



FROM THE AMBIVON
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)
March 10th, 2024 - SUNDAY OF MEATFARE — Tone 7. Sunday of the Last Judgment. Martyr Quadratus and those with him: Cyprian, Dionysius, Anectus, Paul, Crescens, Dionysius (another), Victorinus, Victor, Nikēphoros, Claudius, Diodorus, Serapion, Papias, Leonidas, Chariessa, Nunechia, Basilissa, Nice (Nika, Victoria), Galla, Galina, Theodora, and many others, at Corinth (258, 267-268). Martyrs Quadratus, Saturninus, Rufinus, and the rest, of Nicomedia (3rd c.). St. Anastasia the Patrician of Alexandria (567-568).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for March

Birthdays: Maura Elko (3/2); Matushka Emilia Shepherd (3/3); Tammy Wytovich (3/4); Marie Pasternak (3/7);

Nameday: Diane Buranich (3/19)

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. We will need more prospora during Great Lent for the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays.*

Mar 17

Mar 24

Mar 31

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

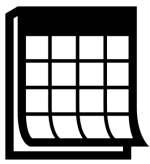
Mar 17 Patti Jones

Mar 24 Emily Hart

Mar 31

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

(Please refer to Calendar)

SAT, Mar 16th: Great Vespers & Matins w/confessions 4:50PM

SUN, Mar 17th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE — Tone 8. The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise

FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

March 18th -22nd - MON, TUES, THURS: 5:00 PM Great Compline w/Canon of St Andrew

WED: 5:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy (every Wed of Great Lent)

FRI: 5:00 PM Little Compline with the Akathist Canon and first stasis of the Akathist Hymn

SAT, Mar 23rd: Great Vespers & Matins w/confessions 4:50PM

SUN, Mar 24th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 1. Sunday of Orthodoxy. Forefeast of the Annunciation.

SUN, Mar 24th: @ 4:00 PM - Sunday of Orthodoxy (Great Vespers for Annunciation): St. Michael's, Jermyn



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

1 Corinthians 8:10 (ACCS 1-2 Co): Harmful Associations. St John Chrysostom: Let us expand this thought so as to say: “If someone sees you who have knowledge of piety passing the whole day in those senseless and harmful associations, will not the conscience of the weak man be emboldened to pursue such actions more earnestly?” That blessed apostle said this to keep in check those who were heedless, even after having knowledge of piety, who were exposing themselves to places of idolatry and causing scandal to the rest. **Baptismal Instructions 6.16.**

Matthew 25:32–33 St Epiphanius of Salamis He Will Separate Them. Incomplete Work on Matthew: “And he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” So then, people on earth are intermingled, and not only intermingled in that the righteous live side by side with the wicked, but they are also indistinguishable. Between the righteous and the wicked there is no apparent difference. Even as in wintertime you cannot tell the healthy trees apart from the withered trees but in beautiful springtime you can tell the difference, so too each person according to his faith and his works will be exposed. The wicked will not have any leaves or show any fruit, but the righteous will be clothed with the leaves of eternal life and adorned with the fruit of glory. In this way they will be separated by the heavenly shepherd and Lord. The earthly shepherd separates animals by their type of body, whereas Christ separates people by their type of soul. The sheep signify righteous people by reason of their gentleness, because they harm no one, and by reason of their patience, because when they are harmed by others, they bear it without resistance. He refers to sinners as goats, however, because these vices characterize goats: capriciousness toward other animals, pride and belligerence. **Homily 54.**

A Guide to the Triodion & Lent

3. Saturday of Souls

On the Saturday before the Sunday of the Last Judgment the most Divine Fathers appointed a commemoration of all those who, from ages past, have piously fallen asleep, in the hope of resurrection unto life eternal.

Since it often happens that certain people suffer death prematurely, in a foreign land, at sea, on trackless mountains, on precipices, in chasms, in famines, wars, conflagrations, and cold weather, and all manner of other deaths; and perhaps, being poor and without resources, they have not been vouchsafed the customary psalter readings and memorial services, moved by love for mankind, the Divine Fathers ordained that the Orthodox Catholic Church make commemoration of all people, a tradition which they inherited from the Holy Apostles, in order that those who, due to some particular circumstance, did not receive the customary obsequies individually, might be included in the present general commemoration, indicating that whatever is done on their behalf confers great benefit on them. This is one reason why the Church of God performs the commemoration of souls.

A second reason is that, since the Fathers intended, as is fitting, to assign the observance of the Second Coming of Christ to the following day, they appointed a commemoration of all souls on this day, as if propitiating the dread and unerring Judge to show them His innate compassion and place them in the promised Paradise of delight.

A third reason is that, since they intended to expound the banishment of Adam on the following Sunday, they devised the present commemoration, on this day of rest, as a respite from, and end of all human affairs, so that they might start from the beginning, that is, the banishment of Adam—for the final event that we will experience is the examination by the impartial Judge of all the deeds that we have committed in our life—and so that, putting fear into men thereby, they might make them ready for the contests of the Fast.

We always commemorate souls on Saturday, because Sabbaton (Sabbath) means “rest” in Hebrew; and since the dead have rested from worldly and all other cares, we offer supplications for them also on the day which means “rest.” It has become customary for us to do this every Saturday. On the present Saturday, we observe a universal commemoration, beseeching God for all the pious.

4. Third Sunday of Triodion - Sunday of the Last Judgment

On the same day, we commemorate the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and His impartial Judgment. The most Divine Fathers placed this parable after the first two (those of the Publican and Pharisee and of the Prodigal Son), lest anyone, learning about God’s love for mankind in those parables, should live carelessly, saying: God loves mankind, and when I cease from sinning, I shall be ready to accomplish everything.

They set this fearful day here, in order to instill fear, through death and the expectation of future torments, in those who are heedless, and to bring them back to virtue, not trusting in God’s loving-kindness alone, but taking into account that He is a just Judge, Who will render unto each man according to his deeds. Christ’s coming is called the Second Coming, because whereas He first came to us in bodily form, quietly and without glory, He will now come from Heaven with wonders that transcend nature, with conspicuous radiance, and corporeally, so that He may be recognized by all as being He Who first came and delivered the human race, and Who is going to judge it, to see whether it has preserved what was given to it.

When His Coming will take place, no one knows; for the Lord kept this hidden even from the Apostles. It should be known that Christ will not be looking at that time for fasting, bodily hardships, or miracles, good though these things are, but for things that are far superior, namely, almsgiving and compassion. To the righteous and the sinners He will speak of six virtues: “For I was hungry, and ye gave Me food; I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took Me in; naked, and ye clothed Me; I was sick, and ye visited Me; I was in prison, and ye came unto Me; for inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.”

Everyone can do these things according to his own ability.

Parish Prayer List

Newly Departed: *Nicole Serniak Cochrane (2/11); Sabina Maguerite Weiss (2/17)*
Departed: *Stephen Polanchik (3/3); Joseph Kuzmich (3/8); Diane Yacopchak 03/11); Michael Buday (3/18)*

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, Michael Sokol; Michael Krenitsky; The children of God Abigail and Nathan.*

Servants of God *David Barsigian, 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 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, Charissa & Debra, Nadia Macheska, Paulette Ezbiansky, Maura Elko*

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

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

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.

March Income: \$4,312.00

March Expenses: \$178.47

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

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

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.

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

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

Monthly Panikhida: No Panikhida.

Parish Council Meeting: Today, after Liturgy. All are invited.

ChurchTrac: Maura and I are in the process of importing our weekly donations and record keeping to ChurchTrac. This is an updated, cloud base system that will improve our reporting requirements and will give me the ability to make bulletins, track birthdays & anniversaries etc, make the church calendar ... You can use the link below or the QR Code to go to the website. When you register with your email address it will connect you to your profile if I have already added your email address. After this, you will be able to update your personal information and view your tithings throughout the year. <https://stmichaeloldforgepa.churchtrac.com/>



Envelopes: please mark on your envelopes whether it is a cash or check donation. Also, please annotate what the donation is for. Proportional Giving is tithing. If you are donating to a specific need e.g. copulas, carpet, building, annotate that as well. This will help Maura to accurately record the donation. We have been getting checks with nothing on them as to what they are for. If you are giving for candles please let us know. This helps us with our budget. As to what we spend on candles and to what is given for candles.

Lenten Retreat/Event: “We are Icons (Images) of God.” We will have Susan Shiposki come and teach us how to write an Icon! Beginning on Saturday, MAR 16th at 3-4:30PM prior to vespers until April 20th. This class will be a 6 session class depending on the class size and how far we get through each discussion and lecture. This class will not only give us an idea of how to write an Icon but throughout the process what Icons mean to us. Please sign up! Open for all ages (provided they can take direction), male and female, old and young! Come one, come all. We have 12 St Michaels parishioners signed already! Invite a friend! We have made accommodations for 15 people. If you know anybody that would like to attend, please invite them.

Change in Schedule to Holy Week:

Monday morning: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. Michael in Jermyn

Tuesday morning: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at All Saints in Olyphant

Wednesday morning: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. Michael In Old Forge

Wednesday evening: Holy Unction at St. Nicholas in Olyphant