



Troparion for the Nativity of Jesus Christ

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; for through it, those who worshiped the stars have learned from a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to recognize You as the Orient From On High. Glory be to You, O Lord.

November

- 15 - Nativity Fast (Philip's Fast - Filipovka) begins today
- 21 - Entrance of the Mother of God
- 23 - Thanksgiving Day

December

- 2 - Saint Nicholas Buffet Dance
- 3 - Saint Nicholas Party
- 6 - Feast of Saint Nicholas
- 8 - Conception of Saint Ann
- 10 - Children's Pageant
- 25 - Nativity of Our Lord
- 26 - Synaxis of the Mother of God
- 27 - Feast of St. Stephen

January

- 1 - Circumcision of Our Lord
- 5 - Holy Supper
 - Vigil Liturgy for Theophany and Solemn Blessing of Water
- 6 - Theophany of Our Lord

February

- 2 - Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon

ST. ANN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-652-1415
stann@stannbyz.org
www.stannbyz.org

Divine Liturgies at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Holy Day Vigil 7:00 p.m.

THE ENLIGHTENER

Newsletter of St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church

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Nov./Dec. 2006

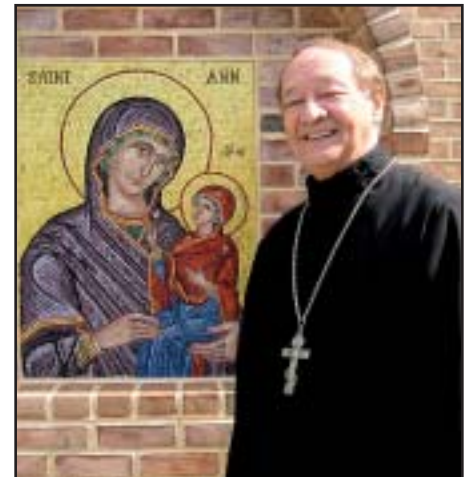
Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat! Eternal Memory! Father Michael – Our Spiritual Leader



On Thursday, August 17, 2006, Father +Michael fell asleep in the Lord at Community General Osteopathic Hospital. The Requiem Divine Liturgy for a Priest was on Tuesday, August 22. The Most Reverend Andrew Pataki, Bishop of the Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, was the main celebrant. The Most Reverend Kevin Rhoads, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, was present along with over 70 Eastern Catholic, Latin Catholic, and Orthodox priests. Interment was the following day at Holy Cross Cemetery in Jerome, PA, with Metropolitan

Basil Schott presiding and Most Reverend John Kudrik present.

For forty years Father +Michael was active as our priest and as ambassador for the Eastern Church. He was identified as a "Priest [who] lived as a visionary, forged many strong bonds" in an article in the Harrisburg *Patriot News*. That same article quoted Father Ressetar, pastor of Christ the Saviour Eastern Orthodox Church, as saying, "I admire him because he upheld the traditions of the Eastern Church." Bishop Rhoads, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, stated, "He was a devoted priest and beloved pastor." A local newspaper printed, "When 'Father Mike' came into *The Paxton Herald* it was like a party, and a kind of 'old home' week. He was always joking, people were laughing, and yet he interspersed the conversation with history lessons and items of faith. His devotion to his faith in God and the people of his church was endless."



"The truth is, he dedicated himself to creating a strong Eastern Christian community at St. Ann's, close-knit and supportive, nurtured by Byzantine and Slavic traditions that bring the authentic Christian Faith into every aspect of life," stated James Kushlan, cantor, who wrote the booklet honoring Father +Michael's life and legacy.

For many children who belong to our church family, Father +Michael was the only priest they ever had as their pastor. The children of the parish were asked to write a card to Father +Michael as a way to express their thoughts and grief. These cards were placed on the tetrapod during the Panachida service after the Divine Liturgy for the forty-day remembrance. The following are just a few of their thoughts that were written (and printed below as such) on cards they decorated with stickers and colorful pictures:

Dear God, Thank you for our world and thank you for Father Michael.

(continued on page 2)

(Continuation of cards to Father)

*My prayer for Father Michael . . .
... that you are at peace in heaven with Jesus and your parents
... you will always be in our hearts.*

*Dear God ples let Fr. Michael be in good hands and take good care of hem.
And you are with your mom and dad and you are up in heaven with Jesus
and Mary.*

My prayer for Father Michael: I hope you feel better in heaven with Jesus!

*My prayer for Father Michahel. . . I hope you see your mom and dad! I hope
you talk to Jesus!*

*Thank you for being a wonderful priest. I will never forget 14 years of
church with you. I hope we will evantually meet again and remeber all the
good times we had. Please, pray for me to be a good Christian. Amen.*

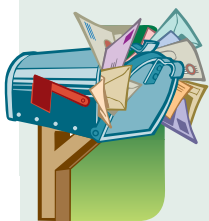
*He was our leader, funny, he baptised me, always there for me. Thank you
for taking him out of his misery.*

*Thank you God for giving us Father Michael. Over the 10 years that I
knew him he was seen in my eyes as a great man. He was a leader and
always did everything he could to help our parish. He loved the church and
always gave me good advice. Please keep him safe in heaven. We will never
forget him.*

*I was the last person to serve with Father, and after the Liturgy when Fa-
ther was derobing he took off his vestments and I hung them on the closet
door by the window. When Father saw this a look of pure shock appeared
on his face. I asked "Father what's wrong." Then he said to me. "Don't
put the vestments in the sun or they shrink and I can't get in them." That's
Father.*

*Thank you God for sending me Father Michael who helped me understand
more about you. Who helped me grow through you and learn about you.
Who helped me build my faith in you and allowed me to not be ashamed to
show my faith to everyone. Help Father Michael through his greatest times
of need and always be with him as he continues to help other people build
their faith in you. Allow him to continue to run our parish through his spirit.*

REMEMBER THE SICK — Those who are hospi-
talized, those who are residents in nursing homes, those
who in some way are incapacitated, and
those who cannot worship with us.
Please remember them with a prayer, a
card, a visit, or a gift to let them know we
are thinking about them and have not for-
gotten them.



The Most Reverend Michael J.
Dudick, D.D.
c/o Annunciation Monastery
403 W. Country Road
Sugarloaf, PA 18249

Mrs. Winifred Collins
12 S. Queen St.
Littlestown, PA 17340

Mrs. Ann Dorcsis
Grayson View
Room 125
150 Kempton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Mrs. Mary Gnall
7102 Sandy Hollow Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112-9319

Mrs. Mary Kolonoski
356 Pine Street
Steelton, PA 17113-2349

Mrs. Rose Lefever
623 Firehouse Rd.
Grantville, PA 17028

Mr. Mike Ondeck
602 Drexel Road
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Saint Ann News:

Mysteries of Initiation — `Mnohaya L'ita!

Isabelle Eun Joo Bailey, daughter of Harry and Bridget Bailey
Elyssa Rae Bobar, daughter of Steve and Julie Bobar

Welcome to Our New Parishioners

John and Marlene Claman and children
Michael and Rebecca Coleman and children
Michael Dickun

Eternal Memory — Vičnaya Pamjat!

Our parish family extends its condolences to the family of
+Peter Figler; to Heidi Kushlan and family on the death of her
father; to Sister Anne Shuster and family on the death of her
father; and to Ed Hara and family on the death of his wife.

1 Corinthians 13 — Christmas Style

If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands
of twinkling lights, and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to
my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies,
preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table
at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another
cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give
all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it
profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snow-
flakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's
cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the
decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas
china and table linens. Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of
your way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but
rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and
endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be
lost; golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.

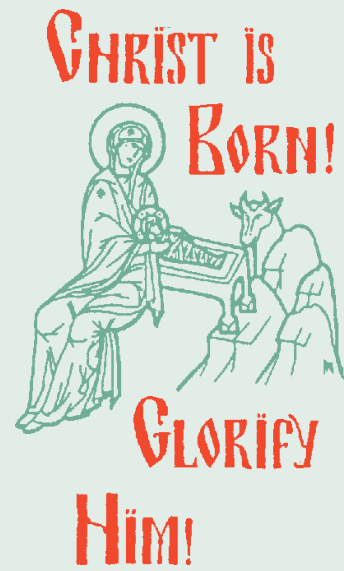
Mrs. Marge Fisher
451 Sand Hill Road
Apartment 212
Hershey, PA 17033

Mr. Nick Pauley
4901 Creek Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Mr. Bernie Pavuk
5225 Woodlawn Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5545

Mrs. Anna Rosiak
(Ann Falatovich's mother)
c/o Church of God Home
801 North Hanover St.
Carlisle, PA 17013

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith
334 Third St.
Hanover, PA 17331-4909



Nativity Liturgy Schedule

Sunday—December 24

Sunday before Christmas

8:00 A.M. - Divine Liturgy

10:30 A.M. - Divine Liturgy

Vigil of Christmas—Christmas Eve

8:00 P.M. - Great Compline and Caroling

9:00 P.M. - Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy

(Please note: December 22 – Prefestive Day of Christmas. Day of Strict Fast. Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, the Strict Fast is observed on this day.)

Church social in the parish center after the 9:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration of the Nativity!

(Parishioners are asked to please bring cookies and baked goodies; beverages will be provided. Contact Bruce and Eileen Dietman (652-5167) to let them know if you will be bringing cookies that can be brought to the parish center prior to Christmas Eve. Our Christmas raffle will take place in the parish center during this social.)

Nativity Celebration: There is no fasting from December 25-January 4.

Monday—December 25

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

10:30 A.M. - Divine Liturgy

Tuesday—December 26

Synaxis of the Mother of God

7:00 P.M. - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday—December 27

Feast of Saint Stephen, Protomartyr

7:00 P.M. - Divine Liturgy



Christ is born!

Follow the Star!

Adore the Child!

Be filled with peace and joy!

Abide in faith and love

For God is with us!

With my best wishes for a

Joyous Christmas and

Blessed New Year, I will

remember you in my prayers

and at the altar during this

Season of Joy!

Msgr. George

Sunday—December 31

Sunday before Theophany

8:00 A.M. - Divine Liturgy

10:30 A.M. - Divine Liturgy

Monday—January 1, 2007

(New Year's Day)

Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord and

Feast of Saint Basil the Great

10:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

Friday—January 5

Vigil of Theophany (Theophany Eve)

(A day of simple abstinence or equivalent penance. By tradition, strict abstinence from meat or dairy products.)

5:00 P.M. - Holy Supper (Svjatij Večer) in the Parish Center.

7:00 P.M. - Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil and Solemn Blessing of Water

Attendance for the holy supper is by reservation only. The deadline for reservations is December 31, 2006 in order to prepare sufficient food and take care of preparations. For reservations and to offer to help, call Helen Lutzkanin (566-3175) or John Falatovich (697-4958) or Eleanor Bereschak (533-7908).

Saturday—January 6

Theophany—Holy Day of Obligation

9:30 A.M. - Divine Liturgy

Sunday—January 7

Sunday after Theophany

8:00 A.M. - Divine Liturgy

10:30 A.M. - Divine Liturgy

(NOTE: Above times are subject to change. Watch your bulletin for changes in times.)

St. Ann's Christmas Pageant will be held on Dec. 10th, at 12 noon, in the Parish Center. We hope many parishioners will drop in for the show, refreshments, and the pleasant reminder of the true "reason for the season."

Our **Tree of Giving** is decorated and ready for your donations that will be distributed to local families who are in need of help. We especially thank Drs. Richard and Kathy Szarko for the great deal of time, effort and talent they put into this project.

Looking for the Perfect Gift? If you can't find the gift you are looking for, try shopping in our gift shop in the church basement. The gift shop is open between Liturgies on Sunday.

The Annual Visit from St. Nicholas will take place in the Parish Center after the 10:30 Divine Liturgy on Dec. 3. All parishioners are invited to welcome Saint Nicholas to our parish. Please bring cookies, crackers, fruit, vegetables, or another food item to add to the snack table.



ST. NICHOLAS BUFFET DANCE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2006

Hors d'oeuvres and social begin at 6:45 p.m. The buffet begins at 7:45 P.M. Adult beverages available. Music by the Polka Quads. Cost is \$50.00 per couple—\$25.00 single. Admittance by reservation only. For reservations contact John Falatovich at 697-4958 or drop your reservation form into the collection basket at church.

Special Articles for Christmas Offering

If you would like to offer a special article for Christmas in memory of a loved one, in thanksgiving, or for a special intention, a special form is included. Make your selection and return the form as soon as possible.

Annual Christmas Raffle

On Christmas Eve, the annual Christmas Raffle will take place during the social in the Parish Center. If you need additional tickets, contact Steve Plouse or pick up more in the back of the church. Thank you for your support of our church activities.

Cooking Schedule

Plan ahead by marking the following cooking dates on your calendars: Jan. 2, 3, and 4—Holy Supper Preparation. Call Helen Lutzkanin (566-3175) or Eleanor Bereschak (533-7908) for more details and to offer to help.

Eparchial Stewardship Appeal 2006

This year's appeal asks us: "What can I return to the Lord for all He has given me?" We have been asked to refer to Psalm 115 as we proclaim with gratitude and joy in our hearts: "A thanksgiving sacrifice I make, O Lord, because I am your servant." Your participation is vital to our Church not only in the United States but also in Eastern Europe. May we count on those of you who have not yet made a commitment to do so and help us reach our goal of \$11,700.

Philip's Fast

According to the forty-day tradition, the Philip's Fast (Filipovka) in preparation for Christmas begins this year on Wednesday, November 15, 2006. During this fast it was the custom to observe a strict fast on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and a lesser fast on Tuesday and Thursday. This fast may be observed voluntarily, partially or in its entirety.



Mark your calendars
now for next
year's festival:
JULY 15, 2007!



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS THAT MADE UPFRONT DONATIONS TO THE 2006 FESTIVAL RAFFLE

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Jack Gaughen Realtor, Carnie
Stolz Associate Broker
The Greater Harrisburg Arts
Council
Tyson Fence Co.- Bill Hill
M & M Auto Sales -Edward A.
Pitman
Gabriella Italian Restaurant
P A Telephone Products, Inc
Knights of Columbus Holy
Rosary Council #869
La Lame Inc. - Ed Schnee
Wiedeman Funeral Home

Fackler- Wiedeman Funeral
Home
M & S Auto Sales Center
Brad Krajsa—Ameriprise
Financial Advisor
Cremo's Variety Outlet
John E. Williams
Surge Cutting Service, Inc.
Hornung's Ace Home Center
Irene Sedun
Mary Mykyta
Dinini Catering - Roger &
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St. Ann Bakers
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