



FROM THE AMBIVON

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

512 WINTER ST., OLD FORGE, PA

Phone: 570-457-3703

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

Priest Michael Shepherd (frmichael@stmichaelof.org)

Chair - Tammy Wytovich (chair@stmichaelof.org)

Vice Chair - Danny Pregmon (vicechair@stmichaelof.org)

Treasurer - Maura Elko (treasurer@stmichaelof.org)

Secretary - Vitaliy Rakovskiy (office@stmichaelof.org)

May 19th, 2024 3rd SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 2. Myrrhbearing Women.

Hieromartyr Patrick, Bishop of Prussa, and his companions: Presbyters Acacius, Menander, and Polyenus (2nd-3rd c.). Ven. Cornelius, Abbot of Komel' (Vologdá—1537). Ven. Cornelius, Abbot of Paleostrov (15th c.). Rt. Blv. John, Prince of Uglich, tonsured as Ignatius (Vologdá—1523). Ven. Sergius of Shukhtomsk (1609). St. John, Bishop of the Goths in the Crimea (8th c.). Rt. Blv. Dimitry Donskoy, Grand Prince of Moscow (1389).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for May

Birthdays: Jason Vo (5/30); Daniel Jones (5/30)

Nameday: Helen Wytovich (5/21); Emily Krenitsky (5/30)

Baptism: Fr Michael and Matushka Emilia Shepherd (5/8); Maximus Shepherd (5/16); Rodion Shepherd (5/18)

Anniversary: Fr Michael Shepherd - Priest Ordination (5/26)

Travelers: Vitaliy and Maria Rakovsky (5/6 -5/22)

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.”

May 26th -

June 2nd -

Counting: HELP! Please sign up to help us count weekly donations!

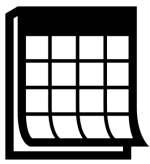
May 26th -

June 2nd -

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, May 25th: @ 4:50PM Great Vespers & Matins w/confessions

SUN, May 26th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

4th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 3. Paralytic.



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: (16) Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: (69) Mark 15:43-16:8

EPISTLE

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone, a Psalm of David: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Reader: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Reader: O Lord, save Thy people

Choir: And bless Thine inheritance.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

Deacon: Let us attend!

[(16) Acts 6:1-7] In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution of charity. * And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. * Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. * But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." * And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. * These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. * And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: In the 8th Tone: AL-LE-LU-IA!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: Lord, Thou hast been gracious to Thy land; Thou hast turned back the captivity of Jacob.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: Mercy and truth have met, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL

[(69) Mark 15:43-16:8] At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the Body of Jesus. * And Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether He was already dead. * And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the Body to Joseph. * And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. * Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where He was laid. * And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. * And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. * And they were saying to one another, "Who shall roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" * And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; -- it was very large. * And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. * And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. * But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there ye shall see Him, as He told you." * And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

Acts 6:7 The Word of God Increased

The Word Increases After Trials. St John Chrysostom: In Jerusalem the number increased. It is wonderful that where Christ was slain, there the preaching increased! Not only did it not happen that some people were offended in the case of Ananias, but the awe became even greater; all the while some were flogged, others threatening, others tempting the Spirit and others murmuring. Notice, if you please, under what circumstances the number increased. It was after the trials—not before—that the number increased. And see how great is the mercy of God. The chief priests who were shouting such things, who were indignant, highly vexed, who said, "he saved others. He cannot save himself." It was from the ranks of these that many [priests], it says, "were obedient to the faith." **Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 14.**

Mark 16:2 They Went to the Tomb

The Sequence of Burial Events. Venerable Bede: As to its being said in the gospel reading that holy women came to see the sepulcher "on the evening which was growing on toward the dawn of Sunday," we should understand this thus: they started to come during the evening, but reached the sepulcher as the morning of Sunday was dawning; that is, they prepared the spices with which they wanted to anoint our Lord's body on [Saturday] evening, but brought the spices that they had prepared in the evening to the sepulcher in the morning. Matthew, for the sake of brevity, wrote this more obscurely; but the other evangelists show more distinctly the order in which it was done. After our Lord had been buried on Friday, the women went away from the tomb and prepared spices and ointments for as long as it was permitted them to work. They then refrained from activity on the sabbath, in accord with their commandment, as Luke clearly reports. When the sabbath was over, as evening was coming on, the time for working had returned. Being resolute in their devotion, they bought the spices that they had not prepared [earlier] (as Mark records it) so that they might come and anoint him. **Exposition on the Gospel of Mark 2.7.**

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.

May Income: \$7,100.50

May Expense: \$7,735.18

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

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 after vespers. Or you can make an appt for confession.

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day.

Monthly Panikhida: May 25th

Blessing of the Graves: May 26th

Parish Council Meeting: 1 June 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - All are invited.

Take Out Chicken Barbeque: Hosted by Arcaro and Genell's. Saturday, June 22nd from 12PM-3PM. The price will be \$13 a ticket. Everyone will be given two tickets to sell (you can purchase more if you like). Sandy and Tammy will hand them out on April 14th.

Cry Room: Please see the sign on the Cry Room door. This room should be left open at any time for mothers of children to use at their discretion. This room is not to be used to hang out in or a place of worship.

Episcopal Visit! His Eminence, Archbishop Mark will be visiting on June 2nd! Let's make preparations to welcome our Archbishop. Please be here by 9am to greet our beloved Archbishop. Blaise Shepherd will be tonsured as a Reader at this visit! AXIOS!

Diocesan Men's Group: At our last Diocesan Assembly, His Eminence, Archbishop Mark suggested that a men's group be formed within our Diocese to provide for the new and old converts, as well as the cradle Orthodox Christian men, an opportunity for fellowship and spiritual nourishment. We believe this group will be a valuable addition to our diocesan community. The name of the group is Saint Alexis Toth Brotherhood of the DoEPA. Currently, we are in early stages of planning the first event for the men's group. We are asking each parish rector, with the blessing of His Eminence, to announce this in their parish and provide the names and email addresses.

Thank you.

In Christ,

Fr Mark Koczak, Fr Michael Demko, Fr Vjekoslav Jovicic, Fr Aleksey Paranyuk, Pdn Peter Skoog

2024 ST TIKHON'S MONASTERY PILGRIMAGE May 24 - 27 - Please see attached Schedule

Parish Prayer List

Newly Departed: *Jean Staviski Mori (5/6); Michael Brown (3/15)*

Departed: *Evelyn Flynn (5/5); Volodymyr Danylets (5/9); Marie Raskausakas (5/12); Paul Bezuhly (5/15); Harry Krevko (5/16); Alexander Pritchky (5/18); Walter Pregmon (5/19); Dennis Pregmon (5/25); Rose Macheska (5/26)*

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, John Pritchky, Christine Sevensky, Mike Jadick, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Matushka Paula Soucek, 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 Ezbiansky, Jason Vo & Maura Elko, Santo Joseph Cerminaro, Mikayla Brown*

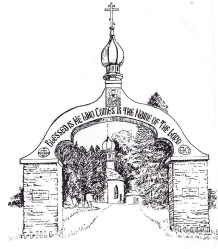
Seekers - *Christopher, Eugene, Mike, Brayden, Barbara*

Catechumens - *JoAnne Snopek & Paul Dunay*

“According to Sacred Scripture, man is a temple, but it is a fallen temple, in need of cleansing and restoration. It bears the image of God, but that image has become clouded and in need of renewal by means of fasting and prayer...Great Lent does not simply preach a call to repentance. At the same time, its message contains that Good News without which the very act of repentance would have no meaning.”

(Parish Life Journal, March, 2023)

The mark of an effective church is not how many people come; but how many people who live differently as a result of having been there.



THE MONASTERY OF SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK
175 St Tikhon's Rd. Waymart-South Canaan PA 18472
570.937.4390

April 24, 2024

The monastery brotherhood announces this year's Memorial Day pilgrimage with an invitation to all to join us for the 120th annual pilgrimage:

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024

4:30 pm Official Opening of the 120th Pilgrimage with greeting of Metropolitan Tikhon followed by Vespers and Matins – Monastery Church

All pilgrims are invited to dinner in the monastery dining hall.

7:00 pm Commencement Speaker at the Seminary Convocation Center

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2024

9:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy – Monastery Church
A meal for all pilgrims in the monastery dining hall to follow.

1:00 pm 82nd Commencement of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary

4:00 pm Resurrection Vigil – Monastery Church
Dinner for all pilgrims in the monastery dining hall to follow.

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024

9:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy – Monastery Church
followed by the Blessing of the new Liturgical Arts Building
A meal for all pilgrims in the monastery dining hall to follow.

4:30 pm Vespers and Matins – Monastery Church

7:00 pm Concert in the new Liturgical Arts Building

MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024 – MEMORIAL DAY

7:30 am Hours & early Divine Liturgy – Monastery Church

10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy – All Saints Church

2:30 pm Healing service to the Mother of God – All Saints Church

4:30 pm Vespers and Matins and closing of Pilgrimage – Monastery Church

***Food vendors will be onsite all day Monday in the Bookstore parking lot.*

We look forward to welcoming everyone once again to St. Tikhon's Monastery Memorial Pilgrimage. Asking God's blessing on one and all we remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Sergius". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "F" that loop together.

Fr. Archimandrite Sergius
Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery