

St. Michael's Orthodox Church

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Sunday Bulletin, September 24, 2017

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 7. HOLY PROTOMARTYR AND EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES THECLA. NEW MARTYRS OF ALASKA: HIEROMONK JUVENALY AND PETER THE ALEUT.

Service Schedule:

Sunday, Sep. 24: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Hours at 9:10).

Saturday, Sep. 30: 5 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, Oct. 1: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (hours at 9:10).

Remember in Your Prayers...

Health / General: Mary Krenitsky, Stella Krenitsky, Michael Jadick, Helen Chesniak, Marie Buranich, Mary Slenska, Helen Wytovich, Rosemary Kuzmich, Tammy Wytovich, Fr. John Nightingale, Pauline Sevensky, Bernie Elko, Lucille Lezinsky, Danny Pregmon, Sandra Pritchky, Helen Wirhanowsky, Marie Pasternak, John Pritchky & Matushka Myra Kovalak.

Offerings:

Announcements:(Please submit any announcements no later than the Thursday before they are to be posted)

St. Michael's Orthodox Church Food Pantry: The food pantry will be open on Thursday, October 5th from 11 AM – 12 Noon and Saturday, October 21 from 11 AM – 12 Noon. The following individuals / organizations made donations to the pantry in the last couple of weeks: **Kris Mitchell.**

Hurricane Harvey & Irma Support: Thank you to all who contributed to support those impacted by Hurricane Harvey & Irma. We raised \$590 which will be sent to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) for this effort.

Church School: Classes will meet the first and third Sunday of each month. The last day of class will be May 20, 2018.

Family Vacation: Fr. Peter and Mat. Mary Lynn will be vacationing in Holden Beach, North Carolina from Friday, September 22 and returning on Tuesday, October 3, 2017. Fr. Michael Evans will serve Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy for both weekends (9/23, 24 & 9/30,10/1). Fr. Eli will be on call for any emergency in my absence from September 22 thru October 1st. Please call Martha Matechak at 570-457-4128 with any emergency and she will contact Fr. Eli. Fr. Michael Evans will be on call for any emergency from October 2 to October 3. Fr. Michael can be reached at 570-205-0697. Please keep us in your prayers.

Small Groups forming at St. Michaels: If you would like to join a small group, please contact Fr. Peter. You are welcome to bring a friend who is not a parishioner of our church.

Pierogie Project: Will be this Monday and Tuesday, September 25-26. We will need many volunteers for this effort.

Fifth Annual Rusyn Genealogy and Heritage Conference: Rusyn History and Culture from A to Z presented by the Eastern PA Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society. This will be on Saturday, September 30 from 9 AM to 4 PM at Kings College Campus Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Please see the handout on the bulletin board for more details.

Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania is sponsoring Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon to speak on the following subject: "Atonement, an Orthodox Theology of Redemption. How does God save us?" He will be speaking on three days in October at three different churches within our Diocese. He will be speaking Wednesday, October 25th at 7 PM at the Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral in Wilkes Barre. See the flyer on the bulletin board for additional information.

Holy Cross Orthodox Church 40th Anniversary Celebration: Will be held on Sunday, November 12th, 2017 at their church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Our Church is taking a full page add in their commemorative book. Please see the bulletin board for additional information.

Today's Holy Scripture Readings:

2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (*Epistle*)

1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.
2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.
4 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,
5 in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;
6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,
7 by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,
8 by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true;
9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed;
10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Luke 5:1-11 (*Gospel*)

1 So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,
2 and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.
3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.
4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."
5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."
6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.
7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.
8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"
9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;
10 and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."
11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Saint Peter the Aleut is mentioned in the Life of Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13). Simeon Yanovsky (who ended his life as the schemamonk Sergius in the Saint Tikhon of Kaluga Monastery), has left the following account:

"On another occasion I was relating to him how the Spanish in California had imprisoned fourteen Aleuts, and how the Jesuits (actually Franciscans) were forcing all of them to accept the Catholic Faith. But the Aleuts would not agree under any circumstances, saying, 'We are Christians.' The Jesuits argued, 'That's not true, you are heretics and schismatics. If you do not agree to accept our faith then we will torture all of you to death.' Then the Aleuts were placed in prisons two to a cell. That evening, the Jesuits came to the prison with lanterns and lighted candles. Again they tried to persuade two Aleuts in the cell to accept the Catholic Faith. 'We are Christians,' the Aleuts replied, 'and we will not change our Faith.' Then the Jesuits began to torture them, at first the one while his companion was a witness. They cut off one of the joints of his feet, and then the other joint. Then they cut the first joint on the fingers of his hands, and then the other joint. Then they cut off his feet, and his hands. The blood flowed, but the martyr endured all and firmly repeated one thing: 'I am a Christian.' He died in such suffering, due to a loss of blood. The Jesuit also promised to torture his comrade to death the next day.

But that night an order was received from Monterey stating that the imprisoned Aleuts were to be released immediately, and sent there under escort. Therefore, in the morning all were sent to Monterey with the exception of the dead Aleut. This was related to me by a witness, the same Aleut who had escaped torture, and who was the friend of the martyred Aleut. I reported this incident to the authorities in Saint Petersburg. When I finished my story, Father Herman asked, 'What was the name of the martyred Aleut?' I answered, 'Peter. I do not remember his family name.' The Elder stood reverently before an icon, made the Sign of the Cross and said, "Holy New Martyr Peter, pray to God for us!"

We know very little about Saint Peter, except that he was from Kodiak, and was arrested and put to death by the Spaniards in California because he refused to convert to Catholicism. The circumstances of his martyrdom recall the torture of Saint James the Persian (November 27).

Both in his sufferings and in his steadfast confession of the Faith, Saint Peter is the equal of the martyrs of old, and also of the New Martyrs who have shone forth in more recent times. Now he rejoices with them in the heavenly Kingdom, glorifying God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, throughout all ages.