

**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 *Email – [stnicholasc@verizon.net](mailto:stnicholasc@verizon.net)*

*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*

**Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

**SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE**

Saturday, February 11 <sup>th</sup>	3:30pm +Helen Kalavage by Daughter in Law , Carol
Sunday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am God’s Blessing on His People
Tuesday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am + Theresa Seasock by Charles & Eleanor Seasock
Wednesday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am +Helen Seamon by Mr & Mrs Dennis Kitsock 6:00pm Prayer Group
Friday, February 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>	3:30pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary – Anna Smetana by Children
Sunday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am God’s Blessing on His People

**SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE**

Saturday, February 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary 5:30pm +Steve Mistysyn by Margaret Mistysyn & Family
Sunday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am +Julia Wochok Plasha by Marlene Plasha Dana & Family
Monday, February 13 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am +Mary Toth by Mr & Mrs Gene McClure
Thursday, February 16 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am +Theodore Stock by Mr & Mrs Louis DeMarkis
Saturday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary 5:30pm +Ann Uranium by Margaret Mistysyn & Family
Sunday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am +Rita Rehnert by Son, Jim & Anna Rehnert

**St. Michael’s Lector Schedule:**

Saturday, February 11 <sup>th</sup>	1 Cor 6:12-20	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>	1 Cor 6:12-20	Paul Caputo
Saturday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>	1 Cor 8:8-9:2	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>	1Cor 8:8-9:2	Charles Calise

**St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:**

Saturday, February 11 <sup>th</sup>	1 Cor 6:12-20	Christine Romanko
Sunday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>	1 Cor 6:12-20	Lauralee Sadusky
Saturday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>	1 Cor 8:8-9:2	Mike Prokop
Sunday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>	1Cor 8:8-9:2	Dolores Sadusky

## Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

### *St. Michael:*

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**Candles are now available for 2017.** For Sanctuary Lights, please sign up in the back of the church ( offering \$15.00 ) For Iconostas ( offering \$12.00 ) , Tetrapod (offering \$6.00) , Crucifix (offering \$6.00) and 7 Branch Lights(offering \$21.00) please contact the rectory. Please place your offering in the collection basket in a clearly marked envelope. .

**Pierogie Sale** will be Monday February 27<sup>th</sup> . We are SOLD OUT, but could really use any help that you can provide. Thank you for your efforts to make this sale a success. (weather permitting)

**Easter Confessions** will be Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

### *St. Nicholas:*

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**Sanctuary Light** – Available dates 3/5, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, & 4/23.

**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.

**Home Blessings** will be **POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 19<sup>th</sup>** , for Pottsville , Port Carbon , Cressona & Outlying Areas- weather permitting.

**Easter Confessions** will be Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### *Both Churches*

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**Rectory Office** - If the local schools have a two hour delay, or are canceled , this will effect if the rectory office is open. On these days, please call first before coming to the office to be sure it is open. Also please note that the rectory office will be closed the following days – All Fridays in February .

**Food Bank** – As you know we maintain a food bank for those in need, this outreach is run solely on donations. We ask that you find it in your heart to help these families . Please donate non- perishable foods or personal hygiene products to help stock our depleted Food Pantry. Just a few items can be the difference between a child going to bed with a full tummy, or going to bed hungry. Thank you for your giving spirit.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER:** Assumption BVM Parish is sponsoring their Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, February 12th from 11:00AM until 2:00PM in the social hall of Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Mt. Carmel. Dinner includes: spaghetti, homemade meatballs and sauce, salad, bread and butter, beverage and dessert. Extra meatballs may be purchased at an additional cost. Also, quarts of our delicious sauce will be available to purchase for take-out. Tickets are on sale now--\$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12 years of age--and can be purchased by calling the rectory office at 570-339-0650, stopping by the office during business hours, or in the vestibule of the church before and after liturgy. A cordial invitation is extended to all!

**Chicken & Halupki Dinner-** Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am to 1:00pm at St Nicholas Hall, Primrose. Meal includes Chicken, Halupki, filling, mashed potatoes, vegetable & roll. Eat in or take out. **ADVANCED TICKETS ONLY** Call 570-544-4581

**Mardi Gras Moola Madness-** Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup>. 7pm to 10pm at St Nicholas Hall, Primrose. \$100 cash prize drawn every 20 minutes. \$500 grand prize at 10pm. \$25 ticket includes 4 chances for all 9 cash drawings and light buffet. Doors open at 6:30pm, First Drawing 7:20pm. Trivia Contest, 50/50, Music , Drink Specials. Tickets call Rectory 570-544-4581, Sherri 570-527-0899, Shannon 570-294-2378 or Kelsey 570-624-6425

**Lent-** Don't give up chocolate for Lent. Join Dynamic Catholic for the best Lent ever, a free email program designed to help you have a life- changing Lent. You'll get: Short inspirational videos, practical tips and a study guide. Based on Mathew Kelly's latest book "Resisting Happiness. Sign up at [www.BestLentEver.com](http://www.BestLentEver.com)

**Trinity Academy** is now accepting students for the 2017-2018 school year. Parents can enroll their child by calling Christine Zuber Fannick at (570) 462-3927 or by attending one of the following events: information session: February 26, 2017 at 4:00pm p.m. or at our open house: February 15, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Trinity Academy at the Father Walter Ciszek Education Foundation; Founded in Faith and Family

**Deanery Lenten Services:** Services at 3:00pm **Forgiveness Vespers:** Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> Protection of the Mother of God , McAdoo **Stations of the Cross:** Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> Transfiguration of Our Lord, Shamokin; Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> St, Michael's, Shenandoah; Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> St. Michael's , Frackville; Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> Ss. Peter & Paul, Mt Carmel; Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Michael's , Hazelton; Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> St. Nicholas, Minersville

### **All Souls -Sorokousty for 2017.**

*If you wish your departed loved ones remembered in the dyptychs these five special days, please fill out the form below and return it in the special offering envelopes.*

Kindly include the following names of these beloved souls in the DYPTYCHS to be commemorated during the Panahyda on the 5 All Souls Days.

If your list has not changed since 2016 simply check here. \_\_\_\_\_

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

[use extra paper if necessary — please print!!!]

YOUR FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for requests- Sun. February 12, 2017. **LAST WEEK**

**Heart & Soul is a piano Duet. Make it a religious one too.**

# **POPE FRANCIS**

MORNING MEDITATION IN THE CHAPEL OF THE DOMUS SANCTAE MARTHAE

## **Shrunken souls- Friday, 27 January 2017**

(by <http://www.osservatoreromano.va>)

A Christian's garment must be sewn with "memory, courage, patience and hope" in order to endure even the heaviest rains without giving up and shrinking. During Mass at Santa Marta on Friday morning, 27 January, the Pope warned about the "sin of pusillanimity" — which is "being afraid of everything" and becoming "souls that shrink in order to preserve themselves". He recalled that Jesus himself warned that those "who seek to preserve their life, without taking risks and always citing prudence, will lose it".

Francis drew inspiration for his meditation from the day's First Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (10:32-39). He began by noting that it is "an exhortation with three points of reference, three temporal points, shall we say: past, present and future". The Letter's author "begins with the past and exhorts us to recall: 'Remember the former days'". The Pope explained that these were "days of enthusiasm, of going forth in faith, when one begins to live the faith, the trials suffered". Indeed, "Christian life is not understood, even everyday spiritual life, without memory". And, the Pontiff continued, "not only does one not understand: one cannot live in a Christian way without the memory" of "God's salvation in my life", without "remembering the troubles in my life: how has the Lord saved me from these troubles?". For this reason "memory is a grace, a grace to ask for: 'Lord, may I not forget your passing in my life, may I not forget the good times, and also the bad; the joys and the crosses.

Thus, the Pontiff explained, "a Christian is a person of memory". Thus, "when we pick up the Bible, we see that the prophets always make us look back: consider what God did with you, how he freed you from slavery". But "Christian life does not begin today, it continues today". And, Francis continued, "memory is wisdom: to remember everything, the good, the not so good, the bad; many graces, many sins, the family, the personal history of each one". Thus, "I go before God with my history; I must not cover it up, hide it: no, it is my history, before you". Thus, "the exhortation to live a Christian life begins with this point of reference: memory".

Then, the Pope continued, the author of the Letter to the Hebrews helps us "understand that we are walking in expectation of something; we are walking expecting to arrive or to encounter". In other words "to reach a point: an encounter; to encounter the Lord". In fact we read in the Letter: "For yet a little while, and the coming one shall come and shall not tarry". And straight away "he exhorts us to live by faith: 'My righteous one shall live by faith'". Here "hope: looking toward the future" comes in to play.

Indeed, Francis explained, "as one cannot live a Christian life without remembering the steps taken, one cannot live a Christian life without looking toward the future with the hope of the encounter with the Lord". In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author writes "a beautiful phrase: 'for yet a little while'". We are well aware, the Pope recalled, that "life is a breath", it's fleeting. "When we are young, we think we have so much time ahead, but then life teaches us that phrase that we all say: 'how time flies,

I've known him since he was a child, now he is married, how time flies!". Thus, "the hope of encountering Him is a life in tension between memory and hope, the past and the future".

The third point "is in the middle: it's today, that is, the present", the Pontiff affirmed. It is a "today between the past and the future". To live this today, the "advice" is "to continue with this attitude that describes the first Christians: of courage, of patience, of moving forward, of not being afraid". This is because "Christians live the present — oftentimes painful and sad — courageously or with patience". These are "two words that Paul and his disciple who wrote this letter like very much: courage and patience". The Pope described it as "curious" that, for the word 'patience', the author of the text "uses a word in Greek which means 'to endure'; and courage is honesty, he says here, to say things clearly, to move forward facing ahead". These are "two words that he uses a really great deal: *parresia* and *hypomoné*, courage and patience". And, Francis continued, "Christian life is this way". It's true, he recognized, that we are all sinners, "those before and those after", and "if you want, afterwards we can make a list, but let us go forward with courage and with patience; let us not stay there, still, because this will not make us grow".

Therefore, the Pontiff explained, "it is our Christian life, as today the liturgy exhorts us to live it" with great memory of the journey experienced, with great hope of that beautiful encounter which will be a beautiful surprise". Certainly, he continued, "we do not know when: it could be tomorrow, it could be in 15 years, we don't know, but it is always tomorrow; it is soon, because time flies". In any case, there must always be "the hope of the encounter". And also the attitude of "enduring, with patience; bringing here patience and courage, honesty", while "facing forward, without shame". This is precisely the way "Christian life moves forward".

To conclude, the Pope highlighted "a little thing to which the author" of the Letter to the Hebrews "calls the attention of the community to whom he is speaking: a sin". It is a sin "which does not let them have hope, courage, patience and memory: the sin of pusillanimity". It is a sin, Francis explained, "that does not let one be Christian, it is a sin that does not let you move forward because of fear". For this reason, "many times, Jesus said: 'Fear not'" — precisely to warn of "pusillanimity" and thus not to give up, not to "always back up", being too careful, out of a "fear of everything", and citing "prudence" as a reason for "not taking risks".

You could also say, the Pope stated, that you follow "all the commandments, yes, it's true; but this paralyzes you, it makes you forget many graces you have received; it takes away your memory; it takes away your hope because it doesn't allow you to go". Thus, "the present of a Christian is like that of a person going along the road when an unexpected rain comes, and his or her garment is not very good and the fabric shrinks: shrunken souls". This very image shows the sin of "pusillanimity: the sin against memory, courage, patience and hope".

Before resuming the Eucharistic celebration, Francis called for prayer that the Lord "make us grow in memory, make us grow in hope, give us each day courage and patience and free us" from the sin of "pusillanimity, which is the attitude of those who are "afraid of everything" and end up being "souls that shrink in order to preserve themselves". Jesus tells us, however, that "those who seek to preserve their life will lose it".



## Sunday of The Prodigal Son

**Introduction:** 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 Eastern to contemplate the necessity of repentance in our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

**Biblical Story:** The name for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ found in Luke 15:11-32. The parable is the story of a man and his two sons. The youngest of the sons asks his father to give him his inheritance. The father does this, and soon after the son leaves and journeys to a distant country (vv. 11-13).

After the younger son arrives, he squanders all of his possessions with “prodigal” living. Within a short period of time, he wastes everything. A severe famine comes, but he has nothing and falls into great need (vv. 13-14).

He is able to find work feeding swine, but this does not improve his situation. The Scriptures say, “He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, but no one gave him anything” (vv. 15-16).

The parable says that in the midst of his dire conditions, he came to himself. He realized that his father’s hired servants have enough to eat and food to spare, while he perishes with hunger. He says, “I will arise and go to my father and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants’” (vv. 17-19).

He arose and returned to his father. But as he approached, his father saw him at a great distance. The father had compassion on his son, ran to meet him, embraced him, and kissed him. The son admitted his sinfulness and his unworthiness to be called a son, but in his joy at the return of his son, the father called his servants to bring the best robe, a ring for his son’s finger, and sandals for his feet. He also called for the fatted calf to be killed for a feast. He exclaimed, “For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found” (vv. 20-24).

While they were feasting and celebrating the return of the prodigal son, the older son comes and inquires about what is happening. He is told that his brother had returned and that his father has received him with a feast. The older brother becomes angry and will not go in to the feast. The father comes out and pleads with him, but the older son answers by saying he has been faithful to his father for many years and yet the father never gave him the opportunity for such feasting. He expresses his anger and jealousy over his brother who was received in such a manner after he squandered his inheritance (vv. 25-30).

The father responds by telling his oldest son, “You are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found” (vv. 31-32).

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. This is why in the Slavic tradition of the Eastern Church the reading of Psalm 137 is added to the Matins service for this and the following two Sundays. This nostalgic lament of the Hebrew exiles states: "By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept as we remembered Zion. On the willows we hung our harps, for how could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land" (Psalm 137).

Here we can see the challenge of life in this world and the alienation from God that can happen when sin reigns in our lives. 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.

## **HEART PRAYER**

God, please give me a heart that can hold all of the good things in life:  
a heart with compassion and kindness, with gentleness and patience,  
and a heart that is open to spontaneity and joy.

Please form in me a heart that listens to all of your messages of love;  
one that trusts, always looking for the goodness hidden in others;  
one that will readily share the gifts you have given,  
and one that can hope beyond difficulties.

Grant me a peaceful heart that will hold on to the real values in life  
so that I can respond with assurance to what is important;  
give me a heart that is grounded in love rather than fear;  
one that is open to the needs of others and will reach out with sincerity.

Please God, give me a heart filled with your Spirit. Amen

## Church Information

**Rectory Hours-** Monday – Thursday 10:00am- 3:00 pm - phone 570-462-0809 Closed holidays

**Baptisms:** Please contact the rectory to arrange a date with the pastor.

**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 - \$1,348.50 Thank You!

**St. Nicholas:** Contributions \$ 1,373.00 Thank You!

**Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas-** In Memory of +Steve Mistysyn by Margaret Mistysyn & Family

**Sanctuary Light: St. Michael**

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

**4 Lamps of the Iconostas**

**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 those who are shut-ins, those in need, or who are ill or suffering and all those who have requested our prayers. Please pray for those who put themselves in harm's way to serve others such as those that serve in the military protecting our country, firefighters, police, and emergency personal.*

### **St. Michael**

Ruth's Mom \*

Eva Koch

Dolores Kozie

Mary Goodlunas\*

Sandy Bankes\*

Shannon's Mom\*

Matthew Morrisey

Helen O'Connell

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

Irene Yaroma

### **St. Nicholas**

Peter Kadingo

Margaret Skrincosky

Mary Mistishen

Joseph Luckenbill

Laura Seasock

Mary Kadingo

Metro & Helen Tarris

Joseph Salak

Anna Skrincosky

Catherine Washuta

Elizabeth Gulas

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 2016

Check out our updated website at [www.first-ukrainian.com](http://www.first-ukrainian.com)