



## Saint Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

146 Third Avenue, Rankin, PA 15104  
Pastor: Very Reverend Nicholas Ferencz, PhD  
Cantor: Professor Jerry Jumba  
Parish President : Carole Bushak

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!  
Slava Isusu Christu! Slava vo v'iki!



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JUNE 9, 2019

### REMEMBERING THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST COUNCIL OF NICEA IN 325

- Sun., June 9**      **Remembering the Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Council of Nicea in 325.** Martyred Bishiop Therapontus of Sardis. Monk Bede.  
9:00 AM      Divine Liturgy  
*Panachida:* June Perpetuals: Fr. Stephen & Pañi Anna Varzaly (June 3). Stephen Kozlowsky (June 8). Michael Hudak & George Horgas (June 16).
- SAT., JUNE 15**      **5<sup>TH</sup> ALL SOULS SATURDAY.** Confessor Nicephorus of Constantinople  
9:00 AM      Divine Liturgy and Reading of the Lists of the Deceased (Hramoty)
- SUN., JUNE 16**      **PENTECOST SUNDAY.** Martyr Lucillian et al. Virgin martyr Paula. Clotilde, Queen of the Franks  
*Fathers' Day*  
9:00 AM      Divine Liturgy  
*Panachida:* Remembering all the deceased fathers of our parish and our parishioners  
*Kneeling Prayers from Vespers*
- MON., JUNE 17**      **PENTECOST MONDAY: COMMEMORATION OF THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus  
9:00 AM      Divine Liturgy and Pentecost Procession of the Holy Spirit.  
*Special Remembrance:* Margaret Hixon – family  
*No Fasting This Week*
- SUN., JUNE 23**      **ALL SAINTS.** Martyred Bishop Timothy of Prusa  
9:00 AM      Divine Liturgy  
*Panachida:* Margaret Dufalla by daughters Donna Sayrs and Deborah Paterline
- Mon., June 24*      *Apostle Bartholomew. Apostle Barnabas of the 70*  
*Apostles' Fast Begins*

**Holy Mystery of Confession:** Before Divine Liturgy and other services. If you cannot make a scheduled time, please let me know and we can make arrangements.

## PEOPLE STUFF

**Prayer List:** *Deceased:* Margaret Dufalla.

*Living:* Fr. Joseph Cervo. Fr. Robert Popichak. Pañi Dorothy Hutnyan. Pañi Donna Smoley. Pañi Eleanor Pribish. Dana Andrade. Gloria Andrade. Michael Artim. Gregory Michael Aurilio. Brooklyn Grace Banovsky and her parents Chris and Katie. Jane Barclay. Walter Bolbat. John Bonga. Donald Bodnar. Charlene Borsic. Jaime Budesá. Barbara Chappie. Steve Bournius. Rebecca, David & Bradley Noah Cozad. Mary Ann Crouse. Martha Danchak. George & Margaret Dorogy. Christina Duranko. Breanne Glass. Dorothy Glass. Eddie Gombos. Jennifer Hartrick. Shirley Hrubic. Kevin Ianni. Gary Ingelido. Andrea Kerkentzes. Joan Martell. Brian Masterovsky. Zoe Mehalik. Helen Mihalik. Bill & Patti Novotnak. Frank Palmieri. Diane Phillips. Millie and Edward Phillips. Michael Platt. John Righetti. Anna Senich. Bernice Sindak. Terry Slezak. Bill and Andrea Sovick. Margaret Stemler. Milton and Thelma Supak. Diana Terezis. Bobby and Dee Triffanoff. Josh Walendziewicz. Paul & Valerie Yednak. Jeanne Zajac. *Prospora Bakers:* Trudy Trifanoff. Delores Cubakovic, and their intentions.

**Welcome!** We welcome to our church this morning all visitors, guests, relatives, and friends of Saint Michael Church. We invite *everyone* present today to chant the Liturgy along with the cantor. We pray your visit with us is spiritually rewarding, holy and life-giving. Visit often!

**New! June Birthdays:** Michael Fry 6/5. Sandy Chetsko 6/6. Christine Sutton 6/8. Dennis Baran & Jeanne Lesko 6/23. Irving Liberman 6/24. Zoe Mehalik 6/26. Barbara Chappie 6/29. *Many Years!!!*

## F(E)ASTING

**5<sup>th</sup> All-Souls Saturday,** Saturday, June 15. Divine Liturgy and the reading of the *Hramoty* (Lists of the Deceased) will be at **9 AM**.

**Pentecost Monday: Descent of the Holy Spirit, Monday, June 17,** Divine Liturgy and Procession in honor of Coming of the Holy Spirit will be at 9:00 AM.

**No Fasting** is permitted during the week of Pentecost, as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the completion of our Salvation in Jesus Christ Our Lord.

## PARISH STUFF

**Reminder! Lottery Ticket Raffle:** Lottery goes off on *Sunday, July 7*. You can buy your tickets from Carole Bushak et al. – they are still \$5.00 each. *Also*, we are asking for donations of lottery tickets to be included in the prize. Anytime you have a chance to pick up one or more tickets, of various denominations, please give them to Carole and help us out with this fundraiser!

**New! The April Financial Report** is now available for perusing on the hall bulletin board.

**New! Our Parish Calendar** updates (also included in the Events Calendar below). Our Parish Bazaar will be held on Sunday, October 20. Our Annual St. Michael's Feast Day celebration will be held on Sunday, Nov. 10.

## Our Gifts to God and our Church

June 2, 2019

Attendance	31
Communion	16

### Collections

Sunday	1535.00
Reimbursement	43.50
All Votive Candles	126.00
Building Maintenance	50.00
Church Repairs	100.00
Diocesan Membership	20.00
<b>Total Offerings:</b>	<b>1874.50</b>

*Building and Repairs Donations to Date*  
**\$4041! God bless your generosity!**

**New! Thanks and God Bless you for your generosity!** This past Lent we collected \$350 in support of St. Cyril's Food Pantry! Our ongoing support of this important mission is greatly appreciated!

**Church Repairs:** *We thank all of our parishioners* for your ongoing, active interest in the well-being of our parish. God bless us every one! So far, we have **\$4041** donated toward this new work. Total cost of this work was **\$3800**. *We thank you for your generosity. God bless!*

**Update! Agape Offerings:** Today: Jeanne and Jim Zajac. Next Sunday: **Still available**. June 23: Denny Baran's Birthday.

## **DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF**

**Update!** Upcoming Events this year: in our Parish, the Deanery and the Diocese. Please mark your calendars:

Sat., June 22: Faith Night at PNC Park

Sun., July 7: here at St. Michael's: *Lottery Tickets Raffle Drawn.*

Sat., Aug 10: St. John's, East Pittsburgh, Annual Golf Tourney at Valley Green Country Club.

Sun., Sep. 8: here at St. Michael's: **Bring a Friend Sunday**

Sat., Sep. 28: St. John's, East Pittsburgh, Annual Food Festival.

Sun., Sep. 29: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Deanery Picnic!

Sun., Oct. 6: Distinguished Diocesan Donors Dinner

Sun., Oct. 13 through Wed., Oct. 16: Triennial Diocesan Sobor

Sun., Oct. 20: here at St. Michael's: **Annual Parish Bazaar!**

**Sun., Nov. 10: here at St. Michael's: Annual Parish Feast Day Dinner!**

Sat., Nov. 16 & Sun., Nov. 17: St. Johns's, East Pittsburgh, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parish Celebration.

Sun., Dec. 8: Annual Deanery St. Nicholas Charity Dinner, to benefit Christ the Saviour Seminary

As new information comes in, we will be adding dates to the list. Keep it in mind!

**Update! Faith Night at PNC Park** - Ticket prices are only **\$25,, which includes a \$5 voucher at the concession stands**. **Th game is on Saturday, June 22nd at 4:05** (Pittsburgh Pirates vs. San Diego Padres). Our sister parish of St. John the Baptist on the North Side is organizing a group of tickets. Wendy Martellotti at martellotti11@verizon.net or 412-583-6254 to reserve your tickets. (Please plan to pre-pay.) And Let's Go Bucs!

## **PENTECOST – “How Do We Experience God?”**

By Anthony M. Coniaris

How do we gain this personal experience of God that we have been talking about? How did the apostles gain it? It came to them on the day of Pentecost. Jesus commanded them "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which he said, you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:4-5,8).

When the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost, he brought a new and powerful experience of God's presence and power in their lives. They were never the same again. The experience of God in their lives through the presence of the Holy Spirit was powerful and personal.

...It is not enough that the Christian believe that Jesus Christ or the Holy Trinity lives in him, said St. Symeon. That presence must be operative in a way that is consciously experienced. We should be aware of that divine life moving and operating in us just as a pregnant woman is aware that new life stirs within her.

What people want to hear is not God's lawyers presenting logical arguments for His existence but God's witnesses sharing from personal experience what God has done for them. And this is what the early Christians were: witnesses, martyres. In the words of E.S. Jones: "God? They knew Him! Miracles? They themselves were miracles! Resurrection? They had gone through it! Heaven? They were living in it! Hell? They had escaped it! Reconciliation? They rejoiced in it! Eternal Life? They possessed it!"

Pentecost was the day on which the apostles experienced God's powerful presence in their lives through the Holy Spirit. Through prayer every day can be Pentecost. For, it is through prayer that the Holy Spirit comes to us today.

## LETTERS TO SPIRITUAL CHILDREN

Abbot Nikon

*Abbot Nikon was born in Russia in 1894. He began to pursue his higher education in the field of medicine-psychiatry, but he became convinced that true knowledge of man was possible only through knowledge of God. Discontinuing his studies, he began to lead a secluded life, devoting himself to the study of the Gospels and the Holy Fathers. Here at last he discovered the "one thing needful."*

*In 1931 he gave monastic vows, and within a year he was ordained hieromonk. A year later he was sentenced to four years in the Siberian camps. Towards the end of the war, with the reopening of many churches, Fr. Nikon was assigned first to one parish then to another. Finally he was sent, as though exiled, to the small town of Gzhatsk, where he remained until his death in 1963. Here is one of his letters.*

### ***Attend to your spiritual life***

We must do all that lies within our strength. Everyone exerts all their energies on bodily labors and only a few drowsy moments are left for the spiritual. How can this be right? Remember the words of Our Savior: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33). This is a commandment like any other, such as Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not commit adultery (Ex. 20:13,14) and the others. The transgression of this particular commandment can often bring more harm to the soul than an occasional downfall. It unnoticeably cools the heart, making it insensitive, and often leads it to spiritual death. Let the dead bury their dead (Matt. 8:22). Those whose souls are dead, lacking in spiritual feeling and without a burning desire to follow the commandments, those who are neither hot nor cold—it is these whom the Lord threatens to spew out of His mouth (Rev.3:15).

At least once a day, if only for a few moments, we must place ourselves before the Lord for judgment, as if we have died and are standing before the Lord, awaiting our sentence on the fortieth day. Having placed ourselves mentally before the Lord in expectation of our judgment, we should cry and implore God" mercy to forgive us and free us from our insolvent debt. I would advise everyone to adopt this as a constant practice right up to the hour of death. Preferably in the evening—although this can be done at any time of the day—concentrate with all your soul and beseech the Lord to forgive us and to have mercy on us. Better still, do this several times a day.

Pay at least some attention to your soul; this is a command of God and the Holy Fathers. Everything will pass, death is at our heels, and even so we haven't the slightest thought of what we have to offer at the Judgment and of the sentence which will be passed on us by the Righteous Judge, Who knows and remembers our every movement—even the most subtle—of both our soul and body from our youth unto our death. How shall we answer? Whilst here on earth, the Fathers wept and pleaded with the Lord for forgiveness, so as not to weep at judgment day and in eternity. If they found it necessary to weep, then how can we, wretched as we are, consider ourselves to be good and lead such carefree lives, thinking only of worldly things.

Forgive me and pray for yourselves and for me. Greetings and God's blessing to all.