



**ST MICHAEL'S ORTHODOX CHURCH  
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
& EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
512 SUMMER ST  
OLD FORGE, PA 18518**



November 26th, 2024

The Righteous Gideon. Ven. Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis (7th c.). Dedication of the Church of the Greatmartyr George at Kiev (1051-54). Repose of St. Innocent, first Bishop of Irkutsk (1731). Ven. James the Solitary of Syria (457).

Dear

On behalf of St Michaels Orthodox Church, the parish council and I want to extend our sincerest gratitude for your sponsorship of our church calendars. In the Orthodox Church, the church calendar is vital as it dictates the rhythm of the liturgical year, specifying which saints to commemorate, scripture passages to read, and fasting periods on specific dates, essentially acting as a guide for the faithful to live their lives in accordance with the Christian calendar and major feast days, with Easter being the central focus of the liturgical cycle. Without generosity like yours, our church wouldn't be able to spread God's word and touch the lives of everyone in our community.

In appreciation of your sponsorship, we have included the 4 different calendars we recieved for you to use at your convenience. The parish council would like to inform you that next year we will no longer be using Vestal Publishing Company to provide our calendars but will be purchasing the calendars through St Tikhon's Bookstore. The calendars are a larger print and easier for our elderly population to read. If you would like to view the calendars you can do that on there website <https://stmpress.com/pages/2024-calendar-and-rubrics-order-form>. If you would like to remain a sponsor, please send me an email at [frmichael@stmichaelof.org](mailto:frmichael@stmichaelof.org) as we are in the process of designing our imprint along with adding the *Compliments of* section. The cost of the calendars are \$4.95 ea for an order of 50 or more. We would order around 50 as that is all we need and usually have a lot of left over calendars from the previous year. Also, the church has paid the invoice for this order. If you would kindly send the check to the church that would be great.

The parish council has also included the [Guidelines for an Orthodox Christian Burial](#) as it pertains to St Michaels Orthodox Church for a better understand of the Orthodox way of burial. It is imperative, first and foremost that I, as the rector and parish priest speak to the next of kin personally concerning burial details. The next of kin can contact me at the email address above, call the church at 570-457-3703 or call me on my cell phone at 570-229-4829. No arrangements will proceed until I have been contacted. The parish council nor the cemetery custodian can make or will make any decisions concerning when or cost of the funeral arrangements. Effective Sept 18, 2023 the rates from the grave digger went up hence the increase in our fees. Burial Fees: St Michaels Orthodox Church Member Fee - \$1000 (may increase if the grave digger hits rock); Non-Members/Non-Voting Members Fee - \$2525 (may increase if the grave digger hits rock). For more information you can look at our website <https://www.stmichaelof.org/ourcemeteries>. I am not sure if you do this on your website but I do know of funeral homes who have links to the local churches with their funeral guidelines on their own website for people to look at. I hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you again for your kindness and your impact on our community.

Cc: St Michaels Orthodox Church Parish Council  
Tammy Wytovich, Parish Chair  
Daniel Pregman, Parish Vice Chair  
Maura Elko, Parish Treasurer  
Vitaliy Rakovsky, Parish Sectary

Thank you

Michael Shepherd  
Rector, St Michaels Orthodox Church