

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

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Like us on Facebook@St Michael's Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Follow us on twitter @ stmichaelukr

Msgr. Myron Grabowsky – Parish Priest

Sunday, January 3rd, 2016 Sunday before Theophany

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 2 nd	3:30pm + Metropolitan Constantine Bohachevsky
Sunday, January 3 rd	10:30am +Julie Hancher by Mr & Mrs James Flynn & Anna Daprimo
<i>Theophany of Our Lord</i>	
Tuesday, January 5 th	6:00pm God's Blessings on His People & <i>Blessing of Water</i>
Wednesday, January 6 th	6:30pm Prayer Group
Friday, January 8 th	8:00am Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday, January 9 th	3:30pm + Mary Lazusky & +Anna Lefchick by Irene & Bill McAndrew
Sunday, January 10 th	10:30am +Leonard Kozlosky by Son, Leonard & Dolores Kozlosky

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 2 nd	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart of Mary
	5:30pm Pap, +Walter Salak by Mark Fox & Family
Sunday, January 3 rd	8:30am God's Blessings on His People
Monday, January 4 th	8:00am+ Andrew Zubar – Legacy Liturgy
<i>Theophany of Our Lord</i>	
Wednesday, January 6 th	9:00am +Frank Homa by Wife, Dorothy & <i>Blessing of Water</i>
Thursday, January 7 th	8:00am +John Lutsky – Legacy Liturgy
Saturday, January 9 th	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart of Mary
	5:30pm +William Covach Sr. by Thomas & Jeanette Stock
Sunday, January 10 th	8:30am God's Blessings on His People

St. Michael's Lector Schedule:

Saturday, January 2 nd	2Tim 4:5-8	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday, January 3 rd	2Tim 4:5-8	Sam Litwak
Saturday, January 9 th	Eph 4:7-13	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, January 10 th	Eph 4:7-13	Michelle Caputo

St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:

Saturday, January 2 nd	2Tim 4:5-8	Bernadette Bremer
Sunday, January 3 rd	2Tim 4:5-8	Susan Miller
Saturday, January 9 th	Eph 4:7-13	Andrew Skrincoosky
Sunday, January 10 th	Eph 4:7-13	Lauralee Sadusky

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

St. Michael:

Construction update: 12/30/15 The electrical & fire alarm 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 Monday, February 8th , and we are already sold out.

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: Donations have been received in memory of +Joseph Lesko from Joan & John Peters, John & Pauline Bulischak, Wayne & Donna Bulischak, Lillian Stelieleski, Matt & Helen Ewankius, Ron & Darlene Witty, Clair & Millie Mackie, Brian & Diane Huselak & Robert & Dolores Muir. . A donation has also been received in memory of +John Chowanes.

Religion Classes start next week, Sunday, January 10th at 9:00am in the Church Hall. If you have not registered your child, you may do so at this time. Please see Alice Breznik with any questions.

St. Nicholas:

Sick Calls will be Thursday January 7th .

Both Churches:

Fasting Tuesday, January 5th will be a fast day for those 14 to 59 years of age, people should abstain from eating meat.

Faith Lights Our Way- There will be a meeting for Teens from 8th to high school on Sunday, January 3rd . from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at St. Nicholas Social Hall in Minersville, 415 Front St. A movie and discussion is planned for this Sunday. Due to the lack of snow Eagle Rock is not yet open for snow tubing. Any questions contact Sr. Natalya at 570-544-3639. This event is open to all teens deanery wide !

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- January 3rd from 10:30-12:30pm, & January 10th , 12:30-2:30pm.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

“Keep us O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with faultfinding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretenses and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous — let us make time for all things. Make us grow calm, serene, and gentle. Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences that in the big things of life we are as one. And may we strive to touch and to know the great, common human heart of us all, and O Lord God, let us forget not to be kind.”

HOUSE BLESSING 2016

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Please return by January 4th . Thank you

THE 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 .

All Requests must be returned by Sun. January 31st .

_____ **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. _____

use extra paper if necessary — please print!!!

YOUR NAME: _____



Snowmen come from Heaven unassembled.

To hear God's voice, turn down the world's volume.

Jesus turns trial into triumph!

POPE FRANCIS

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

A grandmother's lesson Monday, 14 December 2015

(by *L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly ed. in English, n. 51, 18 December 2015)

“God forgives everything; otherwise the world would not exist”: these words, spoken by an elderly Portuguese woman to Jorge Bergoglio in 1992, provide a real “lesson” at the beginning of the Holy Year of Mercy. Warning against falling into “clerical rigidity”, the Pope suggested instead choosing without hesitation the road of hope and mercy that makes us “free”. At Mass on Monday morning in the Chapel of Santa Marta, Pope Francis again recommended letting your “eyes be opened”, so as to go beyond in order to see and to speak the truth.

“In the First Reading”, the Pope noted immediately, “we heard a passage from the Book of Numbers” (24:2-7, 15-17) about the “story of Balaam: he was a prophet, but he was also a man, who had defects. He too sinned”. Francis remarked that “we all have sins, everyone, we are all sinners”. But “do not be afraid”, he reassured, “God is greater than our sins”.

The Pope explained that Balaam “is ‘hired out’ to a certain Balak, a general and king, who wants to destroy the people of God”, and who sends Balaam “to prophesy against the people of God”. However, “on the journey, Balaam meets the angel of the Lord and his heart is changed, he sees the truth”. Nevertheless, “he does not change parties: today I belong to this political party and then go over to this other one. He changes from error to truth and tells what he sees”.

“It is beautiful”, Pope Francis added, “the way the Book of Numbers tells this story: ‘The oracle of Balaam, the oracle of the man whose eyes are opened’”. In fact, the Pope explained, “when his heart is changed he converts, his eyes are opened and he sees afar, he sees the truth, with an open heart, with the heart — with good will you always see the truth — and he speaks the truth”.

“It is a truth that gives hope, because he has the desert before him, the desert is right in front of him, and he sees the tribes of Israel: ‘How fair are your tents, your encampments, O Israel! Like valleys that stretch afar, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the Lord has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters’”. Thus, “beyond the desert he sees fruitfulness, beauty and victory”.

But “what has happened in Balaam’s heart?”. The fact, Pope Francis said, is that “he opened his heart and the Lord gave him the virtue of hope”. And “hope is that Christian virtue that we have as a great gift from God that lets us see far beyond, beyond the problems, beyond the pain and difficulties, beyond our sins”. It shows us “the beauty of God”.

“Hope”, therefore, is the key word, he said. And “when I am with a person who has the virtue of hope and is in a difficult moment in his life — be it a disease, concern for a son or daughter or someone in the family, or anything. But he has this virtue, in the midst of pain his eyes have been opened. He has the freedom to see beyond, always beyond”. This is precisely “the hope, the prophecy that the Church gives us today: she needs men and women of hope, even in the midst of problems”. Because “hope opens horizons, hope is freeing, it does not enslave and it always finds a way to set a situation straight”.

In the passage from the Gospel of Matthew (21:23-27) from the day’s Liturgy, the Pope continued, “we see instead men who do not have this freedom, who have no horizons, men who are closed in their

calculations”. Such that the chief priests and elders of the people ask the Lord: “By what authority are you doing these things?”. When Jesus poses his next question, they make their calculations. “If I say this I have this danger, and if I say that...”. Then they answer “we do not know”. However, the Pope remarked, “human calculations close the heart, they block freedom”. It is “hope” that “lightens” our load. Therefore, it is “this hypocrisy of the doctors of the law that we see in the Gospel, which closes the heart: it enslaves us. These men were slaves”.

For his part, “Balaam had the freedom to say to the one who had ‘hired him out’: ‘I see this, if you do not like it, that’s your problem; but I tell you what I see’”. Instead, “they do not have freedom, they are slaves to their rigidity”. Pope Francis affirmed that we can say “that both, not technically, are close to the Church, they are men of the Church: Balaam, a prophet; and these doctors of the law”.

“How beautiful is the freedom, magnanimity and hope of a man and a woman of the Church”, the Pope affirmed. And “how awful and how much harm is done by the rigidity of a woman and man of the Church: clerical rigidity, which has no hope”.

“In this Year of Mercy”, the Pope said, “there are these two paths”. On one side there are “those who have hope in the mercy of God and know that God is Father”, that “God always forgives”, and that he forgives “everything”. That “beyond the desert there is the embrace of the Father, forgiveness”. However, on the other hand “there are also those who take refuge in slavery, in its very rigidity, and they know nothing of God’s mercy”. The doctors mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew “had studied, but their knowledge did not save them”.

“I would like to conclude”, the Pope said, “with a story that happened to me in 1992. An image of Our Lady of Fatima had arrived in the diocese. In a large mass for the sick — it was immense, held in a big field, with so many people — I went to confess there. I heard confessions from noon until almost six, when Mass had ended. There were many confessors”. Right “when I got up to go to celebrate a confirmation elsewhere”, Pope Francis said, “I was approached by an elderly woman; she was 80 years old, with eyes that saw beyond, eyes full of hope”. And “I said to her: ‘Grandma, have you come to confess? But you have no sins!’”. The woman responded: “Father, we all have sins!”. Fr Bergoglio continued the conversation: “Will the Lord, perhaps, not forgive them?”. The woman, strong in her hope, said: “God forgives everything, because if God did not forgive everything, the world would not exist”.

In considering “these two types of people” — those who are “free” in their “hope, that which brings you the mercy of God”; and those who are “closed, the legalistic, the truly selfish, slaves to their rigidity” — Pope Francis recommended we take the lesson he received from the elderly Portuguese woman: “God forgives everything, he is only waiting for you to draw close to him”.



Mildred’s Story

I have always supplemented my income by teaching piano lessons - something I have done for over 30 years.

During those years I found that children have many levels of musical ability, and even though I have never had the pleasure of having a prodigy, I have taught some very talented students. However, I have also had my share of what I

call 'musically challenged' pupils - one such pupil being Robby.. Robby was 11 years old when his mother (a single mom) dropped him off for his first piano lesson. I prefer that students (especially boys) begin at an earlier age, which I explained to Robby. But Robby said that it had always been his mother's dream to hear him play the piano, so I took him as a student.

At the end of each weekly lesson he would always say 'My mom's going to hear me play someday'. But to me, it seemed hopeless, he just did not have any inborn ability. I only knew his mother from a distance as she dropped Robby off or waited in her aged car to pick him up. She always waved and smiled, but never dropped in.

Then one day Robby stopped coming for his lessons. I thought about calling him, but assumed that because of his lack of ability he had decided to pursue something else. I was also glad that he had stopped coming - he was a bad advertisement for my teaching!

Several weeks later I mailed a flyer recital to the students' homes. To my surprise, Robby (who had received a flyer) asked me if he could be in the recital. I told him that the recital was for current pupils and that because he had dropped out, he really did not qualify. He told me that his mother had been sick and unable to take him to his piano lessons, but that he had been practicing. 'Please Miss Honor, I've just got to play' he insisted. I don't know what led me to allow him to play in the recital - perhaps it was his insistence or maybe something inside of me saying that it would be all right.

The night of the recital came and the high school gymnasium was packed with parents, relatives and friends. I put Robby last in the program, just before I was to come up and thank all the students and play a finishing piece. I thought that any damage he might do would come at the end of the program and I could always salvage his poor performance through my 'curtain closer'. Well, the recital went off without a hitch, the students had been practicing and it showed. Then Robby came up on the stage. His clothes were wrinkled and his hair looked as though he had run an egg beater through it. 'Why wasn't he dressed up like the other students?' I thought. 'Why didn't his mother at least make him comb his hair for this special night?'

Robby pulled out the piano bench, and I was surprised when he announced that he had chosen to play Mozart's Concerto No.21 in C Major. I was not prepared for what I heard next. His fingers were light on the keys, they even danced nimbly on the ivories. He went from pianissimo to fortissimo, from allegro to virtuoso; his suspended chords that Mozart demands were magnificent! Never had I heard Mozart played so well by anyone his age.

After six and a half minutes he ended in a grand crescendo, and everyone was on their feet in wild applause! Overcome and in tears, I ran up on stage and put my arms around Robby in joy. 'I have never heard you play like that Robby, how did you do it?' Through the microphone Robby explained: 'Well, Miss Honor ... remember I told you that my mom was sick? Well, she actually had cancer and passed away this morning. And wellshe was born deaf, so tonight was the first time she had ever heard me play, and I wanted to make it special.'

There wasn't a dry eye in the house that evening. As the people from Social Services led Robby from the stage to be placed into foster care, I noticed that even their eyes were red and puffy. I thought to myself then how much richer my life had been for taking Robby as my pupil.

No, I have never had a prodigy, but that night I became a prodigy of Robby. He was the teacher and I was the pupil, for he had taught me the meaning of perseverance and love and believing in yourself, and maybe even taking a chance on someone and you didn't know why.

**Just because the message may not be received
doesn't mean it is not worth sending.**

THE LITURGICAL SERVICE OF THEOPHANY

On the Feast of Theophany, the Church calls us to go to the river Jordan to witness the manifestation of God and the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then we see, with the eyes of our soul, the Lord immersing Himself once again in the waters of the River Jordan, and thus sanctifying the oceans, rivers and lakes of the world.

On the Feast of Theophany the priest performs the special rite of the Blessing of Water. He asks our Lord that just as 2,000 years ago He blessed the water in the Jordan River, so today He bless the water that we have before us so that in the words of the prayer: “those who sprinkle and partake thereof (of the Holy Water) may receive it for the cleansing of the souls and bodies, for the healing of suffering, for the sanctification of homes, and for every need.” Upon leaving church we take a container of holy water home to bless ourselves and our homes. “Today the streams of Jordan are changed into healing waters by the presence of the Lord,” says the prayer of Patriarch Sophronius of Jerusalem recited in the Rite of the Blessing of Waters on Theophany.

The sprinkling of people with holy water which takes place during this service has its root in ancient practices of baptism where it was customary to sprinkle the faithful with the consecrated waters of the baptismal font before the catechumens were baptized.

In some parts of the world Greek bishops throw a cross into the body of water to be retrieved by a swimmer. In the local parish the priest immerses a cross into a vessel containing water. He immerses it three times to recall the triple immersion of Christ in the Jordan, as well as the triple immersion that every Eastern Christian believer should have received in the baptismal font. This act represents our Lord immersing Himself once again in the Jordan River and sanctifying the rivers and lakes of the world. Thus the consecrated water brings to us the healing presence of the Lord.

Children should be encouraged to keep a small container of holy water which they receive on this day. They can place it by their personal icon and use it year round. They can partake of it when they feel they have a special need for the Lord’s presence at home. It will represent the Lord’s healing and loving presence with them constantly as does the family icon. Thus we can teach our children to keep Theophany the year round



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 - \$ 2,712.00 Christmas \$6,955.00 Thank You!

St. Nicholas: Contributions \$ 3,207.00 Thank You!

Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas- In Memory of +Frank Homa Jr by Wife, Dorothy

Sanctuary Light: St. Michael- Let us Welcome in the New Year with Joy in our Hearts!

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 In Memory of +Mary Lazusky & +Anna Lefchick by Irene & Bill Mc Andrew

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*

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

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