



FROM THE AMBIVON

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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January 21, 2024 - 33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8.

Ven. Maximus the Confessor (662). Martyr Neophytus of Nicæa (303-305). Martyrs Eugene, Candidus, Valerian, and Aquila, at Trebizond (3rd c.). Virgin Martyr Agnes of Rome (ca. 304). Martyr Anastasius, disciple of Ven. Maximus the Confessor (662). Venerable Neóphytos of Vatopaidi (Mt. Athos). Ven. Maxim the Greek (1556).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for January

Birthdays: Gregory Krenitsky (1/9); Paula Stavisky (1/17); Dr Eli Stavisky (1/22);

Nameday: Emilia Hart (1/1); Emilia Krenitsky (1/1); Matushka Emilia Shepherd (1/1); Maximus Shepherd (1/21); Gregory Krenitsky (1/25); Savina Shepherd (1/30)

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.*

Jan 28

Feb 4

Feb 11

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

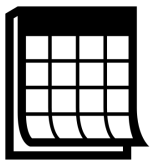
Jan 28

Feb 4

Feb 11

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, Jan 27th: Great Vespers & Matins w/confessions 4:50PM

SUN, Jan 28th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

34th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia.

FRI, Feb 2nd: Great Vespers & Matins 4:50PM

SUN, Feb 3rd: @ 8:50 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple

SAT, Feb 3rd: Great Vespers & Matins w/confessions 4:50PM

SUN, Feb 4th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. Afterfeast of the Meeting.



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. There are parishioners who would like to have the joint house blessings as discussed. If you would like to do this for the Dalton/Clark Summit Area - please see Joseph Hart.

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!

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: Today! 21JAN22 All are invited.

Monthly Panikhida: 27Jan24 @ 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.**

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

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

Envelopes are in! Please pick them up in the narthex

04Feb24 Talent Show and Saint Display - During Coffee Hour! Please come and watch talent!

Parish Prayer List

Newly Departed:

Departed: *Helen Wirhanowsky (1/10); Marie Morek (1/15); Ned Matechak (1/20); Helen Sokol (1/25); Helen Bezuhly (1/27); Margaret Jadick (1/29); Margaret Cushner (1/29);*

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, 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 Ezbiensky, Maura Elko*

Seekers - *Paul, Christopher, Eugene, Mike*

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.

January Income: \$5,244.00

January Expenses: \$11,288.81

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 1:12-18

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

The Four Hundred Chapters on Love By St Maximus the Confessor (12 of 400)

First Century

1. Love is a good disposition of the soul by which one prefers no being to the knowledge of God. It is impossible to reach the habit of this love if one has any attachment to earthly things.
2. Love is begotten of detachment, detachment of hope in God, hope of patient endurance and long-suffering, these of general self-mastery, self-mastery of fear of God, and fear of faith in the Lord.
3. The one who believes the Lord fears punishment; the one who fears punishment becomes master of his passions; the one who becomes master of his passions patiently endures tribulations; the one who patiently endures tribulations will have hope in God; hope in God separates from every earthly attachment; and when the mind is separated from this it will have love for God.
4. The one who loves God prefers knowledge of him to all things made by him and is constantly devoted to it by desire.
5. If all things have been made by God and for his sake, then God is better than what has been made by him. The one who forsakes the better and is engrossed in inferior things shows that he prefers the things made by God to God himself.
6. The one who has his mind fixed on the love of God disdains all visible things and even his own body as alien.
7. If the soul is better than the body and God incomparably better than the world which he created, the one who prefers the body to the soul and the world to the God who created it is no different from idolaters.
8. The one who separates his mind from love and devotedness toward God and keeps it tied to any sensible thing is the one who prefers the body to the soul and things that are made to God their Creator.
9. If the life of the mind is the illumination of knowledge and this is born of love for God, then it is well said that there is nothing greater than love.
10. When in the full ardor of its love for God the mind goes out of itself, then it has no perception at all either of itself or of any creatures. For once illumined by the divine and infinite light, it remains insensible to anything that is made by him, just as the physical eye has no sensation of the stars when the sun has risen.
11. All the virtues assist the mind in the pursuit of divine love, but above all does pure prayer. By it the mind is given wings to go ahead to God and becomes alien to all things.
12. When through love the mind is ravished by divine knowledge and in going outside of creatures has a perception of divine transcendence, then, according to the divine Isaiah, it comes in consternation to a realization of its own lowliness and says with conviction the words of the prophet:
Woe is me for I am stricken at heart; because being a man having unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips and I have seen with my eyes the King, the Lord of hosts.