



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!



Rectory Phone: 412 271-2725. E-mail: stmichaels@stmichaelsrankin.org
Hall Phone: 412-294-7952 WEB: www.stmichaelsrankin.org

JULY 7, 2019

3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BIRTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET AND FORERUNNER OF CHRIST JOHN THE BAPTIST

SUN., JULY 7 BIRTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET AND FORERUNNER OF CHRIST JOHN THE BAPTIST. 3rd

Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Special Remembrance & Panachida: Barbara Banosky by Barbara Simonoff

Fri., July 12

Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Panachida: Margaret Hixon by family

Sun., July 14

4th Sunday after Pentecost. Unmercenary Healers Cosmas and Damian.

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Panachida: Mary Gombos by Eddie Gombos

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:* Pañi Charlotte Conjelko. Jane Barclay

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 Banovski and her parents Chris and Katie. Walter Bolbat. John Bonga. Donald Bodnar. Charlene Borsic. Jaime Budes. Barbara Chappie. Steve Bournius. Rebecca, David & Bradley Noah Cozad. Mary Ann Crouse. Martha Danchak. George & Margaret Dorogy. Breanne Glass. Dorothy Glass. Eddie Gombos. Jennifer Hartrick. Shirley Hrubic. Kevin Ianni. Gary Ingelido. Andrea Kerkentzes. Joan Martell. Brian Masterovsky. 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 Worst. Paul & Valerie Yednak. Jim 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!

F(E)ASTING

Upcoming Feast Days: Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, Friday, July 12.

Apostles' Fast continues this week. The last day of the fast is Thursday, July 11. The traditional fasting regulations state that red meat, poultry, and dairy products are not allowed during the entire fasting period on all weekdays, Monday through Friday. Also, Fish, wine, and oil are allowed on all days except on Wednesdays and Fridays. The diocesan rules merely require the usual Wednesday/Friday fast. All are encouraged to do more than the minimum.

PARISH STUFF

Update! Official Announcement: The **Semi-Annual Parish Meeting** will take place on Sunday, July 21, 2019, after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to attend this meeting. We have a couple of things to talk about that you may find interesting.

The Agenda for this Meeting and the Minutes of the January Meeting are now available in the vestibule. Please pick up your copy and review them before the meeting. (*Note: the Minutes will be presented, but not read, at the meeting.*)

NOW! Lottery Ticket Raffle: Lottery goes off *today!* The Prize is now worth **over \$400!!!** You can still buy chance tickets this morning before the drawing is made.

Update! Agape Offerings: Today: Jerry's Birthday – reprise. Next Sunday: Bobby and Dee Trifanoff. July 21: Semi-Annual Meeting.

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 **\$441** donated toward new repairs on the church. *Repairs currently in the works or at least on the list:*

- **CHURCH:**
 - Gutter and Flashing repairs and/or replacement.
 - Sealing and repair of all stained glass windows as necessary, especially the rose window.
 - Repair the plaster work in the church, after all leaks are taken care of.
 - Paint all the repaired areas in the interior of the church.
- **RECTORY:**
 - Repair leaks in drain in 2nd floor Bath. Will also require plaster work in the dining room.
 - Repair plaster in dining room and bedroom above, from earlier leaks in the gutter about 2 years ago.
 - Paint as necessary.
 - *not really on the list, just fyi:* the AC in the rectory has been broken since 2016 and cannot be fixed.

Our Gifts to God and our Church

June 30, 2019

Attendance	30
Communions	20

Collections

Monthly	135.00
Sunday	905.00
Church Repairs	100.00
All Votive Candles	145.00
Building Maintenance	45.00
Diocesan Membership	30.00

Total Offerings: 1440.00

*Building and Repairs Donations to Date
\$441! God bless your generosity!*

We hope to have bids on a couple of these jobs by the Semi-annual meeting, if possible. At this time, total cost of this work is unknown. *We thank you for your generosity. God bless!*

DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

Reminder! **Christmas in July! Vendor/Craft Show** Saturday, July 20, 2019, 10 AM to 2 PM. St. Nicholas Church, Homestead. “Over 20 of your favorite Vendors and Crafters. Russian Auction. Café Nikolaj. 50/50.

New! **St. John’s in East Pittsburgh** is celebrating their 100th Anniversary this coming November 16 and 17. This is a great opportunity for our parish to show its love and support for one of our sister parishes. So, in conjunction with this happy event, we would like to encourage all of our parishioners to offer their congratulations and support to St. John’s. Here is how:

- **St. John’s Anniversary Ad Book** You can participate in congratulations
 - by offering to be a *Patron* (\$10), or a *Booster* (\$5) in their ad book. A sign up sheet is in the hall.
 - If you want to do a little more, you can donate for a full page ad (\$100), ½ page (\$50), or 1/4 page (\$25). See Carole Bushak if you want to make this kind of donation.
 - *Deadline is August 15!!!*
- **Anniversary Celebratory Brunch Banquet:** Sunday, November 17, Edgewood Country Club, 11:30 preprandials, Noon brunch. Ticket prices: *Adult:* \$35. *Children 3-12* \$15 OR Chicken Finger Plate \$10. Children 2 and under no charge. There will be assigned seating. For reservations, please call DeBorah Hutnyan at 412 288 3299. More info will be available later, but you may want to mark your calendars now and make your reservations!

Update! Upcoming Events this summer: in our Parish, the Deanery and the Diocese.

- **TODAY:** *here at St. Michael’s: Lottery Tickets Raffle Drawn*
- **Sat., July 20:** **Christmas in July – Vendor/Craft Show, St. Nicholas, Homestead**
- **Sun., July 14 – Sat., July 20. Camp Nazareth Week for the Pittsburgh Deanery.**
- **Sun., July 21:** *here at St. Michael’s: Semi-annual Parish Meeting.*
- **Sat., Aug 10:** **St. John’s, East Pittsburgh, Annual Golf Tourney at Valley Green Country Club.**

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

ON PRIDE, SELF-REPROACH, AND HUMILITY

by Elder Ephraim

Since we have pride—whether apparent or hidden without our realizing it—God, desiring to purify us from this stinking condition, raises a storm in order to cast out all the "dregs" which have accumulated mainly in a time of spiritual negligence.

All kinds of rubbish and refuse are thrown into the sea, especially in the harbor, and if there were no storms, the sea would become a source of pestilence. But the fact that the sea is pure and wholesome is due to the occasional storms.

Spiritually, the same thing happens with our soul: with the sea of our soul. Refuse accumulates little by little from our various passions and careless deeds, and the devil throws in his own trash, too. We do not see how much refuse has accumulated. God knows, however, and since He wants to purify us, He stirs up storms in proportion to the accumulation of refuse, and thus He purifies the sea of our soul. Sometimes, after we pass through a temptation with patience, we see that our soul is calmed, joyful, and light as air. On our part, we must be careful not to accumulate refuse, so that storms of corresponding magnitude do not become necessary.

Prayer to God is always profitable. But precisely how, we do not know. He is the One Righteous Judge, but we can mistake a lie for the truth. Pray and believe. – St. Anatoly

PRAYER

When you begin to pray, begin to think of your sins and weep for them—this is how you should pray. Afterwards, you sometimes feel peace and joy, and you think that this is from the enemy. But, according to the holy fathers, this joy is from the enemy if it is discordant, not bringing peace and quiet to the soul. And do not be surprised that the Lord grants peace and quiet during prayer, for it does not always happen according to our worthiness, but according to the inscrutable judgments of God. Therefore, when you feel such joy and peace, consider yourself to be entirely unworthy of this gift from God and reproach yourself before the Lord that because of your carelessness you cannot preserve within yourself this gift and soon you will lose it. – St. Joseph

THE APOSTLES' FAST

adapted from Orthodox Christian Network, downloaded July 5, 2019

Orthodox Christians around the world observe four fasting seasons during the year. Two of these—the Great Fast for the forty days of Lent, and the Dormition Fast during the first fifteen days of August—are considered “strict” fasts. The other two are generally observed as “lesser” fasts: the so-called “Christmas Lent” or fast during the forty days before the Feast of the Nativity, and the Fast of the Apostles which occurs in June.

In America the Fast of the Apostles is probably the least well known, but is among the oldest of Christian traditions. It is mentioned by St. Athanasius in the fourth century, and there are other testimonies to its existence very early in the history of the Church. The fast begins on the day after the observance of All Saints’ Sunday, which falls one week after Pentecost.

Today the fast ends with the observance of the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, which is held on June 29. In earliest practice, however, the fast was probably not connected with the Feast of Peter and Paul. Rather, it was a time for fasting after the celebration of Pentecost and/or All Saints. Apparently, different traditions prescribed different lengths of the fast—whether for one week, several weeks, or even only one day. Today, the fast still has a variable length because of its connection to the date of Pentecost, and therefore of All Saints.

The date of Pentecost varies with the date of Holy Pascha (Easter), falling fifty days after Pascha. Therefore, the date of the Sunday of All Saints varies accordingly. This means that the length of the Fast of the Apostles also varies each year. For those churches which follow the Old Calendar, the Fast can be very long (as long as 42 days) or very short (8 days), depending upon when Holy Pascha falls. For Orthodox churches which use the New Calendar, there are some years in which there is no Apostles’ Fast at all.

For faithful Orthodox today, the Fast of the Apostles can be an occasion for reflection upon the lives and example of the Holy Apostles. On the Sunday of All Saints, we remember and celebrate the lives of all those who have gone before us in the faith: our fathers, forefathers, the apostles, preachers, evangelists, teachers, hierarchs and martyrs. The readings which are appointed for that day (Hebrews 11:33-40, 12:1-2, and Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30) remind us that countless worshippers of God have sacrificed their lives for the faith which we have inherited.

Following Jesus’ admonition recorded by St. Matthew, the Apostles left behind their parents, their children, and their possessions in order to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to people who did not know Him. Christian missionaries around the world are still doing this today. During the Fast of the Apostles we are reminded to pray for them all, and for Orthodox mission everywhere.

The Fast is also an occasion to remember that in Christ, we have a unity that goes far beyond our personal opinions, likes or dislikes. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that the Apostles themselves recognized this very early. The occasion was an argument which took place regarding whether the followers of Christ needed to continue to observe the Law of Moses. At first, Peter and Paul took different sides in the discussion, but they eventually came to an accord. For the whole, exciting story, see *Acts of the Apostles*, ch. 9 & 10.