

St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church



2230 Highland Road ♦ Hermitage, Pennsylvania 16148

Parish office: 724-981-6680 ♦ Parish email: stmichaelhermitage2230@gmail.com

Pastor: Reverend Father Kevin E. Marks ♦ 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. at Social Center.

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.
THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY: Wed's: 11:00 a.m. & Fri's: 6:00 p.m.

Journeying to Pascha

Jesus continues today his work of healing and exorcism, and that is appropriate for this time of Lent, because Lent is a time for healing and exorcism. It is a time for us to heal the wounds of our souls – self-inflicted wounds due to our complacency and laziness and self-indulgence. It is time to get rid of those demons of our own sinful habits and anything that keeps us away from God and from living that abundant life that Christ came to give us.

We start to make our way toward Jerusalem. At the end of today's Gospel already there is the prediction of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Christ, giving a little hint in the Gospel that the course of Lent is moving now towards Jerusalem. We have gone through several weeks now of spiritual preparations, Scripture texts, prayers and activities. Now our focus is starting to turn towards Jerusalem. That will

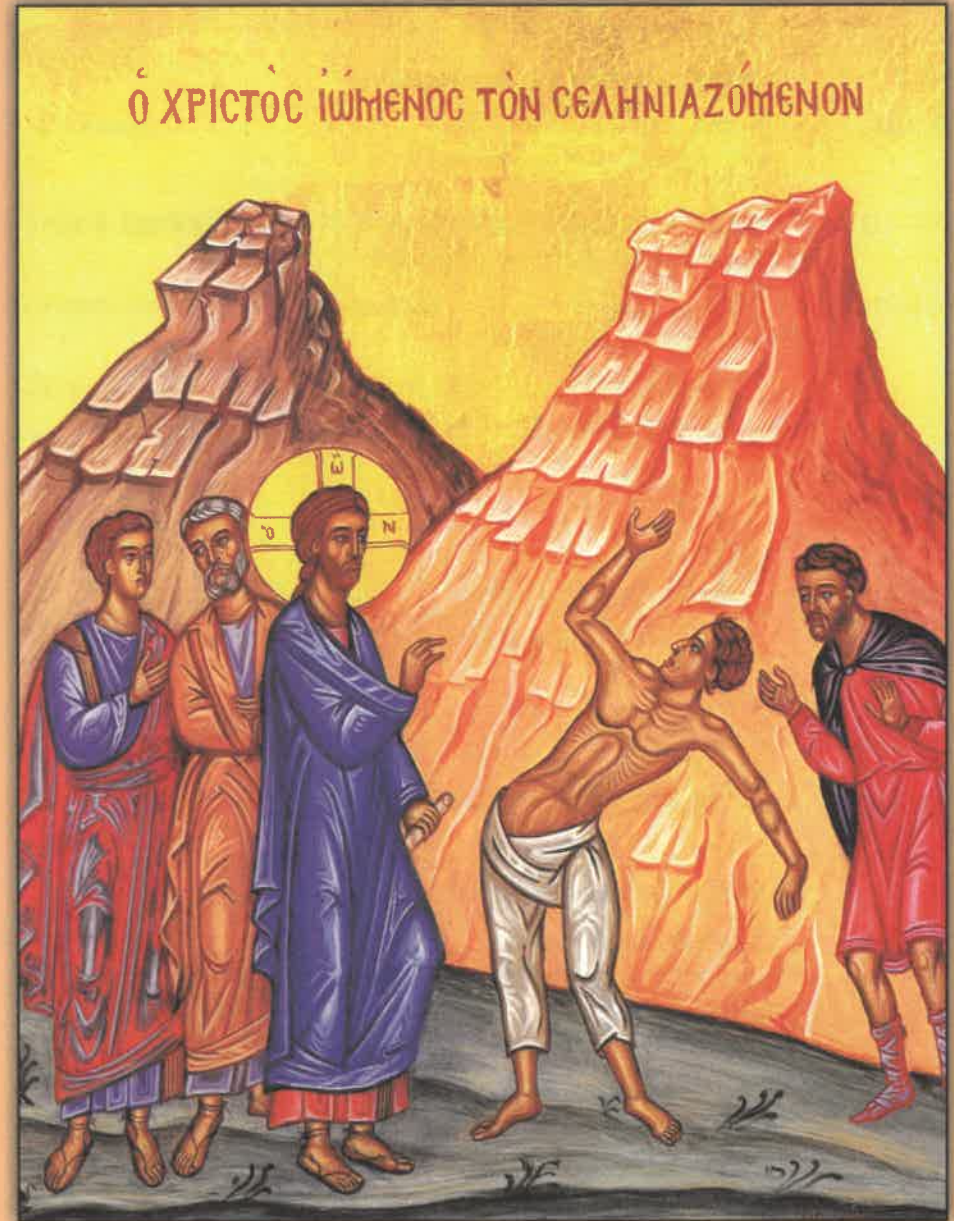
be made more explicit in next Sunday's Gospel, but we are already getting a hint of it now.

There are only three weeks now until Easter, two weeks until Palm Sunday, when we are really liturgically accompanying Christ into the mystery of His Passion.

So it is coming soon, and we have to start turning towards Jerusalem. We have to get focused, we have to get recollected, we have to really revive our Lenten prayer and fasting so that we can make the rest of this journey and be fruitful and overcome the demons and find healing for the wounds of our souls – and go with Christ to his Passion and, through the mystery of His Cross, come to that great, transfiguring, glorious celebration of His Resurrection.

For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit www.ecpubs.com

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of Healing the Boy with a Demon



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



Sat., MAR 9
4:00 p.m. **(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)**
+William C. Marks Sr. requested by: Son: Fr. Kevin
(6th anniversary of passing 3.7)

Sun., MAR 10
9:00 a.m. **The Fourth Sunday Of The Great Fast – The Sunday of Saint John Climacus**
+Mary Liscio requested by: Liscio Children: Becky, Chris, and Mike
(12th anniversary of passing 3.9)
+Charles William Mallick requested by: Wife: Lucy
(23rd anniversary of passing 3.11)

Wed. Mar 13
10:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. **The 5th Wednesday of the Great Fast – No Meat Products OBLIGATED**
Confessions Available
The Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy



Fri. Mar 15
6:00 p.m. **The 5th Friday of the Great Fast – No Meat Products OBLIGATED**
The Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy

Sat., MAR 16
4:00 p.m. **(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)**
+Leroy Stambaugh requested by: Wife: Martha
(remembrance of 87th birthday 3.12)
Health & God's Blessings Upon
Martha Stambaugh (86th birthday 3.15)

Sun., MAR 17
9:00 a.m. **The Fifth Sunday Of The Great Fast – The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt – St. Patrick's Day**
+Candance Rymniak requested by: Alan & Tanya Rymniak
(remembrance of 66th birthday 3.18)



The Sanctuary Candle for this week of:
MARCH 10 – 16, 2024
signifying the Real Presence of our Lord is
In Loving Memory Of:
+LEROY STAMBAUGH
(remembrance of 87th birthday March 12) &
Health & God's Blessings Upon
MARTHA STAMBAUGH
(celebrating her 86th birthday March 15)

The Mother Of God Candle for this week of:
MARCH 10 – 16, 2024
signifying the Real Presence of our Lord is for
Health & God's Blessings Upon
JEFFREY BAJOREK
(celebrating his 36th birthday March 13)
FROM: MARY ANNE BAJOREK

Pray For Our Homebound, Sick, Hospitalized, & In Recovery updated: March 8, 2024
RESIDING AT HOME – Katherine Asafaylo, Shirley & William Baker, Christine Burger, Dan Huscroft, Fr. Michael Huszti, Carol Markovich, Greta Marks, Hank Pajak, George Sewecke, Irene Shaffer, Martha Stambaugh, Lillian Sulick, Monica Walls, Elizabeth Wareham, James Zawacki.
Cleveland VA Medical Center (10701 E. Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106) – David Chesmar Jr.
John XXIII Home (2250 Shenango Valley Freeway, Hermitage, PA 16148) – Mary Miller.
O'Brien Memorial Nursing Home (563 Brookfield Ave., Masury, OH 44438) – Michael Bebech.
The Lakes At Jefferson (7271 West Market St., Mercer, PA 16137) – Michael Kennis.
St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital (1044 Belmont Ave., Youngstown, OH 44501) – Alex Papa.

Offerings from March 2 & 3, 2024
Sunday Offering \$4,544.00
Candles \$204.07
Easter Flowers.... \$715.00
Easter \$50.00
Holydays.... \$35.00
TOTAL: \$5,548.00

Weekly Requirement to Meet Yearly Expenses			
Date	Collection	Required	Overage (Shortage)
Mar. 3	\$5,548	\$3,774	\$1,774
YTD	\$31,944	\$33,966	(\$2,022)



(See Exodus 14)
MOSES WAS NOT HAPPY WHEN HE FOUND THAT HIS BATHWATER WAS PULLED FROM THE RED SEA

Church Attendance
Saturday 3/2 – **62** (4:00 pm)
Sunday 3/3 – **65** (9:00 am)
Wednesday 3/6 – **27** (11:00 pm)
Wednesday 3/8 – **24** (6:00 pm)

Quote of the Week
"Show me your hands. Do they have scars from giving? Show me your feet. Are they wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have you left a place for divine love."
— Venerable Fulton Sheen

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

WORD SEARCH

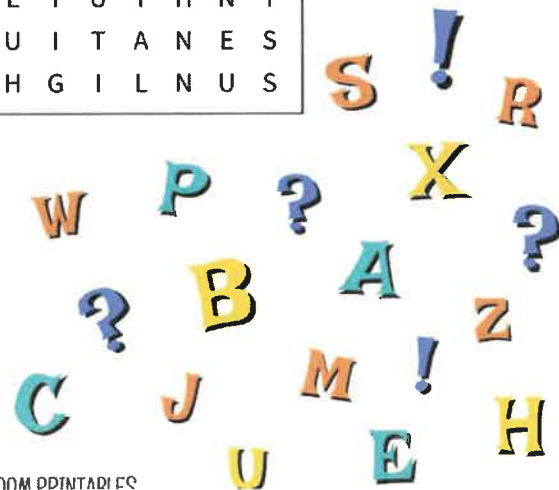
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Date: _____

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 I Y A I L A R T S U A B T H G I L N U S

- Oil Embargo
- Evening
- Morning
- Candle
- Season
- United Kingdom
- Time Zone
- Sunlight
- Sunday
- One Hour
- March
- Time

- Canada
- Europe
- Daylight
- Energy
- Spring
- Australia
- Energy Crisis
- United States
- Clock
- Hour



Ain't It Funny?

Ain't it funny how we set our clocks to arise at 4:00 am or 5:00 am to be at the job by 7:30; yet, when Sunday comes we can't get to church on time for the 9 a.m. Liturgy to praise the one who gave us the jobs?

Ain't it funny how we call God our Father and Jesus our brother; but find it hard to introduce them to our family and friends?

Ain't it funny how small our sins seem, but how big others' sins are?

Ain't it funny how we demand justice for others; but expect mercy for ourselves from God?

Ain't it funny how much difficulty some have learning the Gospel well enough to tell others; but how simple it is to understand and explain the latest gossip about someone else?

Ain't it funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray; but don't have any difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a friend?

Ain't it funny how we are so quick to take directions from a total stranger when we are lost; but are hesitant to take God's direction for our lives?

Each of these questions presented to us here represents choices that we all make in our daily lives. And this choice is simple—to follow Christ or not to follow Him. We alone, not anyone else, make this choice. And the choices that we make and continue to make will lay the groundwork for our eternal reward or our eternal punishment. Is this way easy? No. We are told to take up our cross, just as our Lord did, but even though it is challenging, we have Him by our side! This is why the last part of the "Ain't it funny..." reflection is so important. A lot of times, in our own spiritual blindness, we fail to see God's hand in all that we do. We fail to recognize that our Lord is not only there with us during the hard times, but He is also present during the good times as well.

How do we ask God for direction? We pray, naturally, and we exercise the Mystery of Repentance/Confession. Through the priest, Christ forgives our sins and guides us in ways that we can become stronger and better, to resist temptation. However, all of these things depend on choices that WE make each and every day.

As we attend Divine Services to praise our Lord, let us not only reflect on the Gospel, but let us also attempt to LIVE the Gospel. This is where the true lesson comes for us. This is the importance of the message that we hear each and every time we attend Matins and Divine Liturgy! May God bless you, and may you continue to make the right choices in life, with Christ as your compass.

St. John Climacus remembered this Sunday

Our holy father John of the Ladder is a Saint whom we commemorate every year on the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast. He lived in the late 6th and early 7th centuries. He was tonsured a monk at the Monastery of Saint Catherine at Mt. Sinai. Most of his life was spent completely by himself in continuous prayer at the place where, according to tradition, God had spoken to Moses by the burning bush and later had given to him the Law. During the last years of his life our venerable father John was the archimandrite-abbot of St. Catherine's Monastery, where he wrote his famous work "The Ladder of Divine Ascent", which caused him to be known as St. John "of the Ladder."



In this book he teaches how we can become spiritually and morally perfect. May the life and the writings of Saint John Climacus, whom we commemorate on the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast, both enlighten and inspire us in our own pilgrimage towards the Glorious third day Resurrection!

Lenten ethnic food & bake sale 🍌🍋🍌

The Sale held this past Wednesday far exceeded our goals! The full report will be available in next week's bulletin. Following both Liturgies this weekend, there will be some limited food available for sale; Pirohi, Halushki, Vegetable, Zucchini & Borscht Soup; also, Baked Goods; stop back in the Kitchen Narthex area and someone will be on hand to assist you.

Sign-up's begin for Good Friday all night vigil

Our St. Michael Parish will continue the tradition of having the All Night Vigil following Good Friday Vespers March 29th through Resurrectional Matins on Saturday evening, March 30th. Please sign-up in the narthex, so we can depend on you to cover an hour, especially through the early morning hours.

Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday for our youth

Our youth "EASTER EGG HUNT" will be on Palm Sunday, March 24th following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. Colorful plastic Easter eggs will be filled with goodies and hidden on the front lawn of the Church for our parish youth to find (in Social Center if raining). All children are invited. For more info, please see Megan Pisarcik.



Everyone invited to feast on Holy Saturday

Following the blessing of baskets on Holy Saturday evening March 30th, everyone is invited to stay in the Social Center to eat of the blessed Paschal foods. Paschal foods and drinks will be provided.

Sign-up if attending Priest Ordinations

Deacon John Welch & Deacon Tim Farris will be ordained to the Priesthood on Sunday, April 7th at 3:00 p.m. at our very own St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Hermitage, PA. There is an invitation for those who wish to attend the Liturgy and reception afterward. Please sign-up in the narthex if you plan on going to the Priesthood Ordination Liturgy and/or reception following.

Getting ready to host Ordinations

Since we will be welcoming our Metropolitan Archbishop along with many faithful from all over on April 7th for the two priesthood ordinations, our pastor is kindly asking us to be the best host ever. This entails making sure our church and social center is spic and span. You are kindly ask to help get everything ready. Here is a tentative schedule:

Tuesday, April 2 @10:00 am	wash and clean pews in church & set up narthex kitchen area for the Archieparchial choir
Wednesday, April 3 @6:00 pm	set up Social Center tables, chairs, and skirt tables and place linens on tables and decorate
Thursday/Friday, April 4 & 5	any further details or areas needing done

Also, between now and then and depending on weather, Father would like anything outside to be done that we might be able to spruce up as well.



"92" and counting

Our Saint Michael Parish offers Happy Birthday wishes to LUCY MALLICK who celebrates her "92nd" birthday this Friday, March 15th. May the Lord God grant to His handmaid, Lucy, peace, health, and happiness, for many blessed years, na mnohaja i blahja l'ita. Happy 92nd Birthday Lucy!

Final day to order chocolate crosses

All orders for the chocolate crosses are due by TODAY. Please mark your quantity along with what kind of chocolate on the special sheet in the narthex. They will be distributed on Palm Sunday weekend. \$6.00 per cross. THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA ONES ORDERED, SO IF YOU WANT ANY, PLEASE SIGN UP.

Spaghetti dinner in Campbell

St. Michael Church, Campbell, will have a Palm Sunday Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, March 24th from 12:00 noon – 2:30 p.m. The dinner will be eat-in or take out. The price per dinner for adults is \$12.00; a child's dinner is \$6.00. You may see our pastor to purchase tickets to the dinner.

Easter cheese

St. Michael Church, Campbell, will be selling Easter Cheese (Hrudka) (Sirecz). \$10 per ball of cheese. All orders must be placed by calling or texting Annette at 330-540-4334. Please specify quantity.



SOCIAL CENTER USE

March 6	Lenten Ethnic Sale (parish)
March 8-9	Spring Craft show (rental)
March 16	Hickory High School Basketball Chinese Auction (rental)
March 30	Blessing of Easter Baskets (parish)
April 7	Priesthood Ordinations Reception

"GIVE-UP'S" THAT ARE GOOD FOR OUR SOULS...

- Give up hatred* – return good for evil. *Give up being negative* – be positive.
- Give up jealousy* – congratulate someone for a good job well done.
- Give up complaining* – be grateful. *Give up worry* – instead, trust God.
- Give up gossiping* – control your thoughts and your tongue.
- Give up discouragement* – be full of hope. *Give up anger* – be more patient.
- Give up gloom* – enjoy beauty around you. *Give up being a pessimist* – be optimistic.
- Give up harsh judgments* – think kindly thoughts of others.
- Give up pettiness* – be more mature.

St. Paul tells us to fill our minds with everything that is good, true and pure. He knew it wouldn't be easy, but he knew there is also God's help to see us through tough times.