



# From The Ambvon

## ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

### 512 WINTER ST., OLD FORGE, PA

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**30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5.**

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord.  
Leavetaking of the Nativity. Sunday after Nativity.

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## 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 31:

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

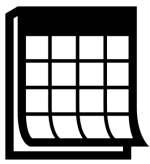
Dec 31:

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

**PLEASE SING ALONG!** *Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies throughout the services is encouraged!*

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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

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 w/Blessing of the Water

SAT, Jan 6th: Great Vespers w/confessions 5:00PM

SUN, Jan 7th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy 31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Theophany . Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.



### 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. To begin the house blessing season; everyone is invited to the Shepherd's next Saturday to bless our home and have dinner! We will bless the home midafternoon, eat, and do Vespers around 4 at the house. Please come out for fellowship, fun, worship.

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

**Catechumen/Inquirers/Continuing ED Class:** Ecumenical Council Classes to begin soon. Day and Time TBD.

**Bible Study:** Every Thursday 11am - Noon. Bring a sack Lunch. I am working my way through Romans if you want to join me.

**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. The office of Treasurer will be voted on. Right now we have Maura Elko appointed as treasurer until then. Currently, Maura has been nominated to fill the position. If you would also like to run, please see Fr Michael & Tammy Wytovich. Also, please review the parish bylaws for eligibility.

**January 7th Potluck Meal:** After Liturgy, we will have a Saints Display from our youth and Talent Show. Please sign up if you have a talent that you would like to showcase.

**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.

**DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY:** Matushka and Fr will attend the Diocesan Assembly Jan 25th & 26th.

**MOVIE NIGHT COMING!** During the fast of Great Lent we will have a Movie Night every Saturday after Vespers. Line up of the movies will be coming out soon.

## ***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 Pritchuk, 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 Ezbiensky, Maura Elko*

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

### **How Much is my tithe**

Weekly	2%	4%	5%	10%
<b>\$200</b>	\$4	\$8	\$10	\$20
<b>\$500</b>	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50
<b>\$750</b>	\$15	\$30	\$37	\$75
<b>\$1000</b>	\$20	\$40	\$50	\$100
<b>\$1500</b>	\$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:** \$22,034.58

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

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

**TITHING** Assessing our personal giving for the coming new year. Tithing is the practice of returning to the Lord a portion of the financial treasure He has blessed us with in this life. We offer our gifts in gratitude for His. This principle is found in both the Old and New Testament scriptures. Tithing is what is returned to Him and is different for each family/household. The giving chart above offers a starting point for giving based on a range of weekly incomes along with a range of giving levels beginning at 10%, the ideal for a Christian tithe if one is capable, down to 2%. Our goal as we journey through life is to offer increasingly more of what God has given us back to Him, just as we give more of our heart. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matt 6:21). This, of course, is done freely and out of love for God and His Church, not in response to an outward rule (Freely you have received, freely give - Matt 10:8). May this chart be helpful for you in prayerfully determining your level of giving this coming new year, challenging yourself to tithe to God the good portion of His financial blessings.



# Words of Wisdom

*From the Saints & Teachers*

## Today Readings

**Epistle:** Galatians 1:11-19

**Gospel:** Matthew 2:13-23

**Galatians 1:17 Paul and the Apostles in Jerusalem Paul's Motive Not Arrogance. St John Chrysostom:** If one interprets these words by themselves, they seem suggestive of some great conceit or a sentiment not worthy of an apostle. To rely on one's own choice and have no one else to share one's estimate seems a mark of folly.... But we should not interpret bare words, or many absurdities follow.... Let us now interpret the mind of Paul when he wrote these words. Let us consider his aim and his whole attitude to the apostles, and then we shall know his intention in saying this.... For since those who plunder the church were saying that one should follow the apostles, who did not forbid these things, he is forced to withstand them stoutly, not wishing to disparage the apostles but to restrain the folly of those who were falsely puffed up.

**Homily on Galatians 1.17.**

**Matthew 2:15 A Son Out of Egypt Fugitives East and West. St John Chrysostom:** There is something else here worth noticing, one touching the magi and the other touching the Child. The issue is why didn't the magi remain with the Child? And why didn't the Child remain in Bethlehem? Both had to escape as fugitives shortly after they were received with joy: the magi to Persia and the holy family to Egypt. Why? This is worthy of close examination. The magnificence of God's plan of salvation would not have been believed if he had not come in the flesh. If Jesus had fallen into the hands of Herod, his life in the flesh might have been cut off. Many circumstances were quietly ordered providentially within human history. Even while the flesh of the Christ child was in danger, some dared to imagine that he never assumed our common human flesh, that his coming was like that of a ghost. These impious ideas will ultimately destroy those who do not confess that God has come to us in the flesh in a way becoming to his deity.

As to the wise men, they were sent off quickly, commissioned to teach in the land of the Persians, having thwarted the madness of the king. Herod was allowed the opportunity to learn that he was attempting things impossible, against prophecy, and that there was still time to quench his wrath and desist from his demented plot. It is fitting to God's power not only to subdue his enemies but to do so with ease, deceiving the deceivers in a way fitting to God's almighty power. In the same way the Egyptians had earlier been deceived, their wealth transferred secretly and with craft and God's power made awesome to them. **The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 8.1.**