



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, August 25, 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 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.

TONE 1

Arr: Basil Kazan.

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the sol - diers were
guard - ing Thy most pure Bod - y, Thou didst a -
rise on the third day, O Sav - ior, grant - ing
life to the world; for which cause the heav - en - ly
pow'rs cried a - loud un - to Thee, O Giv - er of
Life: Glo - ry to Thy Re - sur - rec - tion, O Christ;
Glo - ry to Thy King - dom; Glo - ry to Thy Prov - i - dence,
O Thou Who a - lone art the Lov - er of man - kind!

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, August 25, 2019

Tone: 1 Eothinon: 10

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost & Tenth Sunday of Matthew. Return of the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew; Holy Apostle Titus of the Seventy; Archbishops Menas, Epiphanius, Gennadios and John of Constantinople.

Greeting: Christ is in our midst!

Response: He is and shall be!

THE EPISTLE READING

St. Paul to the Corinthians (4:9-16)

BRETHREN, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill clad and buffeted and homeless; and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to St. Matthew (17:14-23)

AT THAT TIME, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Thy disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" Jesus said to them, "Because you have no faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were traveling together through Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will rise on the third day."

All Day (9/8) at the Buffet

Dear parishioners and friends,

Our count-down to Buffet is at “T-2 weeks” and counting (there is no pause button for this launch). It is so important that we have as accurate a picture of *who* will be *where* on Buffet Day.

Please, please, please... if you have not yet placed your name on the Volunteer Roster, do so *As Soon As Possible!*

A sign-up board is in the main entrance vestibule of the church for you to commit yourself to max effort. Let’s all give all we can (and then some) to the success of our Buffet Day!

DOWN TO EARTH TEAM Reminder — Buffet guests are coming! Let us make our grounds as beautiful as possible for them (and for us all). Thank you!

Four Ways to Begin Preparing for the Buffet:

- 1) ***Donate*** cases of 1) **16 OZ. BOTTLED WATER**
and 2) **PAPER TOWELS** of any brand.
- 2) ***We ask that as a volunteer you be very flexible.*** There are “fun” jobs to be done and there are others that may be less enjoyable ways to work at the Buffet. But all the work is important and needs to be accomplished. So if you come expecting to be on the line dishing food and you’re asked to take out trash or unclog a toilet, we thank you in advance for your kind smile and “will-do” attitude.
- 3) ***Please return your Buffet Tickets sales as soon as you can.***
- 4) ***On Buffet Day, park your car “off-site” (not on our parking lot).***

*Our motto — “All Day at the Buffet”
Our prayer — “God bless our buffet.”*

REGARDING “THE WORD” Magazine...

In order to update their subscription database, the Archdiocese Registrar has asked that we notify all parishioners that...

...YOU MUST RESUBSCRIBE by submitting a new application to “The Word,” if you want to continue receiving it.

The Archdiocesan Registrar has provided a link to the new subscription form for THE WORD publication, so that you can complete it online:

<https://forms.gle/Kt7MRGZKH2CmNbAWA>

Please note that if you are unable to complete the form online, there are (green) copies at the entrance to the church for you to complete, return to the office and we can submit them for you.

Any questions, please call the office. Thank you for your cooperation with this Archdiocesan request.

THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS Celebrated on Sunday, September 8

The **Nativity of the Theotokos** is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on September 8. (For churches still using the old Julian Calendar - for liturgical purposes - September 8 falls on September 21 of the Gregorian Calendar. In other words, "Old Calendar" Churches, such as the Russian Orthodox Church, still celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos on the 8th, but the day is actually the 21st according to the everyday calendar that is used in society at large).

The Holy Virgin and Theotokos Mary was born to elderly and previously barren parents by the names of Joachim and Anna, in answer to their prayers. Orthodox Christians do not hold to the Roman Catholic doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, in which it is supposed that Mary was preserved from the ancestral sin that befalls us all as descendants of Adam and Eve, in anticipation of her giving birth to the sinless Christ. The Orthodox believe that Mary indeed received the ancestral sin, having been conceived in the normal way of humanity, and thus needed salvation like all mankind. Orthodox thought does vary on whether Mary actually ever sinned, though there is general agreement that she was cleansed from sin at the Annunciation.

(continued next week)

HERE'S TO PARISH COUNCILS

(and other such groups of humans)

Last Tuesday was the ***third Tuesday of the month***. To most of us, a phrase like that means very little. To a small cadre of brave souls across the country, even around the world, ‘third Tuesday of the month’ and all the other variations on that theme, ie. ‘first Monday’ or ‘last Wednesday,’ means that it’s time to go to the monthly Parish Council Meeting. While many of us are running the kids to some school or athletic event, picking up a few items at the grocery store, getting some exercise at the gym, cutting the grass, or peacefully relaxing or getting some work done at home, the twelve elected members and ad hoc ministry team leaders gather together to do the ordinary, day-to-day business of our church.

Did I say “ordinary”? I guess I did. And that’s about the level of regard we have for Parish Council work when we are not the ones headed into the meeting room. As with most things in our lives, “out of sight — out of mind” often applies. However, for those of us who come to the monthly synaxis (*a church word for ‘gathering’ or ‘coming together’*), our experience will be one that is unique to church leadership and, quite frankly, one that will at times include boredom, frustration, misunderstanding, anger, hurt feelings and the sense that too little is being accomplished, often in a way too disorganized or hit-or-miss fashion.

While we may observe the paragraph above to hold some truth, which at times accounts for the reluctance of many to offer their time and energy for Parish Council service, let us be sure to likewise recognize the other side of this meeting coin. For if the Church is in truth the Body of Christ, and we its members, then the work being done by our Parish Councils is *divine* work. No kidding. Mystical work — as in our not easily recognizing and understanding the depth and importance of our endeavors.

It is unimaginably hard for us to realize that the work our Parish Council members agree to take on is holy work. It is the administration of the household of God for the salvation of the members of our church, Christ’s Church, here at St. Michael’s in Greensburg. So the next time you are speaking with someone from the Council or are yourself preparing for the work you do as a Parish Council Member, do your best to remember that the effort you put forth is indispensable and appreciated when we take the time to pay attention to more than the surface of the task at hand.

Thank you, Parish Council Members, for your courage, generosity, open-heartedness, forgiveness, honesty and willingness to participate in the satisfying, essential and sometime difficult work of guiding our church in the *extraordinary*, day-to-day business of our church.

Our Annual General Parish Meeting with Council Elections
will be convened on Sunday, December 1.

WHAT DOES HOLY WORK TEACH US?

In the previous page's *articlette*, the phrases "divine work" and "holy work" are used. The usage together of the words "holy" and "work" is in the title of our worship, the Divine Liturgy, which literally means "Holy Work (of the people)" Foundationally, all of our work in the church is holy — not of this world. Sometimes we recognize, in sight, smell, taste, touch and sound, the beauty of our divine efforts, especially in our worship. At other times, the work we may be doing for our church, like cleaning toilets, and scrubbing floors, may be less recognizable as holy, and yet, it is no less that.

In each moment of our life's activity, we usually find ourselves happy and thankful with what we're doing or disturbed, upset and dissatisfied. (Some things fall in the middle, but they are not our concern right now.) For the former, we thank God and are grateful. For the latter, we moan, groan and complain about how those troublesome things should not be happening; how we don't deserve them and how things should be different than they are.

It is in the distasteful people, places, things and circumstances that our holiest work is to be done. When we get what we want we are happy thanks-givers. That is as it should be. When we don't get what we want or we get what we don't want, we tell anyone who will listen about how wrong things are and even decide that we will discontinue our work in that arena. How upside down we have it. Our spiritual growth comes not from getting what we want, but in our growing to include as God's providence, all those things which will work on our personal, egoic perspective and really struggle to *see God's hand in absolutely everything*.

If we strive to see God working in *absolutely everything*, then we will discover the opportunity for spiritual growth — going to God, loving with all our heart — most profoundly in the aspects of life that we would rather avoid. Our growth can be described in many ways, but for Bulletin purposes we will consider these five different ways of anticipating that God will work in our lives through the unfolding of Life. Each of these five will be considered in particular in subsequent Sunday Bulletins —

- 1) Steadfastness
- 2) Clear seeing
- 3) Experiencing emotional distress
- 4) Attending to this very moment
- 5) No big deal

The holy work we do in church, worshipping God in the Divine Liturgy, is to be like a fire that spreads though every corner of our life, meaningful and menial (it's all meaningful), devouring that which stands between us and Him and lifting us like sweet-smelling incense into the heavenly realms.

Next Week — Steadfastness

HIGHLIGHTS of UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 — 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm - Food on the Hill

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 — ***9z-3p***; Finish up inside/outside Buffet set-up

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 (*Great Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos*)

- St. Michael's Mediterranean Buffet (*only 2 weeks away*)

SAT., SEPT. 14 — 9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross

10:30 AM - Post-Buffer Restoration Day

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 - Hike #5; RSVP Petros Papas; meet in parking lot at 8:00AM.

18th Annual FOOD FAIR with Ethnic Flair!

St. John the Baptist
Orthodox Church

315 Wilpen Road
Wilpen (Ligonier)

TODAY! — Sunday, August
25th 12PM until 5PM

Info: 724-238-2286

**On Sunday, September 8,
Fr. Meletios Zafaran will be
with us** to enjoy our Buffet and
talk with people about the
Sunday Evening Arabic Divine
Liturgies that will be celebrated
here beginning Sunday,
September 22.

Don't forget to return your
Buffet ticket money

**Sec'y Debbie will be in the office
Mon., Tues., and Fri. 9-3.**

**ALWAYS USE THE MOST
CURRENT BULLETIN!**

Sunday, August 25

- 8:45 - ORTHROS
- 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
(Congregational singing)
- Monthly Memorial Prayers
- Prayers for all students
beginning their school year

**Fr. John will be out of town from
Sunday afternoon, August 25,
thru Friday, August 30.**

In a church emergency,
contact Fr. Sam Smolcic
(724) 516-9390

Tuesday, August 27

- 12:00 to 1:00 PM - Food on the Hill

Thursday, August 29

- 7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, August 31

- 12:00 PM - Bell-ringing for
Opioid Over-Dose Awareness
- 6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS

Sunday, Sept. 1 - Church New Year

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

Tuesday, September 3

- 12:00 to 1:00 PM - Food on the Hill

Thursday, September 5

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
Zacharias and Elizabeth
- 7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 6

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
Archangel Michael Miracle of Colossae

Saturday, September 7

- 6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS

***Our first Church School
Sessions will be held on
Sunday, September 15.***

The theme for the 2020 Parish Life Conference is —

— 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***

***August Memorial Prayers will be prayed TODAY, Aug. 25, for
these beloved ones who reposed during Augusts past:***

PRISCILLA Bosko (8/6/2004), **FLOYD** Mauer (8/7/2017),
KATHRYN Ciganovic (8/8/2001), **ANNA** Sam (8/10/1997),
KATHRYN Bilinsky (8/13/2000), **RAYMOND** Leavy (8/19/2011),
ANNA Kudlik (8/29/2002), **BETTY** Joseph (8/24/2013), **DONNA**
Gazal (8/25/2009), **CAROLINE** Ayoub (8/26/2001), **ASTRINA** Habit
(8/26/2001), **GEORGE** Asa (8/27/1995), **SAM** Jacobs (8/27/1996),
ANN Lewis (8/28/2002), **DOROTHY** Ferencz (8/31/2009), **BERTHA**
Cervo (8/31/2011).
