

St. Michael's Orthodox Church

512 Summer Street, Old Forge, PA 18518

Fr. Peter Henry, Rector

Church Office: (570) 457-3703

Email: Peterehenry@yahoo.com Website: <http://stmichaelof.org>.

Sunday Bulletin, March 4, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – TONE 6. ST. GREGORY PALAMAS.

Service Schedule:

Sunday, Mar. 4: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Hours at 9:10)
Tuesday, Mar. 6: 7 AM Matins
Wednesday, Mar. 7: 7 AM Matins
6 PM Presanctified Liturgy – Confession from 5 PM – 5:30 PM
Thursday, Mar. 8: 7 AM Matins
Friday, Mar. 9: 6 PM Akathist to Mary. Confession following.
Saturday, Mar. 10: 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (3rd Hour at 8:50) Memorial Saturday Liturgy
5 PM Great Vespers.
Sunday, Mar. 11: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Hours at 9:10)

Remember in Your Prayers...

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

Memory Eternal: Mat. Mary Perez.

Offerings:

Vigil Lights: In Memory of: Skip Polanchik by Mia & Nicholas Polanchik.

Church School Fund: For the Health of: James Thomas Coyne by Dr. & Mrs. James Batton & Jessica.

Vigil Lights: For the Health of: Helen & Tammy Wytovich by Al Horek; Jennifer Batton by Dr. & Mrs. James Batton & Jessica; Tammy Wytovich by Mom & Roman; Dorothy Polanchik by Helen & Tammy Wytovich.

Vigil Lights: In Memory of: Steve Polanchik by Dorothy Polanchik.

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 Saturday, (3/17), from 11 AM – 12 Noon. The following individuals / organizations made donations to the pantry in the last couple of weeks: **Kris Mitchell, Jack & Elaine Ezbiansky, Tom & Arlette Zupko & Anonymous.** **Thanks to all the donations of plastic bags, we have enough bags for the time being.**

House Blessings: Fr. Peter has finished house blessings for the year. If anyone didn't have their house blessed and would like to, please call Fr. Peter to set up an appointment.

Pierogi Sale: The church had a pierogi sale this past Tuesday, February 27th. **Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this successful.**

Lenten Mission Services will start at 4 PM: Please note the change for March 4 & 18.

March	4	St. Gregory Palamas	St. John	Nanticoke
March	11	Sunday of the Cross	Holy Annunciation	Berwick
March	18	St. John Climacus	St. Michael	Jermyn
March	25	St. Mary of Egypt	Holy Cross	WilliamSPORT
April	1	Palm Sunday	Holy Resurrection Cathedral	Wilkes-Barre

Today's Holy Scripture Readings:

Hebrews 1:10-2:3 (*Epistle*)

10 And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

11 They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment;

12 like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail."

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,

3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

Mark 2:1-12 (*Gospel*)

1 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house.

2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.

4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,

7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"

9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?

10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic,

11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Venerable Gerasimus of the Jordan

Saint Gerasimus was a native of Lycia (Asia Minor). From his early years he was distinguished for his piety. Having received monastic tonsure, he withdrew into the desert of the Thebaid (in Egypt). Thereafter, in about the year 450, the monk arrived in Palestine and settled at the Jordan, where he founded a monastery.

For a certain while Saint Gerasimus was tempted by the heresy of Eutyches and Dioscorus, which acknowledged only the divine nature in Jesus Christ, but not His human nature (i.e. the Monophysite heresy). Saint Euthymius the Great (January 20) helped him to return to the true Faith.

Saint Gerasimus established a strict monastic Rule. He spent five days of the week in solitude, occupying himself with handicrafts and prayer. On these days the wilderness dwellers did not eat cooked food, nor did they kindle a fire, but ate only dry bread, roots and water.

On Saturday and Sunday all gathered at the monastery for Divine Liturgy and to partake of the Holy Mysteries of Christ. In the afternoon, taking a supply of bread, tubers, water and an armload of date-palm branches for weaving baskets, the desert-dwellers returned to their own cells. Each had only old clothes and a mat, upon which he slept. When they left their cells, the door was never locked, so that anyone could enter and rest, or take whatever he needed.

Saint Gerasimus himself attained a high level of asceticism. During Great Lent he ate nothing until the very day of the All-Radiant Resurrection of Christ, when he received the Holy Mysteries. Going out into the desert for all of Great Lent, Saint Gerasimus took with him his beloved disciple Saint Cyriacus (September 29), whom Saint Euthymius had sent to him.

When Saint Euthymius the Great died, Saint Gerasimus saw how angels carried the soul of the departed up to Heaven. Taking Cyriacus with him, the monk immediately set off to the monastery of Saint Euthymius and consigned his body to the earth.

Saint Gerasimus died peacefully, mourned by his brethren and disciples. Before his death, a lion had aided Saint Gerasimus in his tasks, and upon the death of the Elder it died at his grave and was buried nearby. Therefore the lion is depicted on icons of the saint, at his feet.