



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.*

- His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America
- His Grace Bishop THOMAS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Middle Atlantic
- Archpriest John Nosal, Pastor

Sunday, December 1, 2019

To all who are present with us this morning,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Thank you for being here.

*Please join us for "coffee and..."
in the Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy.*

A Video of the Epistle and Gospel Readings and the Sermon is recorded on most Sundays for posting to our website, stmgbg.org.

You May Find the Text of the Divine Liturgy beginning on the bottom of 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 seasonal 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 the members of St. Michael's Orthodox Church is to become completely loving people.

(see Lk 10:27) This will occur by the Grace of God as we strive to live holy lives, using the tools He has given us for this endeavor: prayer, fasting, charitable works, and the constant remembrance of death.

TROPARIA FOR THE RESURRECTION

TONE 7

Arr: Basil Kazan.

Thou didst shat - ter death by Thy Cross; Thou didst
o - pen Pa - ra - dise to the thief; Thou didst
turn the sad - - - ness of the oint - ment bear - ing
wo - men in - to joy, and didst bid Thine A -
pos - tles pro - claim a war - - - ning that
Thou hast ri - sen, O Christ, grant - ing
to the world the great mer - - - cy.

I.O.C.C. SYRIAN CHRISTIAN RELIEF

As the Syrian crisis continues, 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 is a link to International Orthodox Christian Charities ((IOCC) "Response to the Crisis in Syria" page with more information on what you can do to help:

http://www.iocc.org/countries/countries_syria.aspx

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Tone: 7

Eothonon: 2

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

*Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost & Fourteenth Sunday of Luke;
Apostle Andrew, the first called; the Holy Prophet Nahum;
Venerable Philaret the Almsgiver of Amnia; Martyr Ananias the
Persian; Theoklitos, archbishop of Lakedaemonia*

THE EPISTLE READING

Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (2:14-22)

BRETHREN, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to St. Luke (18:35-43)

AT THAT TIME, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Thanksgiving Proclamation, October 3, 1789

by George Washington, President of the United States of America

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor — and *whereas* both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be — That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks — for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation — for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war — for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed — for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted — for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us...

...and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions — to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually — to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed — to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord — To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us — and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

A TAX EFFECTIVE WAY TO DONATE \$ TO CHARITY

After you turn 70 1/2, you can transfer monies directly from your IRA to charity each year. This is called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) which counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) but is not included in your income for tax purposes. This strategy can be particularly helpful now that fewer people itemize their deductions and otherwise wouldn't get a tax break for their charitable gifts. The transfer must be made directly from your IRA to the charity to qualify. For more information on how this may benefit your particular situation, consult with your IRA administrator or tax professional.

If you have a television that works that you'll be recycling,
and/or a counter-top ice-maker, talk to Joe Gazal. He has a friend who can use it/them. (If you have neither but might think those needs a good charitable expenditure, talk to Joe.)

Dear Fr. John & the Faithful of St. Michael's, *Thank you!*

Glory to Jesus Christ! It was a pleasure to be with you on Nov. 4 and to share a few thoughts on "Biblical Meditation." I pray that this Nativity Fast will bring you many blessings! Have a blessed Thanksgiving and a Holy Christmas. — Yours in Christ, Fr. Herman Acker

A NOTE ON THE NATIVITY FAST

On November 15, we began the forty-day NATIVITY FAST in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25. The Nativity Fast is divided into two periods. The first period is November 15 through December 19 when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with katalysis (allowance) for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays. The second period is December 20 through 24 when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with katalysis for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday.

Theme for the June 24-28 2020 Parish Life Conference —

Bible Bowl — The Gospel According to St. John

Oratorical Festival — "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world, through Him, might be saved." — John 3:17

Let us use this theme as a guide for the coming months. Our Monday night Bible Study is intended to do just that. Maybe some of us will be a Bible Bowl Team.

A Sermon for Thanksgiving Day

By Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church.

Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the "one thing needed": Your eternal Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to worship You.

Thank You, O Lord, for this school, where the Name of God is proclaimed.

Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.

Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything.

Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to

celebrate Your miracles.

Lord, it is good to be here! Amen.

CHURCH SCHOOL 'HELP WANTED' –

— Parishioners talented in art, photography, creative writing or poetry to help brainstorm with and coach our children in the 2020 Parish Life Conference (PLC) Creative Arts Festival. Speak with Fotini today.

“Christmas and Cookies” Westmoreland Choral Society

Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 7:00PM

First Presbyterian Church, 300 S. Main St., Greensburg
(Adult-\$15; Student-\$5; tickets can be purchased at the door.)

*(Two of our parishioners, Connie Volchko and
Marsha Smolcic, are Society singers.)*

**Fill the Toys for Tots collections bins with new,
un-gift-wrapped toys for the tots of our community.**



**Peter, Andrew, James and John,
Philip and Bartholomew
Peter, Andrew, James and John,
Philip and Bartholomew**

Thomas, Matthew, another James
Thomas, Matthew, another James,
Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas -

These are the Twelve Apostles named,
These are the Twelve Apostles named
In Matthew's Gospel, chapter 10
In Matthew's Gospel, chapter 10.



**ONE
TUNE
TEACH-
ING**

HIGHLIGHTS of UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY, DECEMBER 1 — **Annual General Parish Meeting** with elections to Parish Council. The meeting will begin *in church* where the election will be held before we head into the Fellowship Hall to complete the rest of our annual business. (*You must be 18 or older to vote.*)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 — Antiochian Village “Giving” Tuesday
go to - <https://avcamp.org> click on - *Donate to AV*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 — 9:30 to 2:30 Advent Mini-Retreat
at St. Michael’s (Men and Women); **Presenters: 3 Shadids** —
Archpriest Donald, Kh. Janet, Priest Christopher

SUNDAY, DEC. 8 — Gift Card Sundays (*Scrip; bring check-book*)

TUESDAY, DEC. 10 — mid-morning— AV Camp Registration Opens

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11 — First Lutheran Luncheon, Greensburg
(Sign up in Fellowship Hall)

SATURDAY, DEC. 14 — Christmas Bake Sale Order Pick Up
between 10AM and 12 Noon.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 — Sarris Candy Order pick-up

MONDAY, JANUARY 6 (EPIPHANY) — House Blessings begin

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11 — Outdoor Blessing of Waters — Twin Lakes

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 — Antiochian Women Annual Holiday Luncheon
Jaffre’s Restaurant, Greensburg; \$25 per person (see Michelle
Gajewski); **Deadline for payment is December 29th.**

FRIDAY, JAN. 17-20 — AV Winter Family Camp

**Secretary Debbie will be in
Mon. & Wed. 9 to 3; Fri 9-12**

**ALWAYS USE THE MOST
CURRENT BULLETIN!**

Sunday, December 1

- 8:45 - ORTHROS
- 9:25 AM - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
 - Church School
 - Parish Meeting
 - begins with elections in church; moves to hall
- 4:00 PM - DIVINE LITURGY of Monday; in Arabic; Prophet Habakkuk
Fr. Meletios Zafaran celebrating

Monday, December 2

- 5:00 PM - NAT. PARAKLESIS
- 6:00 PM - Bible Reading/Study Gospel of St. John
- 7:00 to 9:00 PM - Confessions

Tuesday, December 3

- 6:00 PM - VESP. DIV. LIT'RGY Great Martyr Barbara
- 7:00 to 9:00 PM - Confessions

Wednesday, December 4

- 6:00 PM - NAT. PARAKLESIS

Thursday, December 5

- 6:00 PM - VESP. DIV. LIT'RGY Nicholas of Myra
 - Pasta Dinner follows

Saturday, December 7

- 8:00 AM - NATIVITY PAR'SIS
- 9:30 AM - Mini-Retreat (Shadids)
- 3:00 PM - GREAT VESPER

If you are planning on attending the Advent Mini-Retreat at St. Michael's on Saturday, December 7 (from 9:30 to 2:30) please sign up in the front church entrance or RSVP to Debbie in church office, so that we can have a count for lunches to be served that day.

Thank you for letting us know.

Sunday, December 8

- 8:45 AM - ORTHROS
- 9:25 AM - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
 - Church School
 - Antiochian Women's Mtg
- 4:00 PM - DIVINE LITURGY of Monday; in Arabic; Conception of the Theotokos
Fr. Meletios Zafaran celebrating
- 4:00 PM —

**MALE CHORUS
CONCERT**

St. John the Baptist
Orthodox Church
601 Boone Ave.
Canonsburg, PA

Monday, December 9

- 9:00 AM - NAT. PARAKLESIS
- 6:00 PM - Bible Reading/Study Gospel of St. John
- 7:00 to 9:00 PM - Confessions

Tuesday, December 10

- 9:00 AM - NATIVITY PAR'ESIS
- 6:00 to 8:00 PM - Confessions

Wednesday, December 11

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY Daniel the Stylite
- 7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY Spyridon of Trymithous

Friday, December 13

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY Herman of Alaska

Saturday, December 14

- 9:00 AM - NAT. PARAKLESIS
 - 10:00 AM - 12 - Bake Sale Pick-Up
 - 5:00 PM - GREAT VESPER
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