

5 2nd Street
Herminie, PA 15637
<http://pokrov.iksnazul.com/>

Cantor
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy
Sunday: 8:30 am
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or
by appointment

Served By

Father Vasyl Yakubych
Cell: 412-627-1678
E-mail: yakubichvasill2020@gmail.com

Father has purchased new blue vestments from Ukraine. The war, however, has delayed the shipments of these vestments.

George Krolic is handling the money for the purchase of these vestments. Make your donation for these vestments directly to George.

To worthily meet our Lord and Savior, we should sanctify this pre-Nativity season of the Phillipian Fast. Sanctifying means spending our time in faith and in the service of God and in kindness towards our neighbor, especially those who are in need of our assistance. And we should think of what we would have been had Christ not come to our lowliness and poverty. Together with the whole of the Byzantine Church we should try to meet Christ as he deserves to be met and as it will, in His mercy, best serve our spiritual benefit!

If you have a Divine Liturgy intention please let me know in order that I can put an announcement into the Sunday bulletin.

Joe

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6

Menologion

Our holy father, St. John the Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, most famous of both the Greek and the Latin Church and one of the four great Doctors of the Orient, called "Golden-Tongued" because of his eloquence. The Catholic Church honors him as the "Heavenly Patron of Ecclesiastical Orators." He revised St. Basil's Divine Liturgy. He suffered deposition and exile for his firm stand against the dissolute life at the Court of the Emperor Arcadius and Honorius. He died at Comana in Cappadocia, at the age of 62, A.D. 407 (Confer January 27 and 30.)

Fasts & Feasts

November

08 The Synaxis Of The Holy Archangel Michael And All Angelic Powers.

15 Philipian fast Christmas Fast begins.

21 The entrance of the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary into the temple. The entrance of the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary into the temple.

Father Vasyl has informed us that conditions for our priests and their families in western Ukraine have worsened. Winter is coming and times will be especially hard for these people.

He knows a priest who has taken five families into his home. A priest's income is \$200 a month and he is taking care of all of these people on his meager income.

The displaced families are being accepted and cared for, but the churches don't have enough resources to house and feed them. The children also need to continue schooling. They simply need more money.

Synaxis of St Michael and All Angels

November 8 is the feast of Saint Michael and all the angels. In the Book of Tobit, Saint Raphael announced: "I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand in the glorious presence of the Lord, ready to serve him." (Tobit 12:15). Pope Gregory I listed the seven archangels as: Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel (or Anael), Simiel, Oriphiel, and Raguel. The feast itself is ancient, being set up by the Council of Laodicea in 363-64 AD. The day was established in November, the ninth month after March (with which the year began in ancient times) since there are Nine Ranks of Angels. The eighth day of the month was chosen for the Synaxis of all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven since the Day of the Dread Last Judgment is called the Eighth Day by the holy Fathers. After the end of this age (characterized by its seven days of Creation) will come the Eighth Day, and then "the Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him" (Mt. 25:31)

The nine choirs of angels were listed by Pseudo-Dionysius, an important spiritual writer from the late 300s as Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels and Angels. The Seraphim attend God's throne in the heavenly Liturgy (Isaiah 6:1-8). While western art has reduced the awesome Cherubim to chubby little babies, in Scripture they are far more impressive: six-winged, and four faces: that of a lion (representative of all wild animals), an ox (domestic animals), a man (humanity), and an eagle (birds), from where we get the symbols of the Four Evangelists of the Gospels. Thrones carry God's Throne in heaven, and serve the wishes of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Dominions are shown as having two wings but carrying orbs or scepters. They organize the guardian angels. Virtues are the angels through whom God's signs and miracles are made in creation. Powers fight demons and are shown with shields and swords. Principalities are shown wearing crowns and carrying scepters. They organize bands of angels, and fulfill the orders of

higher-ranking angels or God Himself. Archangels serve as messengers of God, guard countries, and often help with Christian armies fighting evil forces. Angels serve as messengers to individuals, and from their ranks come the personal guardian angels assigned to protect the billions of human beings.

Saint Michael is invoked for protection of police, armed forces, grocers, and against the devil. In the ancient Church he was also the one who helped pass judgment on souls after death, and he is still invoked for healing. Saint Raphael is known especially for healing and conquering evil, from his adventures in the Book of Tobit with Tobias. He is also the helper of people who emigrate from their homelands, doctors, counselors, social workers, and against nightmares. Saint Gabriel is, naturally, the patron saint of communications, stamp collectors, postal workers, and diplomats.

We now embark on our annual journey to Bethlehem. The Church, as a wise and loving mother, knows that we need preparation in order to reap the spiritual fruits of celebrating Our Lord's theophany—the "manifestation of God" in His Incarnation, Birth, and Baptism. Yet, while we often sing "let us lay aside all earthly cares" in the Cherubic Hymn of the Divine Liturgy, it seems that our earthly cares increase exponentially during these last two months of the year. To balance this, I urge you to not let this holy season of the Nativity Fast pass by unnoticed. During these next forty days, let us all increase our efforts in attending the divine services; in fasting to the best of our ability; in reading the Holy Scriptures; in charity and almsgiving; in repentance and the Sacrament of Holy Confession; in receiving the Holy Eucharist; and in heartfelt daily prayer.