



FROM THE AMBON

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)

Secretary - Vitaliy Rakovskiy (office@stmichaelof.org)

Treasurer - Maura Elko (treasurer@stmichaelof.org)

October 6th, 2024 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Glorification of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, and Apostle to the Americas (1977—Sept 23rd O.S.). Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas (1st c.). Monastic Martyr Macarius of St. Anne Skete (Mt. Athos—1590). “O All-Hymned Mother” Icon of the Mother of God

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); Rosa Coyoy (10/22)

Nameday:

Baptism:

Anniversary:

Travelers: Tammy & Helen; Joseph, Emilia, Silas, Judah, & Hope

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”.

Oct 6 Marie Pasternak

Oct 13

Oct 20

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

Oct 6 Maura

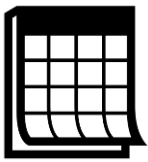
Oct 13

Oct 20

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, Oct 12th @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Oct 13th: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours, 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST-Tone 6.

SAT, Oct 19th @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Oct 20th: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours, 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST-Tone 7.



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

Today's Readings

Epistles: (176) 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (318) Hebrews 7:26-8:2 (Saint)

Gospels: (30) Luke 7:11-16 (36) John 10:9-16 (Saint)

EPISTLE

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to thy 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: In the 1st Tone: My mouth shall speak wisdom, the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

Choir: My mouth shall speak wisdom, the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

[(176) 2 Corinthians 4:6-15] Brethren: It is the God Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. * But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. * We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; * persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; * always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. * For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus's sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. * So death is at work in us, but life in you. * Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, * knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus shall raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. * For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

[(318) Hebrews 7:26-8:2] Brethren: It was fitting that we should have such a High Priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. * He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people; He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. * Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son Who has been made perfect for ever. * Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a High Priest, One Who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, * a Minister in the Sanctuary and the true Tabernacle which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Alleluia in the 6th Tone: He that dwells in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: In the 2nd Tone: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPELS

[(30) Luke 7:11-16] At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. * As He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. * And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." * And He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to thee, arise." * And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And He gave him to his mother. * Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited His people!"

[(36) John 10:9-16] The Lord said to the Jews that came to Him: I am the door; if any one enters by Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture. * The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. * I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. * He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. * He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. * I am the good shepherd; I know My own and My own know Me, * as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. * And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd.

HEBREWS 8:1-2 SERVANT OF THE SAINTS. ST EPHREM THE SYRIAN: "The point in what we are saying," that is, the discussion which we have undertaken with regard to priesthood and the law, is now presented to you according to what I have said above. "We have such a high priest" of the high priests, who does not stand before the ark of alliance but "who," by ascending, "is seated at the right hand of the throne of the majesty in heaven." Moreover, he, who was so entirely praised, was "a minister in the sanctuary" in the very tabernacle of truth—that is, either in the kingdom of heaven, as he promised, or in this world, as he actually did by washing the feet of his disciples. COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS. Heen, E. M., & Krey, P. D. W., eds. (2005). [Hebrews](#) (p. 121). InterVarsity Press.

LUKE THE DEAD MAN MEETS THE LIFE AND THE RESURRECTION. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA: The dead man was being buried, and many friends were conducting him to his tomb. Christ, the life and resurrection, meets him there. He is the Destroyer of death and of corruption. He is the One in whom we live and move and are. He is who has restored the nature of man to that which it originally was and has set free our death-fraught flesh from the bonds of death. He had mercy upon the woman, and that her tears might be stopped, he commanded saying, "Weep not." Immediately the cause of her weeping was done away. COMMENTARY ON LUKE, HOMILY 36. Just, A. A., ed. (2005). [Luke](#) (pp. 117–118). InterVarsity Press.

JOHN 10:7 I Am the Door of the Sheep WHO IS THE ONE WHO ENTERS BY THE GATE? AUGUSTINE: Our Lord just said now that he was a shepherd. He also said he was a gate.... He is the gate in the head and the shepherd in the body. You see, he says to Peter, whom he singles out to represent his [body the] church, "Peter, do you love me?" ... as though to say, What will you give me, what proof will you provide me with that you love me?... If you love me, feed my sheep; enter in by the Door and do not go up another way.... Who is the one who enters by the door? The one who enters by Christ. And who is that? The one who imitates Christ's passion, who understands Christ's humility, understands that while God has become man for us, he himself as a human being is not God, just a man [person]. I mean to say, anyone who wishes to play God while he is just a man is not imitating the one who, while he was God, became a man. SERMON 137.3–4. Elowsky, J. C., ed. (2006). [John 1–10](#) (pp. 342–343). InterVarsity Press.

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

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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.

October Income: \$0.00

October Expense: \$1,516.06

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

Average 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 before/after Vespers. Or you can make an appt for confession.

Monthly Panikhida: Oct 26th, 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 are the following meetings.

Choir practice: Saturday's @ 4pm prior to vespers.

St. Michael's Greeters Ministry please sign up!

2nd Annual Veteran's Day Pasta Dinner NOV 9th! Update on Veterans dinners.

-106 Tickets sold -22 Baskets donated -40 Gift Cards donated

We are almost 100% on supplies minus a case of water. Posters have been put up at local businesses. Focus now is selling tickets. Please check with Tammy or Sandy to volunteer or donate items.

Parish Census: Our yearly parish census is due. The parish chair has scrubbed it and sent it to me with her updates and I will now look at it to discern who is a member and who is not. Reminder that to be counted as a member of the Church, one should sign the Statement of Intent which explains above all else that membership is counted as taking part of the sacraments Communion and Confession regularly along with Time, Talent, and Treasure for those who are able. If you have not taken confession and/or communion here in the last year or

since you were dropped from our census. Please do not get this confused with our homebound or those in nursing homes. Also, we will start reviewing our finances.

Parish Prayer List

NEWLY DEPARTED: *Mike Jadick (9/26)*

DEPARTED: *Lydia Popov (10/01); Rose Krenitsky (10/19); Nicholas Lugin (10/20)*

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; The children of God Abigail and Nathan.*

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, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Nadia Macheska, Paulette Ezbiansky, Jason Vo & Maura Elko, Mary Krevko*

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

Catechumens - *Paul Dunay*

When Parishes Close Themselves

<https://www.ocadwpa.org/close1>

Renewal & Vitalization

When working with parishes we often ask "How long do you want your parish to live?" The reply is always the same. "Forever". Sometimes robust -- sometimes tentative. (Though one honest woman admitted her horizon of concern was only until "after I die!")

Often someone brings up the topic of closing or consolidating parishes. While *our* agenda is focused on *helping parishes* survive and *thrive*, some churches may eventually close themselves -- having run out of people, money or both. (Given that many experts have predicted that, for example, the Anglican Church in Canada is *one generation from extinction*, this is not a commentary about any particular Orthodox jurisdiction, Diocese or parish.)

Which will live and which will not? Based on visits to now 83 Orthodox parishes in seven years, below are a few characteristics of parishes that will likely *close themselves* and corresponding behaviors of parishes facing a long productive future.

-Characteristics of Parishes That Are Closing Themselves

More memories than vision. Fading parishes are experts at freeze framing -- more focused on preservation than expansion. Trying to recapture what they had been 20-40 years before, they seemingly lack perspective of what is going on in the world around them. They have no destination.

-Timid singing and worship

Other descriptors would be tired, lethargic, tepid, listless. Not joyful and vibrant. Even mediocre singing can be joyful with a bit of energy and gusto. Listless worship does not attract people. Lack of eye contact and informal smiles. It often starts at the candle desk. This is a greeting ministry not a customs station. Smile and say "welcome". It continues into the nave before, during and after Liturgy. Averted gazes. Making guests feel invisible as we walk past to chat with friends.

-Inferiority Complex

The general lack of joy seems to manifest itself in what some church consultants describe as "weak capability belief". "We're too small"; "too poor"; "too busy"; "too old"; "too spread out". Nobody expresses it directly but the sense is: "We're *only* Orthodox. Don't expect much from us." Generations earlier parish founders overcame more significant obstacles.

-Money is a fearful topic

Shiny vehicles and attractive homes are hallmarks of the parishioners, yet when considering the church's needs a pauper's mentality prevails. Establishing a parish that will live into the future requires commitment and sacrifice not living off the efforts of ancestors.

-Disrepair

The mentality of scarcity manifests itself in neglected buildings and grounds, chipped paint, shaggy grass/landscaping, worn carpet, faded signs, dust and disarray. Instead of strengthening the parish for future generations, the budget (if there is one) is balanced on the backs of future generations through deferred maintenance.

-Characteristics of Parishes That Are Renewing Themselves

Those parishes with a solid future seem to exhibit many of the following characteristics: Christ is in their midst. People smile and hug. Cross generational relationships help to bond younger persons, no matter how few, to the parish. Laughter. Eye contact and a smile for guests.

-Invite Others

Been to a great restaurant recently? If so your first response was likely to share the *Good News* with your friends. In parishes that *'have it goin on'* people invite friends. They pick them to come to church with them. **-Focus on Possibilities and Taking Risks**

In parishes that face forward everything is *not* rosy --but leaders work to stay ahead of problems. They ask, "What would it take? What are we NOT doing well? Why can't we? If we had an additional \$25K/year what could we do to build up this parish? To spread the Word? To some this sounds like a boring planning effort. In actuality its a dialogue --a good conversation. When such dialogue occurs people say, "Gosh we haven't talked about these topics in years!"

-Community/Neighborhood Ministry

The parish has somehow overcome the gravitational pull to be self focused. By being willing to engage in future oriented topics they see limitations in their mission and learn to look beyond themselves to connect with community. Not as a growth/promotion program. Growing parishes get to work --despite the fact that parishioners usually live elsewhere.

-Men NOT Missing

The stereotype is that mostly women attend church. Yet in blossoming Orthodox parishes there *seem to be* a higher percentage of male worshipers than in fading parishes. In a few cases we've noticed

more men than women. There are many possible explanations for this and we don't know which is the cause or the effect. We've lost the reference, but we recently read that a high percentage of adult men correlates with an ability to attract and retain young adults in a church. If true what are the reasons?