

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, July 8, 2018

*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).



Proposed statement of the

Mission of Our Church (members)

The mission of the members of St Michael's Orthodox Church is to become completely loving people. (Luke 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.

TONE 5

Arr: Basil Kazan.

Let us be - lie - - - vers praise and wor -

ship the Word, co - e - ter - - - nal with the Fa -

ther and the Spi - rit, born of the Vir - gin for

our sal - va - tion; for He took plea - sure in as - cend -

ing the Cross in the flesh, to suf - fer death, and to raise

the dead by His glo - ri - ous Re - sur - rec - tion.

IOCC SYRIAN RELIEF UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Syrian Relief Dinner back on March 4. *Net proceeds of \$37,129 were sent to IOCC which mean the Syrian people received \$260,000 in leveraged aid through this effort.*

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

Sunday, July 8, 2018

Tone: 5 Eothinon: 6

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

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost and Sixth Sunday of Matthew. Great-martyr Procopius of Caesarea in Palestine New-martyrs Theophanes and Anastasios of Constantinople; Venerable Theophilus the myrrh-streaming of St. Basil Kelli on Athos; Procopius of Ustug, fool-for-Christ.

THE EPISTLE READING

St. Paul to the Romans (12:6-14)

BRETHREN, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to St. Matthew (9:1-8)

AT THAT TIME, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — He then said to the paralytic — "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

**"The Mission
of St Michael's Orthodox Church members
is to become completely *loving* people."**

*"Jesus answered and said, 'You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"* - Luke 10:27

"Loving" is a word that is just as startlingly impossible for us to wrestle with as was the "completely" before it. While the lawyer quoting the Law in St. Luke's Gospel account is able to quote the letter of the law and the primacy of the commandments to love God and neighbor, he, like most of us, falls woefully short of truly comprehending, let alone living, those commandments. Yet we may discover that the simplicity of the reality is as stark as our inability to live it.

Without using any of the words we might expect regarding love, in this Bulletin I'll use just one — BIG. Starting from the God end of things, we might say that God is BIG. He is BIGger than anything imaginable. He is BIGger than anything unimaginable. His BIGness 'beyond measure' makes perfectly good sense as God 'exists,' God IS, before anything else IS. Anything that He creates is within Him Who occupies and fills every corner of infinite space and time, even before space and time exist, and is, therefore, 'smaller' than Him. (All these words are totally inadequate to this little writing about God, as are any other of the representational tools to which we humans have access.)

So maybe the 'loving' we're called to become in our mission statement might well be described in the words of a hymn that many of us learned as children — "He's got the whole world in His hands. He's got the whole, wide world, in His hands. He's got the whole world in His hands. He's got the whole world in His hands." And as He made the whole thing, which means everything that exists, His BIGness *is* His love and Love is all that He is, as revealed in the pre-eternal Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As no thing does not fit in His hands, as no thing is outside of His hands, then His BIGness is the love that embraces everyone and everything all the time, even when some of the everyones, made to be BIG like Him, decide to play small.

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When you're grocery shopping, you can make an immediate, momentum building **donation to our September Mediterranean Buffet** by picking up and delivering to the church any of the following items:

- **Bottled water (16 oz.)**
- **Sugar (4 lb. bags)**
- ***Robin Hood* Flour (5 lb. bags)**
- **Vegetable oil**
- **Lemon Juice**

>>>=====> “Playing small” could be a definition of what it means to be fallen and sinful, a status we arrived at in the Fall of Mankind in the Garden of Eden. When we play small we abandon the BIGness endowed by God to us in our creation. We bury our BIGness, a formidable accomplishment, under an ever-thickening, yet illusory, mantle of smallness, exchanging the BIGness in us for our own self-designed, scaled down version of humanity. We no longer see ourselves as BIG (Godlike/loving), but small (petty, self-centered, hateful, legends in our own minds, abandoned, fending for ourselves at each others’ expense).

So, how do we regain our BIGness? How do we fix ourselves and become completely loving people? We don’t. We can’t. We don’t need to. Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, the BIG God and the BIG Man has done that for us. He has dug into the depths of our tiny, fallen souls, and restored the BIGness that was lying hidden and dormant under the façade and lie of smallness.

Yes, that is BIG of Him — to restore in us who follow Him, His BIGness which He gave to us in our creation and He now restores in us through the waters of the baptismal font and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. But we have a dilemma. Our fear that we really *are* small continues to nag and haunt us and tempts us to fall back into the lie that we are small.

We need not worry. God continues to give us every opportunity to once again experience His BIGness in ourselves — to become, by His Grace — as BIG as He is. He does this by including in the flow of life challenges that give us opportunities to exercise our BIGness against our seeming smallness. Our egos must be wrestled with. Our self-interest must be battled. Our pride must be brought to its knees. And this is just the kind of warfare we’re built for. Let us give Him a BIG “Thank You” and promise to fight to let His BIGness be known wherever we go through our BIGness.

God made us **BIG**.

We forgot and got small.

Get **BIG** Again!

(How? We’ll take a look at that in next week’s Bulletin.)

Have you and your family taken a turn to provide refreshments for Fellowship Hour on Sunday?

- ◆ Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ We provide the coffee, you provide fruit, nuts, pastry, etc.

THANK YOU.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF REMINDERS, DATES AND EVENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 15 - Short Choir Rehearsal after Divine Liturgy.

SUNDAY, JULY 22 - "Shop with Scrip" Order Due.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7 - 12:00 PM - Food on the Hill

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

Pirates vs. Cubs at PNC Park

7:05 PM — \$30 (includes a \$10 meal ticket)

Get tickets from Michelle Gajewski and sign up in Fellowship Hall. **Payment is due July 15th.**



It is time to collect payment for your Pirate tickets. Please see me this Sunday or next to make your payment of \$30 per ticket. Make checks out to St. Michael's Antiochian Women. You may also pay by cash. We need to have at least 15 to get this group rate. We are very close to that number. Invite your friends and relatives to come along. We do not provide transportation. I'm sure the Pirates will start improving soon! After the All-Star break things will be shaping up better. (I hope!) So, fans, I would like you to contact me if you CANNOT make that game. If I do not hear back I will assume you are coming and will be seeing you in church about this game. Stay Cool! - Michelle G.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19



St. Michael's Family Picnic

Travel to Twin Lakes Park following Divine Liturgy.
Please sign up at our main church entrance.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

St. Michael's Mediterranean Buffet (11am to 4pm)

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14-17

Antiochian Village Adult Camp

Register online: <https://avcamp.org/other-programs/adult-camp/>

If you are going to buy or sell the TICKETS for the Mediterranean Buffet that you received in the mail, sooner than later will work better for our event cash flow. Thank you.

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

Secretary Debbie will be in the office this week from 9-3 on Mon., Wed., & Fri.

July 8 thru July 14

Sunday, July 8

- 8:45 AM - ORTHROS
- 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY

Monday, July 9

Fr. John will be out of town from Sunday afternoon through late, late Friday night.

Tuesday, July 10

- 9:00 AM - Stewardship Meeting
- 6:30 PM - SMMBuffet Planning Committee Meeting

Friday, July 13

- 9:00 AM - Ladies Making Kibbee

Saturday, July 14

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
St. Veronica, woman with the issue of blood
 - 6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS
-

July 15 thru July 21

Sunday, July 15

- 8:45 AM - ORTHROS
- 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
 - Choir Rehearsal follows
 - maybe Abortion Prayers

Monday, July 16

Fr. John will be out of town from Monday through Friday afternoon, commuting to the Clergy Symposium at Antiochian Village.

Saturday, July 21

- 6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS
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In case it is not obvious, **you can exercise your BIGness** (see previous pages) by signing up today to bring something (especially yourself) to our Church Picnic at Twin Lakes on Sunday, August 19.