



St. Michael's Parish Bee

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Fr. Deacon Charles Ellis, 785-143

St. Michael's Orthodox Church
296 Clinton St., Binghamton, NY 13905
Church Office: (607) 729-0261

Sunday after Theophany, January 21

Theophany Antiphons, p. 145-46, Sunday Tropar, Tone 8, p. 102,
Theophany Tropar, Kondak, p. 146 & Prokimen, Alleluia verses, p. 150

Schedule for this Week

- Sunday: * Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
 * Installation of Altar Society Officers at end of Liturgy
 * Church School Classes, 10:30-11:30 AM
 * Coffee Shoppe after Liturgy, 10:30-11:30 AM
- Monday: * Community Meal and the "Knock and Drop" program, 5:30-7 PM
- Tuesday: * Moleben of Thanksgiving for New Year, 8:30 AM
- Wednesday: * Moleben to the Mother of God, St. George, Taylor, PA, 6 PM.
- Thursday: * CHOW Pantry, Lower Lounge, 4:30-6 PM
- Friday: * Akathist to the Mother of God, 8:30 AM
- Saturday: * Divine Liturgy with prayers for the ill, 8 AM
 * The Way, Session 4, "Why Did Jesus Come to Us?," 10-11:30 AM
 * The Blessing of the Rivers at the Confluence, 1 PM
 * Confessions, 4 PM, Vespers, 5 PM

Sunday January 28

- * Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
- * Church School with Blessing of classes, 10:30-11:30 AM
- * Coffee Shoppe after Liturgy, 10:30-11:30, AM

River Blessing Has Been Rescheduled for this Saturday, January 27

In an effort to avoid the anticipated 'real feel' temps projected for Sunday of 2*, we have decided to move the Blessing of the Rivers at Confluence Park, which had been scheduled for 3 PM this afternoon to this coming Saturday at 1 PM. Hopefully warmer weather will abound and it will be possible for more faithful from our area parishes to participate.

Cornhole Tournament Has been Rescheduled for April 6

The 1st annual St. Michael's Cornhole Tournament, which had originally been scheduled for Saturday, January 27, has been transferred to the first Saturday in April, that is April 7.

A Date to Remember!

It is hard to believe, but our 1st Friday of the annual St. Michael's Pirohi Sale will be here in less than one month! With Ash Wednesday on Feb 14 for our Catholic and Protestant friends and neighbors, the first Friday sale will be on February 16!

Keep watching the Bee for updates on our first weeks of Pirohi Preps which will be starting in February!

Happy Anniversary!

Our congratulations are extended to Fr. Deacon Charles Ellis, who marked his 13th Anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate on the Feast of Epiphany this past Friday.

He was ordained Deacon by Metropolitan Nicholas at Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Johnstown, PA on January 19, 2011.

We are grateful for his faithful service at our parish!

May Our Lord grant Fr. Deacon Charles Ellis Many Blessed Years!



Scripture Readings for the week of January 21

Sunday:	Ephesians 4: 7-13	St. Matthew 4: 12-17
Monday:	Hebrews 8: 7-13	St. Mark 8: 11-21
Tuesday:	Hebrews 9: 8-10, 15-23	St. Mark 8: 22-26
Wednesday:	Hebrews 10:1-18	St. Mark 8: 30-34
Thursday:	Hebrews 10: 35-11	St Mark 9: 10-16
Friday:	Hebrews 11: 8, 11:16	St. Mark 9: 33-41
Saturday:	Ephesians 5: 1-8	St. Luke 14: 1-11
Sunday:	Colossians 3: 12-16	St. Luke 18: 18-27

Daily readings can be found at www.acrod.org



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: Ephesians 4:7-13

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended"; what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Gospel Reading: St Matthew 4: 12-17

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness saw a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Preparation for 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

The bylaws are clear that the annual parish meeting is to happen in February. The bylaws also state that to conduct parish business a quorum of 35 is needed. The Annual Parish Meeting will be scheduled for February 18, 2024. Coffee and snacks will be served. The meeting will be kept as brief as possible. All presentation materials will be available two weeks prior by either picking up a package in the church office or sending an email to randymichaelmay@gmail.com and requesting an electronic version of the materials. At the meeting, presentations are not going to be made. The content is in the package. For each agenda item, discussion will be limited to 5 minutes. If there are no contested board positions and no nominations from the floor, the entire slate of new officers will be done with a single vote. Any parishioner wishing to submit a proposal to amend the bylaws, must submit their proposed change(s) in writing to Parish President Randy May by 6PM on Sunday Jan 21, 2024. The contact information for Randy May is phone number 607 621-5113 and email randymichaelmay@gmail.com. Shellee May and Carole Paccio are now accepting names for nomination to the 2024 parish board.

The Magnificent Theophany Prayer of the Sanctification of Water and All of Creation

Each year as we Bless Water for this feast, we offer the magnificent Theophany Prayer of St. Sophronios, patriarch of Jerusalem from 634-538 AD. It reminds us that the Blessing of Water by Our Lord's Baptism in the River Jordan sanctified all of creation and that as stewards of creation, we are mandated to care for the world the Lord has created and given to us.

We glorify You O merciful Master Almighty King from all ages; we glorify You the Creator and Maker of all; we glorify You the only-begotten Son of God, fatherless from Your Mother, and motherless from Your Father. In the former festival we saw You as a babe, but in the present one we see You as our perfect and revealed God, from perfect God. Today the hour of our festival has come, and the choir of the saints assembles with us, and Angeles celebrate together with men.

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, has descended upon the waters. Today the Sun, which knows no setting, has risen, and the world is illumined with the light of the Lord.



Today the moon with shining rays shines forth upon the world.

Today the glowing stars adorn the universe with the splendor of their luster.

Today the clouds refresh mankind by raining down righteousness from heaven.

Today the uncreated willingly accepts the laying on of hands from His own creature.

Today the Prophet and Forerunner approaches the Master but is seized with fear, seeing the condescension of God for us.

Today the streams of Jordan are changed into healing waters by the presence of the Lord. Today all creation is watered with mystical streams.

Today the offences of men are washed away by the waters of Jordan.

Today Paradise is opened to men, and the Sun of righteousness shines upon us.

Today the bitter water of the time of Moses becomes most sweet for the people from the presence of the Lord.

Today we were released from our ancient woe, and as a new Israel we were saved.

Today we were redeemed from darkness and illumined by the light of the knowledge of God.

Today the gloom of the world is lifted away by the revelation of our God.

Today all creation is made bright from Above.

Today error has been abolished and the coming of the Master is showing us the way to salvation.

Today those Above celebrate with those below, and those below converse with those Above.

Today the holy and joyful festival of the Orthodox rejoices.

Today the Master comes to baptism, so that He may lift mankind up high.

Today He who stoops not, stoops down to His own servant, so that He may set us free from bondage.

Today we have purchased the Kingdom of Heaven, for there is no end to the Kingdom of the Lord.

Today earth and sea share the joy of the world, and the world has been filled with gladness. The waters saw You, O God, the waters saw You and were afraid.

Jordan was driven back when it saw the fire of the Godhead descending in bodily form and entering in it.

Jordan was driven back when it beheld the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descending and hovering around You.

Jordan was driven back when it saw the invisible made visible, the Creator made incarnate, and the Master in the form of a servant.

Jordan was driven back and the mountains leaped when they saw God in the flesh, and the clouds cried out marveling at the One who came, light of light, true God of true God, as they beheld the feast of the Master in the Jordan today. For He Himself plunged in the Jordan the death of disobedience, the sting of error and the bond of Hades, and gave to the world the Baptism of salvation.

(Prayer of Patriarch Sophronios of Jerusalem, Trans. by Fr. Evagoras Constantinides, from the book "Ten Special Services.")



You are cordially invited to share in the joy
of the Blessing of the Rivers at Confluence Park, Binghamton, NY
marking the Baptism of Our Lord and the Revelation of the Holy Trinity
Saturday, January 27 at 1 PM!

ST. MICHAEL'S ACRY PRESENTS THE

Festival of Hearts

FEATURING BROTHERS AND FRIENDS

**FEBRUARY 10
5PM TO 10PM**

HORS D'OEUVRES 5PM
BUFFET DINNER 6PM
DANCING 7PM-10PM
CASH BAR

\$40 PER PERSON

CATERING BY:

MY UNCLE'S PLACE
EST. 1970

PLEASE RSVP VIA
SIGN UP GENIUS
[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/HEARTS2024](http://tinyurl.com/hearts2024)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
BINGHAMTONACRY@GMAIL.COM



If you have family or friends visiting or living in the greater Atlanta area, please invite them to visit St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church, 2265 E Cherokee Dr, Woodstock, GA 30188. They will find a vibrant and growing community of Orthodox Christians who are committed to loving and serving the Lord in the fullness of our Holy Orthodox Christian faith, The Sunday Divine Liturgy is celebrated there every Sunday morning at 10 AM. Classes and a social hour luncheon follow. For more information, be sure to contact Fr. Matthew Dutko, who has served the parish since his ordination in 2014. You can reach his at (404) 268-6359. For more details, please log onto: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintElizabethOrthodoxChurch/>

A Historic Meeting 60 Years Ago Inaugurated the Opening of Dialogue of East and West
12 January 2024

Sixty years ago, on 6 January 1964, Pope Saint Paul vi and the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople held a historic meeting on the Mount of Olives, hosted by our great predecessor, Patriarch Benediktos. It was the first visit of a pope to the Holy Land since the schism. This meeting was to open a new path, both for our respective Churches, as well as for the Holy Land.

Ten years ago, their successors, Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew, met in Jerusalem to commemorate this meeting, and we were pleased to host them.

The meeting of Pope Paul vi and Patriarch Athenagoras was to lead immediately to a new chapter. When Patriarch Athenagoras was asked why he was meeting the Pope, he remarked, "I came here to say 'Good Morning' to my beloved brother, the Pope. You must remember that it has been five hundred and twenty-five years since we have spoken to one another!" These two leaders opened up a new future for the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church, for centuries divided. Age-old anathemas were lifted, and there was a fresh commitment to dialogue, mutual respect, and deeper understanding between the Churches.

It was not a universally popular move for some in our respective Churches. There was still fear and prejudice on both sides in some quarters. It is hard to lay aside such long histories of suspicion, hurt, and conflicting narratives. But Patriarch and Pope knew that a different future would only be possible if a new spirit of dialogue and a willingness for reconciliation were established. In their meeting they gave to the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church a fresh vision that inspired the eagerness of many to face and to overcome division. As Pope Paul said in his speech on 5 January 1964, their meeting was "founded in the hope of new and fruitful encounters." This meeting was significant in encouraging even broader ecumenical dialogue.

Sixty years later, in the Holy Land, at a time of conflict and difficulty for all our peoples, and especially for Christians, that epoch-making meeting between Pope Paul vi and Patriarch Athenagoras continues to bear significant fruit in our Orthodox and Roman Catholic communities. The regular gatherings of the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches of the Holy Land in our day are the direct consequence of the meeting of the Pope and the Patriarch. The cooperation in the renovation and preservation of the Holy Places, especially the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Basilica of the Nativity, has been made possible because of the spirit of that meeting long ago that is alive and well between the leaders of the Churches. And in the face of the current mammoth challenges in our region, we have been able to join our efforts in a common mission to bring before the world the plight of all our peoples, and, of course, of the Christian community, and to call for a commitment by all parties involved to a process of dialogue for a peaceful, just, and enduring solution to the future of the land that is holy for the entire world.

While so much good progress has been made in the relations between the Churches, and especially between the Christian communities in the Holy Land, recognizing that we are doing our part, we have to continue, bearing in mind the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ to his disciples, that they may all be one (Jn 17:21). The Churches are committed to the true ecumenical journey, the ultimate goal of which is sharing in the common Chalice. We must never forget that Divine providence has placed us here to be a witness of the message of the hope of the Gospel. When the day dawns when we may share in this full sacramental unity, the purpose of the dialogue begun by Pope Saint Paul vi and Patriarch Athenagoras will have been fulfilled.

In the Holy Land we give thanks to Almighty God for the remarkable leadership that was shown by these two servants in overcoming prejudice, fear, and the shackles of history, and we pray earnestly that in the fullness of God's providence the spirit of their initiative will inspire the leaders of our region to establish a lasting peace in the Holy Land.

May their memories be eternal.

* Patriarch of Jerusalem

By H.B. Theophilos iii*