



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 15, 2024

Office Hours:

Tuesday – 9am – 12pm

Thursday – 9am – 4pm

Office Telephone:

(724) 834-1311

Church Office Email:

orthodoxgreensburg@gmail.com

Fr. David Hyatt – Cell Phone:

(218) 576-8324

Fr. David Hyatt:

frdavidhyatt@gmail.com

This Week

Sunday, December 15th

8:45 AM – Orthros

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

11:15 AM – Church School – Nativity
Craft Project

Postponed: Antiochian Women's Mtg

Tuesday, December 17th

6:00 PM – Parish Council Mtg

Wednesday, December 18th

6:00 PM – Vespers

(Confession Follows)

Thursday, December 19th

12:00 PM – Food on the Hill

Saturday, December 21st

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

(Confession Follows)

Sunday, December 22nd

8:45 AM – Orthros

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

11:15 AM – Church School

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 15, 2024

Hieromartyr Eleutherios, bishop of Illyria & Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors)
of Christ Martyr Anthia, mother of Eleutherios; Venerable Paul of Latra

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the threeday burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ELEUTHERIOS OF ILLYRIA IN TONE FIVE

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; hence never cease to intercede for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios.

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 — 2 Timothy 1:8-18

Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know Whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound

Welcome to Subdeacon Justin Gohl, wife Kate, daughter Phoebe, and son Evan who have joined us for our Advent Retreat on Saturday. They are members of St. Philip Orthodox Church in Souderton, PA.



Serving Schedule

Jr. Altar Boys

12/15 – Noor Sahawneh

12/22 – Andrew Hahey

Christmas Eve & Day – All Boys

12/29 – Breccan Daniels

Fellowship – Clean Up Crew

12/15 – Sara Armanious, Ray Chaho, Donna Curry

12/22 – Dave & Stacie Bartholomew, Mat & Christina Hahey

12/29 – Still Needed

Lock Up

12/15 – Raymounda Chaho

12/22 – Andrew Cuff

12/29 – Gust Flizanes

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.

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.

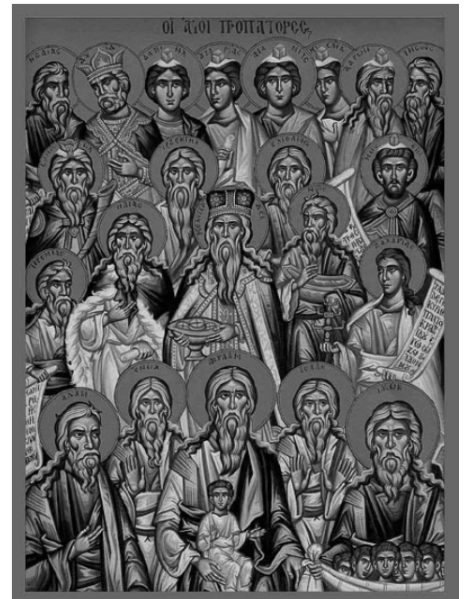
words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit Who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me. May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

THE GOSPEL – Luke 14:16-24

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Sunday of the Forefathers

The subject of the blessed Abraham is known as much by the wise men as by common Christians. For the Book of Genesis, written by the Prophet Moses, which speaks of him, is read to be heard by all Christians in the Church, during the fasting days of the Holy and Great Lent. Wherefore we all learn from this book, that our forefather Abraham was from the land of the Chaldeans, and he was a gentile. The Chaldeans were a nation before the Jews. And his father Terah was an idolater. The divine Abraham was also an idolater, but he was not prevented by this from coming to know the true God. Rather, we should say something strange, for the great Abraham even by this idolatry was led to understand the true God.



When the renowned one understood that nothing created is God, and should not be worshiped as God, and having contemplated the good arrangement of things that exist, and by seeing these things which were made, he came to know their invisible Maker. And having come to know Him, he worshiped Him as God, Who upholds and governs all of creation, and designated these things which have come into being to be suitable and orderly. He was therefore ordered by God to leave his homeland and relatives, and go to the land of Canaan (where also Palestine and Jerusalem are located). Immediately he obeyed, without having doubt in his heart, for he had much faith towards God. For this reason he received as a wager for

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.

Antiochian Women's Elections

The December meeting and elections are being postponed until January due to a lack of expressed interest in nominations. More info coming soon!

Inquirer's Class

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

Prayers of Oblation

...in memory of Diana Roberts and Irene Papas by Dina Papas

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.

SAMAR Khalil recovering from a fall.

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

All those affected by events in Syria, 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.

his faith, a son named Isaac who was born to him in his old age, and he became the father of many nations. Isaac was born of Abraham, Jacob was born of Isaac, and from Jacob was born Judah (from whose tribe Christ was born) and his brother Patriarchs.

For this reason therefore our God-bearing Fathers and Teachers, have arranged it for today to commemorate the divine Abraham, as the forefather from whom Christ was born. And they delivered this to be reckoned by us, not for a long period of many days, but near the birth in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was not done simply by chance, but according to the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit. For the most good and philanthropic Son of God, made the Patriarch Abraham and his descendants His forefathers according to His human nature. Thus the most divine Fathers rightly deemed for us to celebrate their memory as Forefathers, not long from the Lord's nativity according to the flesh.

The Nativity Fast Intensifies December 13 – December 24

During the last twelve days, December 13-24, fish, olive oil, wine, and all alcoholic beverages are not used at all, except oil and wine can be used on Saturdays and Sundays. Therefore, in the last twelve days, we may eat shellfish, vegetables and fruit. Please remember to increase your prayer life, read more scripture and spiritual books, especially the lives of the saints. A little less television, no anger, no gossip, no laziness, and let's try to avoid the pre-Christmas parties. If we prepare in this way, God will bless us, and we will find the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord to be far more spiritually rewarding than ever before. May God help us to struggle courageously.

Yours in Christ,
+Bp. Thomas

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 – Vespers 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

Online Liturgical Guide Adds Services for Christmas, Epiphany Dn. Peter Samore

“Christmas is one of only three feasts to celebrate the Great (Royal) Hours on the eve, and then TWO divine liturgies for the feast – the Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great on the evening of December 24, and the festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom on December 25. The Great Hours and Typika, with their special hymns and Scripture readings, take the place of a divine liturgy in the morning of the eve so that we can finish the 40-day fast strong before the commencement of the feast at the start of the liturgical day that evening at Vespers. This makes for a rare time when Orthodox Christians can take Holy Communion twice in one liturgical day (sunset to sunset), but once each time in separate eucharistic days (midnight to midnight), fasting each time before receiving Holy Communion.”

Read the full article here: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/537>

Thank you to all who donated winter coats for the OC Life Coat Drive! The coats were donated through the following organizations so that they get the neediest of people in our community:

Welcome Home Family Shelter, Greensburg
Union Mission Shelter for Men, Latrobe
Saint Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop, Latrobe
Christian Laymen Thrift Store, Greensburg

**Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 17th @ 6pm**

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.



St. Michael's Bookstore Review

If you are interested in purchasing Sterling Silver or 14k gold crosses or chains, why are you looking anywhere else? You can decide how much you want to spend, whether it's a high or low amount. Call or text me 724-433-0447, Carolyn Hill.

Purchasing Silver Cross: 1 Review
***** Purchasing a Silver Cross from St. Michael's Bookstore was as easy as slicing butter with a hot knife!

Purchasing Nick Papas Icons: 2 Reviews
*****Nick's work has just gotten better!
*****The colors of the icons are so vibrant!

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!

**Reception of Converts on the 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.

Theophany Service Schedule

Friday, January 3, 2025

9:00 AM – Royal Hours

Saturday, January 4, 2025

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Eve of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

8:45 AM – Orthros

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Followed by the Indoor Service of the Blessing of Waters

6:00 PM – Great Vespers w/ Litia & Artoklasia

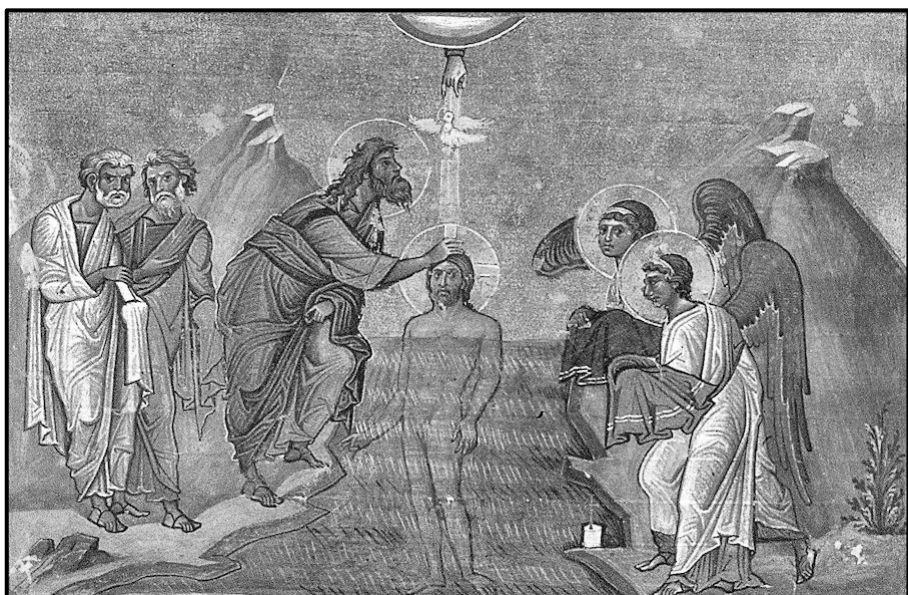
Monday, January 6, 2025

Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

8:45 AM – Festal Orthros

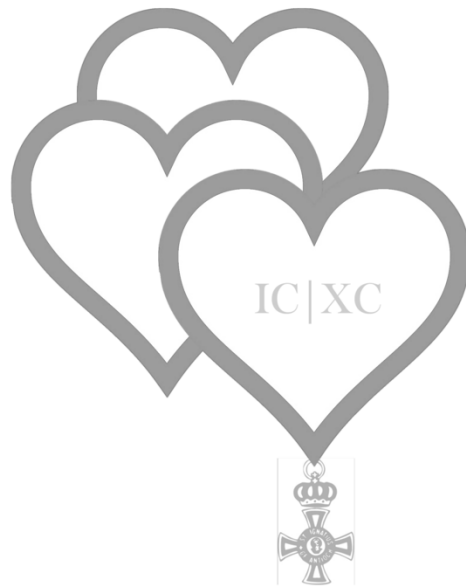
10:00 AM – Baptismal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Fellowship Meal to Follow

2:00 PM – Outdoor Blessing of Waters (Twin Lakes Park)



The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch

What Is The Meaning Behind The Order Logo



3 Hearts

The 3 hearts represent the Trinity and our love toward the Trinity and to all people of the world. We are called to forgo our needs for the needs of others and to give of a *"treasure" that was not "ours" but a gift from God*. Giving with a focus on the Trinity strengthens us to give in a spirit of humility and gratitude without pride or a need of earthly recognition.

Cross

The Cross is always a reminder of Christ's sacrifice for us. A life-giving cross that before Christ was a symbol of fear and death Through Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection the cross is a symbol of love, hope and sacrifice that brings us all together in peace and reassurance.

IC | XC Inscription

On a pagan holiday, Saint Ignatius was led to the arena for his martyrdom. Saint Ignatius was devoured by lions in the arena, leaving only his heart and a few bones. Tradition says that on his way to execution, Saint Ignatius unceasingly repeated the name of Jesus Christ. When Saint Ignatius was asked why he was doing this, he answered that this Name was written in his heart, and that he confessed with Him Whom he always carried within. When the saint was devoured by the lions, his heart was not touched. When they cut open the heart, the pagans saw an inscription in gold letters: "Jesus Christ."

Color Red

The red hearts also represent the red ribbon from which the crosses hang that members of The Order wear. The red ribbon is a reminder of the blood spilled by Saint Ignatius and the Saints of the Orthodox Christian Faith in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The ribbon and the crosses worn by Order members do not signify membership in a secular club. The red ribbon and cross are not worn to gain attention or become a prideful display. We wear them to provide an invitation to others to learn about and become part of the Order's ministry. A ministry that touches countless lives in many ways.



The Order of
Saint Ignatius
of Antioch

Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor.
- Saint Ignatius of Antioch



How You Can Support the Ministry The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

We are not merely to call ourselves Christians;
we are asked to be Christians through our deeds.
- Saint Ignatius of Antioch

Your Unconditional Gift Changes People's Lives

Knight & Dame

- \$500 Annually
- \$41.67 Monthly
- \$1.37 Daily

Junior Knight & Dame

- Ages 18-26 Only
- \$300 Annually
 - \$25 Monthly
 - \$0.82 Daily
 - At age 27, converts to Knight or Dame at \$500 Annually

Knight Commander Dame Commander

- \$1,000 Annually
- \$83.33 Monthly
- \$2.73 Daily

Life

- \$15,000 Total Gift
- 100% Lump Sum or \$5,000 Over 3 Consecutive Years
- Life Upgrade*

Metropolitan

- \$30,000 Total Gift
- 100% Lump Sum or \$10,000 Over 3 Consecutive Years
- Metropolitan Upgrade**

Life and Metropolitan gifts are invested in an endowment and only the earnings are spent each year making it a gift that will live on into perpetuity.

***Life Upgrade:** The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program: Any Knight/Dame, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members); or any Commander, who has been a member for more than 5 years (active/good Standing members) can upgrade to Life Member for \$10,000 paid over a two-year period.

****Metropolitan Upgrade:** The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program: Any Knight/Dame, who has been a member for at least 10 years (active/good Standing members); or any Knight/Dame Commander, who has been a member for at least 5 years (active/good Standing members) can upgrade to Metropolitan level for \$20,000 paid over a three-year period. Life members who have fulfilled their initial Life member gift may upgrade to the Metropolitan level for \$10,000 paid over a 2-year period.



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- Saint Ignatius of Antioch