



est. 1891

From The Ambvon

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4.

Eve of the Nativity of Christ . Sunday before the Nativity. Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her Martyrs Philip, her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia (ca. 262). Ven. Nicholas the Monk, of Bulgaria (9th c.).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for December

Birthdays:

Nameday: Barbara Sevensky (12/4); Daniel Jones (12/17); David Jadick (12/31)

Anniversary:

Baptism:

Travelers:

Prospora Schedule: HELP! We need families to start baking prospora at home. Please sign up. *The Church has a prospora kit if you would like to borrow it.*

Dec 24:

Dec 31:

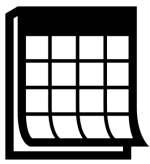
Counting: HELP! Please sign up and help our Maura Elko count.

Dec 24:

Dec 31:

Visitors: *PLEASE JOIN US FOR DOWNSTAIRS for an Agape Meal. Thank you to everyone who donated. Please donate what you would spend for a cup of coffee at the agape meal to replenish our supplies.*

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 prayer, fasting, and a recent (monthly) confession. If you have questions please ask Fr Michael! Visitors, if you did not introduce yourself to Fr Michael at Vespers, please refrain from Holy Communion.*



Service Schedule

NATIVITY SCHEDULE

SUN, Dec 24th: Compline and Matins w/Litya @ 5:00PM

MON, Dec 25th: Divine Liturgy of St Basil @ 9:00 AM - Nativity of Christ

TUES, Dec 27th: @ 9:30 All Saints in Olyphant. 3rd Day of Nativity Feast of St Stephen

SAT, Dec 30th: @ 4:50 PM 9th Hour - Great Vespers. Confession following

SUN, Dec 31st: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours - 30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5.

MON, Jan 1st: St Nicholas in Olyphant Divine Liturgy of St Basil @ 9:00 AM - The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

FRI, Jan 5th: Compline and Matins w/Litya @ 5:00PM

SAT, Jan 6th: Divine Liturgy of St Basil @ 9:00 AM - The Holy Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



Announcements

Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

House Blessing Season is coming! Please schedule with Fr to have your house blessed. If several people live in an area, we can all be a part of each other's housing blessings. We can do 4 or 5 in one day. Start at one house and travel to the next and end at a house where we can have a meal together.

Silent Prayers and Confession: Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or you can make an appt for confession.

Catechumen/Inquirers/Continuing ED Class: Every Saturday 3:30pm-4:30pm. COME AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH! (No Catechumen Class Next Saturday)

Bible Study: Every Thursday 11am - Noon. Bring a sack Lunch. I am working my way through Romans if you want to join me. (No Bible Study this week)

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day. Come help! Please come and help maintain the Church and its grounds.

Parish Council Meeting: 21JAN22 All are invited. Please come and see the great things our parish council is doing and the vision we have.

Annual Parish Meeting: IAW our bylaws; the annual parish meeting will be held on the second Sunday of February. 11Feb24. An Agenda will go out after the new year.

January 7th Potluck Meal: After Liturgy, we will have a Saints Display from our youth and Talent Show.

EVERYONE IS INVITED! Please join us for the wedding of Robert and Amaya! Monday January 8th, 2024 at 4PM here at St Michaels Orthodox Church. Dinner to follow next door at the hall. Please RSVP by December 11th, 2023 by calling 570-877-0821. We will have a small choir assisting from St Tikhons.

December Panikhida: Dec 30th at 4PM.

Parish Prayer List

Newly Departed: *Alexander Horek (11/14); Evelyn Bunevitch (11/27)*

Departed: *Ed Weiss (12/1); Michael Toczko (12/1); Peter Mizgala (12/2); Helen Sorok (12/9); Dorothy Polanchik (12/11); Walter Buranich (12/19); Robert Sorok (12/23);*

Please remember in your prayers LIVING

Ill-afflicted *Archpriests Michael Evans, John Nightingale, & Theodore Orzolek*

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: *Christine Sevensky, Mike Jadick, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Matushka Paula Soucek, The children of God Abigail and Nathan.*

Servants of God *Patricia Jones, Anne Buday, Mary Krevko, Gregory Krevko, Emily Krenitsky, Gregory Krenitsky, Barbara Sevensky, Bernie & Beverly Elko, Sandra Condon, Marie Pasternak, Ann Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmon, Walter Pritchyk, Michael & Euphemia Keklak, Elizabeth Jackson, Justin Kane, Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky, Ekaterina & Anna, Joe & Kelly Cigna, George, Natasha (and her unborn child), & Rosa Coyoy, Paul & Ann Newmeyer, Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Charissa & Debra, Nadia Macheska, Paulette Ezbiansky, Maura Elko*

Catechumen - *Jason Vo, Santo Joseph Cerminaro, Mikayla Brown*

How Much is my tithe

Weekly	2%	4%	5%	10%
\$200	\$4	\$8	\$10	\$20
\$500	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50
\$750	\$15	\$30	\$37	\$75
\$1000	\$20	\$40	\$50	\$100
\$1500	\$30	\$60	\$75	\$150

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.

December Income: \$20,119.58

Expenditures: \$9,029.84

Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$3,225.62

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,902.49



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Hebrews 11:17–19 (ACCS He): When God’s Promise Seemed to Oppose God’s Promise. St John Chrysostom: Great indeed was the faith of Abraham. In the case of Abel, Noah and Enoch, there was an opposition of reasonings to be overcome, and it was necessary to go beyond human reasonings. In the case of Abraham, however, it was necessary not only to go beyond human reasonings but to manifest also something more. For what was of God seemed to be opposed to what was of God; and faith opposed to faith, and command opposed to promise. I mean this: God had said, “Go from your country and your kindred, and I will give you this land.” But then he said, “He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot’s length.” Do you see how what was done was opposed to the promise? Again, God said, “Through Isaac shall your descendants be named,” and he believed, and again God says, “Sacrifice to me this one, who was to fill all the world from his seed.” Do you see the opposition between the commands and the promise? He enjoined things that were in contradiction to the promises, and yet not even so did the righteous man stagger nor say he had been deceived.... But you endure nothing except what was promised, and still you are troubled. **On the Epistle to the Hebrews 25.1.**

The Kingly Succession Presented by Matthew. St Hilary: What Matthew publishes in order of kingly succession, Luke has set forth in order of priestly origin. While accounting for each order, both indicate the relationship of the Lord to each ancestral lineage. The order of his lineage is thus duly presented, because the association of the priestly and royal tribes that was begun through David from marriage is now confirmed out of the descent from Shealtiel to Zerubbabel. And so, while Matthew recounts his paternal origin that began in Judah, Luke teaches that his ancestry was taken from the tribe of Levi. Each in his own way demonstrates the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is both the eternal king and priest, as seen even in the fleshly origin of both of his ancestries. It does not matter that the origin of Joseph instead of Mary is recounted, for indeed there is one and the same blood relationship for the whole tribe. Moreover, both Matthew and Luke provide precedents. They name fathers in order not so much by their lineage as by their clan, since the tribe began from one individual and continues under a family of one succession and origin. Indeed, Christ has to be shown as the son of David and Abraham, so Matthew began in this way: “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” It does not matter who is placed in a given order as long as the whole family is understood to derive from a single source. Joseph and Mary belonged to the same kinship line. Joseph is shown to have sprung from the line of Abraham. It is revealed that Mary came from this line, too. This system is codified in law so that, if the oldest of a family should die without sons, the next oldest brother of the same family would take the dead man’s wife in marriage. He would consider his sons as received into the family of the one who had died, and thus the order of succession remains with the firstborn, since they are considered to be the fathers of those born after them in either name or birth. **On Matthew 1.1.**