



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 25, 2019

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Within the Feast of the Transfiguration

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)

WED., AUG. 28 **FEAST OF THE DORMITION (USPENIJE) OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS**

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Blessing of herbs and flowers

Sun., Sept. 1 11th Sunday after Pentecost. *Within the Feast of the Dormition.*

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

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 Stemler.

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. Milton and Thelma Supak. Diana Terezis. Bobby and Dee Triffanoff. Josh Walendziewicz. Paul Worst. Paul & Valerie Yednak. Jim Zajac. *Prosp'hora 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

WED., AUGUST 28 – FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS. On this day we celebrate the death of our most holy Mother. After her death, her Son took her both body and soul into heaven to dwell with Him forever. This is a preview of our own bodily resurrection at the end of the world. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9 AM.

Blessing of Herbs and Flowers: On this day, we bless flowers and herbs, in remembrance of the events which gave witness to Her miraculous assumption. All are encouraged to bring a bouquet or herbs to church to be blessed on this day.

The Dormition Fast began 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.

Our Gifts to God and our Church

August 18, 2019

Attendance	38
Communions	24

Collections

Sunday	960.00
All Votive Candles	153.00
Building Maintenance	60.00
Diocesan Member.	90.00
Donation – Anonymous	20.00
Total Offerings:	1283.00

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

PARISH STUFF

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

Update! Agape Offerings: Today: 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.
- **Reminder! Sun., Sep. 29: 2nd Annual Deanery Picnic!** This was a really enjoyable event last year, so plan to 'come on down'!
 - Noon to dusk!
 - Veterans Pavilion in Schenley Park! Directions, etc., will be available soon.
 - We will be having live music again, much appreciated and enjoyed last year!
 - Potluck Dinner Sign up Sheet in Hall: Please sign up to let us know what you plan to bring to the event!

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"

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.

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.

Reminder! Walk for Missions!!! Sunday, October 13, noon registration, 1 PM walk. South Park, Children's Playground Shelter at the intersection of Corrigan Drive and Brownsville Road. Folks, we cannot ordinarily participate in this annual event because our parish Bazaar is always the same day. Well, *this* year they are different dates. **All** are encouraged to (1) participate *and/or* (2) sponsor someone who is walking. This event supports the *tremendous* missionary work being done in Guatemala.

MY VISIT TO AN ORTHODOX CHURCH

From *The Church Messenger*, Oct. 16, 2005. By Very Rev. Edward Pehanich

I recently visited an Orthodox church for the first time. There's nothing unusual about that - - many people visit Orthodox churches, except that I have been an Orthodox priest for over two decades. Let me explain. I recently went on vacation to visit some family in a mid-size city in another state. My family and I had plans to attend church with my relative and her children (a Protestant, evangelical Church) but late on Saturday evening, problems developed and they were unable to get to their church. Facing the prospect of staying home on a Sunday morning, my wife and I decided to locate an Orthodox Church in the area. With the help of the internet, we managed to find an Orthodox parish a reasonable drive away, downloaded directions from the parish's excellent website and off we went on Sunday morning. With such last minute plans I had no cassock or rason to wear and not even time to try to reach the local priest by telephone. I decided to simply sit with my family with the congregation during the Divine Liturgy.

We found the Orthodox church in the next city fairly easily but it was a rather run-down looking former Protestant church in a less-than-desirable neighborhood. While there were many cars in the parking lot, the front door was locked as was a side door. After a few minutes of trying to find our way inside, we managed to find the door and were surprised to find the congregation already singing the Creed during the Divine Liturgy. While the parish's website announced services at 10 a.m., we arrived only to discover that the Liturgy actually began at 9:00 a.m. during the summer.

The Divine Liturgy was quite wonderful. The parish choir was quite good singing mostly in English with a number of responses in the parish's language, the 100+ people present were prayerful and a good mix of younger and older people. The priest served reverently and was obviously a very caring pastor. In all, I felt that if I were looking for a parish to join, I could be very happy in what seemed like a wonderful parish.

Then came the dismissal and the distribution of the Antidoron. Shortly before this, my wife became light-headed and had to leave to go the rest-room. My young daughter and I received the antidoron from the priest but he said nothing to us. We passed dozens of people in the vestibule of the church and no one said anything to us. We finally found my wife sitting in a chair outside of the restroom and found she had a similar welcome: dozens

of people had passed her and no one said a word. While I could smell the aroma of coffee emanating from somewhere, no one welcomed us and no one invited us to coffee. As we were leaving, my seven year old daughter summed it up: "Dad, it's like we were invisible. Why didn't anybody talk to us?"

Was our experience unusual? My unscientific polling of several friends and relatives uncovered similar stories. Experiences of people in Orthodox churches warmly welcoming visitors is not typical.

Would we have been treated more warmly if I was appropriately dressed in cassock and rason? Several years ago I was again a visitor in another city and went to the nearest Orthodox church for the Divine Liturgy, this time dressed appropriately. Here I had a chance to speak to the priest before the Liturgy began and he greeted us warmly and welcomed us to the parish. But once the Liturgy was over the welcome was the same. No one was mean or nasty, they just ignored us. Again I could smell the aroma of coffee coming from somewhere but we weren't quite sure where to go and no one invited us.

What's the Problem?

After sharing our experience with my Evangelical relatives, they wondered if the reason why the Orthodox faithful are so neglectful of visitors is because they are not concerned for evangelism. Certainly this is one reason for the neglect of visitors: we have no burning passion or desire to share the Gospel. Oh yes, we are beginning to embrace missionary work in overseas lands but we seem to overlook our own neighborhood and even the very doors of our churches. God is sending us people who are seeking the truth of Orthodoxy from the theological and moral confusion of much of the Christian world. Can they find our churches? Can they find the correct time of services and easily find the door to get in? How are they treated when they are among us as we pray?

But the problem, as I see it, is much less a developed idea as evangelism: it is a matter of simple kindness and hospitality. Recalling the visitation of the Holy Trinity to Abraham in the form of three angels, Scripture reminds us: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware" (Hebrews 13:2). We are to welcome visitors to our churches not because they are potential converts or new members of the parish but because the Gospel commands us and it is simply the kind, human thing to do!

What to Do?

Our Orthodox parishes are full of kind, warm, wonderful people who in their very bones are hospitable. Why is it, then, that visitors are often ignored? I served as the pastor for many years of a mission parish on a very busy street that had a regular stream of visitors joining us for the Divine Liturgy. Over and over I reminded the congregation to be welcoming whenever they saw a new face. Over and over I would notice as the Liturgy ended visitors standing off by themselves and discovering that no one had bothered to say hello or invite them to coffee hour. The people in my mission parish were not mean, unfriendly people, they were rather the most warm, gracious people imaginable. Often they were so involved in taking care of various tasks that they didn't even notice the visitors. Others told me that they thought someone else would welcome the visitors. The problem continued until we organized an informal Outreach Committee whose task it was to welcome visitors, follow up with a note thanking them for visiting our parish and then continuing to welcome them and incorporate them into the life of the parish if they returned. Our mission parish continues to be blessed with steady growth, God sends us the people, but the parishioners (the Outreach Committee!) cooperates with the grace of the Holy Spirit by welcoming them into the life of the parish.

Anyway, there was a happy ending to my experience of being a visitor to an Orthodox church. I finally found a warm Good morning! and a hot cup of coffee. There was a Starbuck's down the road from the Orthodox church!