

## St. Michael's Orthodox Church

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### Sunday Bulletin, March 17, 2019

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT. TONE 1. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. VEN ALEXIUS THE MAN OF GOD. MARTYR MARINUS. ST. PATRICK, BISHOP OF ARMAGH, ENLIGHTENER OF IRELAND. VEN. MAKARY, ABBOT AND WONDERWORKER OF KALYAZINSK.**

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#### Service Schedule:

Sunday, Mar 17: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Hours at 9:10) with procession.  
Monday, Mar 18: 6 PM Parastas for Jean Wasko  
Wednesday, Mar 20: 6 PM Presanctified Liturgy. Confession from 5 PM to 5:30 PM.  
Friday, Mar 22: 6 PM Akathist to Mary. Confession following  
Saturday, Mar 23: 9 AM Divine Liturgy (3<sup>rd</sup> Hour at 8:50) Memorial Liturgy  
4:20 PM Parastas for Jean Wasko  
5 PM Great Vespers. Confession following.  
Sunday, Mar 24: 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 Pritchuk, Marie Pasternak, John Pritchuk, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Steve Pregrim, Lillian Mathews, Nadia Macheska, Dr. David Lezinsky, Tom Krenitsky, Matushka Mary Lynn, Lillian Kite & Paulette Ezbiansky.

**Memory Eternal:** Jean Wasko, Helena Wozniak.

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#### Offerings:

**Parastas: In Memory of:** Jean Wasko by Mike, Sandy, Jaye & Family (40<sup>th</sup> day 3/18), Pat & Christa Murman (3/23).

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**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, (4/4) and Saturday, (4/20) from 11 AM – 12 Noon. The following individuals / organizations made donations to the pantry in the last couple of weeks: **Kris Mitchell, Anonymous & Taylor Library**

**Parish Council Meeting:** This Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

#### **Lenten Mission Services will start at 4 PM:**

March	17	Sunday of Orthodoxy	Holy Resurrection Cathedral	Wilkes-Barre
March	24	St. Gregory Palamas	Holy Trinity	Wilkes-Barre
March	31	Sunday of the Cross	Holy Annunciation	Berwick
April	7	St. John Climacus	St. Nicholas	Olyphant
April	14	St. Mary of Egypt	Saints Peter & Paul	Uniondale

#### Today's Holy Scripture Readings:

##### **Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (Epistle)**

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,  
25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,  
26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.  
32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:  
33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.  
35 Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.  
36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.  
37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented –  
38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.  
39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,  
40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.  
1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,  
2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **John 1:43-51 (Gospel)**

43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.”  
44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.  
45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”  
46 And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”  
47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”  
48 Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”  
49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”  
50 Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”  
51 And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

### **Homily on the King who will not defend Himself with His soldiers.**

‘Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels?’ (Matt. 26:53).

Thus the Lord spoke to the disciples, who had drawn a sword to defend their Teacher in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is clear from these words that the Lord was able to defend Himself, if He wished, not only from Judas and his company of soldiers, but also from the Jewish elders, from Pilate and from the whole Roman Empire if it were to rise up against Him. For the strength of one angel is greater than the strength of any army of men – so how great is the strength of twelve legions!

But the Lord would not seek this help from the Father. In His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, He has said to the Father: ‘Let Thy will be done.’ And He at once knew the Father’s will: that He should give Himself over to suffering, and He made Himself one with the Father’s will and set out on the way of suffering. It was necessary to let the background be sketched still darker, that the picture of the Resurrection should be the clearer. It was necessary to let evil compete as much as it could, so that, later, it should break and fade away. It was necessary to let evil cry out as loudly as it could, so that it should later be rendered dumb before the wonder of the Resurrection. It was necessary that all human wickedness against God should be revealed, that the love and mercy of God towards man should be seen and valued. The angels who were not sent to defend Christ from the Jews were sent three days later to reveal His holy Resurrection.

O almighty and most merciful Lord, help us and save us! To Thee be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

The Prologue from Ochrid. St. Nikolai Velimirovic. Vol. 1, pp. 301-302.