



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

2 Corinthians 9:6 (ACCS 1-2 Co): The Time for Sowing Seed Is Now. Augustine: And since the apostle himself says: “Now this I say: he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly,” you should understand that now is the time, while we are still in this life, to be swift and eager to purchase the gift of eternal life, for when the end of the world comes it will be given only to those who have bought it for themselves by faith before they were able to see it. **Letter 268.**

A Good Season for Good Seeds. Chrysostom: Accordingly, let us not simply have the recipient in view in showing generosity in almsgiving, but consider who it is who takes as his the kindnesses shown to the poor person and who promises recompense for favors done; and thus let us direct our attention to him while showing all zeal in making offerings with complete enthusiasm, and let us sow generously in season so that we may also reap generously. Scripture says, remember, “he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly.” Let us consequently sow these good seeds generously so that in due season we may reap generously. Now, after all, is the time for sowing, which I beseech you not to ignore, so that on the day of harvesting we may gather the returns of what was sown here and be regaled with loving kindness from the Lord. **Homilies on Genesis 34.8.**

Luke 8:4–8 (ACCS Lk): Seed that Grows Must Decay First. Clement of Rome: Let us consider, beloved, the resurrection: the night sleeps, and the day arises; the day departs, and night returns. Let us look at the crops to see how and in what manner the planting takes place. “The sower went forth” and cast each of the seeds into the ground, and they, falling on the ground dry and bare, decay. Then from their decay, the greatness of the Lord’s providence raises them up, and from one seed many grow up and bring forth fruit. **1 Clement 24.**

Today Readings

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15



From The Ambvon

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH,
OLD FORGE, PA

Priest Michael Shepherd (frmichael@stmichaelof.org)

Steering Committee: Barbara Sevensky, Bev Elko,
Sandra Condon

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18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. Martyr Longinus the Centurion, who stood at the Cross of the Lord (1st c.).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for September

Birthdays: Nadia Macheska (10/1); Mary Krevko (10/5); Thomas Zupko (10/10); Danny Pregmann (10/15); Stella Krenitsky (10/15); Blaise Shepherd (10/17)

Nameday:

Anniversary: Helen & +Paul Bezuhly (10/12)

Baptism:

Travelers: For all who are traveling this week

Proshora Schedule: Thank you Marie Pasternak for this weeks Proshora. **Please sign up to bake proshora.**

Visitors: Please Stay for coffee hour

Do you have a birthday or anniversary this/next week? Please add it to our list on the shelf in the Vestibule/Narthex.

Service Attendance: Last weekend Divine Liturgy: 39

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by fasting and a recent (monthly) confession..If you have questions please ask Fr Michael!*



Service Schedule

THIS WEEK: 17-23 October

THURS, Oct 20th: @ 6:00 PM Vespers University of Scranton OCF
 SAT, Oct 22nd: @ 3:30 PM Inquirers Class/Book Study
 SAT, Oct 22nd: @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers / Confession After
 SUN, Oct 23rd: Hours @ 9:20 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM

WEEK of 24th-30th

THURS, Oct 27th: @ 6:00 PM Vespers University of Scranton OCF
 SAT, Oct 29th: @ 3:30 PM Inquirers Class/Book Study
 SAT, Oct 29th: @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers / Confession After
 SUN, Oct 30th: Hours @ 9:20 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM

UP COMING

NOV 7TH & 8TH: Great Vespers w/Litya & Liturgy Feast of St Michael
 NOV 20TH & 21ST: Great Vespers w/Litya & Liturgy Entrance of the Theotokos
 Nov 24th: Thanksgiving Day Liturgy



Announcements & Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day. Come help!
Continue Clergy Education: Oct 25th, Holy Apostles Mechanicsburg
Clergy Peer Group: Oct 27th, St Michaels Old Forge
Pre-Nativity Retreat: 3-4 Nov Daylesford Abbey
Parish Steering Meeting: Nov 12, @ 3:30 p.m. prior to Great Vespers

Kontakion, Synaxis of Archangel Michael & all the Bodiless Hosts

Commanders of God's armies and ministers of the divine glory, princes of the bodiless angels and guides of mankind, ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy, supreme commanders of the Bodiless Hosts.

Holy Archangel Michael Pray unto God for us!

Our Lord Jesus Christ assured us saying, that “not anyone who calls me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father”. It is not enough to hear nice and beautiful sermons. It is not enough to study Holy Scriptures. It is not enough to come to church every Sunday and major feast days. All these must be done, but under the basic rule that we practice God's teachings in our daily life. First practicing and secondly teaching are the two basics of Orthodox Spirituality and Life.

All those who listen with indifference the Church's voice, the devil comes and removes from his soul the words of salvation so that man will not benefit and be saved. Man, then, remains under the darkness of sin, deprived from the Divine Light and suffering from spiritual starvation. How many are those who in their life deny the Divine Teachings? How many, although hear the word Of God, yet, they turn their heart towards earthly and material things, thus allowing Satan and his devils to loot the sacred words of God from their hearts?

The word of God which is treasured in Holy Scriptures have the almighty Grace of God and the Life of the Holy Spirit. The word of God has the power to change, to regenerate man's soul and then man bears the fruits of virtue and piety. The fruitfulness of the virtues is achieved only within the Church, which is the soil. Outside of the Church they are many evil paths, those of unbelieving, doubting and materialism. Outside of the Church's Life man is strangled by the worldly cares.

When the word of God is accepted by a good-willing soul, then it is completely transformed spiritually and bodily. The unbeliever makes him a believer, the man of the flesh makes him spiritual, the greedy makes him a philanthropist, the blasphemer makes him a god-fearing person, the prodigal makes him an honest man.

Thus, we must not only hear or read the word of God, but we should practice it in our daily life. The acceptance and practice of God's words bears the fruits of virtues and changes man into the living temple of the Holy Spirit.

Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers LIVING
Captive Hierarchs PAUL and JOHN

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: Mike Jadick, Bernie Elko, Rose Krenitsky, Margaret Pregmon, Marie Buranich, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Rosemary Kuzmich, Sandra Pritchyk, Marie Pasternak, Sandy Batton, Paula Stavisky, Al Pritchyk, Eli Stavisky, Evelyn Bunevitch, Nadia Macheska, John Pritchyk, Paulette Ezbiansky, Andrew Lutzick, Daniel Jones, Charissa Voroziichak

Ill-afflicted Archpriests John Nightingale & Fr Theodore Orzolek

Matushka Paula Soucek

Servants of God Dcn Nathan, Mat. Katherine, Miraiah, Evangeline, Gideon, Zacharias, Ignatius, Basil (Clausson), Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina (Shepherd), Barbara Sevensky, Bev Elko, Sandra Condon, Ann Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmann, Walter Pritchyk, Michael Keklak; Euphemia (Mia) Keklak; Amaya Jackson; Robert Kane; Vitaly & Maria

Seekers: Jason, Emilia, Judah, Nadia, &

DEPARTED

Newly departed: Metropolitan Herman (40th day)

Departed: Nicholas Lugin (10/20)

Donations in Memory of

From: The Daughters and Son-in-Laws of John and Ann Moses
In Memory Of: Walter Ermolovich

From: Maryann, Mike, and Katlyn Sanders
In Memory Of: Marie Horek

From: Marie Ermolovich
In Memory Of: Walter Ermolovich

- **Reminder: Names will be rotated off on occasion - request again to have a loved one put back on again.**
- **Please sign up for early bird and prosphora making on the shelf in the Vestibule/Narthex**
- **Reminder to sign the statement of intent**

Ask Fr. Michael: Do you have questions about the Orthodox faith? Fr. Michael may have the answer, AND if he doesn't he will get it for you. In the narthex there is a basket and blank question slips for you to anonymously submit your questions. Fr. Michael will answer these questions during coffee hour and/or in the bulletin.

The Parable of the Sower (<https://pemptousia.com/2019/10/the-parable-of-sower/>)

In today's Gospel reading, the Evangelist Luke presented the Parable of Sower. Our Lord Jesus Christ used examples from the daily life to express the heavenly and divine truths. He was able in this way to help the man of good will to understand and to accept His divine message. Even today through the Parable of the Sower He takes the example of sowing, an image which is very familiar to the farmers. He compares the seed to the word of God, the earth to men's souls and the various conditions under which one accepts or renounces the word of God in his personal life.

Once, a farmer went out to his fields to sow. He sowed in all directions, but although he sowed with skill one part of the seeds fell on the road and was trampled down by the passing men and the rest was eaten by the birds. Another fell on rocky soil, and as it grew it dried, because it had no earth for its roots to spread. Another fell on ground full with thorns and as it grew amongst the thorns, it was strangled. Finally, another fell on good ground and when it grew it produced plentiful of fruit, one hundred times more.

Man has naturally implanted within him the desire to ask and learn for everything. As man will question and searches the knowledge of science and wisdom, even more he will understand how little he really knows. If we are unable to know for things which take place around us, how much more we are ignorant of those things which take place beyond this world and which are unapproachable to man’s research and knowledge?

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is the source and fountain of all wisdom and knowledge, is the only One who can reveal to the good-willing man the mysteries concerning man’s salvation. He assured His Disciples that **“to you has been given to learn about the truths of God’s Kingdom”**.

These truths – the mysteries of God – it is proper to be known by only those who believe in our Savior Jesus Christ. The word of God is always full of life. It is the source of life and strength; it is always holy and powerful. But, to bear fruit it depends on the good will of every man who listens and accepts God’s words within his heart. If man, because of his evil intensions does not accept in his heart the word of God, then the Divine Grace does not give its fruits and that soul cannot be vested with the virtues of Christ.

Many are those who listen to the word of God which is spread in various ways. The Bishops, the Priests, the Preachers, the Radio and the Television spread in their own ways the word of God. Everyone listens, from the youngest to the elderly, but the question arise: “How many keep the divine words within their hearts and practice it in their daily life”?

If your Annual Gross Income is:	Your Proportionate Weekly Gift Would Be:				
	3%	4%	5%	10%	12%
\$20,000	\$11.54	\$15.38	\$19.23	\$38.46	\$46.15
\$25,000	\$14.42	\$19.23	\$24.04	\$48.08	\$57.69
\$30,000	\$17.31	\$23.08	\$28.85	\$57.69	\$69.23
\$35,000	\$20.19	\$26.92	\$33.65	\$67.31	\$80.77
\$40,000	\$23.08	\$30.77	\$38.46	\$76.92	\$92.31
\$45,000	\$25.96	\$34.62	\$43.27	\$86.54	\$103.85
\$50,000	\$26.92	\$38.46	\$48.08	\$96.15	\$115.35
\$55,000	\$31.73	\$42.31	\$52.88	\$105.77	\$126.92
\$60,000	\$34.62	\$46.15	\$57.69	\$115.38	\$138.46

The Month October (as of Oct 16th)
WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE: We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.
Last Week’s Expenditures: \$1,016.86
Sep Expenditures/Deposits: \$10,754.10/\$10,521.79
Collections Oct 5th: \$3373.00
Collections Oct 12th: \$666.00
Current Bank Balance \$28,300.54

Dear Parishioners, We have been falling below the monthly minimum we need to keep up with our expenses. We humbly request that you remember to maintain your tithes and offerings throughout these months when you may not be in church or are on vacation. Thank you for your continued support!