

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 – stnicholassc@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 Website- www.first-ukrainian.com

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

Follow us on twitter @ stmichaelukr

Msgr. Myron Grabowsky – Parish Priest

Sunday, February 26th, 2017 Sunday of Cheesefare

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 25 th	3:30pm God's Blessing on His People
Sunday, February 26 th	10:30am 40 th Day +Carmella Fonslick by Winifred Mohutsky 3:00pm Forgiveness Vespers - Protection of the Mother of God- McAdoo
Tuesday, February 28 th	8:00am Typica
Wednesday, March 1 st	8:00am Typica 6:00pm Prayer Group
Thursday, March 2 nd	8:00am Typica & <u>Syrokousty</u>
Saturday, March 4 th	3:30pm +Mary Lazusky & +Anna Lefchick by William & Irene Mc Andrew
Sunday, March 5 th	10:30am God's Blessings on His People 3:00pm Stations of the Cross- Transfiguration, Shamokin

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 25 th	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary 5:30pm 40 th Day +Vinnie Zalonka by David Toth
Sunday, February 26 th	8:30am 40 th Day +Joseph Faenza by Son-in-Law, Michael Kovich 3:00pm Forgiveness Vespers - Protection of the Mother of God- McAdoo
Monday, February 27 th	8:00am Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Friday, March 3 rd	8:00am Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts & <u>Syrokousty</u>
Saturday, March 4 th	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary 5:30pm +Mary Panchison by Elaine Naradko
Sunday, March 5 th	8:30am +Roman & +Kathryn Misstishin by Mary & Harold Albon 3:00pm Stations of the Cross- Transfiguration, Shamokin

St. Michael's Lector Schedule:

Saturday, February 25 th	Rom 13:11-14:4	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, February 26 th	Rom 13:11-14:4	Alice Breznik
Saturday, March 4 th	Heb 11:24-26.32-12:2	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday, March 5 th	Heb11:124-26.32-12:2	Michael Fufila

St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:

Saturday, February 25 th	Rom 13:11-14:4	David Toth
Sunday, February 26 th	Rom 13:11-14:4	Theresa Panchison
Saturday, March 4 th	Heb 11:24-26.32-12:2	Bernadette Bremer
Sunday, March 5 th	Heb11:124-26.32-12:2	Leeann Smulligan

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

St. Michael:

Pierogie Sale will be Monday February 27th . 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 4th.

Sanctuary Light – Available dates 3/5, 3/12, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/23 & 4/30

Raffle Basket- We are currently collecting scratch-offs for a raffle basket to be drawn at Kielbasi Fest, May 20th . Any donations would be appreciate, even a dollar scratch-off adds up . Thank you for your help with this fundraiser.

Kielbasi Festival- will be May 20th. Anyone who is interested in helping, or making food for the event should contact the rectory.

Easter Basket Raffle- We will be doing another Easter Basket Raffle this year . The basket will include: Ham, Kielbasi, Butter, Cheese, Candle, Pascha, Salt, Horseradish, Eggs & Bacon. Tickets will be available after Liturgies or at the rectory. Parishioners are encouraged to sell tickets and distribute the flyers in the back of the church. See Stephanie Rarick or the rectory with questions or for tickets or flyers. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

St. Nicholas:

Sanctuary Light – Available dates 3/5, 3/26, 4/2, 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 19th** , for Pottsville , Port Carbon , Cressona & Outlying Areas- weather permitting.

Easter Confessions will be Thursday April 6th.

Condolences- +Michael Kovich fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday February 16th. Please remember +Michael and his friends and family in your prayers and may Our Lord grant him rest in the bosom of Abraham, may he be numbered among the saints and may his memory be eternal. Vichnaya pamyat.

Condolences- +Annette Zelwak fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday February 16th. Please remember +Annette and her friends and family in your prayers and may Our Lord grant her rest in the bosom of Abraham, may he be numbered among the saints and may her memory be eternal. Vichnaya pamyat.

Condolences- +Mary Kadingo fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday February 16th. Please remember +Mary and her friends and family in your prayers and may Our Lord grant her rest in the bosom of Abraham, may she be numbered among the saints and may his memory be eternal. Vichnaya pamyat.

Both Churches

Condolences- +Horace Hitchens beloved father or Fr. Robert Hitchens fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday February 16th. Please remember +Horace in your prayers and may Our Lord grant him rest in the bosom of Abraham, may he be numbered among the saints and may his memory be eternal. Vichnaya pamyat.

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

Lenten Dinners.St. John’s Church in Pottsville FRESH BAKED HADDOCK/SALMON or FRESH BAKED JUMBO LUMP CRAB CAKE DINNERS Fridays during the Lenten Season from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Russell Building at 9th & Schuylkill Avenue. (no dinner on Good Friday).Full course dinners including New England Clam Chowder, Full Salad Bar, Choice of Macaroni & Cheese, Baked or Mashed Potatoes, Choice of Vegetables, Homemade Dessert, Beverage.(Take outs available) Adults: Baked Haddock / Salmon / Crab Cake \$ 13.00 : 2 Crab Cakes \$ 16.00: Adult Special: Crab Cake & Choice of Fish \$ 16.00: Children: Baked Fish / Salmon / Crab Cake \$ 8.00 (under 12)

Lenten Dinner at St Stephen Hall, in Shenandoah on Tuesday, March 21st (order deadline March 14th) & Wednesday, April 5th (order deadline-March 29th) Pick up from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM Choice of Dinners: Devil Crab Dinner or Fish Dinner or Chicken Finger Dinner Cost: \$8.00 Take out only Order forms available at the rectory or contact Divine Mercy’s rectory

Designer Purse Bingo – Sunday March 12th at St Nicholas Hall, Minersville. Doors open at 11:00am, Bingo starts at 1:00pm. \$25.00 for 16 games and 4 specials . Presale ticket holders will be entered in a special drawing. Homemade foods, refreshments & fun. Tickets available at St. Nicholas rectory, Reliable Home Supply, Styles buy Sherri and Mike Watchers in Pottsville. For more info or tickets call 570-544-2800, 570-544-4581or 570-527-0899.

Food Sale – Saturday, March 4th at St Nicholas Hall St 901 Primrose from 10:00am to 1:00pm **Homemade soups** ; stuffed pepper; chicken noodle; sausage; beef vegetable & meatball. and Baked goods.

Blood Drive- Wednesday, March 1st from 1:00pm to 6:00pm at St. Michael’s Church Hall. In memory of Stanley Leonarczyk. Open to the public. For an appointment please visit www.redcrossblood.org Use sponsor code St. Michael or call 1-800-RED-CROSS(1-800-733-2767. Walk in’s welcome. Everyone who donates will receive a \$5.00 Amazon Gift Card claim code. All codes will be emailed to the donors approximately 14 days after donation. You must have a valid email address to receive the gift card.

Pysanky Classes will be offered this year at St Michael’s Hall. Classes will be Wednesday, April 5th from 6pm to 9:00 pm or Saturday, April 8th from 9:00am to 12noon. Cost is \$45.00 including supplies and you are guaranteed to leave class with an egg. To register please call Paul at 570-668-5789. Additional classes will be offered in the area, call Paul for more information.

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

St Nicholas School, Minersville- REGISTRATION for the 2017-2018 School Year is now taking place! Our registration theme is “Save My Seat!” St. Nicholas School offers...a challenging academic curriculum in a safe and caring environment. For a private tour or to register your child/children...contact Mr. Holland or Mrs. Batz at the school 570-544-2800.

Marriage Workshop- “Entering the Holy Mystery of Marriage” will take place Saturday, April 29 and Saturday May 6th at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1204 Valley Road, Melrose Park PA 19027. Each couple must commit to both days Total cost per couple is \$160.00 which includes materials, lunch & refreshments. Registrations & payment due be April 22nd no exceptions. See the rectory for the registration form

GREAT FAST PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A.

TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS SISTERS, SEMINARIANS AND BELOVED FAITHFUL

“Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” (Lk. 19:5)

For many of us, on the Sunday when we hear the Gospel reading of the ‘vertically challenged’ tax collector, Zacchaeus it means one thing for certain: the liturgical season of Great Lent will be upon us before we know it!

The details of his encounter with Jesus are familiar to all of us. Zacchaeus, a sinful and avaricious tax collector, despised by everyone, hears Jesus passing by. He experiences a sudden desire to see him in the flesh and climbs up a tree in order to catch sight of him. Jesus notices him perched on a branch and orders him to climb down and take him to his house where Jesus dines with him. As a result, Zacchaeus undergoes a total conversion from his sinful ways.

In many ways, the story of Zacchaeus mirrors our own personal story because each of us sits, mired in the morass of our sins and temptations, much like Zacchaeus at his money table. Unfortunately, many people today remain in this deplorable state for a lifetime, content to be so.

But the story of Zacchaeus demonstrates to us that it does not have to be this way. We are not necessarily doomed to live out our lives in sin and despair. Jesus Christ came to this earth as man and God, to change the direction of our lives and to make them better.

Jesus is always seeking us out, always calling us by name, but many times the concerns and comforts of our life stifle His voice from reaching our ears, much like Zacchaeus, whose short stature prevented him from seeing Jesus through the crowd of people.

But something wonderful and unexpected happens to Zacchaeus. He suddenly feels a tug of desire at his heart. He realizes that he must, at all costs, see Jesus for himself, up close. And, leaving his personal dignity at his table, he makes a spectacle of himself as he clambers, like a child, up a tree and onto an overhanging branch in order catch a glimpse of Jesus, passing by. And the rest, as they say, is history.

What was this strange desire that suddenly came over him? And, more importantly, can we also experience this same feeling that would enable us to leave our sins at the side of the road and radically change our lives and devote them to Jesus, as well? The answer is: yes, we can, but not alone!

Fortunately for us, the Church realizes that we need help in hearing the voice of Jesus, we need help in experiencing the desire to see Jesus, we need help in climbing the tree of our personal conversion, and we are helpless if we attempt this with our own limited powers alone. This is why the Church, in her wisdom, offers us the gift of the holy forty days of Great Lent each year before the celebration of Our Lord’s Passion and Resurrection, as a divine aid in attaining personal conversion.

During Great Lent the Church presents us with a sure formula for achieving this goal: prayer, alms-giving and fasting. During the time of Lent we are encouraged to be more devoted to our prayer life, through private meditation and by attending the beautiful and unique Lenten services celebrated in our parish churches. We are also encouraged to pay special attention to our brothers and sisters around us, who may be suffering physical, emotional, or spiritual distress, and serve them in their needs. And finally we are encouraged to fast, in order to attain humility through the taming of our physical appetites, our thoughts, our actions and especially our unruly tongue.

Standing on these three tall pillars of Great Lent, we will be able to rise above the crowd just like Zacchaeus climbing the tree. Like Zacchaeus, nothing will be able to impede our vision, nothing will be able to block our hearing. Zacchaeus shows us that, when we take the first, sometimes difficult step towards Jesus, He will always quickly hasten to us, always beckon us, always embrace us, always enter into our homes, always forgive us, always renew us.

Zacchaeus' journey of conversion climbing up a tree towards a personal encounter with Jesus is a symbol of our own Lenten journey of conversion towards our own encounter with Our Lord during the time of Great Lent; a journey towards the moment when we recognize Jesus as Lord and Master of our lives.

For each of us the place of encounter is personal and unique. For Zaccheus, the encounter took place in a very unlikely place, in the branches of a Sycamore tree. For us it could be when we are immersed in prayer, or when we offer a helping hand to someone in need, or when we choose to speak good of someone rather than evil, or at some other time and place when we least expect it.

Our sincere prayer is that each of us, during this blessed time of Great Lent, may experience an encounter with Jesus and a personal conversion in Him so that we, along with Zacchaeus, would hear the voice of Jesus saying to us: *"Today salvation has come to this house"*. (Lk. 19:9)

+Stefan Soroka - Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM (author)- Eparch of Stamford

+ Bohdan Danylo- Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma

+John Bura- Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

Very Rev. Richard Janowicz, Apostolic Administrator St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy in Chicago

Forgiveness Service on Cheesefare Sunday

written by Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann

In the Orthodox (and Eastern Catholic) Church, the last Sunday before Great Lent – the day on which, at Vespers, Lent is liturgically announced and inaugurated – is called Forgiveness Sunday. On the morning of that Sunday, (also known as Cheesefare Sunday, at the Divine Liturgy, we hear the words of Christ:

"If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses..." (Mark 6:14-15)

Then after Lenten Vespers – after hearing the announcement of Lent in the Great Prokeimen: *"Turn not away Thy face from Thy child for I am afflicted! Hear me speedily! Draw near unto my soul and deliver it!"*, after making our entrance into Lenten worship, with its special memories, with the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, with its prostrations – we ask forgiveness from each other, we perform the rite of forgiveness and reconciliation. And as we approach each other with words of reconciliation, the choir intones the Paschal hymns, filling the church with the anticipation of Paschal joy.

What is the meaning of this rite? Why is it that the Church wants us to begin the Lenten season with forgiveness and reconciliation? These questions are in order because for too many people Lent means primarily, and almost exclusively, a change of diet, the compliance with ecclesiastical regulations concerning fasting. They understand fasting as an end in itself, as a "good deed" required by God and carrying in itself its merit and its reward. But, the Church spares no effort in revealing to us that fasting is but a means, one among many, towards a higher goal: the spiritual renewal of man, his return to God, true repentance and, therefore, true reconciliation. The Church spares no effort in warning us against a hypocritical and pharisaic fasting, against the reduction of religion to mere external obligations. As a Lenten hymn says:

*In vain do you rejoice in no eating, O soul!
For you abstain from food,
But from passions you are not purified.
If you persevere in sin, you will perform a useless fast.*

Now, forgiveness stands at the very center of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, Whom He sends to us, so that by sharing in His humanity we may share in His love and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a return to it, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for the Lenten season.

One may ask, however: Why should I perform this rite when I have no "enemies"? Why should I ask forgiveness from people who have done nothing to me, and whom I hardly know? To ask these questions, is to misunderstand the Church teaching concerning forgiveness. It is true, that open enmity, personal hatred, real animosity may be absent from our life, though if we experience them, it may be easier for us to repent, for these feelings openly contradict Divine commandments. But, the Church reveals to us that there are much subtler ways of offending Divine Love. These are indifference, selfishness, lack of interest in other people, of any real concern for them -- in short, that wall which we usually erect around ourselves, thinking that by being "polite" and "friendly" we fulfill God's commandments. The rite of forgiveness is so important precisely because it makes us realize – be it only for one minute – that our entire relationship to other men is wrong, makes us experience that encounter of one child of God with another, of one person created by God with another, makes us feel that mutual "recognition" which is so terribly lacking in our cold and dehumanized world.

On that unique evening, listening to the joyful Paschal hymns we are called to make a spiritual discovery: to taste of another mode of life and relationship with people, of life whose essence is love.

We can discover that always and everywhere Christ, the Divine Love Himself, stands in the midst of us, transforming our mutual alienation into brotherhood. As I advance towards the other, as the other comes to me – we begin to realize that it is Christ Who brings us together by His love for both of us.

And because we make this discovery – and because this discovery is that of the Kingdom of God itself: the Kingdom of Peace and Love, of reconciliation with God and, in Him, with all that exists – we hear the hymns of that Feast, which once a year, "opens to us the doors of Paradise." We know why we shall fast and pray, what we shall seek during the long Lenten pilgrimage. Forgiveness Sunday: the day on which we acquire the power to make our fasting – true fasting; our effort – true effort; our reconciliation with God – true reconciliation.

WHY NO ASH WEDNESDAY In the Roman Catholic Church and some Protestant Churches, the first day of Lent is called Ash Wednesday. On that day the faithful receive smudges of ashes on their foreheads, as a sign of their mortality. The administering priest reminds them with this formula “Memento, homo, quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris” which in English reads: “Remember man that thou art dust and unto dust thou shall return.” The text is from Genesis 3:19. The practice reflects the Old Testament tradition of wearing sackcloth and ashes as signs of penitence. “To make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.” (Daniel 9:3).

In the Ukrainian Catholic Church, we start Lent on a Monday not Wednesday. Both churches number a 40 day Lent but they differ as to when it ends. In the Ukrainian Church the Great Lent ends with Lazarus Saturday (Saturday before Palm Sunday). The Holy Week stands by itself. The Roman Catholic Church ends the Great Lent on the evening of Holy Wednesday and does not separate Holy Week from the rest of Lent.

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

Lenten Confession Schedule- From 6:00 to 7:00pm

Monday April 3rd- Assumption- Centralia, SS. Peter & Paul – Mt. Carmel, Nativity-Middleport, Transfiguration- Shamokin.

Tuesday April 4th- St. John- Maizeville, Protection- Marion Heights, St. Nicholas- Minersville, St. Michael- Shenandoah

Thursday April 6th St. Michael-Hazelton, Protection- Mc Adoo, St. Michael- Frackville, St. Nicholas- S.t Clair

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.

Weekly Contributions

Parishes Weekly Income: **St. Michael:** Contributions - \$1,013.70 Thank You!

St. Nicholas: Contributions \$635.00 Thank You!

Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas- In Memory of +Mr &+ Mrs Michael Uranium by Daughter, Mary Ann

Sanctuary Light: St. Michael In Memory of + Stephen Sawka by Wife, Nancy

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

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