

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, March 5th, 2017 1st Sunday of the Great Fast

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

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
Tuesday, March 7 th	8:00am Typica
Wednesday, March 8 th	8:00am Typica & Syrokousty 6:00pm Prayer Group
Thursday, March 9 th	8:00am Typica
Saturday, March 11 th	3:30pm God's Blessings on His People
Sunday, March 12 th	10:30am +Nicholas Bereschak by Daughters, Mary Mazur & Helen Bereschak 3:00pm Stations of the Cross- St. Michael's, Shenandoah

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

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
Monday, March 6 th	8:00am Typica
Friday, March 10 th	4:00pm Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts & Syrokousty
Saturday, March 11 th	8:00am Reparation of the Immaculate & Sorrowful Heart of Mary 5:30pm +John & +Anna Skrincosky by Andrew & Anna Skrincosky
Sunday, March 12 th	8:30am Special Intentions & Health for Joseph Yakobosky by Ronald Krolick 3:00pm Stations of the Cross- St. Michael's, Shenandoah

St. Michael's Lector Schedule:

Saturday, March 4 th	Heb 11:24-26.32-12:2	Winifred Mohutsky
Sunday, March 5 th	Heb 11:124-26.32-12:2	Michael Fufila
Saturday, March 11 th	Heb 1:10-2:3	Nancy Sawka
Sunday, March 12 th	Heb 1:10-2:3	Sam Litwak

St. Nicholas Lector Schedule:

Saturday, March 4 th	Heb 11:24-26.32-12:2	Bernadette Bremer
Sunday, March 5 th	Heb 11:124-26.32-12:2	Leeann Smulligan
Saturday, March 11 th	Heb 1:10-2:3	Andrew Skrincosky
Sunday, March 12 th	Heb 1:10-2:3	Susan Miller

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

St. Michael:

Pierogie Sale – Thank you to everyone who helped with last Monday’s Pierogie Sale. Your hard work helped to make this fundraiser a success. Our profit for this sale was \$1,316.46. Thanks for all your hard work!

Easter Confessions will be Tuesday, April 4th.

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

Lottery Raffle Basket- We are currently collecting scratch-offs for a raffle basket. Any donations would be appreciated, 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.

Condolences- +Helen Sholtis fell asleep in the Lord . Please remember +Helen 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 her memory be eternal. Vichnaya pamyat.

St. Nicholas:

Sanctuary Light – Available dates 3/26, 4/16, 4/23, 5/7 & 5/14.

Easter Confessions will be Thursday April 6th.

Memorial- Memorial donations in memory of +Mrs. Annette Zelwak have been received from David & Patricia Ruckhert and Mr. & Mrs. William Umbenhauer.

Both Churches

Seminary Raffle- Raffle Tickets for the ‘Lucky Three Raffle’ are now available at the back of the church. Each envelope contains 5 tickets. Each ticket costs \$1.00. Please return ticket stubs and money in the envelope. Drawing will be held Sunday , April 9th , Thank- you.

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

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.

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, 570-544-4581 or 570-527-0899.

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

Bitter Harvest - The film, "Bitter Harvest" opened in theatres throughout the United States on Friday, February 24. Set between the two World Wars and based on true historical events, BITTER HARVEST conveys the tragic story of the Holodomor, the genocidal famine engineered by the tyrant Joseph Stalin that resulted in the starvation of 7-10 million Ukrainians. The film displays a powerful tale of love, honour, rebellion and survival at a time when Ukraine was forced to adjust to the horrifying territorial ambitions of the burgeoning Soviet Union. With an exceptional cast of established and rising stars, the film epically recreates one of the most dramatic and dangerous episodes in the history of 20th Century Europe. Set in 1930s Ukraine, as Stalin advances the ambitions of communists in the Kremlin, young artist Yuri battles to save his lover Natalka from the Holodomor, the death-by-starvation program that ultimately killed 7-10 millions of Ukrainians by starvation. A review of the film by The Chicago Tribune news service is found at the following link:
<http://www.freep.com/story/entertainment/movies/2017/02/24/bitter-harvest-movie-review/98213806/>

The St. Andrew Parish Mission in Lancaster, Pa. has moved to a new location – the chapel of the Dominican Sisters located at 1834 Lititz Pike, Lancaster PA 17601. The Divine Liturgy is celebrated Sundays at 1 p.m. Kindly share this information with your faithful. The Website is : <http://nativitybvnmchurch.wixsite.com/st-andriy>



The First Sunday of Great Fast: The Sunday of Orthodoxy

Introduction

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

Historical Background

The Seventh Ecumenical Council dealt predominantly with the controversy regarding icons and their place in Eastern church worship. It was convened in Nicaea in 787 by Empress Irene at the request of Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople. The Council was attended by 367 bishops.

Almost a century before this, the iconoclastic controversy had once more shaken the

foundations of both Church and State in the Byzantine empire. Excessive religious respect and the ascribed miracles to icons by some members of society, approached the point of worship (due only to God) and idolatry. This instigated excesses at the other extreme by which icons were completely taken out of the liturgical life of the Church by the Iconoclasts. The Iconophiles, on the other-hand, believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty.

The Council decided on a doctrine by which icons should be venerated but not worshipped. In answering the Empress' invitation to the Council, Pope Hadrian replied with a letter in which he also held the position of extending veneration to icons but not worship, the last befitting only God.

The decree of the Council for restoring icons to churches added an important clause which still stands at the foundation of the rationale for using and venerating icons in the Eastern Churches to this very day: "We define that the holy icons, whether in colour, mosaic, or some other material, should be exhibited in the holy churches of God, on the sacred vessels and liturgical vestments, on the walls, furnishings, and in houses and along the roads, namely the icons of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, that of our Lady the Theotokos, those of the venerable angels and those of all saintly people. Whenever these representations are contemplated, they will cause those who look at them to commemorate and love their prototype. We define also that they should be kissed and that they are an object of veneration and honour (timitiki proskynisis), but not of real worship (latreia), which is

reserved for Him Who is the subject of our faith and is proper for the divine nature. The veneration accorded to an icon is in effect transmitted to the prototype; he who venerates the icon, venerated in it the reality for which it stands".

An Endemousa (Regional) Synod was called in Constantinople in 843. Under Empress Theodora. The veneration of icons was solemnly proclaimed at the Hagia Sophia Cathedral. The Empress, her son Michael III, Patriarch Methodios, and monks and clergy came in procession and restored the icons in their rightful place. The day was called "Triumph of Orthodoxy." Since that time, this event is commemorated yearly with a special service on the first Sunday of Lent, the "Sunday of Orthodoxy".

Eastern church teaching about icons, as defined at the Seventh Ecumenical Council of 787, is embodied in the texts sung on this Sunday.

From Vespers: *"Inspired by your Spirit, Lord, the prophets foretold your birth as a child incarnate of the Virgin. Nothing can contain or hold you; before the morning star you shone forth eternally from the spiritual womb of the Father. Yet you were to become like us and be seen by those on earth. At the prayers of those your prophets in your mercy reckon us fit to see your light, "for we praise your resurrection, holy and beyond speech. Infinite, Lord, as divine, in the last times you willed to become incarnate and so finite; for when you took on flesh you made all its properties your own. So we depict the form of your outward appearance and pay it relative respect, and so are moved to love you; and through it we receive the grace of healing, following the divine traditions of the apostles."*

"The grace of truth has shone out, the things once foreshadowed now are revealed in perfection. See, the Church is decked with the embodied image of Christ, as with beauty not of this world, fulfilling the tent of witness, holding fast the Orthodox faith. For if we cling to the icon of him whom we worship, we shall not go astray. May those who do not so believe be covered with shame. For the image of him who became human is our glory: we venerate it, but do not worship it as God. Kissing it, we who believe cry out: O God, save your people, and bless your heritage."

"We have moved forward from unbelief to true faith, and have been enlightened by the light of knowledge. Let us then clap our hands like the psalmist, and offer praise and thanksgiving to God. And let us honor and venerate the holy icons of Christ, of his most pure Mother, and of all the saints, depicted on walls, panels and sacred vessels, setting aside the unbelievers' ungodly teaching. For the veneration given to the icon passes over, as Basil says, to its prototype. At the intercession of your spotless Mother, O Christ, and of all the saints, we pray you to grant us your great mercy. We venerate your icon, good Lord, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God. For you freely willed in the flesh to ascend the cross, to rescue from slavery to the enemy those whom you had formed. So we cry to you with thanksgiving: You have filled all things with joy, our Savior, by coming to save the world."

The name of this Sunday reflects the great significance which icons possess for the Orthodox Church. They are not optional devotional extras, but an integral part of Orthodox faith and devotion. They are held to be a necessary consequence of Christian faith in the incarnation of the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, in Jesus Christ. They have a sacramental character, making present to the believer the person or event depicted on them. So the interior of Orthodox churches is often covered with icons painted on walls and domed roofs, and there is always an icon screen, or iconostasis,

separating the sanctuary from the nave, often with several rows of icons. No Eastern church home is complete without an icon corner (iconostasion), where the family prays.

Icons are venerated by burning lamps and candles in front of them, by the use of incense and by kissing. But there is a clear doctrinal distinction between the veneration paid to icons and the worship due to God. The former is not only relative, it is in fact paid to the person represented by the icon. This distinction safeguards the veneration of icons from any charge of idolatry.

The theme of the victory of the icons, by its emphasis on the incarnation, points us to the basic Christian truth that the one whose death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter was none other than the Word of God who became human in Jesus Christ.

Before the Triumph of Orthodoxy came to be celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, there was on this day a commemoration of Moses, Aaron, Samuel and the prophets. Traces of this more ancient observance can still be seen in the choice of the Epistle reading at the Liturgy and in the Alleluia verse appointed before the Gospel: "Moses and Aaron among His priests, and Samuel among them that call upon His Name."

Deanery Lenten Services: Services at 3:00pm **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



METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S GREAT FAST MEDITATION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

The Great Fast is a gift to you and to me, offering us an opportunity to examine the way we follow Jesus Christ in our day-to-day life. A meaningful journey through Lent ought to unsettle our comfort zones. One of these comfort zones might be an attitude which can overtake us all, that of living in a manner which reflects an attitude of entitlement. Recall how Jesus was tempted three times by the devil. In the first temptation, Jesus was asked to turn the stones into loaves of bread. Jesus replied, "Man does not live by bread alone". In the second temptation, Jesus was asked to worship the devil. Jesus answered, "You must worship the Lord your God, and serve Him alone". In the third temptation, Jesus was told to throw himself off the top of the synagogue so that God would send his angels to save him. Jesus answered, "You must not put the Lord your God to the test".

Three times Jesus was tempted to make himself equal to God. Three times he rejected the temptation and chose God's way of doing things, God's will for him. And what about us? When we choose to live as if more is better, and that luxuries are really necessities, which are we choosing, God or ourselves? We can also believe that with power and resources, we can accomplish much more. Who are we choosing, God or ourselves, when we get what we want in less than desirable ways as long as we have a good purpose in the getting? Do we count on our prayers to God to make everything right after having ourselves contributed to the development of difficult situations, perhaps by choosing to ignore our own or others' needs? Let's remember Jesus' answer, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test".

Great Fast is a gift to continually ask ourselves, "God or ourselves?"

Lent is a favorable
time for letting Christ
serve us so that we in
turn may become
more like Him.

Pope Francis

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 - \$867.60 Thank You!

St. Nicholas: Contributions \$1,006.00 Cemetery \$525.00 Thank You!

Sanctuary Light: St. Nicholas- In Memory of +John & +Anna Skrincosky by the Jansson & Skrincosky Families

Sanctuary Light: St. Michael In Memory of + Michael Krajcirik by Wife, Theresa

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

4 Lamps of the Iconostas In Memory of +John Bagienski by the Bagienski Family

Lamps of the Crucifix- In Memory of +Mary Lazusky & + Anna Lefchick by William & Irene 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 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 Morrissey

Helen O'Connell

Helen Beddall

Irene Flaherty

Tom Prete

Susan Chernesky

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