

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 30, 2018

To all who are present with us this morning,

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

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 born!” and responding, “Glorify Him!”

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.**

TONE 6

Arr: Basil Kazan.

When Ma - ry stood at Thy grave look - ing for Thy sa - cred Bo -
dy, an - gel - ic pow'rs shone a - bove Thy re - vered tomb,
and the sol - diers who were to keep guard be -
came as dead men. Thou led Ha - des cap - tive and was not
temp - ted there - by; Thou didst meet the Vir -
gin and didst give Life to the world; O Thou Who art
ri - sen from the dead, O Lord glo - ry to Thee.

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 30, 2018

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

Tone: 6 *Eothinon:* 9

After-feast of & Sunday after the Nativity of Christ; Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King, and James the brother of the Lord.

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE READING

St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (1:11-19)

BRETHREN, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to St. Matthew(2:13-23)

WHEN THE WISE MEN HAD DEPARTED, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

December 27, 2018

Dearly beloved in Christ,

I greet you in anticipation of the great feasts of the Lord Jesus Christ - the Circumcision of our Lord and the Holy Theophany. While the Circumcision is situated eight days after the Nativity and Holy Theophany concludes the festive 12 days of Nativity, both of these feasts are related to each other, and contain within them certain spiritual elements of the great feast of the Lord's Nativity.

The feasts reveal the mysteries of the divine condescension. The Lord Christ, by taking on human flesh, redeemed our nature by assuming it for Himself. The feasts fulfill the law of God as Saint Epiphanius teaches: that the circumcision of the flesh prepared and served man until Baptism, which is the great circumcision of the heart, because through His Baptism we are released from sins and are sealed with the name of God. The sealing with the name of God is a recognition that we belong to Christ.

While the circumcision of the flesh set the Israelites apart from the Gentiles as the chosen people of God according to the Old Law, holy baptism separates believers from unbelievers and makes the believer a member of the risen Body of Christ. In this way, spiritual death is abolished and there is assurance of the resurrection of the dead.

The holy fathers relate that the Old Testament circumcision is internal and spiritual - a communion of man with God and an effort to maintain this communion. On this subject Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos teaches that in circumcision men become God's chosen people, and through holy baptism, men become children of God, sons by grace, and vanquish death.

The descent of the Only-begotten Son seen in the condescension of Christ in His Circumcision, and His Baptism, becomes our ascent. It is through His lowering that we rise above our sins, above our passions, and above death. For to Him, Christ our God, belong honor and glory and worship, together with unoriginate Father, and the all-holy and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to the endless ages. Amen.

May God grant you blessed feasts of the Circumcision of our Lord, and His Holy Theophany. I pray that the New Year is a happy and healthy one for you and your family.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop THOMAS

HIGHLIGHTS of UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, EPIPHANY - Outdoor ***Blessing of the Waters***
at Twin Lakes follows Divine Liturgy
Blessings begin - ***House Blessings 2019: The "Go to God" Tour***

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 - ***"Shop with Scrip"*** Order Due
- 12:00pm ***Ladies' Brunch*** at Waterworks in
South Greensburg. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.
Cost is approximately \$20 paid at time of event.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18-21 - ***Winter Family Camp***
at Antiochian Village

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29 - 12:00 PM - ***Food on the Hill***
(NOTE the shift from the 1st to the last Tuesday.)

The 2019 Antiochian Women's Post-Holiday Brunch

**Sunday, January 13th at 12:00 noon
The Waterworks in South Greensburg.**

The cost will be approximately \$20.
(We will pay individually on the day of the brunch.)



Please sign up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

HAPPY and HOLY New Year to everyone. The year begins with the celebration of the Great Feast of Theophany (Epiphany) which guides us into the cosmic mystery of the Uncreated God Who is the Maker of all things visible and invisible. This is the big reality that sets us apart from most spiritual paths. Our God is the maker of everything, He Himself being unmade. The notion at God makes everything from nothing is perfectly startling. But that's what we claim God has revealed to us. As beings that are capable of pondering such a thing, it is important that we do just that. We Orthodox Christians claim to have the fullness of Truth about everything. To make such a claim and care nothing about what it means is to show ourselves to be mighty unfortunate and deeply shallow people

So the seasonal challenge will be to try and cultivate growth in all of us regarding our "wonder-level." That's what house-blessing season will be about. Think about these things before Fr. John visits and blesses your house.

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

*Debbie will be in the office
on Thurs. (9-2) & Fri. (9-3).*

December 30 thru January 5

Sunday, Dec. 30 (*wine & oil ok*)

- 8:45 AM - ORTHROS
- 9:30 - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
- NO Church School
- Antiochian Women meeting

Monday, December 31

- 6:00 PM - VESPERAL DIVINE
LITURGY of Basil the Great
St. Basil of Caesarea
Circumcision of Our Lord
The New Year



Wednesday, January 2

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
Seraphim of Sarov
Juliana of Lazrevsk

Thursday, January 3

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
Genevieve of Paris

Friday, January 4

- 9:00 AM - ROYAL HOURS and
TYPIKA of Holy Theophany

Saturday, January 5

- 9:30 AM - Budget Committee Mtg
- 6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS
for the Feast of Epiphany

January 6 thru January 12

Sunday, Jan. 6 - Holy Theophany

- 8:45 AM - FESTAL ORTHROS
- 9:30 - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
- Church School
- OUTDOOR BLESSING
of the Waters at Twin Lakes

Tuesday, January 8

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
Atticus and Cyrus

Thursday, January 10

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
Gregory of Nyssa

Saturday, January 12

- 6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS

PLEASE INFORM THE CHURCH

OFFICE if your child will be attending Antiochian Village this Summer. Just call and leave a message. (724-834-1311)

OLD NAVY REBATES 14%
to Churches through the
SCRIP PROGRAM

Next Date for orders —
January 13

**Our 2019 Parish
Council and Officers**
will be "installed"
on January 6.

Julia Ritter, *Chairman*
Don Yoder, *Vice-Chairman*
Christian Sam, *Treasurer*
Jeff Curry, *Asst. Treasurer*
Kh. Melanie Bell - *Recording Sec'y*
Jillian Crowe - *Corresponding Sec'y*