



Welcome to St. Michael's Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

1182 Ashland Street, Greensburg, PA 15601

www.stmichaelsgreensburgpa.org

Rev. Fr. David Hyatt, Pastor

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Office Hours:

Tuesday – 9am-12pm

Thursday – 9am – 4pm

Office Telephone:

(724) 834-1311

Church Office Email:

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Fr. David Hyatt – Cell Phone:

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Fr. David Hyatt:

frdavidhyatt@gmail.com

This Week

Sunday, December 8th

8:45 AM – Orthros

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

11:15 AM – Church School

12:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice

12:00 PM – Inquirer's Class

Monday, December 9th

Feast of the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos

8:45 AM – First Hour Prayers

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, December 11th

6:00 PM – Vespers

Saturday, December 14th

9:00 AM – Advent Retreat

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 15th

8:45 AM – Orthros

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

11:15 AM – Church School

12:00 PM – Antiochian Women's Mtg

Live-Streaming Services

[Holy Transfiguration Monastery](#)

Ellwood City, PA

[Holy Cross Monastery](#)

Wayne, WV

[St. Tikhon's Monastery](#)

Waymart, PA

Divine Liturgy Variables on Sunday, December 8, 2024

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost & Tenth Sunday of Luke

Forefeast of the Conception of the Theotokos; Venerable Patapios of Thebes;

Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ARCHANGELS IN TONE FOUR

O foremost of the Heav'nly Hosts we beseech thee, though we are unworthy. Pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of thine unearthly glory, preserving us, who kneel and cry endlessly. Deliver us from oppression since ye are the princes of the highest power.

KONTAKION OF THE PREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS IN TONE THREE

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth at the message with the angels and shepherds give glory to him who shall appear by his own will as a young child, he who is from eternity God.

EPISTLE — 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 GOSPEL – Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue,

Serving Schedule

Jr. Altar Boys

12/8 – Breccan Daniels
12/15 – Noor Sahawneh
12/22 – Andrew Hahey

Fellowship – Clean Up Crew

12/8 – Sara Armanious, Still Needed
12/15 – Sara Armanious, Ray Chaho
12/22 – Dave & Stacie Bartholomew,
Still Needed

Lock Up

12/8 – Christina Armanious
12/15 – Raymounda Chaho
12/22 – Andrew Cuff

Year-End Giving Opportunity

Some of our parishioners and friends look for opportunities to make financial donations at the end of the fiscal year. If this is the case for you, please consider making an additional contribution to either the St. Michael's "**Capital Improvement Fund**" or the "**Beautification Fund.**" The Capital Improvement Fund goes towards the long-term maintenance and improvement of our building and property. And the Beautification Fund goes towards long-term improvements to the church temple. For additional information, please talk with Fr. David.

Fellowship Hour Clean Up

The **Signup Sheet** is on the bulletin board outside of the kitchen. The cleanup guide and supplies are provided for your use, and Raymounda Chaho will provide guidance as needed.

Nativity Fast Confessions

During the Nativity Fast, it is an appropriate time to come to Holy Confession. As we prepare for the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, we want to free ourselves from the sins that weigh us down so that our souls are a suitable manger for the Lord. Fr. David hears confessions after Wednesday and Saturday Vespers, and at other times as needed.

Inquirer's Class

Join us the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month for our Inquirer's Class, Journey to Fullness.

indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Parish Council Election Results

Although elected, Dr. Aster Andemeskel will not be able to serve on the Parish Council. Mercedes Michetti, also on the ballot, has agreed to serve as a new member along with Sara Armanious, and Raymounda Chaho for a three-year term. Valerie Flizanes was also appointed by Fr. David Hyatt to an appointed three-year term.

Christmas Service Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th

Eve of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

9:00 AM – Royal Hours

6:00 PM – Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Wednesday, December 25th

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

9:00 AM – Festal Orthros

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

New Year's Eve Parish Party

December 31st

7:30 PM – Vespers / 9:00 PM – NYE's Party

\$10.00 for Adults and Free for Kids

Bring a Covered Dish to Share

RSVP with Raymounda Chaho, 412-558-5877

Games for Children & Adults are welcome for this family friendly event!

Mark your Calendar

Reception of Converts

Feast of Theophany

Monday, January 6th

Make plans to take the day off work / school to celebrate the Feast of Theophany on Monday, January 6th. We will have a baptismal liturgy in which we will receive eight (8) converts to the Orthodox Church. Following a fellowship meal, we will go to Twin Lakes Park for the outdoor blessing of waters. You won't want to miss this important day in the life of the Church!



St. Michael's Bookstore

Need a new Book or Icon? Shopping for fine jewelry, 14K gold, or Sterling Silver Crosses? Give your St. Michael's Bookstore a chance to fulfill your needs. You may save yourself some cash and make a few dollars for your church in the process. If you have questions, contact Carolyn Hill at 724-832-8684.

Dear Fr. David and My St. Michael's Church Family,

Thank you for your gestures of kindness and prayers that you shared with me during my recent second hip replacement surgery. I wish to thank God for the excellent medical team that cared for me at UPMC Magee. May God Bless You.

Love, Connie Volchko

Prayers of Oblation

...in memory of Diana Roberts and Irene Papas by Dina Papas
...in memory of Maria, Sergey, Yakov, Ivan, Tatiana, Vasyley, Serafima, Ludmila, Vadim, Evgeney, Vitaley, Oleg, Herb, Reba, Haze
...for the health of Tatiana, Ryan, Aleksander, Sofia, Tamara, Elena, Yekaterina, Chad, Aleksey, Daniil, Larissa

Intercessory Prayer List (Orthodox & Non-Orthodox)

Please pray for the following people this week. ***Names will remain on the list for 2 weeks.*** Please send an email to Fr. David to add a name for prayer or write your request down on a piece of paper and put it in the offering plate. Please include your name in case there is a need for clarification. Thank you.

MAT. SOPHIE Daniels recovering from stress fractures in her spine.
ELIZABETH Gazal (daughter of Subdeacon Joseph and Mary Gazal) recovering from surgery.
The FAMILY of ELIZABETH Pollard. Elizabeth died after falling into a sink hole in Unity Twp. Lord have mercy!

Those grieving the repose of loved ones, especially during the holiday season.

All those affected by war in the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia, and throughout the world.

CATECHUMENS at St. Michael: BOB Gunther, DAVE Bartholomew, STACIE Bartholomew, RYAN Bartholomew, VICTORIA Gray, MAT Hahey, PAMELA Johnson, GARRETT Kalinowski, NICHOLAS Lehman, BRANDON Miele, DEBBIE Paulus, DOUG Gilliland, ROSCO (ROBERT) Ross.

THE NATIVITY FAST - AN OUTLINE November 15 – December 24

In cases of uncertainty each person should seek the advice of his or her spiritual father. At all times it is essential to bear in mind that 'you are not under the law but under grace' (Rom. 6:14), and that 'the letter kills, but the spirit gives life' (2 Cor. 3:6). The rules of fasting, while they need to be taken seriously, are not to be interpreted with dour and pedantic legalism: 'for the kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit' (Rom. 14:17).

Days:	Abstinence of:	No Abstinence of:
Sunday	Meat & Meat products Dairy products	Fish
Monday		Shellfish
Tuesday		Olive Oil
Thursday		Vegetables & vegetable products
Saturday		Fruit
		Wine
Days:	Abstinence of:	
Wednesday	Meat & Meat products	
Friday	Dairy products Fish, Wine, & Oil	

The Mystery Brings Joy

Resurrection unto life is the ultimate gift of the Incarnation. Those in the Church journey toward the birth of Christ God during the Nativity fast by struggling up the mountain that is too steep to climb without God's grace, that they might learn that unless a man understands that he is dead, he will never know the meaning of resurrection.

The fast is a holy and blessed tool that brings us closer to such self-awareness. It reveals to us who we are, perhaps more importantly, who we are not, and makes us more consciously aware of what we desperately need. Then and only then, with eyes opened, even if only partially, by the ascetic endeavor, we will truly know the life-giving light of the Nativity of Christ. We will hear with awe the proclamation of the hymn at Vespers, perceiving the mystery presented therein as having become truly an inward part of us.

We will never fully comprehend this ineffable mystery of God become man; some knowledge is properly God's alone. But by His grace, through the ascetic effort, we will come at least to some understanding of the salvation of Christmas Day, of our own salvation. And with this realization comes joy—joy far greater than a mere entrance into the temple on Christmas Day could ever bring us. And having come through the forty days of the fast, with this joy in our hearts, we shall embrace the hymnographer's words as our own.

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; the angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God (kontakion of the Forefeast).

Read the full article: <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/12/reflections-on-nativity-fast.html>

Free: Former Bishop's Chair

The former bishop's chair that is sitting in the corner of the church by the choir, is free to whomever would like to have it. If you are interested, please talk to Fr. David.

Advent Retreat

**The Christ Child & the Queen Mother:
Seeing the Mystery of Christmas in the Psalms**

Saturday, December 14, 2024

9:00am - 12noon

Refreshments & Lenten Lunch Provided

Guest Speaker ~ Dr. Justin Gohl



Dr. Justin Gohl is the Professor of Old Testament at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary. He specializes in the Psalms and Proverbs as interpreted by the Fathers of the Orthodox Church. Dr. Gohl also serves as a subdeacon and chanter at St. Philip Church in Souderton, Pennsylvania.

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