



# FROM THE AMBIVON

## ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**October 27th, 2024 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1.** Martyr Nestor of Thessalonica (ca. 306). Ven. Nestor the Chronicler of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—ca. 1114). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Andrew, Prince of Smolensk (1540). Martyrs Capitolina and Eroteis of Cappadocia (304). Saint Claudia Procula (1st c.). Martyrs Mark, Soterikhos, and Valentine (304).

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### **Birthdays & Anniversaries for October**

**Birthdays:** Nadia/Nadezhda Macheska (10/1); Mary Krevko (10/5); Thomas Zupko (10/10); Stella Krenitsky (10/14); Dan Pregmon (10/15); Rdr Blaise Shepherd (10/17); Rosa Coyoy (10/22)

**Nameday:**

**Baptism:**

**Anniversary:**

**Travelers:** Tammy & Helen Wytovich

**Prospora Schedule: PLEASE 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”.**

Nov 3 Fr Michael

Nov 10

**Counting: HELP! Please sign up to help us count weekly donations! We need help counting today.**

Nov 3 Tammy

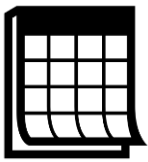
Nov 10

**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!**

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**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, Nov 2nd @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Nov 3rd: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours, 19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2.  
Martyrs Akepsimas the Bishop, Joseph the Presbyter, and Aeithalas the Deacon,  
of Persia (4th c.).

THURS, Nov 7th @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers W/Litya

FRI, Nov 8th: Hours @ 9:00 AM Hours, SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE OTHER  
BODILESS POWERS: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jegudiel, and Barachiel.

SAT, Nov 9th @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Nov 10th: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours, 20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. Apostles of the  
Seventy

### Parish Prayer List

**NEWLY DEPARTED:** *Mike Jadick (9/26); Nathan Cheffers (10/14); Fr Peter Telencio (10/15); Eileen Dance (10/16) Mary Brzuchalski (10/17);*

**DEPARTED:** *Lydia Popov (10/01); Rose Krenitsky (10/19); Nicholas Lugin*

**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, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Michael Sokol; Michael Krenitsky; Bernie Elko; Nadia Macheska; The child of God Abigail.*

**Servants of God** *Mark Bezhuly, David Barsigian, Patricia Jones, Anne Buday, Emily Krenitsky, Gregory Krenitsky, Barbara Sevensky, Beverly Elko, Sandra Condon, Marie Pasternak, Nicole Earl, Anna 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, Mat. Emilia, Reader Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Paulette Ezbiansky, Jason Vo & Maura Elko, Mary Krevko*

**Seekers - Robert, Eugene, & Mike**

**Catechumens - Paul Dunay, Robert McCandless, Christopher & Neva Yeisley**

### *Treasury*

*"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. n+ Jesus Christ*

### 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

**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.

**October Income:** \$7,070.00

**October Expense:** \$11,165.90

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

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

\$1500

\$30

\$60

\$75

\$150



## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

## Today's Readings

Epistles: (182-ctr) 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1  
Gospels: (83) Luke 16:19-31

### EPISTLE

#### EPISTLES

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: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us

Choir: as we have set our hope on Thee.

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

[(188) 2 Corinthians 9:6-11] Brethren: He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. \* Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. \* And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. \* As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." \* He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food shall supply and multiply your sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. \* You shall be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us shall produce thanksgiving to God.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

#### ALLELUIA

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Alleluia in the 1st Tone Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: 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!

#### GOSPELS

[(38) Luke 8:26-39] At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. \* And as He stepped out on land, there met Him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. \* When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before Him, and said with a loud voice, "What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech Thee, do not torment me." \* For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) \* Jesus then asked him, "What is thy name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. \* And they begged Him not to command them to depart into the abyss. \* Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Him to let them enter these. So He gave them leave. \* Then the demons came out of the man and entered the

swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. \* When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. \* Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. \* And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. \* Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned. \* The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Him; but He sent him away, saying, \* "Return to thy home, and declare how much God has done for thee." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

[(106) Luke 21:12-19] The Lord said to His disciples: "Beware of men. \* They shall lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and ye shall be brought before kings and governors for My name's sake. \* This shall be a time for you to bear testimony. \* Settle it therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer; \* for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries shall be able to withstand or contradict. \* Ye shall be delivered up even by parents and brothers and kinsmen and friends, and some of you they shall put to death; \* ye shall be hated by all for My name's sake. \* But not a hair of your head shall perish. \* By your endurance ye shall gain your lives."



## **Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events**

**Silent Prayers and Confession:** Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or before/after Vespers. Or you can make an appt for confession.

**Monthly Panikhida:** Nov 23rd, 4PM prior to Vespers

**Church Work Day:** Every Day is Church Maintenance day! I will begin a list of items that we will need to work on. If you are free and would like to work at the church let me know. Just check the list and when you finish the task, initial off that it has been done.

**Parish Council Meeting:** Nov 2nd, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM - All are invited. Dec 7th is the last meeting of the year.

**Choir practice: Saturday's @ 4pm prior to vespers. Reminder, that choir practice is mandatory to sing in the choir. If you are unable to make it please talk to Fr Michael about your circumstances to sing without going to practice.**

**St. Michael's Greeters Ministry please sign up!**

**2nd Annual Veteran's Day Pasta Dinner NOV 9th!** Update on Veterans dinners. 155 Tickets sold; 22 Baskets donated; 60 Gift Cards donated. We are almost 100%. Posters have been put up at local businesses. Focus now is selling tickets. Please check with Tammy or Sandy to volunteer or donate items. We ask that all donations and baskets be received by Nov 3rd unless coordinated otherwise.

**ChurchTrac Registration** Please register and/or sign in to ChurchTrac and update your information. I am in the process of putting a church directory and this program will allow us to do so very easily. Please add your photo so when we use this directory for proskomede there will be a picture alongside your name.

<https://stmichaeloldforgepa.churchtrac.com/sign-in>

On November 9th, Sbdn Greg Polk will be Ordained to the Holy Diaconate at Holy Trinity by His Eminence Archbishop Mark.

# Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven by Saint Innocent Bishop of Kamchatka, the Kurilian and Aleutian islands Enlightener of America

## Introduction

People were not created merely to live here on earth like animals that disappear after their death, but to live with God and in God, and to live not for a hundred or a thousand years, but to live eternally. But only Christians can live with God; that is to say, those who rightly believe in Jesus Christ.

Everyone, whoever he may be, desires and seeks prosperity and happiness. To desire what is good for oneself and to seek prosperity or happiness is part of man's nature, and therefore it is not a sin or vice. But we need to know that here on earth there has not been, and is not, and never will be true and perfect happiness and prosperity; for all our prosperity and happiness is only in God. No one will ever find true happiness and perfect prosperity without God or outside God.

Nothing in this world but God can fill our heart or fully satisfy our desires. A fire cannot be put out with brushwood and oil, because only water will put it out. In exactly the same way, the desires of the human heart cannot be satisfied with the goods of this world, because only the grace of God can quench the thirst of our desires.

Everything we desire pleases us only so long as we do not possess it; and when we get it, we soon get tired of it. Or only what we do not as yet have seems to us good and attractive; while all that we have, even though it is the very best, is either not good enough for us or does not attract us. A good example of this is King Solomon who, as is well known, was so rich that all the household plate and furniture in his palaces was of pure gold; he was so wise that kings came to visit him; and he was so glorious that his foes were terrified of him. Being wiser and mightier than all his contemporaries, he was able to satisfy all his wishes and desires, so that there was hardly a thing in the world which he did not possess or could not obtain. But with all this he could not satisfy his heart, and the desires of his heart wearied and tormented him far more than an ordinary man: and in the end, having tried everything in the world, he said in his writings: Everything in this world is vanity, and nothing can satisfy our desires.

Truly not a single earthly pleasure can satisfy our heart. We are strangers on earth, pilgrims and travelers; our home and fatherland are there in heaven, in the heavenly Kingdom; and there do not exist on earth things which could perfectly satisfy our desires. Let a man own the whole world and all that is in the world, yet all that will not interest him for more than a minute, so to speak, and it will never satisfy his heart: for the heart of man can be fully satisfied only by the love of God and therefore God alone can fill the heart and soul of man and quench the thirst of his desires.

And so, do you wish to live with God there, in the Kingdom of Heaven? Be an Orthodox Christian. Do you want prosperity and happiness? Seek it in God. Do you want your heart to be fully satisfied? Turn it to God from Whom you have been separated by your sins.

However, no one by himself, without Jesus Christ, can turn and draw near to God, because our sins, like a high wall, do not let us come to Him. And unless Jesus Christ in His mercy to us had come down to earth, and unless he had taken to Himself our human flesh and by His death destroyed the wall which separated us from God, everyone would have perished and not a single soul could have drawn near to God or lived with Him. For everyone is a sinner and is born in sin from his mother's womb; and even in an infant, though it knows nothing of the world and does nothing, there is already the seed of sin.

Therefore Jesus Christ is our Redeemer, Saviour, Deliverer and Benefactor. Now everyone who wants to do so can return to God and enter the Kingdom of Heaven. But there is only one way into the Kingdom of Heaven, and that is the very way that Jesus Christ went when He lived on earth. There is no other way, and never was and never will be, for Jesus Christ said: I am the way, and if anyone wishes to follow Me let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.

And so, for every Christian, and even for every human being, it is extremely necessary to know how to find the way and how to follow it. And there I want to talk to you about the way; and although I know myself that I cannot show it to you as I ought, yet I shall try according to my powers, trusting in Jesus Christ Who can use dirt itself for healing and curing.

Now, whoever comes across my book and wants to read it will find in it nothing but a poor and feeble explanation of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven. But if anyone reads it through with prayers to Jesus Christ, He, being almighty, even by these words of mine can enlighten and warm the heart of the reader.

I divide my book into four parts: 1. On the benefits which Jesus Christ has granted us by his death. 2. How Jesus Christ lived on earth, and what He suffered for us. 3. The way by which we must go into the Kingdom of Heaven. 4. How Jesus Christ helps us to go by this way, and how we can receive this help.

Lord Jesus Christ, to Thee I cry: hear me Thy unworthy servant! Enlighten my mind; grant that I may truly and clearly describe Thy way into the Kingdom of Glory which Thou, in Thy mercy, has granted us! Grant that those who read and listen to my words may be filled with Thy love, enlightened by Thy knowledge and made strong by Thy power. Warm our hearts with Thy Spirit– and we shall joyfully and fervently go the way which Thou hast shown us.

#### Points of Reflection

1. What does it mean to “rightly believe in Jesus Christ?”
2. Do we believe, with St Innocent, that “no one will ever find true happiness and perfect prosperity without God or outside God?”
3. “The desires of the human heart cannot be satisfied with the goods of this world.” Think of examples of the goods of this world with which we attempt to fill our need for God.
4. How does our sin create a wall that prevents us from knowing God?
5. How do we read this, or any other Christian spiritual text, prayerfully?