

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.

I was Hungry

You see, my beloved, there is no excuse for it. They knew what they had to do in this world. But greed and ill-will prevented them, so they laid up for themselves not treasures for the future but the world of the dead. Neither were they condemned because of the active wrong they did, nor did the Lord say to them: depart from me, you wicked, because you committed murder or adultery or theft. But instead: because I was hungry and thirsty in my servants, and you did not minister to me. If those who did no wrong are thus condemned, what must be said of those who do the works of the devil? Will not the prophecy of blessed David come upon them: "The wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous?" Not that they will not rise, but that neither in judgment [nor in] the congregation of the righteous do they deserve to enter. They will stand, however, so that from

punishment they may enter into punishment." And they will go into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Whatever will be is everlasting. Sinners will have everlasting punishment; and the righteous, everlasting life.

St. Epiphanius the Latin

Do you wish to honor the body of Christ? Do not ignore Him when He is naked. Do not pay Him homage in the temple clad in silk, only then to neglect Him outside where He is cold and ill-clad. He who said: "This is my body" is the same who said: "You saw me hungry and you gave me no food" and, "Whatever you did to the least of my brothers you did also to me." ... What good is it if the Eucharistic table is overloaded with golden chalices when your brother is dying of hunger? Start by satisfying his hunger and then with what is left you may adorn the altar as well.

St. John Chrysostom

MEATFARE SUNDAY



Icon of the Last Judgment

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

St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church



Vol 15 #6



SAT., FEB 7
4:00 p.m.
(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)
 +Ellas Kalas
(1st anniversary of passing 2.9)

requested by: Sister: Betsy Lesko

SUN., FEB 8
9:00 a.m.
The Sunday of Meat-Fare – The 4th Pre-Lenten Sunday
 +Michael Dunder
(31st anniversary of passing 2.9)

requested by: Jeff & Donna Volsko

Mon., Feb 9 -
Fri., Feb 13
No divine services scheduled



SAT., FEB 14
4:00 p.m.
(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)
 +Leroy "Doc" Benjamin Stambaugh
(4th anniversary of passing 2.21)

requested by: Wife: Martha

SUN., FEB 15
9:00 a.m.
The Sunday of Cheese-Fare – The Final Pre-Lenten Sunday
 +Christine Burger
 requested by: M/M Norman Courtney

Pure Monday - No Meat, Eggs, Dairy Products OBLIGATED
The First Day of the Great Fast

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with the Oil of Gladness



The Sanctuary Candle for
February 8 – 14, 2026
signifying the Real Presence of our Lord is



In Loving Memory of
+MICHAEL DUNDER
(31st anniversary of passing Feb. 9)
By: Daughter: Donna & Jeff Volsko

The Theotokos Candle for
February 8 – 14, 2026
signifying her Intercession is for



Health & God's Blessings for
NORBERT & DOLORES VASIL
(66th wedding anniversary Feb 13th)
By: Children: David, Mary, &
Granddaughter Katie

Pray For Our Homebound, Sick, Hospitalized, & In Recovery updated: Feb. 7, 2026

RESIDING AT HOME – Charlotte Bruce, Lisa James, Jodi Kessler, Greta Marks, Judy McBride, Mary Ann Polochak, Viktor Rymniak, 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.

Windsor House O'Brien Memorial (563 Brookfield Ave., Masury, OH 44438) – George Sewecke.

Offerings from Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 2026

Sunday Offering.... \$4,530.00

Candles.... \$188.00

Holyday.... \$295.00

TOTAL: \$5,013.00

Restoration

Pledged \$163,248

Deposited \$147,818

Pledges 69

Weekly Requirement to Meet Yearly Expenses			
Date	Collection	Required	Overage (Shortage)
Feb. 1	\$5,013	\$4,100	\$913
YTD	\$19,786	\$20,500	(\$714)



WHY SNOWMEN STINK AT FOOTBALL

Church Attendance

Saturday 1/31 – 62 (4:00 pm)

Sunday 2/1 – 58 (9:00 am)

Monday 2/2 – 30 (10:00 am)

Saturday (all souls) 2/7 – 13 (10:00 am)

Quote of the Week

“Love bears all things,
 believes all things, hopes all
 things, endures all things.”

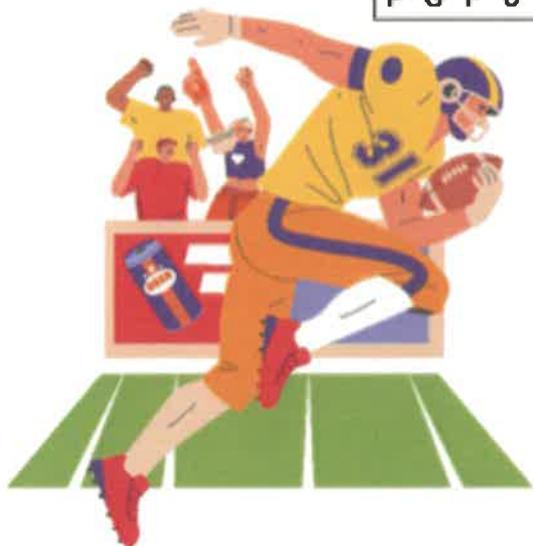
— 1 Corinthians 13:7

Super Bowl

Word Search

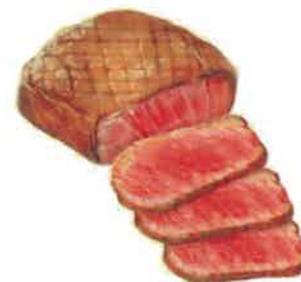
DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

- BLITZ
- COACH
- COMMERCIALS
- DEFENSE
- DYNASTY
- END ZONE
- FIELD GOAL
- FOOTBALL
- FUMBLE
- GATORADE



- GRIDIRON
- HUDDLE
- LAS VEGAS
- LOMBARDI
- MVP
- NFL
- OFFENSE
- OVERTIME
- PIGSKIN
- PLAY CLOCK
- PUNT
- QUARTERBACK
- REFEREE
- SACK
- SUPER BOWL
- TACKLE
- TAILGATING
- TOUCHDOWN

The Sunday of Meat-Fare



Today, our Byzantine Catholic Church calls this Sunday, Meatfare Sunday.

Traditionally, this was the final day that one would eat meat until the Feast of Pascha (Easter). The same goes for Cheesefare Sunday, which is next Sunday, when one would refrain from dairy until Pascha. While our Church regulations do not include the strictness of no meat until Easter, many faithful do choose to follow the traditional form of this fasting until Easter.

Some may ask, “why is this?” and the answer is simple. Rather than jumping into the Great Fast and shocking our bodies with a complete fast, we are invited to enter the Fast gradually, much like acclimating our bodies to colder water when we go swimming. Some cannot handle the immediate shock of the cold and would rather gently wade into the water; the same is for the Great Fast.

The purpose of the Fast is to allow our bodies the opportunity to release the need for gratification from heavy eating; in fact, we return to the vegetarian diet of the Garden of Eden where the first sin was committed. We recognize within ourselves the need for repentance, for having separated ourselves from God, we need to awaken ourselves spiritually through intensified fasting and prayer.

You see, the Great Fast is just that: a fast. Fasting means to go without. We’re all aware of the question of “what did you give up for Lent?” or even dreaded going for the duration of the Great Fast without sweets, snacks, or our favorite food. However, this mentality does not fully encapsulate what the Great Fast is all about. The “giving up” part is actually sacrifice beyond our culinary predilections. We are invited to give up of our time, talents, and treasure to help those less fortunate, to work toward making a greater difference in the world beyond our own selves. Through this giving up of ourselves, we show ourselves truly to be sons and daughters of God, and we work toward a greater understanding of what it really means to sacrifice.

Also, we must remember that as we fast, we are not to call attention to ourselves or complain, and we must be mindful of our words and actions toward others. Simply fasting does not mean that we are doing our “job” by any means—this involves our entire body and soul. Only then, can we work toward growing closer to God by avoiding temptation and sin.

‘Fasengy’ time

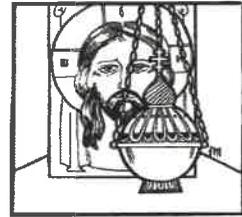
Before the start of the Great Fast (Lent), it was customary to hold “Fasengy,” which is the festival of merrymaking observed with feasting, dancing, and jocular revelry. Typically, this shrovetide celebration took the form a carnival. Occasionally, the Fasengy was held in conjunction with a large formal dance known as a **fasengovyj ball**. This was thus the last occasion for public mirth, lightheartedness, and innocent fun prior to the start of Lent.

Founder's day treats next weekend

submitted by: Bill Dzuricsko, GCU Parish Coordinator

"The GCU will celebrate Founder's Day with its 134th Birthday on February 14th! After the 4 PM Liturgy on Saturday, February 14th and the 9 AM Liturgy on Sunday, February 15th the GCU will provide individually wrapped Heart Shaped Sugar Cookies from DiLorenzo's, as well as a variety of GCU "freebies" and information. We hope to see you there!"

The Pre-Sanctified Liturgies begin shortly



During the holy season of the Great Fast, which this year begins February 16th, our Byzantine Catholic Church proscribes the Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy to be celebrated. This is a special Liturgy with different melodies in which no Consecration takes place, due to the fact that the Eucharist is already consecrated (pre-sanctified). The Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy will be offered on **Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. & on 3 Fridays (to be announced)**. Join us for the weekly Pre-Sanctified Liturgies during the season of The Great Fast. Don't miss out on attending this beautiful and uplifting Lenten Liturgy. Make it part of your Lenten goals to attend!

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on first day of the Great Fast

On the First Day of the Great Fast, **Monday, February 16th**, the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be offered at **5:00 p.m.** The Oil of Gladness will be distributed to all in attendance.

Deanery Vespers – February 22nd afternoon



On the First Sunday of The Great Fast, **February 22nd, at 4:00 p.m.**, our Youngstown Deanery will have a common prayer of Lenten Vespers at Infant Jesus of Prague Church, in Boardman OH. You will have a chance to spend a prayerful night and receive a blessing and enrich your spiritual life. Priests will be available for confessions and social with refreshments after service. All are invited.

Soup/baked goods fundraiser in two weekends to help parishioner—submitted by Alyson Hardman

Fundraiser: Soup and Bake Sale to benefit Megan Pisarcik. **February 21st & 22nd**

Saturday 3 pm - 6 pm

Sunday 10:30 am – 1 pm

The donations will help Megan with the outstanding medical bills after her surgery and therapy. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

We will have Alyson's homemade chicken noodle soup with homemade noodles 🍜, and Donna's potato dumpling soup. We will also have Tex Mex Soup and Broccoli cheddar. Stock your freezers for Lent. Also, there will be a variety of homemade baked goods by Alyson and Donna which will help in completing your dinner. Fresh baked breads, Alyson's famous Carrot cake and cookies to name a few. If you have any questions please contact Alyson Hardman or Donna Volsko. Thank you for your contributions, they are greatly appreciated!

Congrats!

Our St. Michael Parish extends Happy **66th Wedding Anniversary** wishes to **NORBERT & DOLORES VASIL**. They were married on February 13, 1960. May the Lord God grant to His servants, Norbert & Dolores, peace, health, and happiness for many blessed years, na mnohaja i blahaja l'ita! Happy 66th Wedding Anniversary!



Lenten Wednesday luncheons?

Years ago, a meatless luncheon was held following the Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Liturgies during the season of the Great Fast in the church narthex area. Father is inquiring if this is something we would like to return to. The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be celebrated on Wednesday's at 11:00 a.m. and then anyone who would like to attend the luncheon may stay. Parishioners will be asked to sign-up to bring in a meatless soup or main dish to share. Or you can give a monetary donation and our pastor will pick up the food. If you would be interested in resurrecting this fellowship, or have another idea about it, please let our pastor know by calling or texting him your thoughts. A decision will be made soon. **So far, only 2 people expressed interest in having these meals.**

Assorting for sale

Megan Pisarcik will be at the Social Center **TODAY, February 8th** from 10:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. organizing some stuff for the rummage sale if you would like to help her out.

St. Michael's, Campbell, Ohio

Friday Lenten food drive-thru sales

St. Michael Church in Campbell, OH will have food sales on the Fridays of the Great Fast. This will follow a drive-thru format. Pre-Orders preferred and guaranteed. Drive-up's welcome until supplies last. Call/Text Regina at 330-720-2100 for your orders. \$10 per dozen pirohi and \$10 per quart of halushki.

Lenten Fridays	Homemade Food Items \$10
February 20	Pirohi (potato, sweet cabbage, lekvar)
February 27	Halushki
March 6	Pirohi (potato, sweet cabbage, lekvar)
March 13	Halushki
March 20	Pirohi (potato, sweet cabbage, lekvar)
March 27	Halushki

St. Michael's, Campbell, child benefit dinner next Sunday - Benefit Fundraiser for 3 year old Carmela Circelli on Sunday, February 15th. 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. Chicken parm dinner (\$15) or Pasta/Meatball Dinner (\$10). Basket auction as well. Tickets at door or call Annette at 330-540-4334 for pre-orders.