

St. Michael's Orthodox Church

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Sunday Bulletin, February 3, 2019

36th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. TONE 3. AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING. HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER AND ANNA THE PROPHETESS. PROPHET AZARIAH. MARTYRS PAPIAS, DIODORUS AND CLAUDIANUS, AT PERGE IN PAMPHYLIA. MARTYRS ADRIAN AND EUBULUS, AT CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA. MARTYR BLAISE OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA. RT. BLV. ROMAN OF UGLICH.

Service Schedule:

Sunday, Feb 3: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Hours at 9:10) followed by installation of Parish Council.
Tuesday, Feb 5: 7 AM Matins
Wednesday, Feb 6: 7 AM Matins
Thursday, Feb 7: 7 AM Matins
Saturday, Feb 9: 5 PM Great Vespers
Sunday, Feb 10: 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, Bernie Elko, Sandra Pritchkyk, Marie Pasternak, John Pritchkyk, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Steve Pregrim, Lillian Mathews, Nadia Macheska, Dr. David Lezinsky, Tom Krenitsky, Matushka Mary Lynn, Lillian Kite & Paulette Ezbiansky.

Offerings:

Vigil Lights: In Memory of: Skip Polanchik (for his birthday 2/2) by Mia and Nicholas Polanchik; Mary Nix by Helen & Tammy Wytovich.

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 Thursday, (2/7) and Saturday, (2/16) from 11 AM – 12 Noon. The following individuals / organizations made donations to the pantry in the last couple of weeks: Apollo Group Inc. (Kingston, PA), Kris Mitchell & Carol Chaykosky

House Blessings: Fr. Peter will be finishing blessing the homes this week. If anyone still needs to have their home blessed, contact Fr. Peter to set up a time.

Thank you to Marie Pasternak for purchasing new wreaths to be used in the upcoming years during the Advent / Christmas Season.

2019 Winter Youth Retreat: Will take place February 8 – 9 at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Harrisburg, PA. The retreat leader will be Steven Christoforou, Director of Y2AM & Host of "Be the Bee". Save the Date. More information will be coming soon. See the flyer on the bulletin board.

2018 Financial Statements: Please take your financial statement which is located in the Narthex by the candle stand. Thank you to Danny Jones, Pat Jones and Emily Krenitsky for assembling this information.

Installation of the Parish Council: Today, Sunday, February 3. The Parish Council has been blessed by Bishop Mark to serve for 2019. The Installation of the Parish Council will take place at the end of the Liturgy. Thank you to all the parish council members who served for the year 2018.

Special Parish Meeting: Changed to Sunday, February 17th after Divine Liturgy. Please see the attached listing the two recommendations for by-law changes that the council is recommending to the parish.

Today's Holy Scripture Readings:

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (Epistle)

15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 15:21-28 (Gospel)

21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

23 But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Prophet Azariah

The Holy Prophet Azariah¹ was son of Oded (or Addo) and lived during the reign of King Asa (910-870 B.C. See 2 Chronicles 15:1) who was the son and successor of Abijah in the kingdom of Judah. Azariah came from the land of Sembatha and urged the people not to worship false "gods," but to remain faithful to the Covenant with the Lord.

Asa worshiped the one true God, and removed the altars of foreign "gods" from his land, tearing down the pillars and cutting down their sacred groves. He told the people to seek earnestly the God of their fathers, and to obey the Law and the Commandments. After removing the pagan altars and idols from all the cities of Judah he commanded his people to fortify their cities with walls and towers.

King Asa had 300,000 warriors in Judah, and 280,000 mighty warriors in the land of Benjamin. According to the narratives of 2 Chronicles chapters 14 and 15, Zerah the Ethiopian² went out against Judah with a million men.

Asa prayed fervently to God, asking that he might prevail, even against such overwhelming odds. The Lord smote the Ethiopians and Asa's army pursued them and crushed them. He destroyed their towns and pillaged their cities, and then he returned to Jerusalem.

After King Asa had won the victory, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Azariah. He went out to meet Asa and said, "Hear me, King Asa, and all the people of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. The Lord will be with you as long as you are with Him, worshiping His name and observing His commandments. When you seek Him you will find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will also forsake you." These words ought to be esteemed by every State and by all people.

The Prophet Azariah reposed in peace and was buried in his field. In iconography he is depicted as an old man with curly hair. The name Azariah means "whom God helps."

¹ It is said that Azariah was actually son of Ananias (Tobit 5:12); perhaps an error for Zachariah the son of Addo (1 Esdras 6:1).

² Zerah is a Hebrew name, and is not Ethiopian or Egyptian, as some have said.