



FROM THE AMBIVON

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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August 4th, 2024 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. (“Seven Sleepers”) of Ephesus: Maximilian, Jamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodian (Constantine), and Antoninus (250). Martyr Eudoxia of Persia (362-364). Martyr Eleutherius of Constantinople (4th c.).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for August

Birthdays: Savina Shepherd (8/5); Fr Michael Shepherd (8/18); Mikayla Brown (8/9); Justin Kane (8/21)

Nameday:

Baptism:

Anniversary: Eli & Paula Stavisky (8/4);

Travelers:

Prospora Schedule: PLEASE HELP! We have now signed up for prospora and 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. Thank you all for your offering “for the people by the people.”*

Aug 6 Fr Michael

Aug 11

Aug 18

Counting: HELP! Please sign up to help us count weekly donations! Thank you Tammy for helping count today.

Aug 11 Tammy

Aug 18

Aug 25

Visitors: PLEASE JOIN US 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!

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, Aug 5th: 5:00 PM - Great Vespers w/Litya

Tues, July Aug 6th: @ 8:40 AM - Hours & Divine Liturgy

The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

SAT, Aug 10th: @ 5:00 PM - Great Vespers

SUN, Aug 11th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6.



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today's Readings

Epistle: (110) Romans 12:6-14

Gospel: (29) Matthew 9:1-8

EPISTLE

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 5th Tone, a Psalm of David: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

Choir: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

Reader: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Choir: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

Reader: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us

Choir: And preserve us from this generation forever.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans.

Deacon: Let us attend!

(110) Romans 12:6-14 Brethren, Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophecy in proportion to our faith; * or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; * he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. * Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. * Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; * not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; * rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; * distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. * Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: In the 5th Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, AL-LE-LU-IA!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: For Thou hast said: Mercy shall be established forever; Thy truth shall be prepared in the heavens.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL

[(29) Matthew 9:1-8] At that time, Jesus got into a boat, and crossed over and came to His own city. * And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, My son; thy sins are forgiven." * And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." * But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do ye think evil in your hearts? * For which is easier, to say, 'Thy sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? * But that ye may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" -- He then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up thy bed and go home." * And he rose and went home. * When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

12:10 Showing Affection and Honor LOVE ONE ANOTHER. ST POLYCARP: "Stand fast therefore in these things and follow the example of the Lord," being firm in the faith and immovable, in love of the brotherhood kindly affectioned to one another, "partners with the truth," forestalling one another "in the gentleness of the Lord," despising no one. THE EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS 10. Bray, G., ed. (1998). Romans (Revised) (p. 303). InterVarsity Press.

9:2 They Brought Him a Paralytic THE FAITH OF THE PARALYTIC'S FRIENDS. St JEROME: They brought to him, as we said before, a second paralytic lying on a pallet because he was unable to enter. "And Jesus, seeing" not the "faith" of him who was brought forward but of those who were bringing him forward, said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son, your sins are forgiven you." O wonderful humility! He addresses as "son" this abject and infirm paralytic with disjointed members whom the priests did not stoop to touch. A son, indeed, because his sins are forgiven him. In line with the biblical metaphor, a soul lying in its body with all the strength of its members gone is brought for healing to the perfect Doctor, the Lord. If the soul is healed through his mercy, it will receive strength enough to immediately take up its pallet. COMMENTARY ON MATTHEW 1.9.2. Simonetti, M., ed. (2001). Matthew 1-13 (pp. 173-174). InterVarsity Press.



Treasury

"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

+ Jesus Christ +++

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.

August Income: \$0.00

August Expense: \$3,493.72

Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$3,740.85

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$14,963.58



Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

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

Church Work Day: Every Day is Church Maintenance day! I will begin a list of items that we will need to work on. If you are free and would like to work at the church let me know. Just check the list and when you finish the task, initial off that it has been done.

Sunday Parking: With the increase in parish attendance on Sundays we are asking that the parking row across the street be reserved for elderly, those with difficulty walking, handicap, and parish visitors. If you do not fall into one of those categories, please use the parking lot kitty-corner to us with the stairs so we can keep plenty of parking free for those who need to be closer. Thanks so much!

Parish Council Meeting: 7 September 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM - All are invited.

Choir practice: Saturday's @ 4pm prior to vespers. If you would like to sing in the choir please make every effort to be at the practice.

Bulletin Boards: Community and Administration Boards. Please, you can post on the community board as long as the post/event does not contradict our faith.

PROSPHORA BAKING: I would like to hold another prospora baking class this week for all who would like to learn the valuable and God pleasing ministry. Remember the offering of bread is "for the people and by the people."

ICE CREAM SOCIAL August 25th: We are in the midst of planning an Ice Cream Social! This is to be like a town council to chit chat about life, the church, where the church is headed in regards to ministries etc.....but to have a lot of ice cream! This will more than likely be the first week of August.

WISH LIST! Thank you for the purchase of Incense and a pitcher. Please consider purchasing from our wish list as this will reduce our cost of expenses and will allow us to increase and focus our giving in other vital areas needed.

<https://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/stmichaelsorthodoxchurcholdforgewishlist>

St. Michael's Greeters Ministry "*I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.*" Matthew 25:35 Our objective is to welcome visitors to the Parish, help them "feel at home" during the worship service, provide them with information about Orthodoxy and the Parish, invite them to Parish activities, introduce them to people of like interests, invite them back, follow-up to thank them for visiting us, and identifying whether we can help them in the future. Most people leave a church once they enter because no one greeted them. Please sign up to greet people.

2nd Annual Veteran's Day Pasta Dinner NOV 9th! Please see Tamara Wytovich to help volunteer. It was a huge success last year and we want to go BIGGER! A portion of the proceeds will go to an organization that assists veterans. This year we have selected Camp Freedom in Carbondale. Check it out <https://campfreedompa.org/>

"Through theoria, divine grace overshadows the soul, and you see yourself speaking with Christ and conversing with Him. Afterwards, sweetness, delight, and jubilation come over the soul, and you feel so humble, like the dust of the earth. When a soul is humbled, it begins to feel compassion, love, and reverence, and it does not accept judgmental thoughts. Gerondissa Makrina (Vassopoulou) (contemporary Greece) Words of the Heart, p. 102.

Parish Prayer List

NEWLY DEPARTED:

DEPARTED: *Matushka Karen Mahaffey (8/8); Barbara Pecuch (8/9); Patricia Chesniak (8/15);*

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: *David Lezinsky, Christine Sevensky, Mike Jadick, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Michael Sokol; Michael Krenitsky; Bernie Elko; The children of God Abigail and Nathan.*

Servants of God *Mark Bezhuly, David Barsigian, Patricia Jones, Anne Buday, Mary Krevko, Gregory Krevko, Emily Krenitsky, Gregory Krenitsky, Barbara Sevensky, Beverly Elko, Sandra Condon, Marie Pasternak, Nicole Earl, Anna Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmon, Walter Pritchuk, Michael & Euphemia Keklak, Justin & Elisabeth Kane, Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky, Ekaterina & Anna, Joe & Kelly Cigna, George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia Coyoy, Paul & MaryAnn Newmeyer, Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Sharissa & Debra, Nadia Macheska, Paulette Ezbiansky, Jason Vo & Maura Elko, Santo Joseph Cerminaro, Mikayla Brown*

Seekers - *Christopher, Eugene, Mike, Brayden, Barbara, Amanda, Tommy*

Catechumens - *JoAnne Snopek & Paul Dunay*

We fast to prepare. We fast to be free. We fast to be fruitful.

Mary Theotokos (Bearer of God) heard the word of God and kept it so well, that she of all women in history was chosen not only to hear His Word but give birth to it (Him). So while we fast in contemplation of her life, we are simultaneously preparing ourselves to live a life in imitation of her. That is the purpose of the Dormition Fast.- Fr. Hopko

We bring the kingdom of heaven on earth by our total and radical agreement with the promises of the Father of which Jesus is the fulfillment. It starts when we say YES and release the Holy Spirit given to us by following His promptings. Whether in times of prosperity or lack, health or sickness, breakthrough or stillness, we want to be awakened to the movements of the Spirit on our hearts and start living in a reality where heaven touches earth, starting with our inner man.

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” — 2 Cor, 3:17-18

According to the early Christian tradition, the Dormition Fast was celebrated since the 4th century. It cherishes Theotokos (God-bearer, Mary), an example of an earthly life centered on Christ and being taken to the Trinitarian presence at the end of her life. One of the celebrated traditions during this fast included processions with the relics of the Holy Cross where many healings and miracles took place among those who came to touch it. The fast ends with the Feast of Dormition (Eastern tradition) known also as the 'second Pascha' and as the Feast of the Assumption (western Tradition).

Pray for revival, renewal, clarity and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our lives, our families, churches and cities.

Early Christians practiced four fasts yearly: Nativity, Lent, Apostles and Dormition. Today, mostly Eastern Christians (Orthodox, Eastern rite Catholics, Antiochian, Copts) still observe all four. The Dormition Fast always starts on Aug. 1st and lasts till Aug 14th. On Aug 15th we celebrate the Feast of Dormition (Assumption).

“The fast in August [Dormition fast] was established in honor of the Mother of God the Word; Who, foreknowing Her repose, ascetically labored and fasted for us as always, although She was holy and immaculate, and had no need for fasting. Thus, She especially prayed for us in preparation for being transported from this life to the future life, when Her blessed soul would be united through the Divine spirit with Her Son. Therefore, we also should fast and praise Her, emulating Her life, urging Her thereby to pray for us. Some, by the way, say that this fast was instituted on the occasion of two feasts—the Transfiguration and the Dormition. I also consider it necessary to remember these two feasts—one which gives us light, and the other which is merciful to us and intercedes for us.”

— St. Symeon of Thessalonica

“He, indeed, assumed humanity that we might become God. He manifested Himself by means of a body in order that we might perceive the Mind of the unseen Father. He endured shame from men that we might inherit immortality.”

— St. Athanasius of Alexandria (296-373 AD)