



# FROM THE AMBIVON

## 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 Rakovskiy ([office@stmichaelof.org](mailto:office@stmichaelof.org))

Treasurer - Santo Cerminaro ([treasurer@stmichaelof.org](mailto:treasurer@stmichaelof.org))

---

**July 7th, 2024 2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. All Saints of America (All Saints of Russia).** Ven. Thomas of Mount Maleos (10th c.). Ven. Acacius of Sinai, who is mentioned in *The Ladder* (6th c.). Ven. Eudoxia, in monasticism Euphrosyne, Grand Duchess of Moscow (1407). Martyrs Peregrinus, Lucian, Ompeius, Hesychius, Papius, Saturninus, and Germanus, of Dyrrachium in Macedonia (2nd c.). Martyr Evangelus, Bishop of Tomi (Constanța) in Romania (3rd-4th c.). Martyr Cyriaca of Nicomedia (4th c.). Saint Prosper of Aquitaine (4th c.).

---

### Birthdays & Anniversaries for July

**Birthdays:** Sandy Pregmon (7/11); Silas Hart (7/17); Vitaliy Rakovsky (7/20); Santo Joseph Cerminaro (7/20); Maria Rakovsky (7/26);

**Nameday:** Patricia Jones (St Paraskeva of Rome 7/26)

**Baptism:**

**Anniversary:** Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky (7/4)

**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.* Thank you all for your offering “for the people by the people.” Thank you Matushka for today’s prospora.**

July 14

July 21 Emily Hart

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

July 14 Emily Hart

July 21

**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

SAT, July 13th: @ 5:00 PM - Great Vespers

SUN, July 14th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

**3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical Councils.**

SAT, July 20th: @ 5:00 PM - Great Vespers

SUN, July 21st: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

**4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3.**



## *Words of Wisdom*

### *From the Saints & Teachers*

## Today's Readings

**Epistles:** (81-ctr) Romans 2:10-16 (330)

Hebrews 11:33-12:2 (Saints)

**Gospels:** (9) Matthew 4:18-23

(10) Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Saints)

### **EPISTLE**

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 1st Tone, a Psalm of David: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.

Choir: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just.

Choir: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee.

Reader: In the 7th Tone: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Choir: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Brethren: Glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Brethren: Through faith, the saints conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated of whom the world was not worthy wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, \* looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

## ALLELUIA

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Alleluia in the 1st Tone: God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David. His anointed, and his seed forever.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: In the same tone: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, O ye righteous.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**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.

**June Income:** \$11,050.00

**June Expense:** \$14,997.78

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

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

## GOSPELS

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew His brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

At that time, great crowds followed Jesus from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan. Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for your reward is great in heaven."

**Hebrews 11:34 Two Qualities of Faith. St John Chrysostom:** Some "escaped the edge of the sword," and some "were killed with the sword." What is this? Which do you praise? Which do you admire? The latter or the former? No, he says. The former, indeed, is appropriate to you. The latter, because faith was strong even unto death itself, were a type of things to come. For the wonderful qualities of faith are two; it both accomplishes great things and suffers great things, treating suffering as if it were nothing. **On the Epistle to the Hebrews 27.5.**

### **Matthew 4:22 They Follow Immediately**

**Immediately They Left the Boat. St John Chrysostom:** But note both their faith and their obedience. For though they were in the midst of their work (and you know how time-consuming a chore fishing is), when they heard his command they did not delay or procrastinate. They did not say, "Let us return home, and talk things over with our family." Instead, "they left everything behind and followed," even as Elisha did when he followed Elijah. For Christ seeks this kind of obedience from us, such that we delay not even for a moment, though something absolutely most necessary should vehemently press in on us. **The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 14.2.**

## 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

## 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 Friday is Church Maintenance day. We need help pulling weeds. Everyone can do this!

**Parish Council Meeting:** 4 August 4:00 PM - 5:00 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.

**YOUTH BOWLING!!! Please confirm if your children will be coming. Open to all of our youth!**



What: Youth Bowling Party  
 When: Saturday, July 20th from 1pm - 3pm  
 Where: Idle Hours North (Dickson City)  
 Who: Youth of St. Michael's (Ages 5 and up)  
 Pizza and Drinks Provided!

**PROSPHORA BAKING:** I would like to hold another prosphora 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:** 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.

**RETAINING WALL:** We have several bids to fix the retaining wall on Church Street. The company will donate capstones and replace the paved sidewalk with a cement sidewalk. The company will tear down the wall, replace/install drainage pipes, and reuse the existing block stones to reduce the cost. 14K is the best bid

and the lowest by almost 30K and will be done by Cerminaro Construction. This is our Summer Campaign drive. We would like to get this finished before winter and if you would like to donate to this campaign; please add it to your envelopes or you can donate by paypal on our website: <https://www.stmichaelof.org/donate>

## **Parish Prayer List**

**Newly Departed:** *John Pritchky (6/16); Matushka Paula Soucek (6/23);*

**Departed:** *Genevieve Barile 7/31/2015; John Sokol 7/7/2016; Justine (Tinchey) Ludwig 7/19/2016; Steve Serniak 7/20/2016; Michael Peregrim Sr. 7/08/2018; William Keslosky 7/15/2019; Tom Krenitsky 7/6/2021; Stella (Minnick) Krenitsky 7/12/2022*

**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 Pritchky, 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 Ezbiensky, Jason Vo & Maura Elko, Santo Joseph Cerminaro, Mikayla Brown*

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

**Catechumens -** *JoAnne Snopek & Paul Dunay*

**Fr. Michael Reflection from the parish council meeting:** “...one of the main functions of the parish council, along with the pastor; is to maintain the unity of the community. The pastor and parish council must work harmoniously together. They reflect the unity that exists between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Where this is not reflected, there is division, hatred, pride, and jealousy. In the words of scripture, ‘A house divided against itself cannot stand!’ It behooves us, therefore, to cooperate with each other as co—workers in our Holy Orthodox Church. Where there is a common vision, along with cooperation and respect for each other, parishes flourish and grow.”

*Bishop Antoun, “You are called by God and those who elected you to serve in the best interest of the Church. In every decision that you are asked to make, the first question that should enter your mind is ... What would God have me to do in this situation?’ Did I pray about it first? Did I weigh the pros and cons? How will my decision affect the Parish and its members? Am I being fair and Christian? Will our decision hurt our parish, our priest, others in our local community, or the Metropolitan, our Archdiocese, our Holy Orthodox Church? Will my decision be an affront to Jesus Christ?”*

[http://www.orthodoxresearchinstitute.org/articles/pastoral/nicola\\_parish\\_council\\_work.html](http://www.orthodoxresearchinstitute.org/articles/pastoral/nicola_parish_council_work.html)