



# St. Michael's Parish Bee

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St. Michael's Orthodox Church

296 Clinton St., Binghamton, NY 13905

Church Office: (607) 729-0261

## 34th Sunday after Pentecost, January 28

Sunday Antiphons and Beatitudes, Tropar and Kodak,  
Promikemon and Alleluia verses, tone 1, pp. 81-83

### Schedule for this Week

- Sunday:      \* Divine Liturgy, 9 AM  
                 \* 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," 5:30-7 PM
- Tuesday:     \* Moleben to St. Nektarios with prayers for the ill, 8:30 AM  
                 \* Moleben to the Mother of God, Elizabeth Church, 2 PM
- Wednesday:   \* Pirohi Preps for the Lenten Sale, 9 AM  
                 \* Moleben to the Mother of God, St. George, Taylor, PA, 6 PM.
- Thursday:     \* CHOW Pantry, Lower Lounge, 4:30-6 PM
- Friday:        \* Moleben to the Mother of God, 8:30 AM
- Saturday:      \* Divine Liturgy with prayers for the ill, 8 AM  
                 \* The Way, Session 5, "Salvation in Christ," 10-11:30 AM  
                 \* Confessions, 4 PM, Vespers, 5 PM



With Groundhog Day this coming Friday, the advent of spring and the first roses of a new year cannot be far behind as we continue to enjoy these winter days in upstate New York! Stay well and healthy and God bless!

## Sunday, February 4

- \* Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
- \* Meeting of the Ladies Guild, Atrium Meeting Room following Liturgy
- \* Church School classes, 10:30-11:30 AM
- \* Coffee Shoppe after Liturgy, 10:30-11:30, AM

### Pirohi Updates

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!

Volunteers will gather this Wednesday morning for another round of Pirohi making!

### Return to Friday Sit-Down Lunches during Lent

Sit down Friday lunches during the lent sale will be returning in 2024. The Friday lunch will happen for 7 Fridays starting Feb 16 and ending Mar 29. If you are interested in volunteering your time to support the Friday lunch, please speak with Randy May. Randy can be contacted via email at [randymichaelmay@gmail.com](mailto:randymichaelmay@gmail.com) or phone at 607 621-5113. Most support tasks will start at 10 am and end at 2 pm. The actual public lunch will occur between 11 am and 1 pm.

### Information regarding Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 18

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](mailto: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](mailto:randymichaelmay@gmail.com). Shellee May and Carole Paccio are now accepting names for nomination to the 2024 parish board.

## Scripture Readings for the week of January 28

Sunday:	Colossians 3: 12-16	St. Luke 18: 18-27
Monday:	Hebrews 8: 7-11	St. Mark 8: 11-21
Tuesday:	Hebrews 13; 17-21	St. Luke 6: 17-23
Wednesday:	Hebrews 13: 7-16	St. Matthew 5: 14-19
Thursday:	Hebrews 10: 35-11:7	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: 45-33

Daily readings can be found at [www.acrod.org](http://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: Colossians 3: 12-16

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

### Gospel Reading: St Luke 18: 18-27

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' "

<sup>21</sup> And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

<sup>22</sup> So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." <sup>23</sup> But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. <sup>24</sup> And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup> And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" <sup>27</sup> But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

### Ladies Guild to Meet Next Sunday, February 4, After our Divine Liturgy

A cordial invitation is extended to all of the women of our parish family, young and older alike, to attend next Sunday's meeting of our St. Michael's Ladies Guild. It will take place in the Atrium Meeting Room following our Divine Liturgy. A discussion will include ideas and possibilities for activities in the coming months, Be sure to share in the fellowship and love of our Ladies Guild!

# Praying to the Saints

*"We should seek the intercessions and the fervent prayers of the saints, because they have special 'boldness' (parresia), before God."* .....*Saint John Chrysostom*

## THROUGH THEIR INTERCESSIONS . . .

The Orthodox Church is a living and vibrant community of faithful Christians made up of the members of the Church militant and the church triumphant. The Church militant are those of us who are still part of this world, diligently striving to live our lives according to God's teachings and commandments. The Church triumphant are those individuals who have been called by God to be with Him in paradise and continue to pray for us.

Holiness or sainthood is a gift given by God to mankind through the Holy Spirit. Man's effort to become a participant in the life of divine holiness is indispensable, but sanctification itself is the work of the Holy Trinity, especially through the sanctifying power of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Kallistos Ware, a famous Orthodox Theologian, has stated that "in private, an Orthodox Christian is free to ask for the prayers of any member of the Church, whether canonized or not. It would be perfectly normal for an Orthodox child, if orphaned, to end his evening prayers by asking for the intercessions, not only of the Mother of God and the saints, but his own mother and father. In its public worship, however, the church usually prays only to those whom it has officially proclaimed as saints."

In the Orthodox Church there are six classifications of Saints:

1. The Apostles, who were the first ones to spread the message of the Incarnation of the Word of God and of salvation through Christ.
2. The Prophets, because they predicted and prophesied the coming of the Messiah.
3. The Martyrs, for sacrificing their lives and fearlessly confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of mankind.
4. The Fathers and Hierarchs of the Church, who excelled in explaining and defending, by word and deed, the Christian Faith.
5. The Monastics, who lived in the desert and dedicated themselves to spiritual exercise (askesis), reaching, as far as possible, perfection in Christ.
6. The Just, those who lived in the world, leading exemplary lives as clergy or laity with their families, becoming examples for imitation in society.

Each and every one among these saints has his or her own calling and characteristics: they all fought the "good fight for the faith" (I Tim. 6.12 and II Tim. 4.7). All of them applied in their lives the scriptural virtues of "justice, piety, fidelity, love, fortitude and gentleness" (I Tim. 6.11).

The ultimate goal of humankind is to imitate God and live the life of deification (theosis). Saint Maximos the Confessor describes saints as being men and women who have avoided the unnatural development of the soul, that is, sin, and tried to live the natural way of life, turning and looking always towards God, thus achieving total unity with God through the Holy Spirit. This is why we look to the example of their lives for strength and encouragement, and why we continue to pray to them to intercede on our behalf to our Lord.

**The following is a list of Saints called upon for special purposes: \***

### To Have a Child

St. Anna, Mother of the Theotokos  
St. Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner  
St. Sabbas the Sanctified of Palestine  
St. Irene Chrysovolantou

### For Safe Childbirth

St. Eleftherios

### For the Care & Protection of Infants

St. Stylianos

### For Young People

Holy Great Martyr Demetrios the Wonderworker

Delivery from Sudden Death

St. Barbara the Great Martyr

### Against Drinking

Holy Martyr Boniface & the Righteous Aglais

### For Travelers

St. Nicholas: in general, & specifically for sea travel  
St. John the Russian: for transport, auto, busses  
St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople: for safety at sea

### For Cobblers

St. Eustathius the Cobbler of Georgia

### For Physicians

St. Panteleimon  
The Holy Unmercenaries, Saints Cosmas & Damian  
For the Kitchen, Home  
St. Euphrosynos the Cook  
St. Sergius of Radonezh: for baking  
Sts. Spyridon & Nikodim of Kievo-Pechersk:

### For Trading

St. Paraskeva



**For Headaches**  
Holy New Martyr Demas of Smyrna

**For Eyes**  
St. Paraskeva

**For Ears**  
St. Spyridon the Wonderworker

**For Teeth**  
St. Antipas of Pergamum

**For Hernias & Intestinal Disorders**  
Holy Great Martyr Artemius  
St. Artemius of Verkola

**For Throat**  
St. Blaise of Sebastia

**For Finding Employment**  
St. Xenia of St. Petersburg

**For Help in Studies**  
The Three Hierarchs:  
St. Basil the Great, St. John Chrysostom, St.  
Gregory the Theologian  
St. Sergius of Radonezh  
St. John of Kronstadt  
St. Justin the Philosopher

**For Church-Chanting**  
St. Romanos the Melodist

**For Iconographers**  
St. Luke the Apostle and Evangelist  
St. John of Damascus

**For Patient Endurance of Affliction**  
St. Job the Much-Suffering  
Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebastia: especially in  
freezing cold weather  
Holy Forty-Two Martyrs of Amorion

**For Protection Against Thieves**  
St. Gregory the Wonderworker of Kiev-Pechersk

**For Stone-workers**  
Holy Martyrs Florus & Laurus

**For Soldiers**  
Holy Archangel Michael  
St. George the Great Martyr  
St. Barbara the Great Martyr

**For Spiritual Help, Consolation & Compunction**  
St. Ephraim the Syrian  
St. Alexis the Man of God  
St. Seraphim of Sarov

**For a Good End to One's Life**  
Holy Archangel Michael  
St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople

**For Captives and Court Cases**  
St. Onouphrios the Great  
St. Peter of Athos  
St. George the Great Martyr

**For Help in Distress, Poverty, Etc.**  
St. Nicholas the Wonderworker  
St. John the Almsgiver of Alexandria  
St. John of Kronstadt

**For Finding Things**  
St. Phanourios the Great Martyr  
St. Menas the Great Martyr of Egypt

**For Meeting a Difficult Situation**St. David the  
Prophet, Psalmist & King  
The Holy Unmercenaries & Healers  
SS. Cosmas & Damian of Rome  
SS. Panteleimon & Hermolaus  
St. Julian the Martyr  
St. John of Kronstadt  
St. Nectarios of Aegina  
Holy Archangel Raphael

**For Animals & Livestock**  
St. George: cattle & herds  
St. Parthenius of Radovysdus: cattle  
SS. Spevsippus, Elesippus & Melevsippus: horses  
St. Tryphon: geese

**For Protection of Crops from Pests**  
St. Michael of Synnada

**For the Protection of Gardens Against Pests**  
Holy Great Martyr Tryphon: also for hunters and  
Patron of Moscow

**Against Demons & Witchcraft**  
SS. Cyprian & Justina  
St. Theodore Sykeote  
St. Mitrophan of Voronezh

**For Chastity & Help in Carnal Warfare**  
St. John the Forerunner  
St. Demetrios the Great Martyr  
St. John the Much-Suffering  
Holy Martyr Theodore the Byzantine  
Holy Martyr Ignatios of Athos  
St. Mary of Egypt  
St. Joseph the All-Comely  
St. Susanna [Old Testament]

**For Mental Disorders**  
St. Naum of Ochrid  
St. Anastasia  
St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia: the possessed

**Against Plague**  
St. Haralambos  
St. Marina the Great Martyr

**For Help Against Quick-Temper & Despondency**  
St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

**For Workers in Hospitals**  
Holy Unmercenaries Saints Cosmas & Damian  
St. Dositheus, Disciple of Abba Dorotheus

**For Guilelessness & Simplicity**  
Holy Apostle Nathaniel & St. Paul the Simple





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](mailto:BINGHAMTONACRY@GMAIL.COM)

## 1st ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Indoor fundraiser  
hosted by St.  
Michaels Church  
Recreation Center,  
296 Clinton St.,  
Binghamton, NY

Date: Saturday, April  
6th  
Check-in: 1:00pm  
Bags fly at: 2:00pm

Registration: \$40.00  
per 2-person team  
Adult event, Double  
elimination  
tournament, Tracking  
on [Scoreholio.com](http://Scoreholio.com)  
Registration closes on  
Saturday, March 23rd  
or earlier if  
tournament spots fill  
up.

Payment information:  
Make checks payable  
to: St. Michaels  
Church and email  
[akintner@yahoo.com](mailto:akintner@yahoo.com)  
for Mail To: Address  
Venmo:  
@AdrienneKintner  
PayPal:  
[akintner@yahoo.com](mailto:akintner@yahoo.com)

\$200.00 Prize for the  
winning team!  
\$10.00 Raffles: USA  
Flag Cornhole boards, Cigar humidor, Rare Irish Whiskey, Lotto Tickets

Questions: Jason Gdovin. Email: [gdov14@aol.com](mailto:gdov14@aol.com)



## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual CORNHOLE Tournament

Indoor fundraiser hosted by St. Michaels Church  
Recreation Center, 296 Clinton St., Binghamton, NY

**Registration:**  
\$40.00 per  
2-person team  
~ Adult Event ~

**Saturday  
APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Check-in at  
1:00 pm**

**Bags FLY at  
2:00 pm**

Make Checks  
St Michaels Church and email  
[akintner@yahoo.com](mailto:akintner@yahoo.com)  
Mail To: Address  
Venmo: @AdrienneKintner  
PayPal: [akintner@yahoo.com](mailto:akintner@yahoo.com)

Registration closes on  
Saturday, March 23rd  
or earlier if  
tournament spots fill  
up.

**\*\*\*Don't miss out on the fun!\*\*\***

**Tournament Stakes:** \$200 Prize for winning team, \$10.00 Raffles: USA Flag Cornhole boards, Cigar humidor, Rare Irish Whiskey, Lotto Tickets

**Double-elimination  
tournament**

**Food Beer Music Fun Friends**

Questions: Contact:  
Email: [gdov14@aol.com](mailto:gdov14@aol.com)  
Phone: 753-7800



Many thanks to everyone who came to assist with the first week of the preparation of Pirohi this past Wednesday. As someone reminded us as the work was underway, there are nine more weeks to go! This project takes the village which is the parish family and our friends to make this a reality. So please take some time and make sure you are part of this effort. Know that many folks in town are really excited about our return to weekly Friday lunches too, so we will need all the help to make sure that we cover all of the bases! God Bless!



# Ecumenical Patriarchate: We do not recognize any other form of union apart from marriage between man and woman

The Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate convened at the Phanar in Constantinople addressing the upcoming bill on same-sex marriage and adoption to be submitted by the Greek government.

The Synod reaffirmed the decision of the Holy and Great Council of Crete in June 2016, asserting that the Church does not recognize unions of same or opposite-sex couples or any other form of union apart from marriage. According to the Council, the “union of man and woman in Christ” represents a sacred institution, constituting “a small church or an image of the Church”.

The Synod clarified its stance, emphasizing that individuals entering into other forms of union “should be treated with pastoral responsibility and love in Christ”. This reflects the commitment to compassionate pastoral care for all members of the Church, even as it upholds the traditional understanding of marriage.

The Holy and Sacred Synod, convened under the esteemed chairmanship of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during its session on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, wishes to address the devout faithful of the Ecumenical Throne regarding the ongoing discourse on the institutionalization of same-sex marriage and adoption in Greece.

We reiterate the binding Decision of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, convened in Crete in June 2016. The Council unequivocally stated that “the Church does not accept for its members unions of same or opposite-sex couples and any other form of union apart from marriage.” It emphasized the sacred significance of the union of man and woman in Christ, describing it as a small church or an image of the Church (cf. “The mystery of marriage and its impediments,” I.10 and 4).

Simultaneously, we underscore that individuals within the Church who engage in alternative forms of union should be treated with pastoral responsibility and love in Christ.



**BELIEVE IN  
UKRAINE**

I N T E R F A I T H  
2/24/24 at 12PM

Broome County Courthouse  
92 State Street, Binghamton

LIGHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW  
ATOMIC TOMS, 196 STATE STREET, BINGHAMTON  
info@togetherforukraine.us  
607-414-2046

The Together for Ukraine Foundation, Inc. (TFU) invites organizations, businesses, elected officials, faith communities and people of all backgrounds to “Believe in Ukraine” at the Broome County Courthouse on February 24, 2024 from 12-1 PM. The brief interfaith service will be followed by a light reception at Atomic Tom’s at 196 State Street, Binghamton. Donations will be collected to provide humanitarian aid to Ukrainian civilians on the front lines and local refugees impacted by the war.

More than half a million Ukrainians have died in the war according to the New York Times, and over 180,000 have been injured. According to the United Nations, more than 6 million Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes as refugees and 8 million have been internally displaced. Broome County has welcomed over 20 hard-working refugee families since the start of the war, and many Broome County residents are praying for loved ones injured, serving, or killed in the war in Ukraine.

## Assembly of Bishops Delegation in the 2024 March for Life

Washington, D.C. - The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America sent a delegation to the annual March for Life in the nation's capital on Friday, January 19, 2024.

Bishop John (Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America) led the delegation. He was joined by Bishop Theophan (Albanian Orthodox Diocese of the Americas, Ecumenical Patriarchate), Metropolitan Tikhon (Orthodox Church in America) and Bishop Andrei (Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, Orthodox Church in America).



The members of the delegation attended the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, January 18, the evening before the march.

The next day, on Friday, January 19, Bishop John offered the opening prayer at the beginning of the rally on the National Mall where he said: “O Heavenly Father, Good Comforter, and Lord Jesus Christ; Creator of all things, you who knew us in our mother’s womb and ordered the world for our salvation, protect your babies both born and unborn, guide their parents, reveal to us the ways which we should walk today and every-day...”

The Orthodox hierarchs were joined on-stage by Roman Catholic Bishops led by His Excellency Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington and Chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Despite inclement weather, the march began at 1 p.m. and proceeded along Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Supreme Court, where prayers for the victims of abortion were offered.

### **Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem Issues Plea for Peace in Holy Land**

In a powerful demonstration of unity and Christian values, Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem, delivered a compelling speech on behalf of all the Patriarchs and Heads of churches in the Holy Land, during the annual holiday meeting with President Isaac Herzog of Israel, demanding an immediate cessation of military activity in Gaza.

Addressing the critical issues facing the Holy Land, the Patriarch of Jerusalem emphasized the common moral values inherent in the great monotheistic faiths. He underscored the sanctity of every human life, the imperative for dignity, and the pursuit of freedom, safety, and security for all residents of the diverse Holy Land.

At the heart of the Patriarch’s address was a poignant call to action – an urgent plea for an immediate permanent humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza. The leaders of the Holy Land Churches united in their commitment to peace, recognize the deepening humanitarian crisis and the suffering of innocent civilians caught in the midst of conflict.

Their appeal resonates as a compassionate response to the ongoing violence that plagues the region.

Rejecting the notion of a military solution, the Heads of Churches advocated for dialogue and reconciliation as the only sustainable paths to peace. The call for a permanent ceasefire is not only an expression of moral values but a collective rejection of cycles of violence that have proven ineffective in bringing lasting peace.

Amidst the challenges posed by the ongoing conflict, the leaders of the churches of the Holy Land stress the importance of acting swiftly, urging that no more innocent lives be lost. His Beatitude’s speech embraces the season of light and hope, expressing a collective aspiration for a better future where shared moral and spiritual values foster prosperity for all.

**From the Divine Liturgy: *For peace throughout the whole world...let us pray to the Lord!***  
***Lord have mercy!***