



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, November 19, 2017

*To all who are present with us this morning,
Welcome! Thank you for being here!*

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

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).



Presentation
of the Mother
of God

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.

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.

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.asp

Sunday, November 19, 2017

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

Tone: 7 **Eothinon:** 2

The Holy Prophet Obadiah; Martyr Barlaam of Antioch; Martyr Azi the wonderworker of Isauria in Asia Minor and 150 soldiers with him; Martyr Agapios of Caesarea in Palestine; Martyr Heliodoros of Magidum in Pamphylia; Venerable Abbot Barlaam of the Kiev Caves.

THE EPISTLE READING

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 (12:16-21)

THE LORD SPOKE THIS PARABLE: “The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” As He said this, Jesus called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Our Annual General Parish Meeting begins with elections on Sunday, December 3

Gratitude Graffiti Wall—What are you grateful for?

The Gratitude Graffiti Wall project is a 30 day (November) practice of purposeful appreciation of one's life thru interactive art. The project is to engage parishioners and visitors to contemplate a source of gratitude in their lives and provide an outlet to express that thought of thankfulness in an open setting. When parishioners and visitors participate they are no longer "spectators" of art, they become fully engaged in creating art that expresses their gratitude.



Washable paint markers will be available close to the interactive art display in the front entrance of the church at the glass windows and door. This accessible outlet acts as a reminder or a "gratitude stop," where anyone walking by can mentally note something they are grateful for or to take it a step further and write on the wall (window) what they are grateful for that day.

Remember St. Michael's

Whether we are conscientious or not regarding "having our business in order" in this world, at some point in time someone will be "settling our affairs." If you are organizing your estate for that day, hopefully many years down the road, please consider including your church in your last will and testament.

	AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
American Red Cross	<i>Saturday, December 9</i>
<i>Together, we can save a life</i>	<i>9:00 AM to 2:00 PM</i>
	<i>St. Michael's multi-purpose room</i>

Have you returned your Pledge Card?

The 2018 Antiochian Women's Post-Holiday Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, January 21**, at Rodney's in North Huntingdon.



For the Benefit of the Ina Abraham Camp Scholarship Fund —

Basic Yoga in the Multi-Purpose Room

Saturday, December 2

Regular Yoga Session — 9:00 AM

Chair Yoga Session — 10:30 AM

Instructor Connie Capar will lead both sessions.



Advent Mini-Retreat

All are invited— Women and Men

“Live the Gospel --- Witness for Christ”

Presenters: Khourieh Janet Shadid
Mrs. Miriam Yazge

Saturday, December 9, 2017

St. Michael’s Fellowship Hall

10:00 am – Coffee and Registration

10:30 am to 3:00 pm (lunch in the middle)

RSVP by December 8th – (724) 834-1311

(leave a message with church office or sign up in Fellowship Hall)

Sponsored by St. Michael’s Antiochian Women—No charge



November 19 is IOCC Sunday (iocc.org)

To contribute to disaster relief around the world and to have your donation dollars increased sevenfold, visit:

<https://www.iocc.org/ways-to-give>

November 21, 2017

Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple

**Beloved brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, God-fearing Monastics,
and all my Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ our True God:**

May God be with you all!

I greet you on this most joyous occasion, one of the twelve major church feasts numbered among those that affect our salvation. The Most Holy Theotokos' entry into the temple mirrors our own entrance into the heavenly kingdom. As the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, prepared the holy Virgin, so too we must prepare for our entrance into the Kingdom of God.

Upon arriving at the temple, the 3-year-old infant Mary had to make an effort to ascend 15 high steps in order to enter the temple. So should we, in order to enter the Heavenly Realm, make the effort to ascend the ladder of virtues, to labor at fasting and prayer. The Holy Virgin went up the steps by herself, without any help from others, but with the miraculous help of God. So should we, in our attempt to attain the Heavenly Realm, make the effort ourselves, but constantly asking God for help along the journey.

Saint Germanus reminds us concerning this feast, "Today she who will receive the Holy of Holies, that is the Christ, through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit is, through an even greater sanctification, placed in the Holy of Holies with holiness and majesty."

Today we magnify the Most Holy Theotokos and cry out to her, "Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation." Most Holy Theotokos save us!

Yours in Christ,

***Rt. Rev. Bishop THOMAS (Joseph) Auxiliary Bishop,
Diocese of Oakland, Charleston, and the Mid-Atlantic***

***On Sunday, December 3, we will call to order our
annual General Parish Meeting and conduct the
elections for Parish Council 2018.***

We are making a special appeal this year for all eligible parishioners to consider service on the Parish Council. The upcoming year will not be an easy one as we will be working with a budget deficit and a heavy dose of infrastructure upgrades.

Please speak with Nominating Committee members Don Yoder or Fr. John if you have questions about some details of what the coming year may hold for our Council.

While the meeting will begin on December 3, the bulk of the meeting will take place some time in January or early February so that we may have a full report on Fiscal Year 2017 and a budget to be approved for 2018.

Please mark your calendars for December 3's election.

Prayer Arise!

*Begin your
with*



*Holiday Season
joy!*

**The Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional
Men's Acapella Liturgical and Folk Choir**
in prayer and in concert

Saturday, December 9, 2017

St John the Divine Orthodox Church

42 McKee Avenue, Monessen, PA

Great Vespers at 5:00 PM

followed by "Make Ready Oh Cave!" ~

~ a joyful presentation celebrating the Nativity of Christ
from many various traditions.

Admission is free.

*(There will be a free-will offering taken at the end of the concert to
benefit Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh.)*

Antiochian Village Camp Dates to Note —

- *Winter Family Camp Registration opened this week.*
- *Winter Camp Registration opened this week.*
- *Summer Camp Registration opens the week of Dec. 11-15.*
- *Family Camp Registration opens the week of Jan. 8-12.*

Sarris Candy Christmas Fundraiser

to benefit the Church School Program

Orders and Payment Due: TODAY! Sunday, November 19th

Delivery: Sunday, December 17th

*Order forms available in the church office,
Fellowship Hall or in church hallway.*

Questions? Contact Keira Sisley -
(724) 331-5947

or Fotini Wetzel - (724) 757-6929



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

Secretary Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

November 19 thru November 25

Sunday, Nov. 19 (fish, oil, wine okay)

- 8:45 AM - MATINS
 - 9:30 AM - Choir Rehearsal
 - 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
 - Church School
 - Parents' with Fr. John
- (get coffee, return to church vestibule)
- 12:30 PM - Abortion Prayers

Monday, Nov. 20 (fish, oil, wine okay)

- 8:00 AM - Baking Spinach Pies
- 6:00 PM - VESP. DIV. LIT'RGY
for the Great Feast of the
Presentation of the
Theotokos in the Temple

Tuesday, Nov. 21 (fish, oil, wine okay)

- 6:30 PM Executive Board Meeting
- 7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, November 23 (fast)

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
Thanksgiving

Saturday, Nov. 25 (fish, oil, wine okay)

- 8 AM - NATIVITY PARAKLESIS
- 9:00 AM - Antiochian MEN Meeting
at Bean & Baquette
- 5:15 PM - Vespers Chant Practice
- 6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS

November 26 thru December 2nd

Sunday, Nov. 26 (fish, oil, wine okay)

- 8:45 AM - MATINS
- 9:30 AM - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
 - MEM-Ina Abraham, 1 year
 - Antiochian Women's Meeting

Fr. John will be out of town from
Monday, November 27 through
Wednesday, November 29.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 (fish, oil, wine okay)

- 8:00 AM - Baking Spanakopita

Thursday, Nov. 30 (fish, oil, wine okay)

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY

Saturday, Dec. 2 (fish, oil, wine okay)

- 8 AM NATIVITY PARAKLESIS

The following two sessions benefit
The Ina Abraham Antiochian
Village Camp Scholarship Fund —

- 9:00 AM - Basic Yoga
- 10:30 AM - Chair Yoga
- 5:15 PM - Vespers Chant Practice
- 6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS

Come, begin your Thanksgiving
celebration with The Holy Eucharist
this Thursday morning, Nov. 23.

2017 Christmas Creche Show



All are invited free of charge!
Refreshments and Children's Activities

First United Methodist Church
15 East Second Street
Greensburg, PA

Thursday, Nov. 30, 4 pm to 8 pm

Friday, Dec. 1, 4 pm to 8 pm

Saturday, Dec. 2, 11 pm to 3 pm

FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

We still need parishioners to sign up for a date on the golden-rod *Fellowship Hour Schedule* which is located on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

We provide the coffee and you provide the fruit, nuts, donuts, bagels... or whatever you choose to share with the parish fami-ly after Divine Liturgy. Thank you.