father."

Before his Passion, Jesus prayed this psalm. Matthew attests to this in his Gospel when he says that, "when they had sung a hymn," Jesus and his disciples went to the Mount of Olives.

When He instituted the Eucharist, He did so in the light of His mercy.

Within the very same context of mercy, Jesus entered upon His passion and death, conscious of the great mystery of love that he would consummate on the cross.

Knowing that Jesus himself prayed this psalm makes it even more meaningful for us to take up the refrain in our daily lives by praying these words of praise: "His mercy endures forever."

Our prayer today: *I thank you every day Lord, for Your enduring mercy. It is only because of Your mercy that I am saved.*

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## Stations of the Cross: *will be held at 3:00pm*

**Forgiveness Vespers**- Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup> at Protection of the Mother of God , McAdoo

**Stations of the Cross:** Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at Patronage of the Mother of God, Marion Heights\*

Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Nicholas , St. Clair \*Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at St. John's, Maizeville

\*Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at SS Peter & Paul, Mt. Carmel\*Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael's ,

Shenandoah\*Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Nicholas, Minersville

**The Sunday of the Prodigal Son** is the second Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. On the previous Sunday, the services of the Church began to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. As with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the theme of this Sunday is repentance, and the focus on the parable of the Prodigal Son leads us to contemplate the necessity of repentance in our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The parable of the Prodigal Son forms an exact icon of repentance at its different stages. Sin is exile, enslavement to strangers, hunger. Repentance is the return from exile to our true home; it is to receive back our inheritance and freedom in the Father's house. But repentance implies action: "I will rise up and go..." (v. 18). To repent is not just to feel dissatisfied, but to make a decision and to act upon it.

In the words of our Lord, we also learn of three things through this parable: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The reading of this parable follows the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own sinful condition, we might come to our senses and return to God through repentance. For those who have fallen into great despair over their sins thinking that there is no forgiveness, this parable offers hope. The Heavenly Father is patiently and lovingly waiting for our return. There is no sin that can overcome His love for us.

Finally, this parable offers us insight into the world in which we live. It is a world where the activities of people are disconnected and not ordered toward the fulfillment of God's divine purpose for life. It is a world of incoherent pursuits, of illusory strivings, of craving for foods and drinks that do not satisfy, a world where nothing ultimately makes sense, and a world engulfed in untruth, deceit and sin. It is the exact opposite of the world as created by God and potentially recreated by his Son and Spirit. There is no cure for the evils of our age unless we return to God. The world in which we live is not a normal world, but a wasteland.

As a result of sin in our lives, we lose the joy of communion with God, we defile and lose our spiritual beauty, and we find ourselves far away from our real home, our real life. In true repentance, we realize this, and we express a deep desire to return, to recover what has been lost. On this day the Church reminds us of what we have abandoned and lost, and beckons us to find the desire and power to return. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving embrace.

The icon of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son shows the prodigal being received by his father upon his return. We are presented with an image of a warm and loving embrace, the son showing his need for his father, an attitude that represents repentance, love, and hope for renewal and restoration. The father is shown full of compassion for his son, having born the burden of his sin and suffering, but now filled with joy that he has returned. -

*Edited from goarch.org*

***The Devout have no doubt.***



## 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.

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## Weekly Contributions

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**Parishes Weekly Income:** **St. Michael:** Contributions - \$ 1,606.07 Construction \$1,800.00 Thank You!

**St. Nicholas:** Contributions - \$ 979.00 Thank You!

**Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas-** God's Blessings & Good Health for the Home Bound Parishioners of our St. Nicholas Family.

**Sanctuary Light: St. Michael-** God's Blessings and Safe Travels for Msgr. Myron.

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

**4 Lamps of the Iconostas –** God's Blessing on my Family & the People of St. Michael's.

**Lamps of the Crucifix**

**Lights of the Tetrapod-**

**Lights of the Tabernacle-**

**God bless you for your love and devotion to your parish!**

*Prayer Requests: Please remember our shut-ins and all those who have requested our Prayers:*

**Our Military Friends Serving Our Country,**

### St. Michael

Sonya Elchishak

Eva Koch

Dolores Kozie

Martha Hysock

Sandy Bankes\*

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

Annie Cragen

### St. Nicholas

Helen Salak

Margaret Skrincosky

Mary Mistishen

Joseph Luckenbill

Peter Kadingo

Jeanette Stock

Mary Kadingo

Metro & Helen Tarris

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)