

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

2230 Highland Road ♦ Hermitage, Pennsylvania 16148
Parish office: 724-981-6680 ♦ Parish email: stmichaelhermitage2230@gmail.com

Pastor: Very Reverend Father Kevin E. Marks, Protopresbyter

Pastor's email: kevmarks@hotmail.com ♦ Pastor's Cell Phone: 412-480-4508

Website: www.stmichaelbyzhermitage.com

Facebook: facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.hermitage

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Saturdays 3:30 p.m., holydays, or by appt.

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the church office.

Holy Mystery of Anointing Ask prior to surgery or serious illness.

Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the church office at least 8 months prior to wedding.

Religious Education Classes Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

GCU See Bill Dzurisko.

St. Michael's Activity & Recreation Team (SMART) Everyone encouraged to help out.

Bethany Ministry Ministry to the sick; see Joan Walker for info.

St. Michael's Social Center Call parish office for rentals.

St. Michael's Cemetery, 2296 Longview Rd., Hermitage Steve Sherman II, manager.

Your Will Please be so kind as to remember St. Michael's in your last will and testament. Secure our future.



WEEKEND LITURGIES: Sat eve: 4:00 p.m. Sun: 9:00 a.m. HOLYDAYS: 10:00 a.m.

Invited to the Banquet

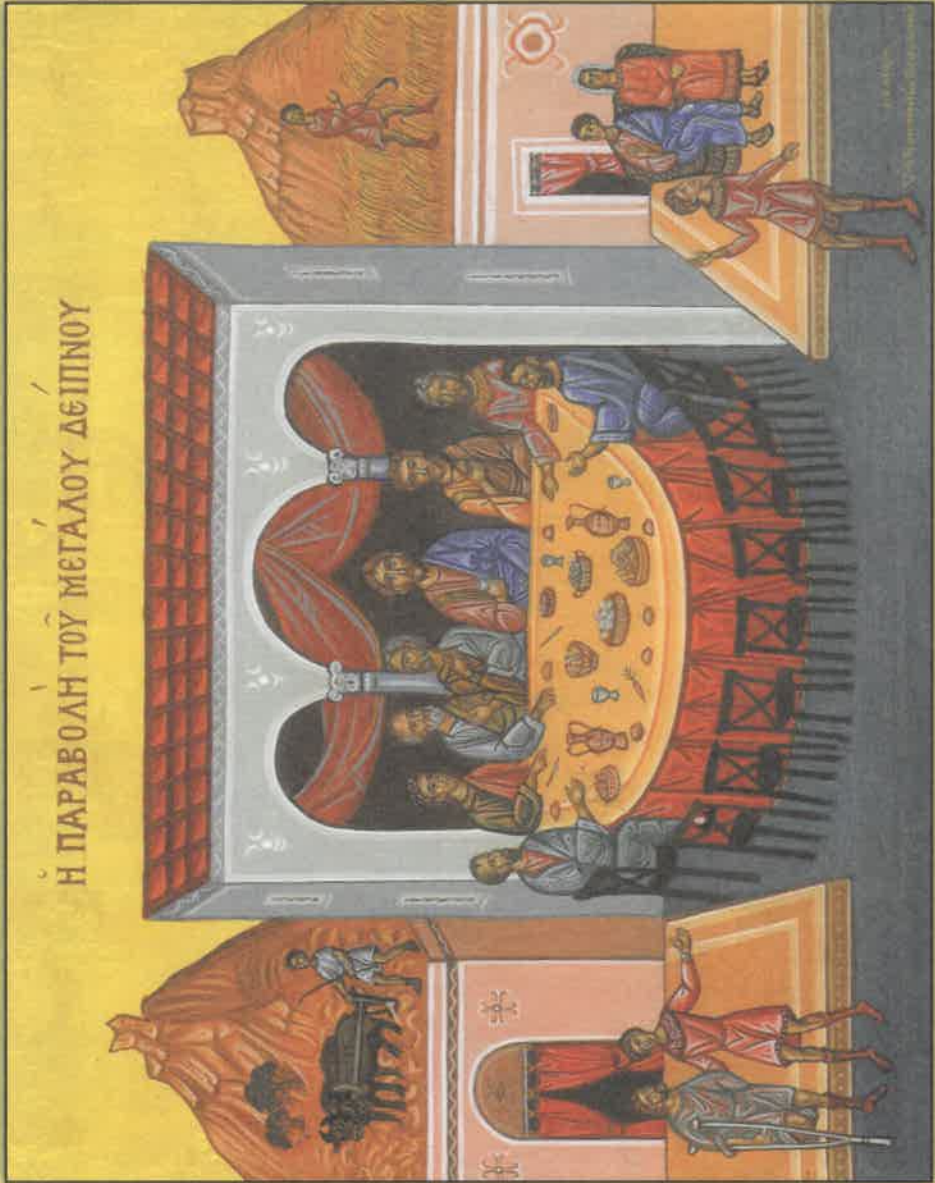
It is written in the Gospel: The Master sent out his servants to call them who wish to come, inviting them: "My banquet is ready." But those who were called began to excuse themselves, one saying: "I bought some yoke of oxen." Another: "I have married" (Luke 14:16ff). You see, he was ready who called, but the invited refused. They themselves were alone responsible in the way they answered.

Thus, so great is the dignity of Christians. Consider, the Lord has prepared for them the Kingdom and has called them to enter, but they have refused.

Concerning the gift that Christians will receive by way of their inheritance, one could rightly say that if anyone, from the time of Adam's creation to the end of the world, should battle against Satan and put up with afflictions, it would be nothing in comparison to the glory which he is to obtain. For he will reign forever together with Christ. Glory to Him who so loved such a person that He gave himself and His grace and entrusted himself to Him. Glory to His greatness!

Pseudo-Macarius

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS



Icon of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:16-24)

Glory to Jesus Christ!
Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu!
Slava Na Viki!



120
St. Michael
the Archangel
BYZANTINE
Catholic Church
founded 1905
Hermitage, Pennsylvania



Vol 14. #49



SAT., DEC 13
4:00 p.m.

(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)

+Victor Utlak
(16th anniversary of passing 12.8)

requested by: Children & Grandchildren



SUN., DEC 14

9:00 a.m.

THE SUNDAY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
FORE-FATHERS — 2nd Sunday Before Christmas

+Stephen G. Volsko
(74th anniversary of passing 12.12)

requested by: Jeff & Donna Volsko



Home Traveling Vocation Icon Participants for December 14-20:
Julie & Michael Shaw



SAT., DEC 20
4:00 p.m.

(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)

+Jim Stemock
(9th anniversary of passing 12.23)

requested by: Son: Jimmy

Health & God's Blessings Upon:
Jim Manilla & Roman Carrier

requested by: Renee Manilla

SUN., DEC 21

9:00 a.m.

THE SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS — The
Sunday Before Christmas

Health & God's Blessings Upon:
Joan Walker Family

requested by: Joan Walker



The Sanctuary Candle
for this week of:

December 14 – 20, 2025
signifying the Real Presence of our Lord is

In Loving Memory of ALL
members of St. Michael's who
passed away in 2025



The Mother Of God
Candle for this week of:

December 14 – 20, 2025
signifying her Intercession is for

Health & God's Blessings upon
ALL members of St. Michael's
who are homebound,
hospitalized, & in recovery



Pray For Our Homebound, Sick, Hospitalized, & In Recovery updated: Dec. 12, 2025

RESIDING AT HOME – Greta Marks, Judy McBride, Mary Ann Polochak, George Sewecke, Irene Shaffer, Ethel Wahal, Frank Wahal, Marko Zrile.

Cleveland VA Medical Center (10701 E. Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106) – David Chesmar Jr.

The Lakes At Jefferson (7271 West Market St., Mercer, PA 16137) – Michael Kennis.

Avalon Springs Place (745 Greenville Rd., Mercer, PA 16137) – Dolores Vasil.

Ridgecrest At Cranberry Woods (3020 Fairport Ln., Cranberry Twp., PA 16066) – J. Richard Will.

St. Paul Homes (339 East Jamestown Rd., Greenville, PA 16125) – Lillian Sulick.

The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley (1 Elston Way, Hermitage, PA 16148) – Katherine Asafaylo.

Liberty Arms Assisted Living (1353 Churchill-Hubbard Rd., Youngstown, OH 44505) – Anne Pajak.

Windsor House at Liberty (1353 Churchill-Hubbard Rd., Youngstown, OH 44505) – Hank Pajak.

Whispering Oaks (260 S. Buhl Farm Dr., Hermitage, PA 16148) – John "Buddy" Wansack.

Offerings from Dec. 6 & 7, 2025

Sunday Offering.... \$5,105.00

Candles.... \$430.00

Christmas flowers.... \$205.00

Christmas.... \$20.00

Holydays.... \$316.00

TOTAL: \$6,076.00

Restoration

Pledged \$152,640

Deposited \$140,208

Pledges 69

Weekly Requirement to Meet Yearly Expenses

Date	Collection	Required	Overage (Shortage)
Dec. 7	\$ 6,076	\$ 4,500	\$ 1,576
YTD	\$175,013	\$ 220,500	(\$45,487)

Church Attendance

Saturday 12/6 – 72 (4:00 pm)

Sunday 12/7 – 50 (9:00 am)

Monday 12/8 – 40 (10:00 am)

Quote of the Week

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."

— Janice Maeditere



Thanks to Marcus

LET HE WHO IS WITHOUT SIN CAST THE FIRST SNOW

12-17-1997



CHRISTMAS MOVIES

WORD SEARCH



Y	H	Q	I	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	A	T	V	E	U
S	W	R	C	Q	W	V	N	H	Z	D	T	C	V	M	K
Y	K	B	H	Y	S	S	F	A	E	Z	P	O	Y	I	X
S	M	R	W	O	N	D	E	R	F	U	L	I	G	W	N
A	C	K	A	X	M	I	F	L	O	K	S	R	S	R	I
V	H	R	D	O	K	E	T	I	C	S	U	W	B	P	G
T	R	A	O	T	S	S	M	E	P	H	T	A	W	O	H
J	I	N	I	O	E	A	D	S	T	O	R	Y	W	F	T
T	S	K	N	I	G	U	P	R	A	U	L	Y	N	O	M
Q	T	S	P	Z	S	E	A	E	O	N	E	A	G	S	A
G	M	P	T	G	V	J	D	F	D	H	T	C	R	N	R
J	A	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	O	D	A	I	U	E
H	S	U	R	V	I	V	I	N	G	F	H	K	N	H	Q
R	W	M	N	Z	D	A	O	P	G	X	F	I	C	K	P
B	O	N	T	U	C	R	U	D	O	L	P	H	H	H	O
F	C	H	R	O	N	I	C	L	E	S	E	S	T	R	J

Find the **BOLD** words hidden in the grid above.

ARTHUR Christmas
A **CHARLIE** Brown Christmas
White **CHRISTMAS**
Christmas **CHRONICLES**
DECK the Halls
ELF
FOUR Christmases
FRED Claus



FROSTY the Snowman
The **GRINCH**
HAPPIEST Season
HOME Alone
JINGLE All the Way
Christmas with the **KRANKS**
LOVE Actually
MIRACLE on 34th Street

The **NIGHTMARE** Before Christmas
The **POLAR** Express
RUDOLPH the Red-Nosed Reindeer
The **SANTA** Claus
SCROOGED
A Christmas **STORY**
SURVIVING Christmas
National Lampoon's Christmas **VACATION**
It's a **WONDERFUL** Life

(The words may be hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally.)

5 things to examine our heart & soul

We probably are preparing our menus for Christmas dinner. We will be considering the meats to prepare, the side dishes and desserts, and we will be calculating the time it will take to prepare each item as well as the presentation of the dishes and even the placement of seats so that everyone can enjoy a meal together. Think about all of the time we spend in preparation for this meal: the prep work, the making of lists, the physical shopping from place to place, the hours of cooking... Imagine if we spent this much time taking inventory of our own lives in preparation for confession! So many of us use the excuse that we "don't have the time," yet when we look at life, we can easily see that we always have time for certain things, yet we never have the time for the others.

Aside of this, we do not consider all possibilities for examining our consciences. We tend to minimize sin, even normalize it, in our lives, and the careful examination we are to exercise becomes a last minute run to confession without preparation. Imagine cooking a Christmas dinner without preparation! That would be unacceptable to us, and making such a dinner would seem insurmountable. Now, consider how, metaphorically, our souls must look because of our lack of preparation.

Here are 5 things we should consider when examining our conscience.

(1) I think that I am better than other people. This can be considered a sin of pride, and it is a very dangerous sin. When we think that we are better than others, we lack the empathy and understanding necessary to serve others, to love them, and to see Christ in them.

(2) I can be ruthless to other people / I show no pity or compassion to others. Do I actually listen to others, or do I simply hear them? Do I demand that others apologize to me for my approval, whether or not they have done something wrong? Do I truly forgive others their trespasses as I expect God to forgive mine? Do I take the time to help, not judge, others who are in difficult circumstances and situations?

(3) I do not pursue or work to understand God's will. As Christians, we are to do the Lord's work. In the Our Father, we say each and every time "Thy Will be done," yet do we actually believe these words? Are we trying to be in control when it is God Who is in control? Do we work against our pastor and other parishioners? Do we make a person's calling to God difficult to follow?

(4) I am jealous of other people. When we see that someone has life, at least in our perception, easier, we can easily be jealous of them. After so long, we can even begin to disdain them or allow that hatred to turn to hurting them. It is important to understand ourselves and keep things in perspective, to appreciate the gifts that God has given us so that we do not allow the ugliness of jealousy to guide how we treat and/or talk about others.

(5) I am angry with people. Christ preaches a Gospel of love, not anger. It is our calling in life to pray, to understand, to help, and to forgive. Carrying anger around in our hearts only works to destroy our own soul. The fires of anger then can never be quelled, and they begin to show in our interactions with others and the ways that we handle daily situations in our lives. Anger can ruin relationships, friendships, and other things in our lives. Most importantly, anger can work toward destroying our connection with God.

Think about these five things. Pray on them. Confess them if need be.

Parish Christmas party Saturday

Our Parish Christmas party is **THIS Saturday, December 20th**. It will begin at 5:15 p.m. with apps followed by dinner. DJ Medu will play our Christmas favorites, a Christmas photo booth will be available, kids activity, Santa will make a visit, and a couple of raffles. Today is the final day to RSVP.



MENU

Appetizers (veggie tray; cheese/cracker platter)
Dinner: chicken milanese * carved ham * holupki * pasta * potatoes
vegetable * salad * dessert * hot/cold beverages * open bar



No one should miss Christmas Liturgy

The Christmas schedule for both Hermitage and Campbell churches are in the narthex. No one should miss worship with us for the upcoming Christmas/Theophany seasons.

Haven't seen someone in a while? Invite them to Church, especially Christmas Liturgy

Give them a call. See how they are doing. Let them know that you not only miss them but also care enough to see if everything is okay. A kind word can go a long way. And most importantly, invite them to church, especially Christmas Liturgy! Bring someone to worship with us this Christmas!

Confession available

There is a special opportunity at our Church before Christmas for the Sacrament of Confession: **Saturday, December 20th at 12:00 noon & next Sunday, December 21st at 8:15 a.m.** There are also confessions at SS. Peter & Paul Church in Warren with a few priests available this Wednesday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. Our pastor will be there as well.



Reconciliation

Make sure you shop now for your Christmas Eve Holy Supper



On Christmas Eve, we as Byzantine Catholics, celebrate the traditional Holy Supper (**Svjata Večerja**). Sharing a special family meal, different from all other times of the year, has always been an important part of our Christmas celebration. Today, many families look back on and cherish childhood memories of the "Holy Supper." The various foods and customs surrounding this meal differed from village to village, and thus became part of each family's heritage. We must pass this on to future generations. This meal is a vital way of reaffirming today God's love for the world, a vital way of reaffirming the importance of the family where we learn to love and be love.

2026 Liturgy intentions

If you would like a special liturgy intention on a certain date in 2026, please call the parish office and speak to Teena or leave a message. She will schedule it in.

2026 Sanctuary candle orders going fast

Candles are going fast for next year. This is all that's left for 2026. Forms are located in the narthex and entrances or call Jeff Volsko.

Sanctuary candle
Feb 1-7
June 21-27
July 26-Aug 1
Dec 27-Jan 2, 2027

Mother of God candle
May 17-23
May 24-30
June 7-13
June 28-July 4
Oct 25-31
Nov 1-7
Nov 8-14
Nov 15-21
Dec 20-26

Byzantine Choir concert next Sunday in Pittsburgh

The PBCAC (Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archieparchial Choir) invites faithful, friends and family to join them on **Sunday December 21st** as they present "Joyfully We Sing!" a choral program of beloved music of the Nativity season, presented at 2:00 pm at St Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road in Munhall, Pa. Immediately following the program, the Choir welcome all in attendance to gather in the parish social hall for some holiday goodies and refreshments. All are warmly welcome!

Christmas reflection based on 1 Cor:13 - By Sharon Jaynes

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.