



# St. Michael's Parish Bee

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St. Michael's Orthodox Church  
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Church Office: (607) 729-0261

## Sunday of Zacchaeus, February 18

Sunday Antiphons and Beatitudes, Tropar tone 4, p. 90,  
Tropar, Kodak, Meeting of the Lord, p. 152,  
Prokimen and Alleluia verses, tone 4, p. 92

### Schedule for this Week

- Sunday:       \* Divine Liturgy, 9 AM  
                  \* Parish Annual Meeting following Liturgy  
                  \* Church School Icon Project, Mrs. Koytek's room
- Monday:       \* There is no Community Grab and Go Dinner this week
- Tuesday:       \* Moleben to St. Nektarios for the ill, 8:30 AM
- Wednesday:   \* Pirohi Preps for the Lenten Sale, 9 AM  
                  \* Moleben to Mother of God, Taylor, PA, 6 PM
- Thursday:      \* CHOW Pantry, Lower Lounge, 4:30-6 PM
- Friday:         \* Friday Pirohi Sale... volunteers are needed to assist in  
                      many ways as we welcome our guests to our center!
- Saturday:       \* Divine Liturgy with prayers for  
                      + John and Margaret Zumawtzak, 8 AM  
                      \* Stand for Ukraine Interfaith Prayer, Courthouse, 12 Noon
- \* The Way, Session 6, 2-4 PM  
                      \* Confessions, 4 PM, Vespers, 5 PM

## Sunday of Publican and Pharisee, February 25

- \* Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
- \* Church School, 10:30 AM
- \* Coffee Shoppe, 10:30 AM



**BELIEVE IN  
UKRAINE**

**INTERFAITH VIGIL**  
**2/24/24 at 12 PM**

**Broome County Courthouse**  
92 State Street, Binghamton

LIGHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW  
ATOMIC TOM'S, 196 STATE STREET, BINGHAMTON  
[info@togetherforukraine.us](mailto:info@togetherforukraine.us)  
607-414-2046

Please take time this  
Saturday and share in the  
Interfaith Vigil  
for Peace  
and Healing  
in Ukraine  
12 Noon, Courthouse



We are proud of the members of our Junior ACRY who have been working to help support the food pantry of the Hancock School System. Youngsters went shopping to personally purchase cans of soup and they collected soup and support from our faithful as well. The outreach of our youngsters to those in need in Hancock is a reminder that we are called to “widen our circle” and reach out to those in need. May Our Lord Bless Everyone!

## Scripture Readings for the Week of February 18

Sunday:	1 Timothy 4: 9-15	St. Luke 19: 1-10
Monday:	1 Peter 2: 21-23-9	St. Mark 12; 13-17
Tuesday:	1 Peter 3: 10-22	St. Mark 12: 18-27
Wednesday:	1 Peter 4: 1-11	St. Mark 12: 28-37
Thursday:	1 Peter 4: 12:5:5	St. Mark 12: 38-44
Friday:	2 Peter 11:1-10	St. Mark 13: 1-8
Saturday:	2 Timothy 2: 11-19	St. Luke 18: 2-8

Daily readings can be found at [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)



“Let your light shine..”

St. Matthew 5:16

### Prayer Before Reading Holy Scripture

*O Master Who loves mankind, illuminate our hearts with the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our mind to understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, that we may overcome all carnal desires, entering upon a spiritual life and understanding and acting in all things according to Your holy will. For You are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, O Christ God, and to You we give glory together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.*

### Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

These things command and teach.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

### Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1-10

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.

*“for the Son  
of Man has  
come  
to seek and to  
save that  
which was  
lost.”*

So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;

"for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."



## Two Proposals to Consider at the Annual Meeting!

Submitting the following change to by-laws to clarify language on definition of adult and child membership and when a child becomes an adult member with privileges and financial obligations/exemptions.

Current:

### SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS

All persons of the Orthodox Christian faith, not less than eighteen (18) years of age, are eligible to become members of St. Michael’s Church. They must accept and profess the Orthodox Christian faith. Children of members are considered to be child members of the Church

**Proposed:**

### SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS

All persons of the Orthodox Christian faith, not less than eighteen (18) years of age, are eligible to become members of St. Michael’s Church. They must accept and profess the Orthodox Christian faith. Children of members are considered to be child members of the Church **when either:**

- **They are under eighteen (18) years of age or**
- **They are over eighteen (18) years of age and are still in high school and have not submitted a request for membership**

Current:

### SECTION 6. MEMBER FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- b. Dues for membership which shall become due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year are:  
ADULT MEMBERSHIP minimum \$175.00 per year. An adult is defined as a person 18 yrs of age or older.
- d. Exemptions:  
A member who is a full time student at an accredited school of higher learning will be exempt from dues. They will be responsible for paying annual dues the first full year

**Proposed:**

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- b. Dues for membership which shall become due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year are:  
ADULT MEMBERSHIP minimum \$175.00 per year. An adult is defined as a person 18 yrs of age or older, **not otherwise classified as a child member as defined in Section 2.**
- d. Exemptions:  
A member who is a full time student **at a high school** or an accredited school of higher learning will be exempt from dues. They will be responsible for paying annual dues the first full year (January-December) after they are no longer a full time student.

## 2nd Proposal for the Annual Meeting

The second Proposal for the Annual Meeting would basically reduce the number of members of the current Church Board from 13 to 9. The current board includes the following: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Comptroller, Assistant Treasurer, Cemetery Director, four Trustees and a 2nd Vice President. The proposal would eliminate the office of Assistant Treasurer and three of the four Trustees. It would also enable the Financial Secretary if necessary to assume the duties of the Treasurer during any absence of the Treasurer.

All checks in the new proposal would need two of three signatures, that is, President, Financial Secretary or Treasurer. In the new proposal, the Treasurer will be chairperson of the curators responsible for receiving and counting all of the congregational monies. The proposal would also reduce the quorum for action by the Board from nine members to seven members. A majority vote would be required to pass all motions.

The reasons for the modification are rooted in the difficulty in filling all the elected positions on the Church Board, and in the disproportionate number of officers to the number of parishioners necessary for a quorum. In prior years, a quorum was 100 members in good standing with 13 elected officers. At the present time a quorum is 35 members in good standing still calls for 13 officers.

Schedule for our 2nd Pirohi Sale !

Tuesday 4 PM to 8 PM – Shred cheese, Fry haluski cabbage, Sweat onions, Melt margarine/butter blend, Peel and chop 8 bags of potatoes.

Wed 9AM til 2PM– Make Soup, Cook potatoes, Make dough, Mix potatoes, Run pirohi machine for 600 doz potato pirohi, Clean kitchen.

Thursday 9 AM to 2 PM – Cook haluski, Cook potato pirohi, Pack potato pirohi, Pack haluski, Pack soup, Clean kitchen.

Friday 9 AM to 4PM – Sell items from coat room. Lunch workers needed from 10 AM-2 PM with lunch served from 11 AM-1 PM 5



2024 Pirohi Friday Bake Sales!

One of the joys of coming to St. Michael's Lenten Pirohi Sales was the wide assortment of delicious Home-Baked Goods available each week.

We need our St. Michael's Bakers to pick a favorite recipe and step up to the oven and create a special delight for our sale.

We would like all the baked goods to be at St. Michael's Recreation Center by 9 AM so that we can prepare our display cases for everyone.

We appreciate your efforts. Together we will make this year's Lenten Pirohi sale a joy for all who enter our facility. God bless one and all!

If you would like to donate to defer the costs of the pirohi project, you can do so for 1 or more weeks! Your aid is much appreciated!

Please see the office or put offering in Yellow Envelope

	Per Week	7 Weeks
Eggs	\$40	\$280
Cheese	\$250	\$1,750
Potatoes	\$125	\$875
Cabbage for Haluski	\$50	\$350
Noodles for Haluski	\$70	\$490
Butter	\$150	\$1,050
Onions	\$145	\$1,015
Margarine	\$100	\$700
Sour Creme	\$5	\$35
Soup/HaluskiContainers	\$25	\$175
Pirohi Containers	\$150	\$1,120
Pizza for Workers	\$25	\$175
Water for Workers	\$7	\$49
Gloves	\$50	\$350
Dinner Plates	\$25	\$175



# Russian opposition leader, outspoken Christian Alexei Navalny reportedly dead in prison

By [Jonah McKeown](#)

CNA Staff, Feb 16, 2024 / 15:30 pm

Russian leaders on Friday announced the death of [Alexei Navalny](#), a prominent opposition politician to President Vladimir Putin, in a Siberian prison.

Navalny, 47, had been serving a 19-year sentence for alleged extremism and years

of criticism of the authoritarian Putin in a harsh penal colony north of the Arctic Circle. Navalny's political opposition to Putin and to corruption in Russia had garnered attention around the world for years, especially after Navalny chose to return to Russia after the Kremlin allegedly tried to poison him in 2020.



Navalny, a complex figure, ran for the presidency in Russia in 2018, despite a court ruling him ineligible. After Russia detained him in 2021, he continued to speak out from prison, including against Putin's now two-year-old war of aggression in Ukraine. Putin, who has essentially ruled Russia as president for more than two decades, is currently seeking a fifth term in office.

Despite not making faith a central component of his political activism, Navalny has described himself as a Christian and has said that the fact that the Bible provides him guidance has led to "fewer dilemmas" in his life.

Western leaders and others initially responded cautiously or skeptically to the news of Navalny's death, which came via the official Russian Tass news agency. Navalny's wife, Yulia Navalnaya, said in a news conference that Putin's government is "lying constantly."

In a press conference Friday, President Joe Biden said he was "surprised and outraged" at the reports of Navalny's death, adding that he has "no reason to believe" the reports of his death are false.

He praised Navalny's commitment to "calling out Putin's lies," noting that he could have "lived safely in exile" after his poisoning but returned to Russia.

Biden called Navalny's death "yet more proof of Putin's brutality" and called on Congress to pass aid funding for Ukraine.

"He was so many things that Putin was not. He was brave, he was principled," Biden said. "God bless Alexei Navalny. His courage will not be forgotten."

In Navalny's closing statement during his 2021 trial — which was replete with pop culture references, as was his style — the opposition leader also spoke about his faith.

## The Faith of Alexi Navalny

"If you want I'll talk to you about God and salvation. I'll turn up the volume of heartbreak to the maximum, so to speak. The fact is that I am a Christian, which usually rather sets me up as an example for constant ridicule in the Anti-Corruption Foundation, because mostly our people are



atheists and I was once quite a militant atheist myself,” Navalny said, as reported by the [Moscow Helsinki Group](#), a now-defunct Russian human rights organization.

“But now I am a believer, and that helps me a lot in my activities, because everything becomes much, much easier. I think about things less. There are fewer dilemmas in my life, because there is a book in which, in general, it is more or less clearly written what action to take in every situation. It’s not always easy to follow this book, of course, but I am actually trying. And so, as I said, it’s easier for me, probably, than for many others, to engage in politics.”

Navalny went on to quote the Bible, specifically the Beatitude passage from Christ’s Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.”

“I’ve always thought that this particular commandment is more or less an instruction to activity,” Navalny continued.

“And so, while certainly not really enjoying the place where I am, I have no regrets about coming back, or about what I’m doing. It’s fine, because I did the right thing. On the contrary, I feel a real kind of satisfaction. Because at some difficult moment I did as required by the instructions, and did not betray the commandment.”

He added that he believes Russian authorities try to intimidate and isolate people who hold such beliefs. (According to [one analysis](#), religion in Russia is in some ways associated with freedom, perhaps stemming from the historical religious persecution of the atheistic communist regime.)

“We are a very unhappy country. We’re in a vicious circle of unhappiness that we can’t escape from. But of course, it would be good to, and I am therefore proposing to change our slogan. It’s not enough for Russia to be free, Russia should also be happy. Russia will be happy,” he concluded.

Though he has not commented specifically on reports of Navalny’s death, Pope Francis has repeatedly condemned the violence of Putin’s war in Ukraine and [appealed for peace](#).

### A Final Reflection from Alexi’s Wife on His Passing



Speaking before the Munich Security Conference on Friday, Julia Navalnaya [said](#): “I thought, ‘Should I stand here before you, or should I go back to my children?’ And then I thought, ‘What would Alexei have done in my place?’ And I’m sure he would have been standing here on this stage.”

Navalny had said as much in a 2022 documentary, urging supporters to [“not give up”](#) the fight against Putin’s regime. “You’re not allowed to give up,” he said. “If they decide to kill me, it means that we are incredibly strong.”



**Memories of our 1st Lenten Pirohi Sale this past Friday!**



Many Thanks to All of You Who Helped In Any Way! Six More Weeks! God Bless One and All!