



St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church

1182 Ashland St., Greensburg, PA 15601

*Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America*

(See the back cover for detailed contact information.)

Sunday, February 22, 2015

To all who are present with us this morning,

Welcome! Thank you for being here.

*Please join us for food and fellowship
in the Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy.*

You May Find the Text of the Divine Liturgy beginning on the bottom page 91 of the Service Book (gold embossed cross on the reddish brown cover) or in the green-spiral-bound book; sheet music can be found in the 8.5" x 11" large, spiral-bound booklet.

At the Kiss of Peace, our practice is for each of us to greet the person to our right and left with the bowing of our head, hands held in a prayerful clasp or crossed on the chest, while offering each other the Christian greeting, "Christ is in our midst!" and responding, "He is and shall be!"

Please remember that Holy Communion is reserved for those Chrismated Orthodox Christians who have appropriately prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and Confession to receive the Holy Mysteries of the Church. The bread (*anti'doron*, which means 'in place' of the *gifts*) which we share after Communion and at the end of the Liturgy is for all.

Being mindful we are in church, let us always remember to...

...be quiet and attentive. Let us sing, pray, stand., sit, kneel and respond where responses are indicated. Let us not talk, look around, text message, play games, etc. Especially let us work at this in the Communion line and when in line to venerate the Cross and depart. If we cannot hear the post-Communion prayers being chanted during our church departure, we are way too noisy.

...refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum. (most obviously and especially if you will be receiving Holy Communion).

...stay put. Except in rare cases, there are few of us who cannot stay in one location for two hours (actually less, for most of us).

The Mission of Our Church



The mission of St Michael's Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church is to tend the flock of our Lord Jesus Christ and to spread the Good News of Christ to those outside the flock. This mission is to be accomplished by a) living a full liturgical and sacramental life, b) proclaiming the Orthodox Christian faith to all people, c) providing effective charitable and social programs, and d) establishing strong spiritual leadership and resources.

TONE 4

Arr: Basil Kazan.

Ha - ving learned the joy - ful mes - sage of the Re - sur - rec -
tion from the an - gel, the wo - men dis - ci - ples of
the Lord cast from them their pa - ren - tal con - dem - na - tion,
and proud - ly broke the news to the Dis - ci - ples, say - ing:
Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is ri - -
sen, gran - ting the world great mer - - - cy!

SYRIAN CHRISTIAN RELIEF

As the Syrian crisis continues with little change, we continue to accept *donations* to do what we can to help ease the suffering there. Checks may be written to "St. Michael's" with the note "Syrian Relief." The following link to a CBS 60 Minutes program will offer some deeper understanding of what is transpiring:

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504803_162-57418048-10391709/the-last-Christian-village-in-the-holy-land/

Sunday, February 22, 2015

Greeting: Christ is in our midst! **Response:** He is and shall be!

Tone: 4

Eothinon: 4

*Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheese Fare) Uncovering of the Seven
Martyrs' relics at Gate of Eugenios in Constantinople;
Martyr Anthusa and her twelve servants.*

THE EPISTLE READING

St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)

BRETHREN, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to St. Matthew. (6:14-21)

THE LORD SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

THE HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION is offered...

...by Bonnie Koury in memory of husband DAVID Koury, and all departed loved ones; and for the health of children, grandchildren and the parishioner's of St. Michaels.

PRAYERS OF OBLATION are offered...

- ...in memory of our father and Metropolitan PHILIP Saliba, Archimandrites GEORGE M. Corry and JOHN Namie, Archpriests JOHN (and Kh. JEAN) Chromiak, PETER Felenchak, ANTHONY Bell, JAMES Meena and Priest JOHN PAUL Pro.
- ...in memory of SAM, JACK and ELEANOR, ROSEMARY, MARIAN, MARGI and EVELYN by Salema Slyman.
- ...in memory of EVELYN Mansour by Dennis Slyman and family.
- ...in memory of ELEANOR Mansour by Richard and Victoria Shaheen.
- ...in memory of ANNA Santone by Don Stevens.
- ...in memory of JOYCE Lebo by Dr. Tesfamariam and Dr. Assefa.
- ...in memory of parents and brother - ALEX, BARBARA and GEORGE and for the health of Dr. JOHN, CAROLINE, CHRISTINA, and Dr. CHARLES, Sr., by Dr. Charles Simkovich.
- ...in memory of WALTER Dydiw by Vera Dydiw, John, Landy, Wendy and Scott.
- ...in memory of GEORGE Zakhary by Leila Zakhary.
-

MEMORIAL PRAYERS will be prayed this morning...

- ...for the memorials of the falling asleep in the Lord of the servants of God, JAMILAH Hajal (40 day); IBRAHIM Hajal (1 year); beloved husband JACK Langer (4 year); SALLY Langer (6 year); JOHN Langer, Sr. (40 year), offered by Ida Langer and family.
- ...for one year memorial of the falling asleep in the Lord of the servant of God, JAMAL Nassar, offered by his children Mouna Jabbour and Sam Nassar.
- ...for the three year memorial of the falling asleep in the Lord of the servant of God, beloved husband and father SALIM Noumeh; for the five year memorial of beloved husband and father Dr. BASSAM Kharma, offered by Violet Kharma, children Andrew and Dima, and mother Salma Noumeh.
- ...for ten year memorial of the falling asleep in the Lord of the servant of God, GENEVIEVE Essey, offered by Bishop BASIL, Shirles and Charles King, Heidi, David, David Lee, and Kallee Waugaman.
-

MANY YEARS and...

...Happy Birthday to: JACOB Bliven (2/22), CHRISTOPHER Jabbour (2/22), PATRICIA Abraham (2/24), CONSTANCE Volchko (2/25), CHARLES Nikoula (2/25), PATRICIA Papas (2/26), ABBRYELLE Summers (2/26), ALEXIS Bevan (2/27), WILLIAM Monsour II (2/27), ALEXANDER Yatsko (2/27), ROBERT Eyler (2/29).

...Happy Baptism/Chrismation Day to: CHRISTOPHER Jabbour (2/26).

HOSPITAL, HEALTH CARE, ASSISTED LIVING, SURGERY and new additions to the prayer list...

...(call hospital patients before visiting—they may have been discharged):

HOSPITAL/FACILITY: DOLORES and WILLIAM Asa (*Westmoreland Manor*), BERNARD Danilchak (*Healthsouth, Harmarville*), CHARLOTTE Mowry (*Greensburg Care Center*), NORMA Nicholas (*Stone Brook Manor, Manor*), SARA Plate (*Walnut Ridge, Greensburg*).

MONET, JOHN and DOLORES Albert, DAVID and LINDA Assard, BILL Baker (*friend of Joe Gazal*), TRACY Barrack (*Diana Lammert's sister*), FLORENCE Barbato (*Rose Ann Barbato's mother-in-law*), CHARLOTTE (*Don Baum's grandmother*), LANCE and PAULA Biggie (*Vicki Sheffler's friends*), BETTY Bozich (*Joe Gazal's friend-open heart surgery*), Omayma and LOAI Chahin (*Memari relatives*), ATHENA (Papas) Conte, DAVID Copeland (*friend of Chloe Nosal*), NICHOLE Crowley, DANIEL Davis (*kidneys*), JOSEPH D'Ettorre, OLGA DiFlorio, LISA Evangelist, STAMATIA Fanarakis (*Rose Ann Barbato's friend*), ERIC Fennell, ALEX Harshell (*Ron & Joanne Hasnauer's grandson*), KELLY Herman (*Carol Patton's sister*), PAUL Hoover (*friend of Michele Murray*), JULIE Johnson (*Pamela's mother*), KATHY Karyalija (*Carolyn Hill's sister*), DEREK Keller, CHARLES Knott (*Carolyn Hill's nephew; cancer surgery*), BONNIE Koury, DOROTHY Krinock, SAMANTHA Krinock, DONALD and ELIZABETH Kushner, PATRICIA Kwak, IDA Langer, JUSTIN, MARY Masters (*Elayne's mother*), SUZANE McGonigle, NORMAN McWhinney, NATASHA Mieczkowski (*Darryl Hill's niece*), ROXANNE Nagy (*Secretary daughter*), SCOTT Nairn, FRANK & ANNA Nataros (*Jen Saksen's parents*), CHRISTY Nicholas, JACK Nicholas, LAURA Nicholas, MICHAEL Pahnos, GRETA Pickrell, DANIEL Porembka (*foot*), FRANK Porembka, BARBARA Preli (*Diana Lammert's mother*), ADELE Pruitt, ALBERT Saloom, ELIZABETH Sam, CORRY Joseph Sheffler, Father MICHAEL Shuster (*dialysis; Dolly Maruschock's cousin*), SALEMA Slyman, DOUG Small (*Tom & Mary Andrews' nephew-leukemia*), SOFIA Tangalos (*Irene Papas' friend*), ZANA Varner (*Jeanne Anton's daughter*), MARK Yazge.

VOTIVE CANDLES for Health, Welfare and Salvation

<i>Health of wife Betty</i>	<i>Don Kushner</i>
<i>Health of husband Don</i>	<i>Betty Kushner</i>
<i>Health of Fr. John, Juliana & family</i>	<i>The Kushners</i>
<i>Health of Pete & Irene Papas</i>	<i>The Kushners</i>
<i>Health of Nick & Mary Masterson</i>	<i>The Kushners</i>
<i>Health of Salema Slyman</i>	<i>The Kushners</i>
<i>Health of Miriam Yazge</i>	<i>The Kushners</i>
<i>Health of Ron & Joanne Hasnauer</i>	<i>The Kushners</i>
<i>Health of Charlotte Paoleschi</i>	<i>The Kushners</i>
<i>Health & healing of Jamie McHugh</i>	<i>The Kushners</i>
<i>Health of Betty & Don Kushner</i>	<i>Jeanne Anton</i>
<i>Health of daughter Zana</i>	<i>Jeanne Anton</i>
<i>Health and Salvation of Eric & Veronica Fennell</i>	<i>~Jeanne Anton</i>
<i>Health of Don James & Pat Krisner</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Fr. John & family</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Eugene, Denny & Laura</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Dana Rados & Jay Slyman</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of cousins Helen Joseph</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Jamie and Regis McHugh</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of cousins, Al and June Essey</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Michele Murray</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Jeanne Anton</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Pat & Dana Abraham</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Ron & Joanne Hasnauer</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Ron & Sara Plate</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Helen & Frank Jr. Porembka</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Bonnie & Evie Koury</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Mary & Rosemary Drylie</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Libby Sam</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Mary & Joe Gazal</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Norma Nicholas</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Laura Nicholas</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Ida Langer</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Vera Dydiw</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Mary Haiden</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Irene & Pete Papas</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Michaelene & Norman McWhinney</i>	<i>- Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Don & Betty Kushner</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Nick & Mary Masterson</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Miriam Yazge</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Donna & Michael Pahnos</i>	<i>Salema Slyman</i>
<i>Health of Harriet</i>	<i>Rich Mirilovich</i>
<i>Health of daughter Kristen</i>	<i>Mom & Dad Mirilovich</i>
<i>Health of sister Nancy Horvath</i>	<i>Rich & Harriet Mirilovich</i>
<i>Health of Nancy Vickroy</i>	<i>Rich & Harriet Mirilovich</i>
<i>Health of sons Frank Jr., Daniel, David & families -</i>	
	<i>- Helen Porembka</i>
<i>Health of grandchildren: Matthew, Jessica, Daniela, Kenny, Anna, Nathanael, Sarah & great-granddaughter Lillian -</i>	
	<i>- Helen Porembka</i>
<i>Health of nephew George</i>	<i>Helen Porembka</i>

<i>Health of Fr. John & family</i>	<i>Helen Porembka</i>
<i>Special intention</i>	<i>Helen Porembka</i>
<i>Health of mother Helen</i>	<i>Jamie McHugh</i>
<i>Health of Aunt Jeanne Anton</i>	<i>Jamie McHugh</i>
<i>Health of Husband and Children</i>	<i>Jamie McHugh</i>
<i>Health of Ronald Joseph</i>	<i>Jamie McHugh</i>
<i>Health of Salema & Denny Slyman</i>	<i>Jamie McHugh</i>
<i>Health of Dn James, Suzanne, Daniel and Edward ~ Pat Krisner</i>	

VOTIVE CANDLES in Memoriam: "Memory Eternal"

*Memory Eternal, Mother & Grandmother, Mary Volchko -
- Connie Volchko, David, Nicole, Noelle & Brady Byers*

*Memory Eternal, sister & Godmother, Helen Marie Ross
- Connie Volchko, David, Nicole, Noelle & Brady Byers*

Memory Eternal, Dad Miller Abraham – daughter Dana

*In Memory of Sam, Jack, Rosemary, Marian, Evelyn, Margi,
and Eleanor - Salema Slyman*

In Memory Husband Carmen Jeanne Anton

In Memory Granddaughter Lizzy Jeanne Anton

In Memory sister Loretta Jeanne Anton

In memory of Theodore, James and Mary Ann - Dn James and Pat

*In loving Memory of Aunt Eleanor Mansour, all Mansour & Joseph aunts,
dad Henry Joseph, Leddie Anton, Jim & Dolores Albert
- Jamie McHugh*

Eternal Memory, Mom & Dad Mirilovich - Rich & Harriet Mirilovich

Eternal Memory Betty J. Kurtz 1 week ago – Rich & Harriet Mirilovich

Eternal Memory Lois M Burgess Rich & Harriet Mirilovich

Eternal Memory Frank S. Porembka Sr. - Wife Helen

Eternal Memory Kozar and Porembka families - Helen Porembka

God Is With Us:

An Introduction to the Orthodox Christian Faith

St. Michael's Orthodox Church

**1182 Ashland St. (Cedar St. Exit off the Rte. 30 By-Pass)
South Greensburg**

Monday, March 2

6:30 PM - Coffee and Sign-In
7:00 PM - Presentation and Q & A

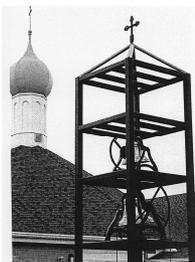
For more information or to let us know you are coming,
call Archpriest John Nosal (Pastor) at (724) 244-1228
or visit www.stmngbg.org

“Food on the Hill” Lunch Ministry

“Food on the Hill” is the name that has been attached to the lunch for those in need that will be prepared and served free of charge on the first Tuesday of each month (beginning in April). Our Men’s Fellowship has decided to take on the work of providing a bit of “daily” bread to those who can benefit from it.

The next “Food on the Hill” lunch is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 3, 2015** from 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

Anyone who would like to support “Food on the Hill” in any capacity you would like, should contact Dan Davis (724-237-2064) or Gust Flizanes (724-863-4443). Please make checks out to “St. Michael’s Church” with “Food on the Hill” on the memo line.



Things coming up soon for which to watch and prepare...

...TONIGHT—Forgiveness Vespers (2/22) to begin Great Lent. It is not simply a beautiful ritual but an opportunity to do some real spiritual work. Easy things avail us little. “First be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift.” (Mt 5:24)

...The Canon of St. Andrew to launch your Lent. (2/23, 24, 26)

...Hearing excerpts from “The Ladder of Divine Ascent” as part of our Wednesday fellowship following Presanctified Liturgy.

...Sunday “traveling” Lenten Vespers throughout the Fast. (Sunday, March 8 Vespers will be at St. George Church, Altoona.)

...Participating in the Monday night “Doctrine” series (begins 3/2).

TODAY’S SERVERS

Ushers – Michele Murray
Alex Simkovich
Bernie Danilchak

Greeters - Lisa Tereshko
Charles Kudlik

Lock-Up - Dan Davis

Attendance Last Sunday - 55

Mortgage Balance - \$284,939.79

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

*Our hosts for today’s
Fellowship Luncheon are:*

Raymounda Chaho

Ida Langer

Violet Kharma

Victor and Mouna Jabbour

Nabil Jabbour

REMEMBER, the *Second Week* on this schedule *May Change*.
ALWAYS USE THE MOST CURRENT BULLETIN!

February 22 through February 28

Sunday, February 22

- 8:30 AM - MATINS
- 9:30 AM - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM - **DIVINE LITURGY**
 - Church School
- 12:00 noon - Prayers for
Victims of Abortion
- 6:00 PM - **GREAT VESPERS**
of Forgiveness Sunday
Great Lent Begins
- **CONFESSIONS follow**

Monday, Feb. 23 - Great Lent Begins

- 6:00 PM - **GREAT CANON**
St. Andrew of Crete
- **CONFESSIONS follow**

Tuesday, February 24

- 6:00 PM - **GREAT CANON**
- **CONFESSIONS follow**

Wednesday, February 25

- 5:30 PM - 9th HOUR
- 6 PM - **PRESANCTIFIED LIT'GY**
 - soup and bread fellowship
*Meditation on reading
from "The Ladder"*
 - Choir Rehearsal follows

Thursday, February 26

- 6:00 PM - **GREAT CANON**
- **CONFESSIONS follow**

Friday, February 27

- 6:00 PM - Lenten Covered Dish
- 7:00 PM - **AKATHIST HYMN**
to the Theotokos
- **CONFESSIONS follow**

Saturday, February 28

- 9:00 AM - **DIVINE LITURGY**
Theodore Saturday
- **CONFESSIONS follow**
- 6:00 PM - **GREAT VESPERS**
- **CONFESSIONS follow**

**DO YOU HAVE A MAILBOX IN
THE CHURCH OFFICE?**

*If you do,
Please, check it regularly.*

March 1 through March 7

Sunday, March 1

- 8:30 AM - **MATINS**
- 9:30 AM - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM - **DIVINE LITURGY**
 - Church School
 - Good Samaritan Team Mtg.
in Library Room
- 4:00 PM - **Sunday of Orthodox**
Vespers at Holy Cross, Mt. Lebanon

Monday, March 2

- 7:00 PM - Introduction to Orthodoxy

Tuesday, March 3

- 12:00 noon - Food on the Hill

Wednesday, March 4

- 5:30 PM - 9th HOUR
- 6 PM - **PRESANCTIFIED LIT'GY**
 - soup and bread fellowship
*Meditation on reading
from "The Ladder"*
 - Choir Rehearsal follows

Friday, March 6

- 6:00 PM - Lenten Covered Dish
- 7:00 PM - **AKATHIST HYMN**
to the Theotokos
- **Confessions follow**

Saturday, March 7 - Souls Saturday

- 9:00 AM - **DIVINE LITURGY**
- **Confessions until 1 PM**
- 6:00 PM - **GREAT VESPERS**
- **Confessions follow**

I.O.C.C.

**SYRIAN RELIEF DINNER
and PRAYER SERVICE**

Sunday, March 29, 2015

(Prayers-4:30 PM; Dinner-5:30 PM)

Holy Cross

Greek Orthodox Church

*123 Gilkeson Road (Mt. Lebanon)
Pittsburgh, PA 15228*

Dinner Donation - \$50.00 / person;
*\$20 children 18 and under;
(children 6 and under free)*

Beloved in the Lord:

Greetings and blessings to you as we enter this most holy season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

During this time of the Great Fast, we once again turn our attention to the Food for Hungry People Program of the Fellowship of St. John the Divine. For more than 40 years, this campaign has had a tremendous impact throughout the world to help alleviate hunger and the numberless tragedies caused by poverty. With the many tragic events in our own country and throughout the world that happen each day, we continue to have a great need for almsgiving every day. As such, this special program of our Archdiocese helps with both large catastrophes or when smaller needs arise in any given year.

St. John Chrysostom, perhaps the greatest preacher in the history of the Church once said, “Although fasting is more difficult than this, nothing is so strong and powerful to extinguish the fire of our sins as almsgiving. It is greater than all other virtues. It places its lovers by the side of the King Himself, and justly. For the effect of fasting is confined to those who fast, and no other is saved thereby. But almsgiving extends to all, embracing the members of Christ, and actions that extend their effects to many are far greater than those which are confined to one.” Through your generosity to the Food for Hungry People Campaign, you embrace the world with the love of Christ, saving yourself as you literally save others.

We urge you, during this season of prayer, self-discipline and fasting, to be very generous in your contribution to this campaign. As we practice the virtues which cleanse our souls, let us not forget or refrain from the “greatest of the virtues.” As important as prayer and fasting are, they are of no avail to us if we fail to give to those in need.

Praying that the Holy Spirit will strengthen us as we embark on our journey to Pascha, we remain,

Your Father in Christ,

**+Metropolitan JOSEPH
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America**

Today all women are invited to come elect our officers for the upcoming year in the multi-purpose room following Divine Liturgy (come right in, our coffee and... will be there).

Volunteers are needed to supply and prepare soup and bread for the Wednesday evenings of Lent. Sign up today in the Fellowship Hall to be a soup and bread volunteer this Lent.

Begin With the End in Mind

The Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom is read during Matins of Holy Pascha.

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in no wise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him have no misgivings, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; he gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

And he shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one he gives, and upon the other he bestows gifts. And he both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen."

On Sunday evening, February 22, in the middle of Vespers, we will be enter into the Great Lent. The lights will be dimmed, the table covers and priestly vestments will be changed from gold to purple and "Lord, have mercy," will be sung in the somber Lenten melody. Then, most unexpectedly, at the very end of Vespers, as we greet each other during the rite of forgiveness, the choir will be heard quietly singing, seemingly in the distance, the Paschal Canon... "It is the day of resurrection..."

How strange it might seem that less than one hour into the Fast we should hear this harbinger of our longing, but there it is... "be illumined, people..."

None of us would begin a journey without knowing our destination. In fact, by definition, to embark on a journey is to begin with a desire to end up in a particular place. And so it is with us Orthodox Christians as we step onto the path of the Fast that will wake us up, open our eyes and fill our ears with the joyous message that our journey leads us into the very Kingdom of God!... "from death unto Life, from earth to heaven, has Christ our God led us..."

For the ascetic six weeks of Lent and in the mystery of Christ's Passion in Holy Week, we walk a road mapped out by Christ in His Church that has the power to transform

St. Michael's Orthodox Church Contact Information

Phone 724-834-1311 Fax 724-834-1912

Email church@stmichaels.comcastbiz.net

Website www.stmgpbj.org

Office Hours Tues & Thurs: 9am to 3pm - Wednesday, 9am to 1pm

Archpriest John Nosal

Home 724-837-5113 Mobile 724-244-1228 E-mail frino@comcast.net

Deacon James Krisner Home 724-832-7864 E-mail dngas@comcast.net

2015 Parish Council

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Your Information

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State & Zip: _____

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Email: _____

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