

# St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church

2230 Highland Road ♦ Hermitage, Pennsylvania 16148

Parish office: 724-981-6680 ♦ Parish email: [stmichaelhermitage2230@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelhermitage2230@gmail.com)

Pastor: Very Reverend Father Kevin E. Marks, Protosyber

Pastor's email: [kevmarks@hotmail.com](mailto:kevmarks@hotmail.com) ♦ Pastor's Cell Phone: 412-480-4508

Website: [www.stmichaelbyzhermitage.com](http://www.stmichaelbyzhermitage.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/st.michaelbyz.hermitage](https://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. **HOLIDAYS:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Presanctified Liturgies:** Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. & 3 Fridays announced in bulletin

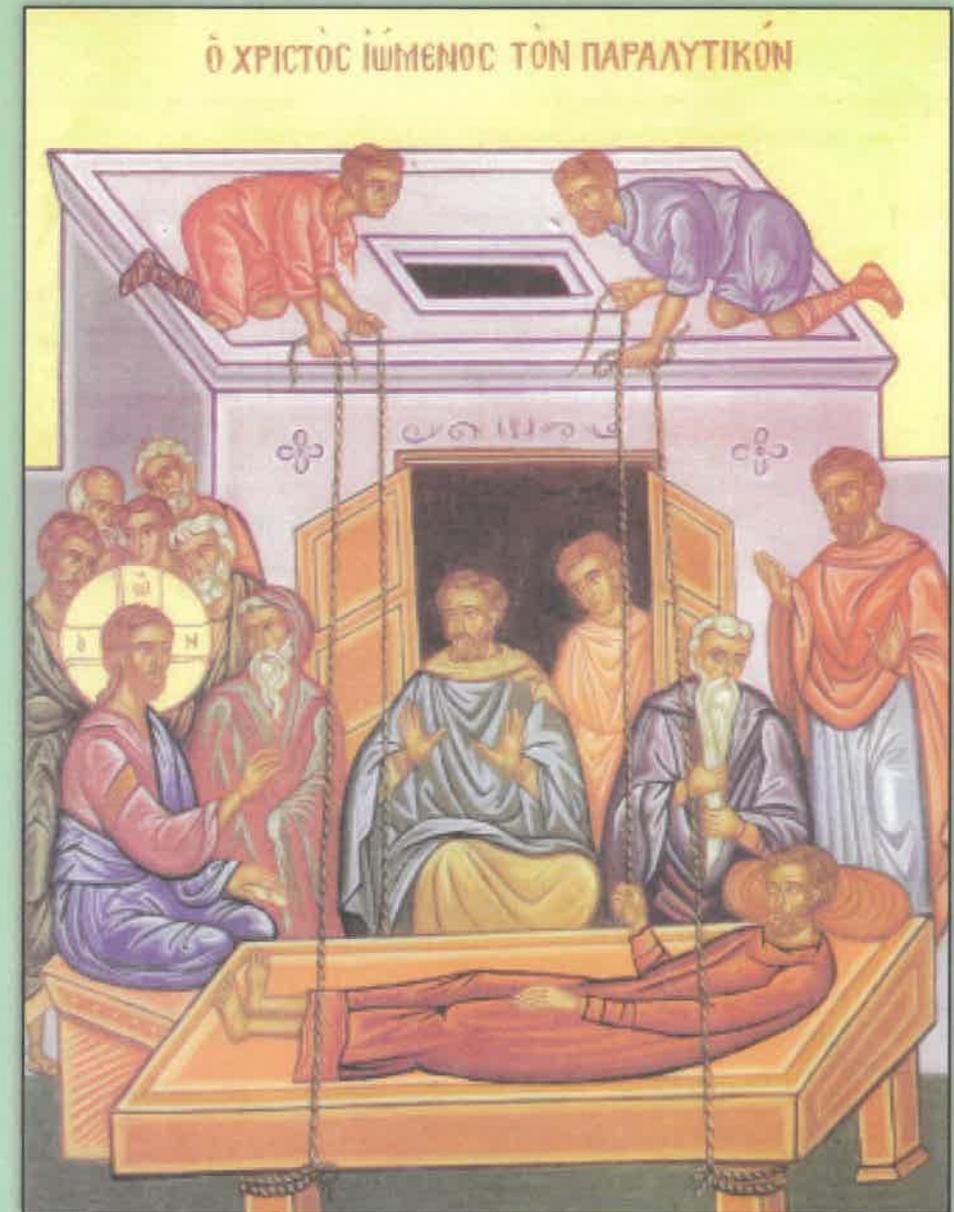
## *You are Forgiven and Healed*

In Capernaum Jesus is surrounded by great numbers of people. As He preaches to the crowd, four friends of a paralyzed man lower him on his mat through the roof so that he can be close enough for Jesus to see him and cure him. Jesus responds to this act of faith, not by healing the man immediately, but by touching off the first of a series of controversial dialogues with the Scribes and Pharisees. When Jesus says, "Child, your sins are forgiven," He is as much as saying, "It is God whom you approach." In the Old Testament, only God is capable of forgiving sins; and it was expected that He would do so only at the end of time. It becomes clear why the Scribes murmur "he is blaspheming" and why Jesus brings it all out in the open. His claim to be able to forgive sins better reveals His identity as Son of God than do the miracles He performs.

Aware of the silent censure His forgiving word has caused in the crowd, Jesus proceeds to prove that "the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" by commanding the man to rise and walk in the sight of everyone. In concluding this miracle, Mark asks his readers to praise God for His presence in their midst as the forgiver-healer, just as the crowd did, even in the face of those who did not believe.

It is significant that Mark has chosen to present this miracle and teaching about Jesus' power to forgive sins so early in his Gospel drama. It shows that the need for the experience of God's forgiveness was as important to first-century Christians as it is today. Mark's readers praise God for saying clearly, and even today, "My sons, my daughters, I absolve you from your sins."

## SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST



*Icon of Healing the Paralytic*

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

St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church



Founded 1905 † Hermitage, Pennsylvania

Vol 15 #9



**SAT., FEB 28** **(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)**  
 4:00 p.m. +Helen Kessell requested by: Mentrek & Knight Families  
 (remembrance of 103rd birthday 2.25)

**SUN., MAR 1** **The Second Sunday of the Great Fast – The Sunday of the Palsied Man**  
 9:00 a.m. +Lt. Col. William E. Marceau Jr. requested by: Dawnya Marceau  
 (3rd anniversary of passing 2.27) Melanie & John Gibbons & Grandchildren

**Wed, Mar 4**  **3rd Wednesday of the Great Fast - No Meat OBLIGATED**  
 10:30 a.m. Confessions available  
 11:00 a.m. The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
 1:00 p.m. Funeral Divine Liturgy of +George Sewecke



**Fri, Mar 6**  **3rd Friday of the Great Fast - No Meat OBLIGATED**

**SAT., MAR 7** **(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)** Fr. Ian McElrath, Celebrant  
 4:00 p.m. +William C. Marks, Sr. requested by: Son: Fr. Kevin  
 (8th anniversary of passing today)

**SUN., MAR 8** **The Third Sunday of the Great Fast – The Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross**  
 9:00 a.m. +Mary Liscio requested by: Liscio Children  
 (14th anniversary of passing 3.9) Becky Spohn, Mike, Chris  
 +Anne M. Hudak requested by: Randy & Patty Tomko  
 (remembrance of 102nd birthday 3.7)



**The Sanctuary Candle for**  
**March 1 – 7, 2026**  
*signifying the Real Presence of our Lord is*  
**In Loving Memory of**  
**+LUCY MALLICK**  
*(remembrance of 95th birthday March 15)*  
**By: Joan Walker**



**The Theotokos Candle for**  
**March 1 – 7, 2026**  
*signifying her Intercession is*  
**In Loving Memory of**  
**+ANNE HUDAK**  
*(remembrance of 102nd birthday March 7)*  
**By: Randy & Patty Tomko**



*Pray For Our Homebound, Sick, Hospitalized, & In Recovery* updated: Feb. 27, 2026  
**RESIDING AT HOME** – Charlotte Bruce, Greta Marks, Judy McBride, Mary Ann Polochak, Viktor Rymniak, Ethel Wahal.  
**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.  
**Whispering Oaks (260 S. Buhl Farm Dr., Hermitage, PA 16148)** – John “Buddy” Wansack.

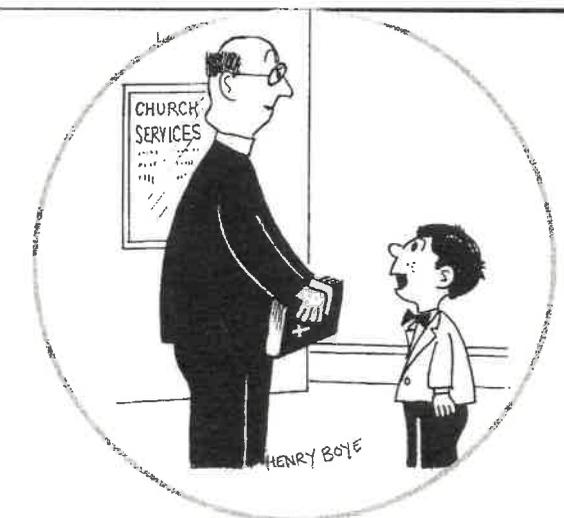
**Offerings from Feb. 21 & 22, 2026**

Sunday Offering.... \$2,955.00  
 Loose Currency.... \$60.00  
 Candles.... \$136.00  
**TOTAL: \$3,151.00**

**Restoration**

Pledged \$164,533  
 Deposited \$149,833  
 Pledges 69

Weekly Requirement to Meet Yearly Expenses			
Date	Collection	Required	(Shortage)
Feb. 22	\$3,151	\$4,100	(\$949)
YTD	\$27,915	\$32,800	(\$4,885)



How come you know so much about hell?

**Church Attendance**

**Saturday 2/21 – 80** (4:00 pm)  
**Sunday 2/22 – 60** (9:00 am)  
**Wednesday 2/25 – 40** (11:00 am)  
**Friday 2/27 – 37** (5:00 pm)

**Quote of the Week**

“Fasting is more about longing for the power and presence of Jesus than restricting our appetites.”

— Gary Rohrmayer



# March

## WORD SEARCH



Solve the following puzzle by finding all the hidden words!

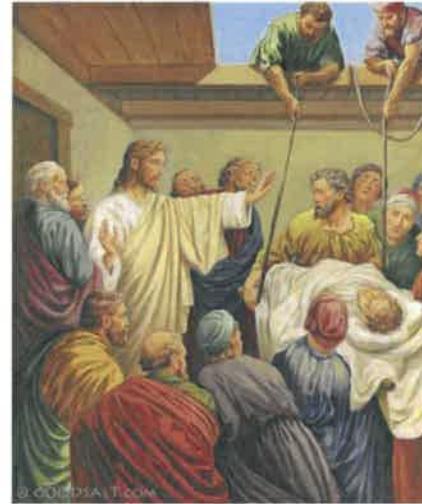


PI DAY  
EASTER  
LUCK  
EQUINOX  
MARDI GRAS  
BASKETBALL  
MARCH MADNESS

RAIN  
SPRING BREAK  
CHERRY BLOSSOMS  
IDES OF MARCH  
TOURNAMENT  
LAMB  
KITE

DAYLIGHT SAVING  
COLLEGE  
SHAMROCK  
TULIPS  
WINDY  
GREEN  
DAFFODILS

## The Second Sunday of the Great Fast



In the Gospel, we see Christ teaching the crowds that have gathered around Him. As He is speaking, four men bring a friend, who is paralyzed, on a mat, which would be an equivalent to a stretcher or litter that would be used on an ambulance today, to encounter Christ. Seeing no way through the large crowd, they went to the roof of the structure in which Jesus was standing, made a hole in the roof, carried their friend to the roof, and let him down to the place where Jesus was. Saint Mark then tells us in his Gospel is that, "When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, 'My son, your sins are forgiven.'" Notice the wording—"When Jesus saw THEIR faith"—he forgave the paralyzed man his sins. This is a very powerful scene, not only in the Gospel, but in the course of our own faith life, and there are several points of understanding that come from this moment.

We come to church because we are, indeed, sinners. Throughout various services, we hear Christ addressed as the Physician/Healer of our souls and bodies, much like we witness in the Gospel today, He heals the paralytic's soul and body. If we were not sinners, then we would be God and would not need salvation. Most especially throughout the Great Fast, we are reminded of our own afflictions, and we address them through prayer asking God for his forgiveness and mercy.

Just as we associate so closely with the palsied man, we must ask ourselves honestly how closely we resemble the four friends. This is the powerful part of today's Gospel message. The friends didn't take the sick man to Christ because they were getting paid; they didn't take the sick man to Christ because they felt obligated to do so; rather, they took the sick man to Christ because their faith compelled them to do so. The strength of their love for their paralyzed friend gave them the fortitude and willingness to sacrifice their own time and physical beings to bring him to Christ. Are we not all called to do the same as being members of the Body of Christ, our Church? Do we actively, willingly, and unreservedly follow this call? This is where the true reflection lies in our Gospel.

We hear that, throughout the Great Fast, we should be praying, fasting, doing works of charity of mercy, and so on, but do we just chalk these up to mere suggestions as opposed to applying them to faith in action? The lesson we take from these four friends is that they went above and beyond to get the paralytic to Christ—they couldn't get to Him on the ground level, so they make the great effort to make a hole in the roof and lower their friend to Christ. It was because of this effort, this great faith that the friends had in the healing power of our Lord that they physically stressed themselves to bring the paralyzed man—a man who could in no way through his own volition or ability go himself—to Christ. Their faith moved Christ to forgiveness, much like our faith, as Byzantine Catholics, should compel us to help those in our midst that are paralytics. Our services are not singular, nor do they belong to one person; they are a gathering of multiple voices to form one voice of praise and honor to God to grant us health, salvation, and forgiveness.

## Come to Church extra during Lent...no joking!

Lent is a time to attend church more...And just not on the weekend! It's a special time to incorporate an extra day of public worship into your busy schedule! The penitential season of The Great Fast is manifested in the Church's Presanctified Liturgy. If you have never attended a Presanctified Liturgy before, you are truly missing something special! **Join us for the Presanctified Liturgies.** Give one extra hour of worship to God during the season of Lent!



## Pastor to give retreat day

Next Saturday, **March 7th**, our pastor will be the presenter for a Lenten retreat day of prayer and reflection at the House of Prayer at Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA.

## PAC meeting

There is a PAC (parish advisory council) meeting this Monday, March 2nd. Members are to attend.

## S.M.A.R.T. meeting

A SMART meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 9th, at 5:00 p.m.** in the church kitchen narthex area. All are welcome to attend.

## Rummage Sale last drop off time

**Sunday, March 8th**, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is the last drop off for Rummage Sale.

# RUMMAGE SALE

**WHERE:** St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic  
Social Center • 2230 Highland Rd.  
Hermitage, Pa 16148

**WHEN: Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 to 8:00pm**

**Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00am to 3:00pm**



**LOTS OF AWESOME ITEMS!**  
Kitchen, Home Décor, Lamps &  
Furniture, Framed Art Pictures,  
Holiday Decorations, Purses &  
Totes, Costume Jewelry, Kids toys,  
Baby items, Stuffed Animals, Books,  
Crafts & So Much More!!

**Volunteers needed for  
rummage Sale...sign-up in  
narthex or side entrances**



**Change clocks one hour  
forward next Saturday night**

## Altar server falls asleep in the Lord

+**FRANK G. WAHAL**, 68, of Greenville, originally of Munhall, PA fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, February 22, 2026. He is the son of Ethal Wahal and sister of Mary Ann Gross. +Frank was an altar server and a Eucharist minister at our St. Michael Church. His Funeral was offered at St. John's Cathedral in Munhall, PA on Friday, February 27, 2026 with interment at their cemetery. May God grant to His departed servant, +Frank, blessed repose and eternal memory, vicnaja jemu pamjat.



## 3-bar chocolate crosses available to order

A 3-bar chocolate candy cross made by *Sarris Candies* will be available for **\$6.00 per cross**. They come in milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and white chocolate. Please mark your quantity along with what kind on the special sheet in the narthex. They will be distributed on Palm Sunday weekend. All orders must be in by Sunday, March 15th.

## Akron Children's Hospital almsgiving opportunity

As you come into the church, there is a Lenten Wish Tree and display dedicated to this cause. Each Easter egg on the Wish Tree contains a gift for a child hospitalized at Akron Children's. If you wish to be a part of this Lenten outreach, please take an Easter egg with the description of the gift. Once you have purchased the gift, please bring it to Church unwrapped, and place it by the Lenten Wish tree. Gifts will be collected until Palm Sunday, March 29th.

## THOUGHTS FOR LENT (A little dated but still good advice) - By Jim Auer

If we were knives, Lent would be a time to sharpen our cutting edges.  
If we were cars, Lent would be a time for an oil change and a tune-up.  
If we were swimming pools, Lent would be a time to filter the dirt out of our water.  
If we were gardens, Lent would be a time to fertilize our soil and dig out our weeds.  
If we were carpets, Lent would be a time to get power-cleaned.  
If we were VCRs, Lent would be a time to clean our heads and adjust our tracking.  
If we were computers, Lent would be a time to overhaul our disk drive.  
If we were highways, Lent would be a time to repair our cracks and fill our chuckholes.  
If we were TV sets, Lent would be a time to adjust our focus and our fine-tuning.  
If we were silverware, Lent would be a time to clean away our tarnish.  
If we were batteries, Lent would be a time to get recharged.  
If we were seeds, Lent would be a time to germinate and reach for the sun.  
But we are none of those things.  
We are people who sometimes do wrong things; we need to atone for them.  
We are people who sometimes grow spiritually lazy; we need to get back into shape.  
We are people who sometimes become selfish; we need to stretch out of our narrowness and begin giving again.  
We are people who sometimes lose sight of our purpose on earth and the immense promise within us; we need to regain our vision.  
And because we are also people who sometimes tend to put those things off, we need a special sort of official time to concentrate on doing them. So we have Lent. The Easter candy will taste sweeter. The Easter flowers will bloom more brightly. The Easter Sunday sun will shine more warmly if we are a better people - and all because of how we spend these forty days.

ST. PAUL CENTER  
PARISH MISSION

Scott Hahn in Warren, OH

The Paschal Mystery:  
Preparing for Holy Week

Study Scripture from the heart of the Church with one of today's most respected scholars.

[stpaulcenter.com/events/hahn-in-warren-oh-2026](http://stpaulcenter.com/events/hahn-in-warren-oh-2026)

Mass | 5:30 pm

Talk by Dr. Hahn | 7:00 pm

St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish,  
Blessed Sacrament Church  
3020 Reeves Rd NE  
Warren, OH 44483

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Cost: \$20



CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[EVENTS@STPAULCENTER.COM](mailto:EVENTS@STPAULCENTER.COM)

