



# FROM THE AMBON

## ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Phone: 570-457-3703

Web: [www.stmichaelof.org](http://www.stmichaelof.org) Facebook: [stmichaelof1891PA](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelof1891PA)

Priest Michael Shepherd ([frmichael@stmichaelof.org](mailto:frmichael@stmichaelof.org))

Chair - Tammy Wytovich ([chair@stmichaelof.org](mailto:chair@stmichaelof.org))

Vice Chair - Danny Pregmon ([vicechair@stmichaelof.org](mailto:vicechair@stmichaelof.org))

Secretary - Vitaliy Rakovsky ([office@stmichaelof.org](mailto:office@stmichaelof.org))

Treasurer - Maura Elko ([treasurer@stmichaelof.org](mailto:treasurer@stmichaelof.org))

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**December 1st, 2024 24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7.** 362 Martyrs of Africa (62 Clergy and 300 Laypeople) (475). Ven. Patapius of Thebes (8th c.). Ven. Kirill, Abbot of Chelmogorsk (1378). Holy Apostles of the Seventy: Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Tychicus, Epaphroditus, Cæsar, and Onesiphorus (1st c.). Martyr Anthusa, at Rome (5th c.).

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### **Birthdays & Anniversaries for December**

**Birthdays:**

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

**Baptism:**

**Anniversary:**

**Travelers:**

**Prospora Schedule: PLEASE 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!* Thank you all for your offering “for the people by the people”.**

Dec 15th Fr Michael

Dec 22nd

**Counting: HELP! Please sign up to help us count weekly donations! We need help counting today.**

Dec 15th Tammy

Dec 22nd

**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!**

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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

SAT, Dec 15th @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers  
SUN, Dec 16th: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours, 25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. Sunday of the Forefathers

## NATIVITY SCHEDULE

TUES, Dec 24th: @ 9:00 AM Nativity Royal Hours @ 5:00 PM Compline and Matins w/Litya  
WED, Dec 25th: Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM - Nativity of Christ



## 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.

**Dec Donations:** \$1,885.33

**Dec Expense:** \$2,042.86

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

**Average 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 before/after Vespers. Or you can make an appt for confession.

**Monthly Panikhida:** Dec 28th, 4PM prior to Vespers. We have new Panikhida books!

**Catechumen Classes:** Every Sunday after Liturgy. All are welcome to sit in the classes.

**Church Work Day:** Every Day is Church Maintenance day! A lot of cleaning can be done! If you have a day you would like to work in the church or even just a couple of hours please get with Fr Michael for what can be done. Sweeping, vacuuming, polishing.....

**Parish Council Meeting to next Saturday:** Dec 14th, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM - All are invited. January we will start preparing for the Annual Parish Meeting February 9th and the Diocesan Meeting 23rd & 24th of January (Diocesan Delegates - Primary: Maura Elko - Alternate Tammy Wytovich) any motions to change the Parish By-laws must be submitted to Parish Council for discussion by mid January in order for His Eminence to bless off on the change prior to the Annual meeting. Reminder, in order to submit changes or to be a voting member, a parishioner will submit a signed “Statement of Intent” along with donation of Time, Talent, and Treasure.

**We will soon have new service books for the pews. They are due by spring. Extremely backordered.**

**St. Michael's Greeters Ministry please sign up! Thank you Maura!**

**ChurchTrac Registration** Please register and/or sign in to ChurchTrac and update your information. I am in the process of putting a church directory and this program will allow us to do so very easily. Please add your photo so when we use this directory for proskomide there will be a picture alongside your name.

<https://stmichaeloldforgepa.churchtrac.com/sign-in>

**Attendance:** While this is not mandatory, I will be taking attendance every Sunday as we head into 2025. And every month I will be making a monthly report on trends of services, attendance (Feast days/Sundays), donations, and monthly summary events e.g. visitations, ministry work, outreach, catechesis etc., to the diocese. This will help me for our end of year report for the diocesan council. You also can check in on ChurchTrac for your own attendance.

**Angel Tree:** Thank you to everyone who volunteered and took a tag! This is a parish effort to provide gifts to a needful family for Nativity. Simply take a tag from the tree and purchase the items listed on the back of the tag. Return the gift(s) wrapped with the tag secured to the gift(s) by Dec 21st.

**Heavenly Image:** We did not pick up the tiles last week. Due to the altar floor being sanded. I will try and coordinate a time this week.

### Parish Prayer List

**NEWLY DEPARTED:** *Archpriest Michael Evans* (11/14);

**DEPARTED:** *Michael Toczko* (12/1); *Peter Mizgala* (12/2); *Helen Sorok* (12/9); *Dorothy Polanchik* (12/11); *Robert Sorok* (12/23);

**Please remember in your prayers LIVING:**

Ill-afflicted *Archpriest(s) 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, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Michael Sokol; Michael Krenitsky; Bernie Elko; Nadia Macheska; The child of God Abigail. Judith*

**Servants of God:** *Mark Bezhuly, David Barsigian, Patricia Jones, Anne Buday, 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, Mat. Emilia, Reader Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Paulette Ezbiensky, Jason Vo & Maura Elko, Mary Krevko, Elisabeth & Jacob Hallford*

**Seekers:** *Eugene, Gabriel, & Mike,*

**Catechumens:** *Paul Dunay, George McCandless, Christopher & Neva Yeisley*

### **On the Character of Men and on the Virtuous Life: 170 Texts (Philokalia, Vol 1)**

8. The uneducated and foolish regard instruction as ridiculous and do not want to receive it, because it would show up their uncouthness, and they want everyone to be like themselves. Likewise those who are dissipated in their life and habits are anxious to prove that everyone else is worse than themselves, seeking to present themselves as innocent in comparison with all the sinners around them. The lax soul is turbid and perishes through wickedness, since it contains within itself profligacy, pride, insatiate desire, anger, impetuosity, frenzy, murderousness, querulousness, jealousy, greed, rapacity, self-pity, lying, sensual pleasure, sloth, dejection, cowardice, morbidity, hatred, censoriousness, debility, delusion, ignorance, deceit and forgetfulness of God. Through these and suchlike evils the wretched soul is punished when it is separated from God.

40. A man cannot become good and wise immediately, but only through much effort, reflection, experience, time, practice and desire for virtuous action. The man who is good and enjoys the love of God, and who truly knows Him, never ceases to do ungrudgingly all that accords with His will. Such men are rare.



*Words of Wisdom*  
*From the Saints & Teachers*

**Today's Readings**

**Epistle:** (221) Ephesians 2:14-22

**Gospel:** (85) Luke 17:12-19

**EPISTLE**

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone, a Psalm of David: The Lord will give strength to His people, the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Choir: The Lord will give strength to His people, the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Reader: Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God, offer young rams to the Lord.

Choir: The Lord will give strength to His people, the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Reader: The Lord will give strength to His people,

Choir: The Lord will bless His people with peace.

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

**[(221) Ephesians 2:14-22]** Brethren: Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, \* by abolishing in His Flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, \* and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. \* And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; \* for through Him we both have access in One Spirit to the Father. \* So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, \* built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, \* in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; \* in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

**ALLELUIA**

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: In the 7th Tone: AL-LE-LU-IA!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: To declare Thy mercy in the morning and Thy truth by night.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

**[(85) Luke 17:12-19]** At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance \* and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." \* When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. \* Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; \* and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. \* Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? \* Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" \* And He said to him, "Rise and go thy way; thy faith has made thee well.

### **Ephesians 2:14b *Breaking Down the Wall of Hostility***

**THE WALL BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE BROKEN DOWN. AMBROSIASTER:** The passion of the Savior made peace between the circumcision and the uncircumcision. For the enmity, which was between them like a wall and divided the circumcision from the uncircumcision and the uncircumcision from the circumcision, was abolished by the Savior. His command is that the Jew should not so presume on his circumcision as to reproach the Gentile, nor should the Gentile trust in his uncircumcision, that is, his paganism, so as to abhor the Jew. Both, made new, should maintain in Christ their faith in the one God. EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS 2.14.1.

**THE WALL BETWEEN GOD AND HUMANITY. St CHRYSOSTOM:** Some say that the wall between them is that of the Jews against the Greeks, because it does not allow them to mix. I do not think so. Rather I think that the wall between them is common within both. It is the hostility proceeding within the flesh. This was the midwall cutting them off, as the prophet says, “Do not your sins stand in the midst between you and me?” The midwall was the enmity that God had both toward Jews and toward Greeks. But when the law came this enmity was not dissolved; rather it increased. “For the law,” he says, “works wrath.” HOMILY ON EPHESIANS 5.2.13–15.

Edwards, M. J., ed. (1999). [\*Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians\*](#) (pp. 138–139). InterVarsity Press.

### **Luke 17:11–19 *Cleansing of the Ten Lepers***

**JESUS SENT THEM TO THE PRIESTS TO FULFILL THE LAW. St CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA:** Why did he not say, “I will, be cleansed,” as he did in the case of another leper, instead of commanding them to show themselves to the priests? It was because the law gave directions to this effect to those who were delivered from leprosy. It commanded them to show themselves to the priests and to offer a sacrifice for their cleansing. He commanded them to go as being already healed so that they might bear witness to the priests, the rulers of the Jews and always envious of his glory. They testified that wonderfully and beyond their hope, they had been delivered from their misfortune by Christ’s willing that they should be healed. He did not heal them first but sent them to the priests, because the priests knew the marks of leprosy and of its healing. COMMENTARY ON LUKE, HOMILIES 113–16.

**BLESS THE HELPER FOR BENEFITS RECEIVED. St ATHANASIUS:** Today, the Lord rebukes those who keep the Passover the way the Jews did, just as he rebuked certain lepers he had cleansed. You recall that he loved the one who was thankful, but he was angry with the ungrateful ones, because they did not acknowledge their Deliverer. They thought more highly of their cure from leprosy than of him who had healed them.... Actually, this one was given much more than the rest. Besides being healed of his leprosy, he was told by the Lord, “Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.”

You see, those who give thanks and those who glorify have the same kind of feelings. They bless their helper for the benefits they have received. That is why Paul urged everybody to “glorify God with your body.” Isaiah also commanded, “Give glory to God.” FESTAL LETTER 6.

**THE THANKFULNESS OF THE SAMARITAN. St CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA:** Falling into a thankless forgetfulness, the nine lepers that were Jews did not return to give glory to God. By this, he shows that Israel was hard of heart and utterly unthankful. The stranger, a Samaritan, was of foreign race brought from Assyria. The phrase “in the middle of Samaria and Galilee” has meaning. “He returned with a loud voice to glorify God.” It shows that the Samaritans were grateful but that the Jews, even when they benefited, were ungrateful. COMMENTARY ON LUKE, HOMILIES 113–16.

Just, A. A., ed. (2005). [\*Luke\*](#) (pp. 268–269). InterVarsity Press.

