

St. Michael's Orthodox Church

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Sunday Bulletin, March 11, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – TONE 7. VENERATION OF THE CROSS. ST. SOPHRONIUS, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM.

Service Schedule:

Sunday, Mar. 11: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Hours at 9:10)
Tuesday, Mar. 13: 7 AM Matins
Wednesday, Mar. 14: 7 AM Matins – No Presanctified Liturgy tonight.
Thursday, Mar. 15: 7 AM Matins
Friday, Mar. 16: 6 PM Akathist to Mary. Confession following.
Saturday, Mar. 17: 5 PM Great Vespers.
Sunday, Mar. 18: 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:

Flowers for the Cross: In Memory of: Michael Buday by Ann Buday.

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.**

Parish Council Members: Please read and sign the PSP that was given out at the Last Parish council meeting and return it to Fr. Peter by next Sunday, March 18th. Thank you to those council members who have already completed this.

Charitable outreach to St. Tikhon's Diocesan Seminarians: Our Diocese has four families and another family from Serbia is interested in coming into our Diocese who attend St. Tikhon's Seminary. The next two Sunday's (3/18) and (3/25), there will be a second collection for these families. Any check can be made out to the "St. Michael's Orthodox Church" with St. Tikhon's Seminary in the memo field. Our Church will then send one check to our Diocese "Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania". Our Diocese will then distribute the money to these families. Thank you for your generosity.

Lenten Mission Services will start at 4 PM:

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 4:14-5:6 (Epistle)

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- 1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.
- 2 He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.
- 3 Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.
- 4 And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.
- 5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.”
- 6 As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”;

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel)

- 34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
- 35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.
- 36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?
- 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
- 38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”
- 1 And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

St. Sophronius the Patriarch of Jerusalem

Saint Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, was born in Damascus around 560. From his youth he was distinguished for his piety and his love for classical studies. He was especially proficient in philosophy, and so he was known as Sophronius the Wise. The future hierarch, however, sought the true philosophy of monasticism, and conversations with the desert-dwellers.

He arrived in Jerusalem at the monastery of Saint Theodosius, and there he became close with the hieromonk John Moschus, becoming his spiritual son and submitting himself to him in obedience. They visited several monasteries, writing down the lives and spiritual wisdom of the ascetics they met. From these notes emerged their renowned book, the LEIMONARION or SPIRITUAL MEADOW, which was highly esteemed at the Seventh Ecumenical Council.

To save themselves from the devastating incursions of the Persians, Saints John and Sophronius left Palestine and went to Antioch, and from there they went to Egypt. In Egypt, Saint Sophronius became seriously ill. During this time he decided to become a monk and was tonsured by Saint John Moschus.

After Saint Sophronius recovered his health, they both decided to remain in Alexandria. There they were received by the holy Patriarch John the Merciful (November 12), to whom they rendered great aid in the struggle against the Monophysite heresy. At Alexandria Saint Sophronius had an affliction of the eyes, and he turned with prayer and faith to the holy Unmercenaries Cyrus and John (January 31), and he received healing in a church named for them. In gratitude, Saint Sophronius then wrote the Lives of these holy Unmercenaries.

When the barbarians began to threaten Alexandria, Patriarch John, accompanied by Saints Sophronius and John Moschus, set out for Constantinople, but he died along the way. Saints John Moschus and Sophronius then set out for Rome with eighteen other monks. Saint John Moschus died at Rome. His body was taken to Jerusalem by Saint Sophronius and buried at the monastery of Saint Theodosius.

In the year 628, Patriarch Zacharias of Jerusalem (609-633) returned from his captivity in Persia. After his death, the patriarchal throne was occupied for two years by Saint Modestus (December 18). After the death of Saint Modestus, Saint Sophronius was chosen Patriarch. Saint Sophronius toiled much for the welfare of the Jerusalem Church as its primate (634-644).

Toward the end of his life, Saint Sophronius and his flock lived through a two year siege of Jerusalem by the Moslems. Worn down by hunger, the Christians finally agreed to open the city gates, on the condition that the enemy spare the holy places. But this condition was not fulfilled, and Saint Sophronius died in grief over the desecration of the Christian holy places.

Written works by Patriarch Sophronius have come down to us in the area of dogmatics, and likewise his “Excursus on the Liturgy,” the Life of Saint Mary of Egypt (April 1), and also about 950 troparia and stikheras from Pascha to the Ascension.

While still a hieromonk, Saint Sophronius reviewed and made corrections to the Rule of the monastery of Saint Sava the Sanctified (December 5). The saint’s three Odes Canons for the Holy Forty Day Great Fast are included in the the contemporary Lenten Triodion.