



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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AUGUST 11, 2019

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- Sun., Aug 11** **8th Sunday after Pentecost.** Martyr Callinicus
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 7, pp 114–117
Panachida: Perpetual: Michael Sovic, and the Sovic and Skerly families. *Also,* George Costianes)
Blessing of cars and vehicles immediately after the Divine Liturgy
Wed., Aug. 14 *Procession of the Holy and Life-giving Cross. 7 Maccabees brothers.*
Dormition Fast begins!
- Sun., Aug 18** **9th Sunday after Pentecost.** *Pre-Feast of the Transfiguration.* Martyr Eusignius
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Panachida: August Perpetuals: Michael and Mary Banosky (8/2). John Belanchik (8/4). Mary Kozlowsky (8/6). Michael Ragan, Sr. (8/14). Andrew Bonga, Jr. (8/15). Andrew, Helen and Andy Sofilkanich (8/21). Alexander Vorobok (8/23). Paul Horgas (8/25). Elizabeth Wogel (8/29). *Also,* Pañi Martha Varzaly and Jane Barclay.
- MON., AUG 19** **FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD ON MOUNT TABOR**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy –
Blessing of the First-Fruits of the Harvest
- Sun., Aug. 25** **10th Sunday after Pentecost.** *Within the Feast of the Transfiguration.* Martyrs Photius and Anicetus.
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Special Intention: Mary Bushak – daughter Carole Bushak.
Panachida: Mary Bushak – daughter Carole Bushak. *Also,* George Costianes (Pañi Joanna's dad)

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

New! August Birthdays: 8/1 Patty Novotnak. 8/11 Ken Sutton. 8/12 Tina Mazza. 8/20 Dee Triffanoff. *Many Years!*

New! August Wedding Anniversaries: 8/11/73 (today!)
Dennis & Janet Baran. 8/26/79 Bill and Patty Novatnak.

Prayer List: *Deceased:* Pañi Charlotte Conjelko.

Living: Fr. Joseph Cervo. Pañi Dorothy Hutnyan. Pañi Donna Smoley. Pañi Eleanor Pribish. Dana Andrade. Gloria Andrade. Michael Artim. Gregory Michael Aurilio. 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. Breanne Glass. Dorothy Glass. Eddie Gombos. Jennifer Hartrick. Shirley Hrubic. Kevin Ianni. Gary Ingelido. Andrea Kerkentzes. Joan Martell. Bill and Barbara McCauley. Helen Mihalik. Bill & Patti Novotnak. Frank Palmieri. Diane Phillips. Millie and Edward Phillips. Michael Platt. John Righetti. Anna Senich. Bernice Sindak. Terry Slezak. 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

Blessing of cars and vehicles today! It has become a modern tradition to bless cars and vehicles on the Feast of St. Elijah, in honor of his ascent to heaven on a fiery chariot. We delayed it from last Sunday because there was so much going on. So, today, immediately at the end of Liturgy, we will have the blessing!

Upcoming Feast Days: Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord on Mount Tabor.

Blessing of the First-Fruits of the Harvest: All are encouraged to bring a basket of 1st Fruits (and Veggies) from your garden (even if your garden is ‘The Market District’). We will bless baskets at the end of the Divine Liturgy in the church. We will also bless grapes that day, the ‘fruit of the vine’ from which we make the wine that becomes Our Lord’s own most precious offering - his Holy Blood.

Upcoming Fast: Dormition Fast begins Wednesday, August 14 and goes through Tuesday, August 27. In the middle of summer, the Church provides us the opportunity to re-connect with our spiritual life, as we fly through all the distractions that summertime brings. The traditional fast requires a Strict Fast (no meat, dairy, wine or oil) for those fourteen days, with these exceptions: the fast is mitigated (lessened) on Saturdays. There is no fast on Sundays or on the Feast of the Transfiguration (Aug. 6/19). Diocesan rules require only the usual fast from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays.

PARISH STUFF

New! Summary of the Semi-Annual Parish Meeting held last week:

- Delegate to 2019 Sobor in October: Christina Duranko was elected the lay delegate. Fr. Nik, of course, must attend.
- Amendment to the Parish Bylaws designating who will attend all Auditor’s Meetings was passed. These will be the Chief Auditor, the elected Auditors, the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer.

Our Gifts to God and our Church August 4, 2019

Attendance	39
Communions	27
Collections	
Sunday	1335.00
All Votive Candles	190.00
Building Maintenance	25.00
Diocesan Member.	36.00
Donation	
Total Offerings:	1586.00

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

- Fund Raisers: The Lottery Raffle has done well and we will hold another one in conjunction with the bazaar.
- Tomb discussion: Issue: we can't lift the tomb onto a stand anymore for a number of reasons, but many folks cannot kneel low enough to venerate the Shroud when the Tomb is left on ground level. A number of suggestions were made. The assembly decided to keep using the Tomb as we did this past Great Friday, leaving it on the floor in the middle of the church for Great Friday. Those who cannot kneel down to venerate the Shroud will have the opportunity to pick up and venerate a cross which will be placed on the Shroud.
- St. Michael's Feast Day Celebration: A discussion about how encourage more folks participate in this celebration.
 - The dinner is being held on Sunday, November 10, to avoid conflict with other local parish celebrations.
 - The dinner will be a Pot-luck dinner, rather than a catered dinner. We hope that minimizing the cost will encourage greater participation.
- Church and rectory repairs: The membership voted to complete the repairs to the rectory bathroom and plaster work. Fr. Nik is consulting with some experts in the field of fixing and renovating old church buildings. The intent is to put together a workable plan for bringing our parish plant up to snuff.
- Using Church Slavonic in the Divine Liturgy: a discussion was held about how much Church Slavonic to use (or not use) regularly in the Divine Liturgy. A consensus of all present was expressed which centered around one comment: "I don't want to hear only English in the Liturgy. [but I do not want to get lost in Liturgy either, if there is too much Slavonic.]" So, we decided to keep the current practice of basically using Church Slavonic for a litany and for one of the main hymns of the Liturgy. All were in agreement.

So, there it is. I am happy that we were able to accomplish as much as we did at this meeting. I want to thank the Parish Council and *all* who were able to participate in the meeting. What you think and what you say on any issue matters to the rest of us. It is only in this way that we can build a consensus about how our parish should be now, and also in the future. God bless all of us here at St. Michael's!

Reminder! The next **Lottery Ticket Raffle** will be held at the Parish Bazaar, Sunday, October 20.

New! A new garden tractor and a new leaf blower, both of which were badly needed, were donated by Jim Zajac. *God bless you! Many years!*

Update! Agape Offerings: *Today:* Sandy Carnahan in memory of the Sovic and Skerly families. *August 18:* Valerie Gaydos, Maria and Christina Duranko, in memory of Martha Varzaly and Jane Barclay. *August 25:* Carole Bushak in memory of her mother Mary.

Reminder! 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.

DIOCESE, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

Annual Garage Sale - St John the Baptist Orthodox Church (2688 California Ave., Pgh, PA 15212) will have their Annual Garage Sale on Friday & Saturday, September 6th & 7th from 9am-3pm each day. Tax-deductible clean donations for the sale are now being accepted. Please contact Fr Dave (OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com / 412-748-0148) to arrange dropping off your extra items that will be a treasure to someone else!

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

- **Fri., Sep. 6 and Sat., Sep 7:** Annual Garage Sale, St. John's, North Side.
- **Sat., Sep. 28:** St. John's, East Pittsburgh, Annual Food Festival.
- **Sun., Sep. 29:** 2nd Annual Deanery Picnic!

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

St. Catherine Philoptochos of Ypapanti (**Presentation of Our Lord parish, East Pittsburgh**) presents: **Talent Show**. September 15, 2019 at Edgewood Country Club, 100 Churchill Road, Pittsburgh, Pa 15235. Doors Open: 2:00 PM. Cocktails, Luncheon, Desserts. Silent Auction, Talent Show. Adults: \$30.00 Students: \$15.00 Children 7 Yrs and Under: \$7.00. For Tickets and Reservations Contact: *Gail* 412-260-0886 or *Tina* 412-244-3215. Join Us for an Afternoon of Good Food, Good Friends, Wonderful Talent and Entertainment!!! Paid Reservation by September 10, 2019. A portion of the proceeds to benefit “Lending Hearts”

Reminder! **St. Michael’s Mediterranean Buffet** Sunday, September 8, 2019. St. Michael’s Antiochian Orthodox Church, 1182 Ashland St., Greensburg (use Cedar St Exit off of Rte 30). 734-834-1311. More info on flyer in hall.

Reminder! **Konevets Quartet: Concert of Sacred and Secular Musical Selections** Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, 901 Hartman St., McKeesport, PA 15132. Thursday, September 12, 2019, beginning at 7 PM and followed by a reception in the church hall – see the flyer in hall for details.

7 HOLY MACCABEE MARTYRS

August 1/14. *From www.oca.org*

The seven holy Maccabee martyrs Abim, Antonius, Gurias, Eleazar, Eusebonus, Alimus and Marcellus, their mother Solomonia and their teacher Eleazar suffered in the year 166 before Christ under the impious Syrian king Antiochus IV Epiphanes. This foolish ruler loved pagan and Hellenistic customs, and held Jewish customs in contempt. He did everything possible to turn people from the Law of Moses and from their covenant with God. He desecrated the Temple of the Lord, placed a statue of the pagan god Zeus there, and forced the Jews to worship it. Many people abandoned the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but there were also those who continued to believe that the Savior would come.

A ninety-year-old elder, the scribe and teacher Eleazar, was brought to trial for his faithfulness to the Mosaic Law. He suffered tortures and died at Jerusalem.

The disciples of Saint Eleazar, the seven Maccabee brothers and their mother Solomonia, also displayed great courage. They were brought to trial in Antioch by King Antiochus Epiphanes. They fearlessly acknowledged themselves as followers of the True God, and refused to eat pig’s flesh, which was forbidden by the Law.

The eldest brother acted as spokesmen for the rest, saying that they preferred to die rather than break the Law. He was subjected to fierce tortures in sight of his brothers and their mother. His tongue was cut out, he was scalped, and his hands and feet were cut off. Then a cauldron and a large frying pan were heated, and the first brother was thrown into the frying pan, and he died.

The next five brothers were tortured one after the other. The seventh and youngest brother was the last one left alive. Antiochus suggested to Saint Solomonia to persuade the boy to obey him, so that her last son at least would be spared. Instead, the brave mother told him to imitate the courage of his brothers.

The child upbraided the king and was tortured even more cruelly than his brothers had been. After all her seven children had died, Saint Solomonia, stood over their bodies, raised up her hands in prayer to God and died.

The martyric death of the Maccabee brothers inspired Judas Maccabeus, and he led a revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes. With God’s help, he gained the victory, and then purified the Temple at Jerusalem. He also threw down the altars which the pagans had set up in the streets. All these events are related in the Second Book of Maccabees (Ch. 8-10).

Various Fathers of the Church preached sermons on the seven Maccabees, including Saint Cyprian of Carthage, Saint Ambrose of Milan, Saint Gregory Nazianzus and Saint John Chrysostom.