

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, February 3, 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.*

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.

TONE 3

Arr: Basil Kazan.

Let the hea - vens re-joice and the earth be glad;
For the Lord hath done a migh-ty act with His own arm;
He hath tram-pled down death by death, and be - came the first
born from the dead; He hath de - liv - ered us from the
depths of Ha - des, gran - ting 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.aspx

Sunday, February 3, 2019

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

Tone: 3 **Eothinon:** 3

*Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost and Sixteenth Sunday of Matthew;
Synaxis of Holy and Righteous Simeon the God-receiver and Anna
the Prophetess.*

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE READING

A Reading of St. Paul to the Corinthians (2Cor 6:1-10)

BRETHREN, working together with Him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to St. Matthew (25:14-30)

THE LORD SPOKE THIS PARABLE: A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying: "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying: "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying: "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not

sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.” As Jesus said these things He cried out: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

The Fellowship Hour schedule has recently been updated and a new (*lilac*) schedule is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. The following Sundays are still available, if you would like to sign up for Fellowship Hour:

July 7
August 4
August 18

If interested, please contact Barli Ross
at (410) 924-6284 (text preferred).

One Saturday a Month (in this month, February 23)

In the midst of this Great Feast of the Meeting of the Christ Child with the old prophet and priest, Symeon, in the Temple, one thing we might notice is how disinterested we are in such a meeting for ourselves. (*Check out the italicized quote in Bishop Thomas' Festal greeting on the next page.*) This is not so much a description of our personal shortcomings as it is of a cultural characteristic. *We really do believe that **this material world**, created good by the Good God and now fallen and in despair because of our wandering astray and missing the point of it all is the end purpose of our lives.* So we do our doggone best to use it to make us happy. How's that working out for us? Not very well, I think. Just look around — isolation and loneliness, gender confusion, sexual depravity, abortion (even infanticide), pornography, infidelity and divorce, broken and alternative families, fear, terrorism, drugs and alcohol abuse, an opioid epidemic (wreaking misery and accidental death), suicide, mental illness, mass murder, etc.. And when the experts ask the question 'why,' we are unable to see or speak of the obvious answer because the very same culture that has produced such madness has made it taboo to suggest that we're responsible and that our only hope is in God. Plus, we're great at ignoring this reality because it's just too terrible to look at. Ahhh, what to do?

Well, a meager beginning would be to struggle to stop ignoring the situation and begin to talk about it. So, we're going to offer an opportunity for such interaction on each Saturday evening before the last Sunday of the month. It doesn't have an official name yet, but after Vespers on that Saturday of the month we will be attempting to create a forum to get together and try and make sense of where we are and what we might do about it. We'll eat a little. Talk a little. Give our children an opportunity to play a little. And see what happens.

If you have ideas for the next Saturday get together on February 23,
talk to Fr. John (724) 244-1228.

HAS ANYTHING ABOUT YOU CHANGED?

If your *address, telephone #, mailing address or other information* about you has changed, please contact the Church Office, so that your information records may be updated.
Thank you.

February 2, 2019

The Meeting of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

Beloved in Christ,

Forty days after His birth in the flesh, Christ was presented at the Temple in accordance with the legal prescription of the Mosaic law that required a purification of the child and mother after birth. Yet, this was not a purification in the strict sense since neither Child nor mother were in need of cleansing. And because there in the Temple He was received by persons moved by the Spirit, and especially because Symeon took Him into his arms, this feast is also called a Meeting. The title “meeting” provides a clue as to the feast’s spiritual significance. In one of the canons of the After-feast of Theophany it is written, “The forerunner teaches that it is not possible to loose the sandals, the bond between the Word and us, of Him Who delivers mortals from deception.”

The bond between the Word of God and us was forged in the Incarnation and strengthened through each and every blessed event of His human life. In His obedience to the Mosaic law, He destroys the disobedience of the first Adam, thus making a path forged in obedience back to the Father’s house. This is precisely why the feast is called the Meeting of the Lord rather than the purification or presentation. What takes place at this blessed event is the culmination of the Old Testament as the New Covenant irrevocably binds us to Christ Himself.

As is true in all things concerning the Divine Economy, the acts of the Almighty must be met with a corresponding human response on our part. For that, we need only look to Saints Symeon and Anna. As Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos writes, “*According to Saint Athanasios the Great, it is our task to liken ourselves to righteous Symeon and the Prophetess Anna. We too must meet Christ with wisdom, purity, guilelessness, forgiveness, and in general with love for God and mankind. No one can meet Christ, the true life, in any other way. Then the feast of the Meeting of Christ also becomes a feast of the meeting of every believer.*” (The Feasts of the Lord, pp. 93-94).

May the Thrice Holy God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — illumine you and keep you firmly in the love of Christ!

Yours in Christ,

+ **Bp. Thomas**

+Bishop THOMAS

HIGHLIGHTS of UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 — TODAY Shop with Scrip Order Date

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 — Glad Tidings Spaghetti Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 — First Lutheran Luncheon
Greensburg; sign up in Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, FEB 15, TO MONDAY, FEB 18 — Winter Camp at
Antiochian Village (grades 7-12)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 — American Red Cross Blood Drive
9:00 am to 2:30 pm
— St. Michael's post-Vespers get together

SATURDAY, MARCH 2 — Wayne Macuga Dance Combo
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm to benefit the General Fund

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, TO SUNDAY, MAR 31 — Antiochian Women's
Lenten Retreat at Antiochian Village

FRIDAY, MAY 24, TO MONDAY, MAY 27 — Family Camp at
Antiochian Village
(*Space is limited. Registration is open now.*)

TUESDAY, JUNE 4 — Braves vs. Pirates

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, TO SUNDAY, JUNE 30 —
— Parish Life Conference at Antiochian Village

MONDAY, JULY 22, TO SUNDAY, JULY 28 —
— Archdiocese Convention, Grand Rapids, MI

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

*Debbie will be in the office
on M, W & F; 9 to 3.*

February 3 thru February 9

Sunday, February 3

- 8:45 AM - ORTHROS
- 9:30 AM - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
- Church School

Thursday, February 7

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
Parthenios of Lampsakos
- 7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 8

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
Theodore the Commander

Saturday, February 9

- 6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS

Contribution Statements for
2018 were mailed to all
parishioners this past week.
If you have not received
yours, please contact the
office at (724) 834-1311.

Church Envelopes for 2019
were also mailed to all
parishioners at the end of
December, but we have
learned that some never
received them.

If you have not received
your envelopes, please
contact the office and you
will be given a new box for
2019.

Thank you.

February 10 thru February 16

Sunday, February 10

- 8:45 AM - ORTHROS
- 9:30 AM - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
- Church School Talent Show
and Spaghetti Luncheon

Wednesday, February 13

- 12:00 PM - First Lutheran
Feed the Hungry Luncheon

Thursday, February 14

- 7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 16

- **NO** Vespers tonight



**Soup Sampling
to Benefit IOCC**

(International Orthodox
Christian Charities)

**Saturday, February 9, 10, 11
to 2**

Experience Tastes from
around the world!

\$10 - 5 soup sampler
\$10 per quart of your favorite

**Holy Cross
Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Rd., Pgh**

Register —
iocc.org/Pittsburgh

Preorder —
Marianne (412) 668-0420
marianne.carmack@gmail.com