



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

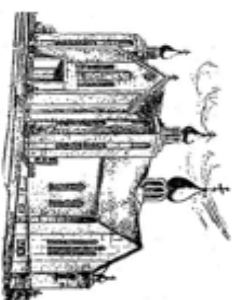
Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew 2:10 (ACCS Mt 1-13): 2:10 Rejoicing Greatly

They Found What They Sought. St John Chrysostom: In this way marvel was linked to marvel: the magi were worshipping, the star was going before them. All this is enough to captivate a heart made of stone. If it had been only the wise men or only the prophets or only the angels who had said these things, they might have been disbelieved. But now with all this confluence of varied evidence, even the most skeptical mouths are stopped.

Moreover, the star, when it stood over the child, held still. This itself demonstrates a power greater than any star: first to hide itself, then to appear, then to stand still. From this all who beheld were encouraged to believe. This is why the magi rejoiced. They found what they were seeking. They had proved to be messengers of truth. Their long journey was not without fruit. Their longing for the Anointed One was fulfilled. He who was born was divine. They recognized this in their worship. **The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 7.4.**



From The Ambvon

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH,
OLD FORGE, PA

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28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ . The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar. Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks, and went to see the Lord.

Birthdays & Anniversaries for December

Birthdays:

Nameday: Barbara Sevensky (12/4); Daniel Jones (12/17);

Anniversary:

Baptism:

Travelers:

Prosphora Schedule: Please sign up to bake prosphora. Open dates: Dec

Thank you to Michael for this week's Prosphora!

Visitors: No Coffee Hour Today

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

WEEK of 28Dec-01Jan

Wed, Dec 28th: @ 11:00AM - 1:30PM Silent Prayers

SAT, Dec 31st: @ 5:00 PM Compline, Matins with Litya for Circumcision of the Lord
SUN, Jan 1st: Hours @ 9:20 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM Circumcision of the Lord

UP COMING

THURS, Jan 5th: @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers Holy Theophany

FRI, Jan 6th: Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 Holy Theophany



**Announcements
& Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events**

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day. Come help!
Theophany Home blessings! Yes, dear loved ones, it is that time again to bless our homes! Beginning on January 6, the Feast of Theophany, Fr. Michael will start blessing the homes of the members of our Parish, as well as businesses.

Please Schedule with Fr Michael to bless your home!

Jan 26 - 27 2023 Diocesan Assembly Announcement - St Nicholas, Bethlehem, PA. Matushka Emilia will be the lay delegate.

Annual All Parish Meeting - 26Feb23 after Liturgy

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!

Proposed Budget	
Priest Salary: \$46,741	Housing/Utilities: \$24,000
Pension Plan: \$8,488.92	SECA: \$5,411.69
*Life Insurance: \$700	*Health Insurance: \$0 (Fr will go through VA)
*Travel Allowance: \$4,800	*Substitute Priest: \$2100
*Diocesan/OCA Meetings: \$3000	
*Required Non-Compensation	

Still researching what our expenditures were last year and will compare them to the year before. However, so far this is the priest's salary for 2023.

Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers LIVING

Captive Hierarchs PAUL and JOHN; Ill-afflicted Archpriests John Nightingale & Fr Theodore Orzolek

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends:

Mike Jadic, Bernie Elko, Margaret Pregon, 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 Vorozichak, Matushka Paula Soucek

Servants of God Den Nathan, Mat. Katherine, Micaiah, Evangeline, Gideon, Zacharias,

Ignatius, Basil (Clausson), Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina (Shepherd), Barbara Sevensky, Bev Elko, Sandra Condon, Ann Tyypak, Sandy & Danny Pregon, Walter Pritchyk, Michael & Euphemia (Mia) (Keklak), Amaya Jackson; Robert Kane; Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky

Seekers: Jason, Emily, Judah, Nadia, & Silas

DEPARTED

Departed: Peter Gyza Sr. (11/20); Peter Mizgala (12/2); Dorothy Polanchik (12/11); Robert Sorok (12/23)

Donations in Memory of

Donation in Memory of Rose Krenitsky was made to purchase all new Altar Server Vestments

In Memory Of: Peter Gyza Sr.

From: Siglinde Deak, Joel & Janelle Mendelson, Marie Boyko, Don & Kathy Goldbach, & Jean Goldback

In Memory Of: Irene Pritchyk

From: Alexander Pritchyk, Fr David & Sharon Shewczyk

In Memory Of: Dorothy Polanchik

From: Daria Polanchik

Vigil Lights

In Memory Of: Marie Horek & for the Health of Alexander Horek
From: Maryann Sanders

In Memory Of: Lillian Keslosky, Michael Keslosky Jr, Michael B. Keslosky, William Keslosky, & Bill Maciorawski
From: Sonia & Tom Maciorawski

Christmas Flowers Donations

In Memory Of: Pregon Family
From: Mr & Mrs Daniel Pregon

In Memory Of: Rose & Harold Krenitsky
From: Gregory & Emily Krenitsky

In Memory Of: Walter, Sonia, Peter Walter Tyypak & Andrew Peregrim Family
From: Ann Tyypak

In Memory Of: William & Rose Macheska
From: Nadia Macheska

In Memory Of: Michael, Mary, & John Marko Wasil & Theresa Veronick, Mary Oselinksky, Diane Yacopchak
From: Helen & Tammy Wytovich

In Memory Of: Buranich & Elko Families
From: Bernard & Beverly Elko

In Memory Of: Ellen, Stephen, Femia, Stephen Pasternak; Alexandra & Michael Toezko, Lemia Harry Pasternak & family
From: Marie Pasternak

In Memory Of: Paul Jones, Lorraine Ezbiansky, Mary & John Ezbiansky
From: Patricia Jones

In Memory Of: Lillian & Michael Keslosky Jr,
From: Olivia & Julia Keslosky

In Memory Of: Lillian & Michael Keslosky Jr, Sonia, Ethel, & Michael Keslosky
From: Sonia & Tom Maciorawski

In Memory Of: Aleck & Ann Jadic
From: David Jadic

Yearly Financial update

PEOPLES SECURITY BANK - 24DEC22 (*indicates updates from previous bulletin)

<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>December Credits</u>	<u>December Debits</u>
\$60,636.83	\$48,476.00	- \$5,974.47

2022 Credits: \$76,608.99

\$32,375 selling the lot

\$15,600 Income from rentals

\$47,975 received from sources

other than from Dues or people who
Tithed

Perogi Sales:

Cemetery Fees:

Approx.: \$15,019.05 in Donations

We roughly have 80 members on the census.

I am still working the numbers and will update this weekly so we have accurate numbers for the Annual Parish Meeting.

EDWARD JONES - 25NOV22

Beginning Value: \$165,345.58

Assets Added: \$0.00

Assets Withdrawn: \$0.00

Fees and Charges: \$1827.33

Change In Value: \$12,807.25

Current Balance: \$150,711.00

Society of St Michael 01NOV22

Checking \$2,826.93

Savings \$8,384.89

12 month CD \$6,501.71

60 month CD \$6,305.09

\$24,018.62

*RBO - 24DEC22

Saving Fund \$135,812.15

Cemetery Fund 65,339.58

\$202,514.29

*24Dec22 Total Assets: \$437,880.74

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The Winter Pascha, Chapter 28: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

The following is an excerpt from *The Winter Pascha*, by Fr. Thomas Hopko

The adoration of Jesus by the wise men from the East is part of the Nativity celebration in the Orthodox Church. Whatever the actual historical circumstances of the event-- and Orthodox tradition takes them quite literally-- the spiritual and theological significance of the coming of the kings with their gifts is of paramount importance.

The gifts of the Magi are of particular significance. They are interpreted symbolically in the liturgy of the feast. The gift of gold is taken as the sign that Jesus is the king of Israel, of the entire universe, and of the kingdom of God to come. This is a crucial part of the Christmas story in the gospels. It caused Herod to kill all the "male children in Bethlehem and in all the region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men" (Mt 2:16).

The gift of frankincense is taken by the liturgy to signify the fact that Jesus is God, since incense is for worship, and only God may be worshipped.

And the gift of myrrh is for the Lord Jesus who has come to die as the perfect sacrifice for the people. For the dead were anointed with myrrh, as Jesus Himself was anointed, according to the scriptures, at the time of His death (In 19:39-40).

In the gifts of the Magi, therefore, are contained all the mysteries of Christ's coming. They point to the purpose of His appearance on earth. He is the royal king, the Son of David, whose kingdom will have no end. He is the victim, the Lamb of God, who by His death takes away the sins of the world. And He is God Himself, the divine Son of the Father: "Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven..." as the Nicene Creed declares.

The contemplation of the wise men and their gifts is an integral and lasting part of the Church's celebration of the Lord's Winter Pascha.

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