



# St. Michael's Parish Bee

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Live-Stream: [www.saintmichaels.info](http://www.saintmichaels.info),  
<https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBGM/>

St. Michael's Orthodox Church is a parish family serving the Lord since 1904.

American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)

## Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, Feb 5

Antiphones and Beatitudes for Sunday,  
Tropar and Kondak, Tone 1, p. 81/82, Kondak for Publican  
And Pharisee, p. 175, Prokimon and Alleluia Verses, Tone 1

### Sunday: \* Divine Liturgy for Sunday, 9 AM

- \* Church School Classes, 10:30 AM
- \* Coffee Shoppe, 10:30 AM

Monday: \* Grab and Go Community Meal,  
Drop & Knock deliveries, 5:30-7 PM

Tuesday: \* Moleben to St. Nektarios for health of ill, 8:30 AM

Wednesday: +Divine Liturgy, +Nicholas Kushner, 8:30 AM  
\* Moleben to the Mother of God, 6 PM  
St George Orthodox Church, Taylor

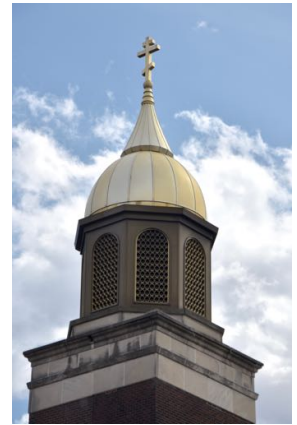
Thursday: \* CHOW Pantry, Lower Level, 4:30-6 PM

Friday: \* Moleben to the Mother of God, 8:30 AM

Saturday: \* Divine Liturgy, +Michael Kundrat, 40<sup>th</sup> day, 10 AM

## Sunday, of the Return of the Prodigal Son, Feb. 12

- \* Divine Liturgy for Sunday, Feast of Three Hierarchs, 9 AM
- \* Church School Classes, 10:30 AM
- \* Coffee Shoppe, 10:30 AM



*“Blessed is the Kingdom of the  
Father and the Son  
and the Holy Spirit,  
NOW and ever and forever!”*

Each Sunday's Divine Liturgy  
affords us the opportunity to  
taste of Heaven in this life!  
Come and See how Good the  
Lord each Sunday!

Finally and most importantly,  
Bring your family and friends!

## Preparation for 2023 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 19, 2023. 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 29, 2023. 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 2023 parish board.

## Annual Parish Meeting Feb. 19

Our annual meeting will take place on Sunday, February 19 following Liturgy. **Any parish member wishing to vote must be current through their 2022 financial obligations (\$175 per person) by the start of the meeting.** Statements of your 2022 giving will be available starting Feb 5, 2023. Shellee May and Carole Paccio (607) 725-2785 are now accepting names for nomination to the 2023 parish board. 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.

## Readings for the week of February 5

Sunday: 2 Timothy 3: 10-15 St. Luke: 18: 10-14  
Monday: 2 Peter 1: 20-2;9 St. Mark 13: 9-13  
Tuesday: 2 Peter 2: 9-22 St. Mark 13: 14-23  
Wednesday: 2 Peter 3: 1-18 St. Mark 13: 24-31  
Thursday: 1 John 1: 8-2:6 St. Mark 13: 31-14:2  
Friday: 1 John 2: 1-7 St. Mark 14: 3-9  
Saturday: 2 Timothy 3: 1-9 St. Luke 20: 46-21:4

Sunday: 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 St. Luke 15: 11-32



Winter Delight in the Southern Tier

### Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Reading: Luke 18:10-14

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men; extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

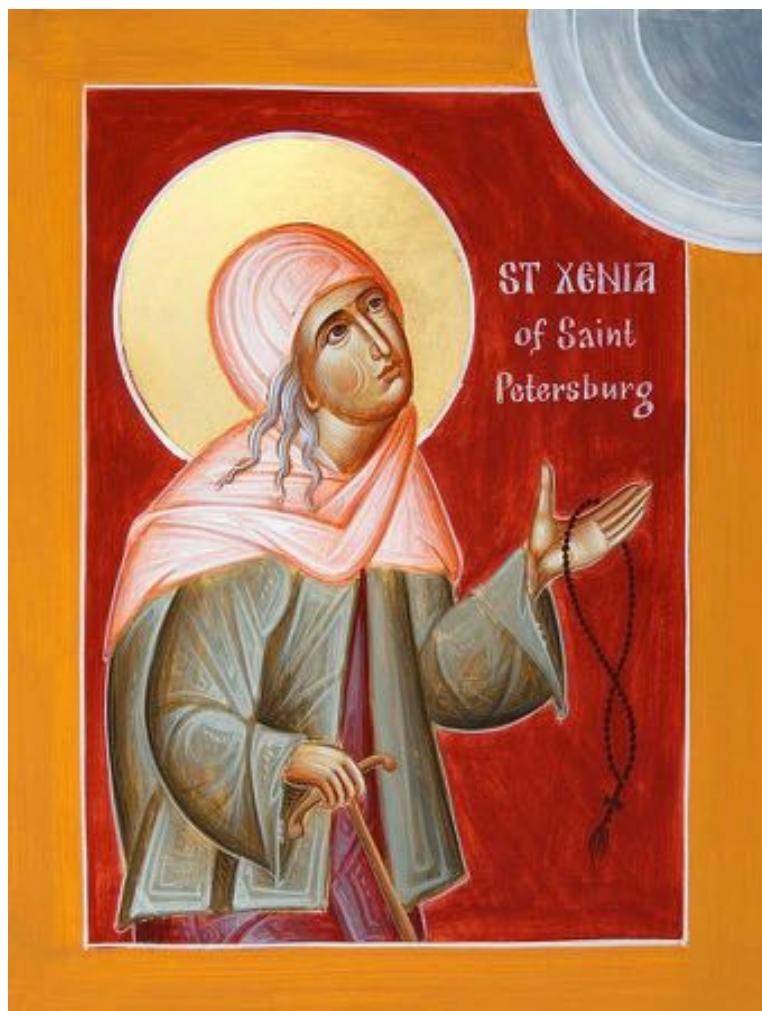
"And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God be merciful to me a sinner!'

"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

### A PRAYER TO ST. XENIA OF ST. PETERSBURG

O holy and most-blessed Mother Xenia: you lived under the protection of the Most High God, enduring hunger and thirst, oppression and persecution and received from God the gift of clairvoyance and the power to work miracles. Honoring your memory and praying before your holy icon, we ask you as one who is alive in Christ: accept our prayers and intercede for us, sinful and unworthy as we are. Pray for us: that our children may be faithful, honest and live in the fear of God; that our families may live in concord and love; those who are sick and infirm may be healed; that our pastors, having received the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands, may be wise and faithful teachers; and by the power of the Holy Spirit all of us may be united to Christ our God both in this life and the next.

To Him who is wondrous in His saints and to His eternal Father who is without beginning and His Holy Spirit we offer glory, praise and worship now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen



# Communiqué of the 12th Convening of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA, Los Angeles, January 28-31

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWAX4nK2V6o>

Wednesday, February 01, 2023

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America convened in Los Angeles, California from January 28-31<sup>st</sup> for its 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Thirty Hierarchs participated in the meeting chaired by Archbishop Elpidophoros.

On January 28<sup>th</sup> the Executive Committee met to confirm the meeting agenda and to conduct their regular business, including approving new board members for Orthodox Volunteer Corps and Orthodox Youth Ministries. Later that evening, all the Hierarchs gathered at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Los Angeles for [Great Vespers](#), presided over by Archbishop Elpidophoros, Chairman of the Assembly. A reception and networking charity event hosted by the parish followed. The participants assembled 200 food and hygiene kits to be distributed by FOCUS North America to those in need.

On Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, member Hierarchs – including Archbishop Elpidophoros (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America “GOA”), Bishop John (Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America “AOCA”), Bishop Maxim (Serbian Orthodox Church in North, Central and South America “SOC”), Metropolitan Nicolae (Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas “ROC”), Bishop Saba (Georgian Apostolic Orthodox Church in North America “GOC”), Metropolitan Tikhon (Orthodox Church in America “OCA”), Metropolitan Alexios (GOA), Metropolitan Gregory (American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America “ACROD”), Archbishop Michael (OCA), Bishop Demetrios (GOA), Bishop Sevastianos (GOA), Bishop Apostolos (GOA), Bishop Joachim (GOA), Bishop Andrei (OCA), Bishop Ioannis (GOA), Bishop Athenagoras (GOA), Bishop Constantine (GOA) – concelebrated the Divine Liturgy at Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in San Gabriel, CA. Also present during the service were Archbishop Nathaniel (OCA), Bishop Spyridon (GOA), and Bishop Timothy (GOA). This historic event was the first time all the members of the Assembly were invited to concelebrate, furthering the bond of love and communion. [The sermon](#) was offered by Bishop Maxim, and the Assembly of Bishops’ Director of Operations, Nicholas Anton, was ordained to the diaconate during the liturgy. After the liturgy, the Hierarchs celebrated with the faithful during a reception hosted by the parish for the Feast of Saint Sava the Enlightener of the Serbian People.

The meetings officially opened following a liturgy celebrating the Feast of the Three Hierarchs, Saints Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom. In [his opening remarks](#) on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, Archbishop Elpidophoros, Chairman of the Assembly, stated, “first and foremost among lofty intentions for our Assembly and all the Assemblies is the manifestation of our unity as the Orthodox Church in this region, the United States of America. Our light of unity cannot be hidden under the proverbial bushel – it belongs on the lampstand for all to see to help illuminate their own path.”

His Eminence continued, “and yet, we know that there are differences, even fault lines, in our worldwide Orthodox Church; perhaps none so bitter and distressing as those that have emerged around the war against Ukraine.”

The Assembly also reviewed the extensive work its Committees, Working Groups, Task Forces, and Ministries have undertaken over the past year and considered proposals. The Hierarchs resolved to work more closely together to achieve the goals of the Assembly, especially in the areas of Military and Institutional Chaplaincy, a common clergy database, parish engagement, research, and pastoral matters.

Following general discussions, the Assembly heard the application from Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve “FOCUS” North America’s Executive Director, Kenny Kidd, to become a ministry affiliated with the Assembly of Bishops. After considering the development and maturing of the organization, the Hierarchs voted to approve and welcome FOCUS North America as the newest Affiliate Ministry.



Metropolitan Gregory, Secretary of the AOB, Shares Communiqué

The final session of day one included a presentation from the two pilot cities – Atlanta and Akron – for the Assembly’s Inter-Parish Association program. Both pilot regions expressed their gratitude to the Hierarchs for their support and the value of the program. Inter-Parish Associations bring together the clergy and laity from all the local, jurisdictional parishes. Their purpose is to get to know each other better and collaborate on both home and outreach projects which enhance their local communities. In turn, the ultimate goal is growth of the Orthodox Christian Church. The Assembly has resolved to launch the program nationally.

The meetings on day two began by addressing matters of common concern followed by presentations from the six agencies of the Assembly (International Orthodox Christian Charities “IOCC,” Orthodox Christian Mission Center “OCMC,” Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry “OCPM,” Orthodox Christian Fellowship “OCF,” Orthodox Youth Ministries “OYM,” and Orthodox Volunteer Corps “OVC”). The two newest agencies showed great progress over their first year, with OVC launching its first cohort in September 2022 and OYM hiring an Executive Director in January 2023.

The meeting concluded with a productive discussion about the rite of the reception of converts. Following the mandate from the 2021 meeting, the Assembly of Bishops appointed a cross-jurisdictional working group, chaired by Protospesbyter Dr. Patrick Viscuso, that produced an in-depth white paper on the topic. The Hierarchs discussed the white paper and asked the working group, as a next step, to formulate recommended agreements and rubrics to be presented at the next Assembly meeting.

The Hierarchs present regretted the absence of their Brother Hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church and reiterated their invitation to participate in future Assemblies

Finally, an expression of appreciation was extended to Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, and the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sophia for their Abrahamic hospitality.

**ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS**  
OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF ANCHORS

## ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS APP

The Assembly of Bishops App provides a completely anonymous way for Orthodox Christian clergy and laity to share opinions and concerns through polls or and ongoing surveys. Our goal is to discover the primary needs of our parishes and faithful so we can improve our ministries and build better programs designed around proven needs.

The Assembly of Bishops App is available for download on

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### Why Assembly of Bishops App?

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- SHARE OPINIONS QUICKLY**  
A typical survey will take less than 5 minutes to complete.
- STAY INFORMED**  
App notifications keep you updated on valuable new information and when new surveys come out.
- TAKE SURVEYS ON YOUR SCHEDULE**  
Select of convenient times prior to meeting to solve problems. The app allows you to begin a survey and complete it later.

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[www.assemblyofbishops.org/app](http://www.assemblyofbishops.org/app)

## Historic First Synaxis of Hierarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the USA

On Saturday, January 28, 2023, the First Synaxis of Hierarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the USA convened in Los Angeles, California, under the presidency of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. The hierarchs, twelve in all, represent the Orthodox ecclesiastical eparchies under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, namely the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, as well as the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox and Albanian Orthodox dioceses.



“As leaders of our communities at every level, we have the responsibility and privilege to voice the concerns of the Ecumenical Throne, and to provide advocacy for Her interests,” Archbishop Elpidophoros said in his opening remarks. He called the Synaxis an additional opportunity for the hierarchs to engage with one another and share their ideas:

“Most, if not all, of you have participated in the wonderful Synaxēs of the Ecumenical Throne at the Phanar. When His All-Holiness assembles us, it is a tremendous opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives with our fellow brethren of Asia Minor, as well as the bishops of the worldwide Diaspora. We can learn so much from each other if we are open to fresh viewpoints. That is why, since we are meeting as the Assembly of Bishops, I thought it providential and prudent for us to gather in a Synaxis, as Hierarchs in the United States of the First Throne of Orthodoxy.”

The Ecumenical Patriarch’s message to the hierarchs also underscored their responsibility to represent and express the principles and spirit of the Ecumenical Patriarchate— most importantly, the “supra-national character” at “the very core” its identity. “For those within the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, cultural identity functions on the basis of the sacred canons and a healthy ecclesiology, without constituting a central criterion for the organization of church life,” His All-Holiness said.

Following the opening remarks, hierarchs discussed and shared information about their respective eparchies and familiarized themselves with the work of the upcoming XII Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA, which is made of all active canonical Orthodox bishops, of every jurisdiction, in the United States.

Participating hierarchs in this historic first meeting include: His Eminence (H.E.) Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, H.E. Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, H.E. Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa, His Grace (H.G.) Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, H.G. Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, H.G. Bishop Apostolos of Medeia, H.G. Joachim of Amissos, H.G. Bishop Spyridon of Amastris, H.G. Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion, H.G. Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea, H.G. Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, H.G. Bishop Constantine of Sassima. Several additional hierarchs were unable to attend for health reasons.

The Synaxis of Hierarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the USA is expected to meet every year. “Just as there can be no son without a mother, there can be no hierarch of Constantinople without the Mother, which is the Mother Church of Constantinople,” Archbishop Elpidophoros said. “But I know there is no lack of loyalty and devotion to the Great Church by Your Eminences and Graces. Each of you exercises, in your own way, the interests and dignity of the Ecumenical Throne.”



Be sure to listen to Metropolitan Gregory’s interview with Ancient Faith Radio in California during the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops this past weekend. He discusses life in the Assembly of Bishops as well as his life as hierarch of our American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese. You can log onto this discussion:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wH7vEz6b9TM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wH7vEz6b9TM)



# POTLUCK DINNER

Mid-winter Blues Buster  
Potluck Dinner  
Saturday, Feb. 18

Come join us on Saturday, February 18, for an afternoon/early evening potluck dinner and fellowship at St. Michael's Recreation Center beginning with hors d'oeuvres at 3:00 pm and dinner at 4:00 pm.

If you are able, and feel inclined to do so, bring a dish, dessert, or hors d'oeuvre to share, but this is totally optional.

This event is free and open to all parishioners of St. Michael's ... but feel free to bring your family and friends.



The United States Association of

*The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*

We are pleased to announce that a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program will take place in the Southern Tier for working with young children from the ages of 3-6 this April at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 360 Conklin Avenue here in Binghamton.

There are 10 spaces available in this program and it would be wonderful to have some faithful of our parish trained in this approach to religious education. The program consists of a series of classes and those who complete the program will earn a certificate from the National Associate of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Funding for the tuition is available.

For more information, please contact Maria Korchak, [mhkorchak@gmail.com](mailto:mhkorchak@gmail.com), or call her at (607) 341-1865.

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (AGPRO)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 5th</b>	 <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week <b>FEBRUARY 12th</b>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare <b>FEBRUARY 19th</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare <b>FEBRUARY 26th</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <b>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</b> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 5th</b>	 <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 12th</b>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 19th</b>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 26th</b>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 2nd</b>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY <b>APRIL 9th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>APRIL 14th</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! <b>APRIL 16th</b> NO FASTING!	 <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

If you or a loved one are hospitalized or admitted to a nursing-rehab facility, please be sure to call Fr. Jim at (607) 725-3672.



## Home Blessing



Dear Father,

Please bless our home this year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_