



## 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 16, 2019

### PENTECOST SUNDAY

- 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. Pañi Charlotte Conjelko.

*Living:* Fr. Michael Rustick. Pañi Patricia Duranko. 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. *Prosphora 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!

## F(E)ASTING

### Our Gifts to God and our Church

June 9, 2019

Attendance	29
Communions	19

#### Collections

Sunday	640.00
All Votive Candles	129.00
Building Maintenance	260.00
<b>Total Offerings:</b>	<b>1029.00</b>

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

**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.

**Kneeling in prayer:** After we pray together the Kneeling Prayers today, we are all called to return to the good and proper practice of kneeling as we pray (except, of course, on Sundays). Kneeling, bowing, standing, etc., are prayers of *our body*, which when combined with words and hymns, help us to pray with *all* of our being, offering our total self to God.

**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.

*Upcoming Feast Days:* **Birth of St. John Baptist, Sunday, July 7.**  
**Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, Friday, July 12.**

## 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! Coffee and Social Hour Stuff:**

- **Bring your favorite Mug!** We are asking folks to bring their own mug to the church for Social Hour or whenever you need a cuppa here. Most of us have more mugs than we know what to do with, so here is your chance to use one of them. After you use it here, just wash it up and leave it on the tray that we will have out in the hall to store them. So, why do this?
  - **Save a little money.** If we use our own mugs, we don't have to spend money on Styrofoam cups which we just throw away.
  - **Save the planet.** Styrofoam is about the least recyclable material on the face of the earth. As we all are trying to do our bit to help the ecology, this is part of the bit.
  - **Save a little time for folks.** Everyone gets to use their own mug, wash their own mug, and put away their own mug. It helps out when folks are readying up after the Social Hour.
- **Agape Offerings:** Getting together every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy is one of the most important services that we offer here in the parish. I know it is just a little coffee and a little talk, but it is a time that is vital in keeping us in touch with each other, communicating, enjoying each others' company. A parish without these opportunities becomes a very sterile, cold and impersonal environment very quickly. I know, because I grew up in a parish like that.

We no longer all live next door to each other, or down the street, where we interacted with everyone else in the parish all the time, whether we wanted to or not. Now we are spread all over the place, and often our

only chance to keep in touch with each other, to get to know each other, to continue to be a *community* of faith, is during those few minutes we spend after Liturgy having a coffee and a bite to eat.

So, I would like to encourage *everyone* to come down and spend a little time with each other after Liturgy. Whether it is 10 minutes, or 45 minutes, we can take some time to say, 'hi' to each other, to chit chat a little with each other, to know each other.

I know that I often do not get down to the hall very quickly, depending on how long it takes me to finish my after-Liturgy duties and prayers. However, I am going to make an effort to come down more quickly, so that I can also greet everyone.

With all of that said, I am asking that *everyone make the effort to help out with sponsoring the Social Hour*. Every week we enjoy coffee and eats after Liturgy due to those folks who have been willing to offer a little time and a little expense to all of us who are here. Please consider signing up for a Sunday. The sign-up sheets are available all the way through December. Surely you can find a Sunday that you can help out with this. If you haven't brought anything for a while, and are not sure what kind (although, since we *are* Slavs, anything with sugar usually is appreciated) or how much, just ask. Any help at all 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**

**Reminder!** **Upcoming Events in June and July:** 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.*

**Reminder! 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!

## **THOSE KNEELING PRAYERS!**

Fr. David Thatcher, 24 May 2010

Downloaded from <http://www.pravmir.com/those-kneeling-prayers/>

Today, that is, on Pentecost Sunday afternoon -- we prayed the Kneeling Prayers at the Vespers for Holy Spirit Day, on Monday. I love coming to each feast day, in its distinctiveness, and partake of some unique aspect of the Gospel of Jesus Christ communicated through that liturgical celebration. And Pentecost does not disappoint, with its annual Kneeling Prayers.

Yet, as a priest and the one leading the people of God in these important prayers, I must admit a certain degree of struggle with these prayers. Undoubtedly, "love-hate relationship" is much too strong, but you get what I mean. These prayers are, well, quite long; priests are tempted to read them quickly, which would result in less than full comprehension. They're read once a year, so there's no opportunity to absorb them over time by repetition, week by week. They're written in classic Byzantine style, not certainly in classic English style, with its genius of directness and simple elegance. (You can tell I teach writing, eh?) I wish that I were more pious,

less of a sinner, so that such thoughts wouldn't enter my head like so many birds stealing the fruits of faith, but there you have it.

So, let's look more closely at them, in order to understand them better. In these Kneeling Prayers there's actually seven different prayers, done in three sets of kneeling: two in the first set, two in the second set, and three in the third set.

Each set ends, sealed as it were with a lovely capstone, with one of the ancient vespereal prayers for light, from the Great Church of Holy Wisdom, in Constantinople. That much makes sense: praying for light as we re-enter the world from the heady days of Pascha-Pentecost, and enter "ordinary time" in our cycle of the church year. We need the light of Christ in the dark paths of this world, as our Gospel for the Feast proclaimed.

I believe that the latter is important to the content of these prayers: all the talk (prayer) about forgiveness, strength, and even death makes sense as we turn the corner from the glory of Pascha and into the normal mode of sacramental discipleship. We kneel. We fast. We sin...and confess. We beg for God's mercy. We die...or rather enter into eternal rest in the God of the living. These are the dynamics of authentic spirituality and real life in Christ. Such things always involve struggle, spiritual warfare, and self-denial as we joyfully offer up our lives as a living sacrifice to God, holy and acceptable. They are the core of sacramental discipleship, of preparation and fulfillment in our festal cycles, of self-emptying and divine infilling by the Holy Spirit. Walking in the light is no cakewalk. So, we kneel. And we pray, at length, prayers which embrace the various dimensions of being a Christian seeking the fulness of the Spirit of God this Pentecost season.

St. Paul commanded us to pray with understanding. Certainly this is all the more true on the Great Feast of Pentecost. For on this day the Apostles spoke in languages they did not know, in order to be understood by the crowds of non-Palestinian Jews in Jerusalem for the feast. The holy fathers call Pentecost the Anti-Babel: God's remedy for the confusion of tongues when He judged the builders of Babel. So, we need to understand these Kneeling Prayers. Heed, then, the wise words of the late Father Alexander Schmemmann, onetime Dean of Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, about these special Pentecostal Prayers:

We are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost" — and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches — for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit — "the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life — comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.