

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., holidays, 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.
PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURIES: Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m. Scheduled Fridays: 5:00 p.m.

Wisdom from St. John Climacus

“To admire the labors of the saints is good; to emulate them wins salvation; but to wish suddenly to imitate their life in every point is unreasonable and impossible.”

“A servant of the Lord is he who in body stands before men, but in mind knocks at Heaven with prayer.”

“To judge others is a shameless arrogation of the Divine prerogative; to condemn is the ruin of one's soul.”

“In all your undertakings and in every way of life, whether you are living in obedience, or are not submitting your work to anyone, whether in outward or in spiritual matters, let it be your rule and practice to ask yourself: Am I really doing this in accordance with God's will?”

“The Christian is one who imitates Christ in thought, word and deed, as far as is possible for human beings, believing rightly and blamelessly in the Holy Trinity.”

“Let your prayer be completely simple. For both the publican and the prodigal son were reconciled to God by a single phrase.”

“Do not say, after spending a long time in prayer, that nothing has been gained; for you have already gained something. And what higher good is there than to cling to the Lord and persevere in unceasing union with Him?”

“Some people with a hot temper do not worry about it and ignore the remedies that would heal them. They forget, unfortunately, what is written: ‘Surely anger kills the fool, and jealousy slays the simple,’ (Job 5:2).”

“A charitable and sensible mind takes careful note of whatever virtues it sees in anyone. But a fool looks for faults and defects. And of such it is said: ‘They have searched out iniquity and expired in the search.’ Do not condemn, even if you see with your eyes, for they are often deceived”

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of the Ladder of Divine Ascent

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



The Sanctuary Candle
 for this week of:
MARCH 30 – APRIL 5, 2025
signifying the Real Presence of our Lord is



In Loving Memory Of
 +SAM & +MILLE KUDELKO
 (14th anniversary of passing April 30th)
 (2nd anniversary of passing March 28th)
 From: The Kudelko Children,
 Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren

The Mother Of God
 Candle for this week of:
MARCH 30 – APRIL 5, 2025
signifying her Intercession is



In Loving Memory Of
 +DOROTHY VOLSKO
 (2nd anniversary of passing April 1)
 From: Jeff & Donna Volsko

Pray For Our Homebound, Sick, Hospitalized, & In Recovery updated: March 28, 2025

RESIDING AT HOME – Katherine Asafaylo, Charlotte Bruce, Dan Huscroft, Ryan Kudelko, Greta Marks, Judy McBride, Hank & Anne Pajak, George Sewecke, Irene Shaffer, Monica Walls.
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) – Richard Will.
The Village of St. Edward at Green (3813 Fortuna Dr., #509 Akron, OH 44312) – Carol Markovich.
St. Paul's Greenville (339 East Jamestown Rd., Greenville, PA 16125) – Lillian Sulick.

Offerings from March 22 & 23, 2025

Sunday Offering \$2,908.00
 Loose Cash \$85.00
 Candles \$164.00
 Easter \$60.00
 Holydays \$297.00
 Easter Flowers \$435.00
TOTAL: \$3,949.00

Restoration
 Pledged \$146,040
 Deposited \$101,988
 Pledges 64

Weekly Requirement to Meet Yearly Expenses			
Date	Collection	Required	(Shortage)
Mar 23	\$ 3,949	\$4,500	(\$551)
YTD	\$39,408	\$54,000	(\$14,592)

Church Attendance

Saturday 3/22 – **60** (4:00 pm)
 Sunday 3/23 – **65** (9:00 am)
 Tuesday 3/25 – **33** (9:00 am)
 Wednesday 3/26 – **32** (11:00 am)
 Friday 3/28 – **40** (5:00 pm)

Quote of the Week

“When you put down your phone, it’s easier to lift your eyes.”

— Wendy Speake



WE SAID A PRAYER BEFORE THE GAME AND WE PULLED OUT A VICTORY ... I DON'T THINK THAT THERE WAS ANY WAY WE COULD'VE DONE IT WITHOUT GOD'S HELP

SAT., MAR 29

(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)

4:00 p.m.

+Helen Leno

requested by: Daughter: Mary Ann Zirafi

(remembrance of 100th birthday 3.22)

+Lester + Patricia Emery

requested by: Martin, Manilla, Voisey Families

(16th ann. of passing 3.27) (40th day of passing)

SUN., MAR 30

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – The Sunday of St. John Climacus



9:00 a.m.

+Dorothy Volsko

requested by: Jeff & Donna Volsko

(2nd anniversary of passing 4.1)

+Veronica Bohach Banjak (40th day of passing)

WED., APR 2

5th Wednesday of the Great Fast - No Meat OBLIGATED

Confessions Available

The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy



Funeral Divine Liturgy Of +Christine Burger

THURS., APR 3

9:30 a.m.

FRI., APR 4

5th Friday of the Great Fast - No Meat OBLIGATED

The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

SAT., APR 5

(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)

4:00 p.m.

+Louis Ference

requested by: Wareham Family

(5th anniversary of passing 4.4)

+Millie Kudelko

requested by: Brestelli Families

(2nd anniversary of passing 3.28)

SUN., APR 6

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt



9:00 a.m.

+Anne Hudak

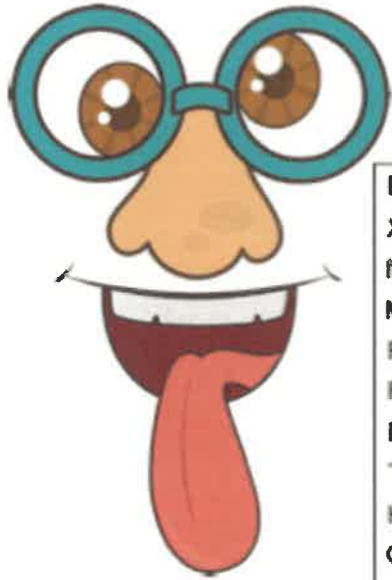
requested by: Randy & Patty Tomko

(remembrance of 101st birthday 3.7)

+George “Tino” Bruce

requested by: Dowell Family

(remembrance of 98th birthday 3.26)



April Fools Day

April First



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

- APRIL
- BAMBOOZLE
- BEFUDDLE
- BEMUSE
- BEWILDER
- BUSINESS
- CAPER
- DELUDE
- DUMBFOUND
- DUPE

- FARCE
- FIRST
- HOAX
- HOODWINK
- JEST
- JOKES
- LAUGHTER
- LEVITY
- MALARKEY
- MISCHIEF

- MONKEY
- PRANK
- PREPOSTEROUS
- SHENANIGANS
- SILLY
- SURPRISE
- TOMFOOLERY
- TRICK
- WACKY



Deeper Prayer

Without prayer, we cannot even hope to establish a relationship with God. Prayer is that precious gift that allows us to communicate with God. Even our Lord Jesus Christ Himself prayed! Now while Jesus had said to us that our Father in Heaven already knows what we need even before we need it, He still commanded us to ask our Father in heaven for what we need. We need to turn to God whenever we are fearful, angry, sad, lost, or even happy. Prayer is that means of sharing our life with Him – remember, God provides to the one who asks! But we can only receive what we need when we truly turn to God with all of our heart, mind, and soul. We have the gift of free will – hence, we need to freely ask God for what we need. Prayer draws us closer to God and improves our relationship not only with Him, but in fact with the rest of the world. Love of God makes love of ourselves and love of others possible. Prayer helps train us to avoid sin and purifies us in a way to be receptive of God’s graces in restoring His divine image in all of us.

Our first duty, above all else, is prayer. When we pray, we offer up our love to God and communicate this love to Him, and by extension, to others. Prayer is the means to attaining a divine intimacy with God. Unfortunately, it is way too easy to find excuses for not praying. Thus, when we pray, there are a couple of things we need to have in mind, especially if we want to discern what God has planned for us. Specifically these are:

--1. **Pray with all of your heart, mind, and soul.** It is much better obviously to humbly recite one Our Father with all of your being, with meaning and love of God, rather than reciting the Jesus Prayer 2000 times robotically and mechanically. Remember, we are trying to establish a relationship from our hearts with God, not simply go through mechanics. We are not here to pay lip service to God, but to really love Him and be intimate with Him.

--2. **Let God lead you.** The ultimate goal of prayer is union with God. God sometimes might be leading you into deeper prayer, such as meditation or contemplation. Sometimes, during your daily routine, you might even be led by the spirit to spontaneously pray an Our Father or Hail Mary. Don’t fight the Holy Spirit, but let Him work in your heart.

--3. **Be sincere and humble of heart and remember who you are praying to.** Do not be like the proud Pharisee who haughtily boasted to God in his prayer that he was not like the sinful Publican, who instead did not approach near the altar and tearfully asked, “God, be merciful to me a sinner.” God was angered by the Israelites of old for offering sacrifices to Him while openly sinning before Him. Remember to be humble and sincere, just as if you were to approach and dialogue with your grandparents or with a benefactor or ruler of state. Do not be proud, boastful, or wish evil on anyone. As St. Ephrem says in his prayer, to keep “my sins always before me.” Be instead like the Publican and approach God with a spirit of conversion and humility.

--4. **Before any prayer, meditation, or liturgy, pause and gather yourself to remove any distractions.** This is important, because in prayer, we need to wholly devote ourselves to God. This is not possible if we are thinking about the latest sports scores, shopping lists, etc., or if our cell phones are going off in church. Shut off your cell phones, put away any distractions, and clear your mind before engaging in prayer. You know how distracting and rude it is when someone is talking with you and during your conversation is idly texting away on his or her phone. It goes the same when dialoging with God in prayer!

--5. **Set up a rule of prayer.** Think of prayer as a means of working your “spiritual muscles.” Without a routine of working out, you will never achieve fitness of body. In the same way, one cannot achieve fitness of soul and develop their relationship with God unless they have a regular set practice of prayer. One suggestion is that you give yourself 5-10 minutes each day to say a prayer or read a scripture passage to yourself.

RUMMAGE (TREASURE) SALE WRAP-UP

Submitted by Rummage Sale Chairpersons - Brenda Tomko & Patty Tomko and Renee Manilla, SMART Treasurer

The SMART sponsored Rummage Sale held March 14th & 15th was hugely successful! Special thanks to the parishioners who donated their twiced loved things! A Great Big Shout-Out to the volunteers who assisted with organizing, pricing & displaying: Marcia Hunter, Megan Pisarcik, Kristin Piccirilli & Cheryl Semchee; And, to those who helped worked the sale: Christine Campbell, Bill Dzuricsko, Sharon Kudelko, Stephanie Longstreet, Sherry Marriotti, Barbara Ochs, John Schaner, Betty & Nick Simko, Dan Tomko, Randy Tomko, Joan Walker and Lori Wansack. The cash registers checked out at **\$2,426.50!**

Also, Special Thanks to Donna & Jeff Volsko for organizing the sale of Church Catering Supplies; Total proceeds was **\$1,378!**

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

Our St. Michael Parish will continue the tradition of having the All Night Vigil following Good Friday Vespers April 18th through Resurrectional Matins on Saturday evening, April 19th. 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 kiddos

Our youth "EASTER EGG HUNT" will be on **Palm Sunday, April 13th 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.

Note to Altar Servers – plan schedules now

All parish altar servers are encouraged to serve Holy Monday-Thursday and are **REQUIRED** for Good Friday evening and Holy Saturday evening & Easter Sunday (if not coming on Holy Sat). Servers please arrive at least 20 minutes prior to each service.

Help needed for Holy Sat. Feast – no response yet

Our pastor would like to once again invite all to stay after the Blessing of baskets on Holy Saturday evening April 19th, to enjoy the Paschal foods and drinks together as a parish family. If you are able to lend a hand in preparing and setting up, please call or text him asap. So far, no one offered.

Last call for invite to Warren Church Centennial

SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Warren, Ohio, is celebrating their 100th Anniversary on **Sunday, June 29, 2025**. They are extending an invite to those who would like to join them on their milestone. They are charging \$50.00 per individual over 12. Under age 12 is complimentary. If you would like to receive an invitation, please sign up by **TODAY**.

Parishioner falls asleep in the Lord

At the time of this bulletin printing, our church was informed of the falling asleep in the Lord of **+CHRISTINE BURGER**. Obituary will be posted. May her memory be eternal.

Sympathy extended & eternal memory

+**PATRICIA EMERY**, 90, fell asleep in the Lord on January 17, 2025. She is the aunt of Renee Manilla, Rozanne Voisey, and David Martin.

+**RAYMOND FELL**, 86, fell asleep in the Lord on March 13, 2025. He is the father-in-law of Reyne Fell.

+**LEE POPOVICH**, 88, fell asleep in the Lord on March 21, 2025. She is the mother-in-law of Jimmy Stemock.

+**JANET DEWEESE**, 86, fell asleep in the Lord on March 22, 2025. She is the mother of Suzanne (Michael J.) Vasil and grandmother of Alyssa Vasil.

St. Michael's, Campbell, upcoming food sales

Friday, April 4 – cooked Pirohi (potato, sweet cabbage, lekvar) \$10 dz.; vegetable barley soup \$10 quart. Drive thru from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm; Call Regina at 330-720-2100 for orders.

Palm Sunday, April 13 – Spaghetti Dinner; Noon-2 p.m. (eat in or take out). \$12 adults; \$6 kids. Walk-in.

Our Holy Week Schedule will be published this coming week

