



FROM THE AMBON

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

512 WINTER ST., OLD FORGE, PA

Priest Michael Shepherd (frmichael@stmichaelof.org)

Phone: 570-457-3703

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

February 4, 2024 - 35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2.

Afterfeast of the Meeting. Ven. Isidore of Pelusium (ca. 436-440). Rt. Blv.

George, Great Prince of Vladimir (1238). Ven. Kirill (Cyril) the Wonderworker, Abbot of Novoezérsk (Novgorod—1532). Ven. Abraham and Coprius, of Pechenga (Vologdá—15th c.). Martyr Jadorus (3rd c.). Hieromartyr Abramius, Bishop of Arbela in Assyria (ca. 344-347). Ven. Nicholas the Confessor, Abbot of Studion (868).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for February

Birthdays: Barbara Sevensky (2/14); Stephen Krenitsky (2/26)

Nameday: Blaise Shepherd (2/3);

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. Last of the Prospora today.*

Feb 4 Shepherd Family

Feb 11

Feb 18 Emilia Hart

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

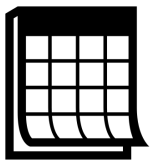
Feb 4 Tammy Wytovich

Feb 11

Feb 18

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!

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, Feb 10th: Great Vespers & Matins w/confessions 4:50PM

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

36th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3.

SAT, Feb 17th: Great Vespers & Matins w/confessions 4:50PM

SUN, Feb 18th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

37th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Sunday of Zacchaeus.

SAT, Feb 24th: Great Vespers & Matins w/confessions 4:50PM

SUN, Feb 25th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE — Tone 5. Beginning of the Lenten Triodion.

Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events



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 at 2:30-4:00 We had our class on the First Ecumenical Councils yesterday and it was a great discussion. Come & See!

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

Monthly Panikhida: 24FEB24 @ 4PM

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. We also will need two auditors to replace Beverly and Sandy Pregman who did a wonderful job! **REMINDER: TO BE COUNTED AS A VOTING MEMBER YOU NEED TO HAVE SIGNED THE FORM AND BE PARTAKING OF COMMUNION REGULARLY AND MONTHLY CONFESSIONS. EVERYONE, PLEASE SIGN A NEW STATEMENT OF INTENT AS A REMINDER OF WHAT WE ARE DOING AND WHO WE ARE SERVING.**

Pre-Lenten Womans Retreat: COMPASSION: From God to Us - from Us to Others given by Presbytera Kerry Pappas. Saturday, March 2nd at 10 am at Holy Trinity in Stroudsburg. Talk to Matushka if interested.

Abridged Typicon pp 32/33 C. THE BOWING OF THE HEAD WITHOUT MAKING THE SIGN OF THE CROSS IS MADE AT THE FOLLOWING EXCLAMATIONS:

1. "Peace be to unto all;" 2. "The blessing of our Lord be upon you ...;" 3. "The Grace of our Lord ... be with all of you;" 4. "And may the mercies of our great God ...;" 5. And also at the exclamation of the deacon: "... and unto ages of ages!" before the Trisagion; 6. When the priest or deacon censes the people, the people simply bow their heads—they do not make the sign of the Cross; 7. The sign of the Cross is not made by the reader during reading or singing of the psalms and stikhera. This is also true for the members of the choir while singing. They simply bow the head at the time of the reading of the Holy Gospel and at the Great Entrance; 8. At the Great Entrance at the words: "... and all Orthodox Christians, may the Lord God remember them in His Kingdom, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages," the faithful all reply by bowing their heads and saying: "And to the priesthood, May the Lord God remember thee (episcopacy, arch-episcopacy, etc.) in His Kingdom..." At Patriarchal divine services: "May the Lord God remember thy Holiness (All-holiness if Ecumenical Patriarch)..."

NOTE: The sign of the Cross is not made by the faithful when, after venerating the icon(s), they approach the celebrant to receive anointing during the Canon at Great Matins. They simply bow their head.

Parish Prayer List

Newly Departed:

Departed: *Andrew Kurtzo (2/4); Helen Buranich (2/6); Anna Zupko (2/6); Jean Wasko (2/7); Ann Freeman (2/18); Walter Pritchyk Sr. (2/28); Alexandra Teczko (2/14); Fema Pasternak (2/14)*

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, Justin & Elisabeth Kane, Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky, Ekaterina & Anna, Joe & Kelly Cigna, George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia 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*

Seekers - *Paul, Christopher, Eugene, Mike, Brayden, & JoAnne*

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

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.

February Income: \$0.00

February Expenses: \$513.40

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: Colossians 3:12-16

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Colossians 3:16 (ACCS Col-Phl): 3:16 Teach and Admonish One Another

The Christian Sage. St John Chrysostom: Nothing is wiser than the person who lives virtuously. Observe how wise he is, says one. He gives what he owns, he is compassionate, he is loving to all. He has understood well that he shares a common human nature with others. He has thought through how to use his wealth wisely. He realizes the position of wealth makes him no one special. He knows that the bodies of his relatives are more valuable than his wealth. The one who despises glory is wholly wise, for he understands human affairs. This is genuine philosophy, the knowledge of things divine and human. So then he comprehends what things are divine and what are human. From the one he keeps himself, and to the other he devotes his labors. And he also knows how to thank God in all things. He considers the present life as nothing; therefore he is neither delighted with prosperity nor grieved with the opposite condition. **Homilies on Colossians 9.**

The Distributor of Talents. St Cyril of Alexandria: The man who is the landowner is actually the Creator and Lord of all. The Word compares the time the landowner spends away from home in the parable to either the ascension of Christ into heaven or at any rate to the unseen and invisible character of the divine nature. Now one must conceive of the property of God as those in each country and city who believe in him. He calls his servants those who according to the times Christ crowns with the glory of the priesthood. For the holy Paul writes, “No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God.” He hands over [his property] to those who are under him, to each giving a spiritual gift so that he might have character and aptitude. We think that this distribution of the talents is not supplied to the household servants in equal measure because each is quite different from the other in their understanding. Immediately they head out for their labors, he says, directly indicating to us here that apart from the procrastination of one they are fit to carry out the work of God. Surely those who are bound by fear and laziness will end up in the worst evils. For he buried, Jesus says, the talent given to him in the earth. He kept the gift hidden, making it unprofitable for others and useless for himself. For that very reason the talent is taken away from him and will be given to the one who is already rich. The Spirit has departed from such as these and the gift of the divine gifts. But to those who are industrious an even more lavish gift will be presented. **Fragment 283.**