

# 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, Protopresbyter

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.

**HOLYDAYS:** 10:00 a.m.

## *The True Light of Revelation to the Gentiles*

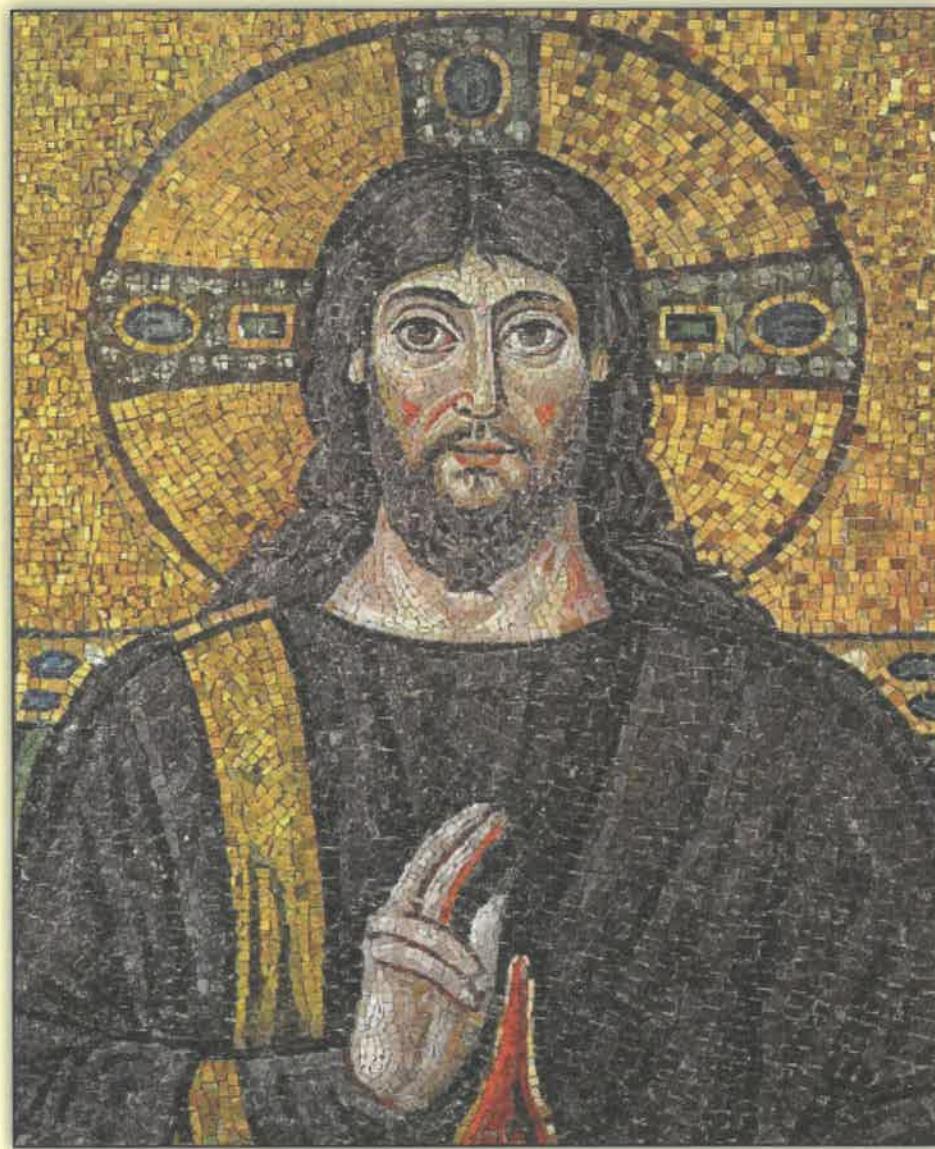
The Evangelist commemorates in this passage [today's Gospel] the prophet's words: "Beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." In what darkness? Certainly in the profound error of ignorance. What great light did they see? The light concerning which it is written: "He was the true light that illuminates everyone who comes into this world." This was the light about which the just man Simeon in the Gospel declared, "A light of revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel." That light had arisen according to what David had announced, saying a light has arisen in the darkness to the upright of heart." Also, Isaiah demonstrated that light about to come for the enlightenment of the

Church when he said, "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Concerning that light also Daniel noted, "It reveals the profound and hidden things, knowing those things which are in darkness and the light is with it," that is, the Son with the Father, for even as the Father is light, so too is the Son light. And David also speaks in the psalm: "In your light shall we see light," for the Father is seen in the Son, as the Lord tells us in the Gospel: "Who sees me, sees the Father." From the true light, indeed, the true light proceeded, and from the invisible the visible. "He is the image of the invisible God," as the apostle notes.

*St. Chromatius*



## SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY



*Icon of Christ Pantocrator*

Christ Is Baptized!  
In the Jordan!  
Christós Krescjetsja!  
Vo Jordani!



SAT., JAN 10  
4:00 p.m.

(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)  
For the parishioners



Vol 15 #2

SUN., JAN 11  
9:00 a.m.

### The Sunday After Theophany

+Stephen Volsko  
(36th anniversary of passing 1.7)  
+Louise Dunder  
(9th anniversary of passing 1.13)

requested by: Jeffrey & Donna Volsko



Home Traveling Vocation Icon Participants for January 11-17:  
Jim & Renee Manilla & Rozanne Voisey

Mon., Jan 12 -  
Fri., Jan 16

No Divine Services Scheduled



SAT., JAN 17  
1:30 p.m.

Baptism, Chrismation, & First Eucharist of Briggs Robert Yarletts  
(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)

4:00 p.m.

For the parishioners

SUN., JAN 18  
9:00 a.m.

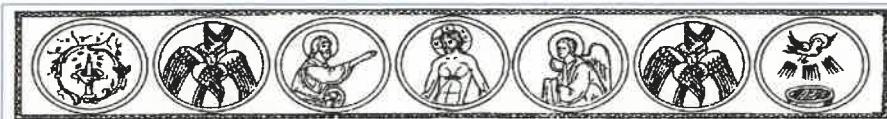
### The Sunday Of Zacchaeus - The 1st Pre-Lenten Sunday

+Pauline Keckes Lazor  
(20th anniversary of passing today)

requested by: Daughters: Stephanie Longstreet  
& Paula Cruickshank

Health & God's Blessings  
Upon: Lisa James

requested by: Mom: Patty



The Sanctuary Candle for  
January 11 - 17, 2026  
signifying the Real Presence of our Lord is



In Loving Memory of  
+STEPHEN VOLSKO  
(36th anniversary of passing January 7)  
From: Son: Jeffrey & Donna Volsko

The Theotokos Candle for  
January 11 - 17, 2026  
signifying her Intercession is



In Loving Memory of  
+LOUISE DUNDER  
(9th anniversary of passing January 13)  
From: Daughter: Donna & Jeffrey Volsko

### Pray For Our Homebound, Sick, Hospitalized, & In Recovery

updated: Jan. 9, 2026

RESIDING AT HOME - Charlotte Bruce, Greta Marks, Judy McBride, Mary Ann Polochak, George Sewecke, 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 Jan. 3 & 4, 2026

Sunday Offering.... \$5,150.00

Candles.... \$288.00

BCW.... \$62.00

Christmas.... \$100.00

Holydays.... \$809.00

**TOTAL: \$6,409.00**

#### Restoration

Pledged \$161,698

Deposited \$144,748

Pledges 69

**TOTAL: \$6,409.00**

Weekly Requirement to Meet Yearly Expenses			
Date	Collection	Required	Overage
Jan. 4	\$6,409	\$4,100	\$2,309
YTD	\$6,409	\$4,100	\$2,309



### Church Attendance

Saturday 1/3 - 68 (4:00 pm)

Sunday 1/4 - 60 (9:00 am)

Tuesday 1/6 - 75 (10:00 am)

### Quote of the Week

"You are never too old  
to set another goal or to  
dream a new dream."

— C.S. Lewis

# NFL WORD SEARCH



FOOTBALL  
CORNERBACK  
FREE KICK  
GOALPOSTS  
RUNNING BACK  
FUMBLE

OFFICIALS  
END ZONE  
TACKLE  
EXTRA POINT  
TOUCHDOWN  
HELMET

FIELD GOAL  
WIDE RECEIVER  
SUPERBOWL  
CHEERLEADERS  
PUNTER  
INTERCEPTION

TIGHT END  
QUARTERBACK  
FANS  
LINEBACKER  
DOWN  
BLOCKING

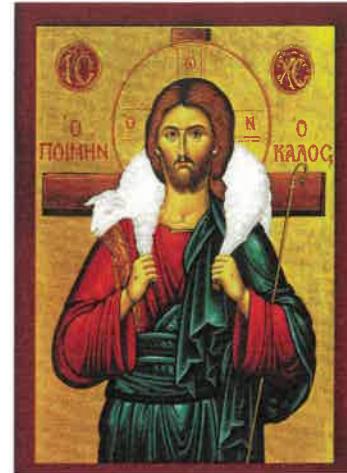
## Repentance

As we ease into the middle of January and fondly remember the Feasts of Christmas and the Baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are reminded in today's Gospel of a very important aspect of our faith: Repentance. We witness in the Gospel our Lord going to Capernaum to begin His public ministry, and the first word He shares is "Repent." Our Lord tells us to "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," and this should serve as a reminder of the constant work that we need to put into our lives as Christians.

Salvation is not automatic for us: Christ was born and rose from the dead, which allows us to achieve salvation; however, it is our choice whether we will follow Him or not. As baptized Christians, we have the responsibility of discerning right from wrong and of helping others know the difference as well. In this light, we can see that repentance is something that never has an end: we constantly should be working towards Christ, becoming icons of Him in our world, and moving away from ourselves, from our own selfishness and ego. The Greek word for repentance is 'metanoia,' and this word literally means a transformation of our mind and our view of the world, of ourselves, and of those around us.

Repentance is much more than just saying "I'm sorry." It is much more than just confessing our sins in the Mystery of Repentance. Repentance is a total transformation of self, a resolve to be better. In our world today, we often fail to recognize sin, for as so many say 'right is wrong, and wrong is right.' We encounter a world that is indifferent to sin, or perhaps even worse, we recognize sin but do not take responsibility for it. Much like Adam in the Garden of Eden, our first inclination can be to blame others for our own sins, and by doing this, we separate ourselves from God. If we truly seek unity with God, if we truly want eternal salvation, we need to focus on repentance: each and every hour of every day of our lives. Saint John Chrysostom tells us that we need to repent "not merely for one or two days, but throughout our entire life." Saint Siouan tells us that "through repentance we shall all, every one of us, be saved. Only those who refuse to repent will not find salvation." What wise words to reflect on this Sunday!

In order to truly repent, we need to truly transform ourselves: to turn away from sin and turn toward God. We need to acknowledge what we have done wrong, and we need to work to fix this wrong as well as work toward not doing it again. The call of the Gospel is the call to repentance. Our Lord is not speaking to strangers in the Gospel. He speaks to us! Do we listen? Or are we too busy talking to someone or checking our phones or looking through our purses? If we cannot readily recollect the Gospel, how then are we to apply it to our daily lives?



**NEWLY SANCTIFIED HOLY WATER AVAILABLE** — Last Tuesday evening, January 6th, at the Theophany Divine Liturgy, the Great Sanctification of Water took place. All of us should have holy water present within our homes so that we may partake of it during the year. Holy Water is available in the special font near the front of the church.

## Did you purposely miss church for Theophany??? January 6th was a Holyday of Obligation – no light matter to miss!!!

The first precept of the Church teaches that the Christian faithful attend The Divine Liturgy on **ALL Sundays of the year, as well as on ALL Holydays of Obligation**. Besides ALL Sundays, there are 5 Holy Days of Obligation in our Byzantine Catholic Church. The Feast of Theophany of our Lord was a Holy Day of Obligation this past Tuesday, January 6th. Did you attend Church? Only a serious or honorable reason should've prevented you from attending. When you purposely miss a Sunday (Sat. vigil) or Holyday of Obligation without a serious or honorable reason or dispensation from a priest, the Church teaches you are in the state of sin. The Sacrament of Confession is the remedy for this.

## Contribution Statement from 2025



Enclosed in today's bulletin is a form to request your contribution statement from 2025. If you need it, please fill out the form and submit it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish.

## 'Called By Name' to begin next Sunday

'Called By Name' is a program which identifies potential vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and monastic life. This program begins in our parish and throughout the entire Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church next weekend. More information about this exciting program will be promoted and included in next week's bulletin.

## Dismantling of Christmas Décor this week

This coming week, the Christmas decorations will be put away for another year. If you can lend a hand on **Monday, January 12th at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 13th at 11:00 a.m. and possibly Wednesday if not finished.**

## Rummage sale drop-off

A rummage sale drop off will take place this **Wednesday, January 14th from 6:00 -7:30 p.m.** For further info or questions, please call/text Megan at 724-699-0613.

## Rummage sale dates & times finalized

The dates of the upcoming Rummage (Treasure) Sale is now scheduled for **Friday, March 20th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 21st from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

## St. Michael's, Campbell Jan. dinner & event

(1) There will be a 'Heavenly Hunky Dinner' next Sunday, **January 18th from 12 noon – 2:00 p.m.** You can either eat-in or take out. This \$15 Dinner includes: Holupki (stuffed cabbage), kolbasi with kraut, pirohi, halushki, and dessert.

(2) **Night At The Races on Saturday, January 31st.** 6:00 p.m. dinner; 7:00 p.m. races start. \$20 admission includes dinner and drinks. \$10 if you want to buy a horse. See our pastor for tickets.

## Holy Water questions & answers

### Where should I keep Holy Water?

ANSWER: Some keep the holy water in their icon corner and others in the refrigerator.

### Does Holy Water have magical powers?

ANSWER: No. But it is matter that is "spirit-bearing" which brings the blessing of God, cleansing, healing, and can be used for every purpose that is expedient.

### When should I drink Holy Water?

ANSWER: When you feel a spiritual need, that is when you find yourself strongly tempted; feel in an evil way; are about to set out on a journey; will miss the Divine Services; before a difficult encounter; in illness, afflictions, etc. It is the custom of some pious people to take a drink of holy water the first thing every day before they eat or drink anything else (except on days when they receive Holy Communion).

### What to do with last year's Holy Water?

ANSWER: Holy Water is NEVER to be poured down a drain. If you took Holy Water home this year, you may discard last year's Holy Water in a respectable manner and place. This includes on the grass where it goes to the earth, in plants, or bring it to church and our pastor will dispose of it for you.

### What to do with Holy Water?

ANSWER: Please use the Sanctified Holy Water to bless yourself frequently and also to drink it. We should use it especially in times of illness, temptation, decision-making, in remembrance of your baptism on its' anniversary, and also in remembrance of departed loved ones. It is a powerful sacramental of the church!

### Why we say *Theophany* instead of *Epiphany*

ANSWER: Our Byzantine Catholic Church uses the term *Theophany* instead of *Epiphany* for the feast we celebrated on January 6th. The term *Theophany* means, God being made manifest. The term *epiphany* means just something being made manifest. Additionally, *Epiphany* in the Western (Roman Catholic) Church is the celebration of the Magi coming to the child Jesus. On the Feast of *Theophany*, the Byzantine Catholic Church celebrate the baptism of Jesus and it is also the Feast when the Trinity was revealed.



## Special bulletin announcements

If you have any special announcements for the bulletin, such as a milestone congrats when it comes to birthdays, anniversaries, achievements, etc., please email our pastor by the Wednesday before the weekend bulletin you would like it printed. Also, you may include a picture as well.



*Request for your Financial  
Statement from the year 2025*

*ST. MICHAEL BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
HERMITAGE, PENNSYLVANIA*

**Yes, I would like my contribution statement sent  
to me from 2025!**

I prefer:  regular mailing  
 e-mail

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

You may submit this form in the collection basket or  
mail it to the church. Your statement will be sent to  
you by your preferred choice.