

# St. Michael's Parish Bee

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Livestream: [www.saintmichael.info](http://www.saintmichael.info)

*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)*

St. Michael's Orthodox Church

296 Clinton St., Binghamton, NY 13905

(607)729-0261), [www.saintmichaels.info](http://www.saintmichaels.info)

[www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBGM/](http://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBGM/)

## Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, Feb 13

*Sunday Antiphons and Beatitudes, Tropar, Tone 1, p. 81,*

*Kondak, Publican and Pharisee, p. 175,*

*Prokimen & Allelulia verses, Tone 1, p. 83*

### Our Schedule of Activities this Week

- Sunday: \* Sunday Divine Liturgy, 9 AM  
\* Anniversary Brunch following Liturgy
- Monday: \* Vespers, Feast of Meeting of the Lord, 4 PM  
\* Grab and Go Take-Out Dinner, 5:30- 7 PM
- Tuesday: \* Holy day Liturgy, Meeting of the Lord, 9 AM
- Wednesday: \* Moleben to the Mother of God,  
St. George Orthodox Church, Taylor, PA, 6 PM
- Thursday: \* CHOW Food Pantry, 4:30-6 PM
- Friday: \* Moleben to Mother of God, with prayers  
For peace in Ukraine and the world, 8:30 AM
- Saturday: \* Liturgy with prayers for the ill, 8:30 AM  
Confessions, 4 PM, Vespers, 5 PM

### Sunday, February 13th

\* Sunday Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

\* Annual Parish Meeting following Liturgy

### A Special Note of Gratitude!

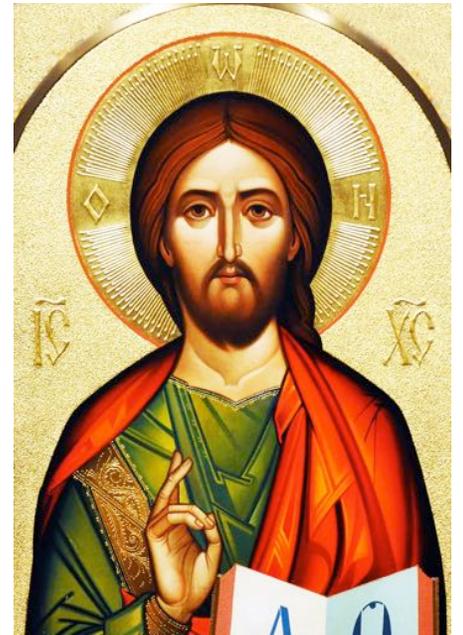
Pani Kathy and I would like to extend our appreciation His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory, His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, and to all the clergy and faithful who have come to St. Michael's this weekend to share in the joy of the Golden Jubilee of our marriage and the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

Special thanks also to Barb Knighton, chairperson, Rick Dutko, and everyone who helped in any way in planning and hosting the Anniversary reception last night at the Double Tree and this morning's Golden Anniversary brunch.

We are very grateful to you for your prayers, presence and your love.

May Our Lord bless each of you in the way He knows you need the most.

*Many Blessed Years! Nam Mnohaja I Blahaja Lita!*



*The Harvest is Rich  
But the Laborers  
Are Few!  
Pray for New  
Vocations  
To the Priesthood!*



Fr. Jim and Pani Kathy Dutko

## Scripture Readings of this Week of the Publican and Pharisee

Sunday:	2 Timothy 3: 10-15	St. Luke 18: 10-14
Monday:	2 Peter 1: 20-2:9	St. Mark 13: 9-13
Tuesday:	Hebrews 7: 7-17	St. Luke 2: 22-40
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: 7-17	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

Read the daily scriptures on line: [WWW.ACROD.ORG](http://WWW.ACROD.ORG).



### 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."

### The 2022 Lenten Pirohi Season is at Hand!

For 2022 there will be two prep weeks. The first prep week Feb 15/16 is devoted to cabbage. The second prep week Feb 22/23 will be devoted to potato. All product will be frozen. The week of the first sale is Mar 1 thru Mar 4. Below is the prep weeks schedule:

**Week 1**  
Tue Feb 15 starting at 7am – core, quarter and shred cabbage  
Tue Feb 15 starting at 9am – fry cabbage, spread to dry.  
Wed Feb 16 starting at 9am – run machine to produce 400 doz cabbage pirohi

**Week 2**  
Tue Feb 22 starting at 4pm – prep potatoes, shred cheese, sweat unions  
Wed Feb 23 starting at 8am – cook potatoes  
Wed Feb 23 starting at 9am – run machine to produce 400 doz potato pirohi

## Information for our Annual Parish Meeting Feb. 20!

Our annual meeting will take place on Sunday, February 20 following Liturgy. Any parish member wishing to vote must be current through their 2021 financial obligations (\$175 per person) by the start of the meeting.

Statements of your 2021 giving are available today. Documents of the 2022 Parish Yearly Meeting will be available starting Feb 6, 2022.

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 50 is needed. With COVID, here is the plan. Please only attend the parish meeting if you feel safe in doing so. The Annual Parish Meeting will be scheduled for February 20, 2022. Chairs will be spread out. Given current state mandates, masks need to be worn when not seated. 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.

The contact information for Randy May is phone number (607 621- 5113) and email [randymichaelmay@gmail.com](mailto:randymichaelmay@gmail.com).

### Vacancies on the Parish Board

As we approach our annual meeting next week, there are two vacancies on the Church Board: Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary. Please contact either Shellee May or Carol Paccio (725-2785).

## Proposed By-Law changes for 2022

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### Article VI Section 6

#### Current wording

At all meetings of the Congregation, the presence, at the commencement of such meetings, of fifty (50) people entitled to vote, shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

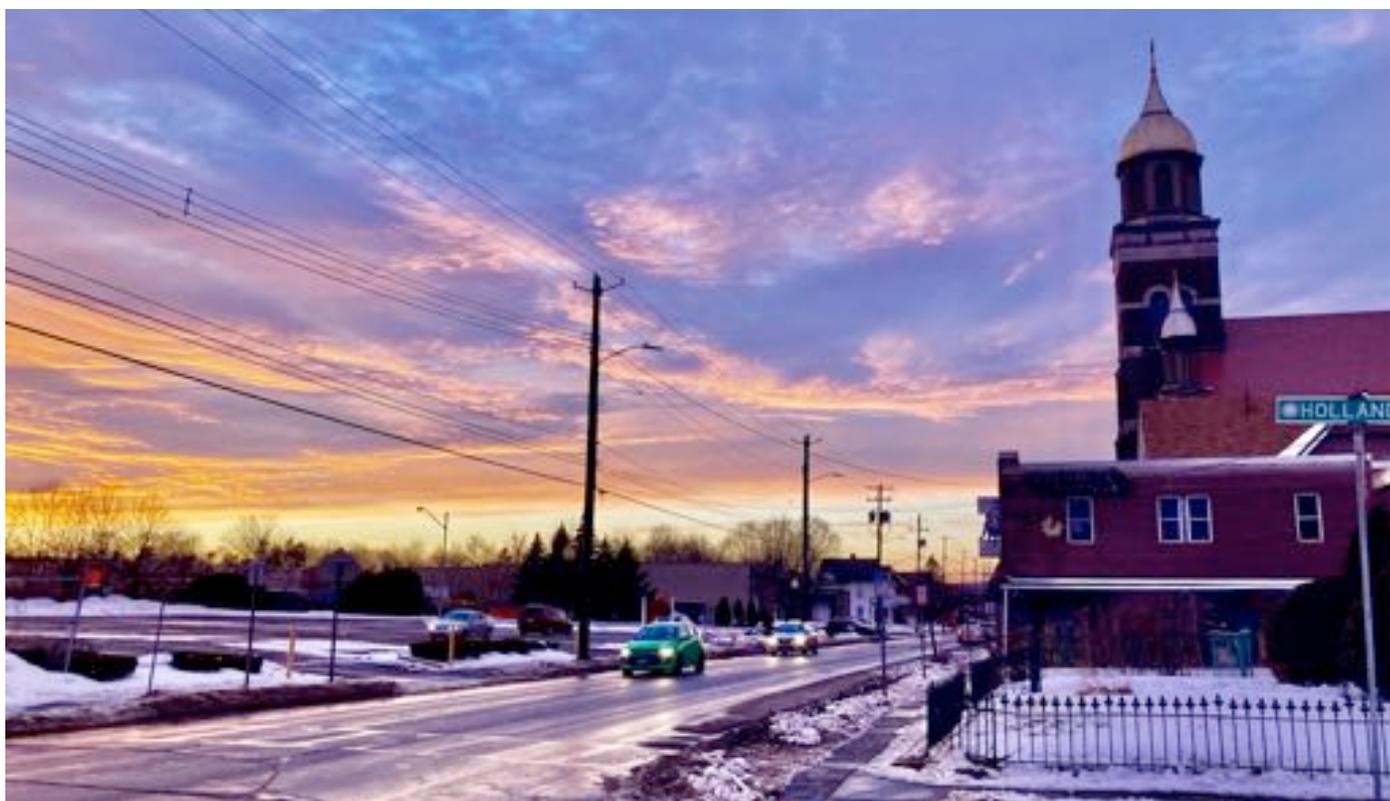
#### Proposed wording

At all meetings of the Congregation, the presence, at the commencement of such meetings, of thirty-five (35) people entitled to vote, shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

Reason: During 2021 a quorum of 50 failed to be reached for the annual parish meeting and special parish meeting.



## Our Monday Evening “Grab and Go” Dinner Program a Gift to Neighborhood



This was the winter sunset along Clinton Street which young and old experienced alike this past Monday evening when they arrived for the “Grab and Go” dinner at our Center. Rather than standing outside in the cold, all were welcomed into the building and then given a number so that social distancing could be maintained as each came forward to receive a bagged full meal for the evening. We are grateful to all of our generous donors of food and to all of our volunteers who have continued to make this outreach ministry a reality, even in these difficult years of COVID restrictions. We look forward to the time when our meals can once again be a sit-down community affair as they had been for years prior to advent of COVID in March, 2020.



## Young Adult Retreat Set for Camp Nazareth, March 25-27

JOHNSTOWN, PA -- The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Y2AM and the Ukrainian Orthodox Young Adult Office invite Young Adults ages 18-35 to come retreat to Camp Nazareth from March 25-27, 2022 for a weekend with other Orthodox Young Adults from all jurisdictions.

The theme of the weekend event is *Forming Christ-Centered Relationships*, and it will feature presentations by Fr. Chris and Khouria Sophia Shadid. The weekend event will be filled with learning, fun, fellowship, worship, and time for reflection and rejuvenation!

Plan on attending and register now as spaces are limited! All Inclusive Registration Fee For Entire Weekend is \$95.00

[Click Here To Register Online](#)



*"Do you like math? Neither do we, but we're going to use it to identify what it means to have a Christ-centered relationship. Join us as we dig deep and discuss how relationships can bring us closer to the Kingdom of Heaven."*

Fr. Chris was born and raised in the booming Antiochian Metropolis of Johnston, PA, and is an avid Steelers fan. He attended the University of Pittsburgh for undergraduate studies before attending Holy Cross Seminary in 2010 where he met Sophia. After graduating seminary, Fr. Chris accepted the position of Assistant Camp Director at Antiochian Village Camp, and he has never left!

While working at the camp, Fr. Chris went back to the University of Pittsburgh to get his Masters in Social Work, and he now practices as an outpatient mental health counselor at a local clinic one night a week. Fr. Chris & Sophia got married in November of 2018. He was ordained as a deacon and a priest in 2019, and in 2020, he was appointed as the camp director at Antiochian Village where he, Sophia and their two puppies live.

Sophia was born and raised in Boston, MA, but is not a Patriots Fan. She moved to rural Western, PA in 2018 when she and Fr. Chris got married, and he's slowly been turning her into a Steeler loving country girl. Sophia received her Masters in Occupational Therapy at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut in 2018 and currently practices as a pediatric occupational therapist providing early intervention services to children with a wide variety of diagnoses within 2 local counties. In her spare time,

Sophia is typically walking, running or cuddling with her and Fr. Chris' puppies Belle & Louie or baking which is one of her favorite hobbies. Sophia has never been to Camp Nazareth before and is thrilled to be here this weekend!

## The Spiritual Meaning of the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord

[Hieromonk Job \(Gumerov\)](#)

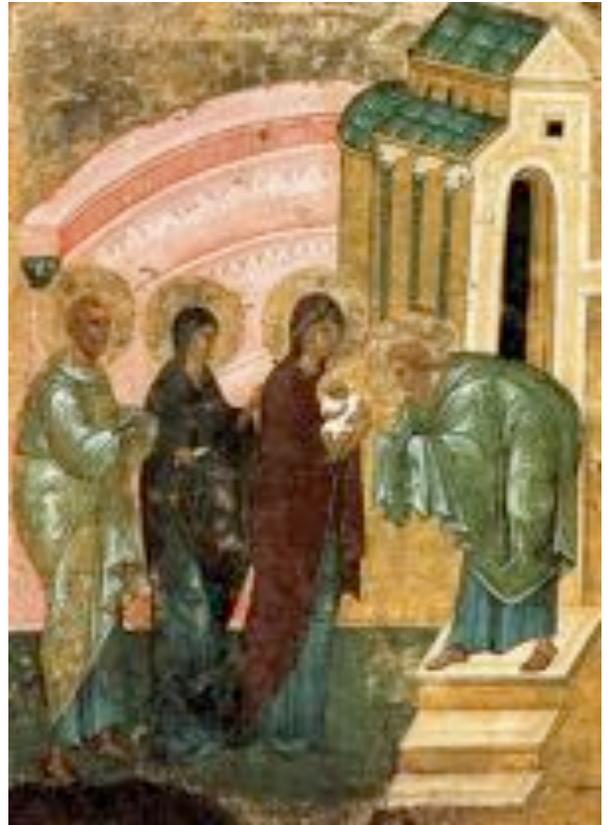
*What is the Spiritual Meaning of the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord? Why did the meeting of Elder Simeon with the Infant Jesus become a great Christian feast day? Hieromonk Job (Gumerov) talks about today's feast.*

The event that initiated this one of the twelve great feasts is, in the spiritual sense, multi-dimensional. The word “meeting” does not convey the main significance of the [Church Slavonic](#) understanding of *sretenie*. Ordinarily those who meet are equals. “But here,” as [Metropolitan Benjamin \(Fedchenkov\)](#) notes, “the Slavonic word, *sretenie*, is more fitting, for it speaks of the coming out of the lesser to meet the greater; of people coming to meet God” (*Letters on the Twelve Great Feasts* [Moscow, 2004], 170-1 [Russian]).

The event in the [Jerusalem temple](#) has particular significance. The Divine Law-Giver Himself, as the firstborn of every creature (Col. 1:15) and as the *firstborn* of the Virgin (Mt. 1:25) is brought as a gift to God. This symbolic act is as if the beginning of that service, which would end on earth with a great event: the incarnate Son of God would offer His whole self to God for the redemption of mankind, with whom he had earlier met in the person of righteous Simeon.

*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel* (Lk. 2:30-32).

This song of thanksgiving goes back in thought and expression to certain passages in the book of the Prophet Isaiah: *And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall arise to rule over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust, and his rest shall be glorious* (Is. 11:10). Jesse was the father of King David. Therefore, the *Root of Jesse*—the people’s awaited Messiah Christ, the *Son of David* (cf. Mt. 1:1), Who, as two centuries of history shows, will become a *a sign which shall be spoken against*. This *sign* will divide people into the believing and the unbelieving, into those who love the light and those who choose darkness. “What is this *sign which shall be spoken against*? It is the Sign of the Cross, which the Church will confess as salvific for the whole world” ([St. John Chrysostom](#)).



The meeting of God and man, which first took place in the Jerusalem temple, must become for each of us a personal event. Our path of salvation must begin by a meeting with Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. Until this meeting takes place, we remain *sitting in darkness... and in the shadow of death* (Mt. 4:16).

On the fortieth day after the Birth of the Infant God, yet another meeting took place—the [Old Testament Church](#) and the New Testament Church. The entire Gospel passage is penetrated with the motif of exact fulfillment of the law of Moses: the forty-day period of *purification* prescribed in the book of Leviticus (cf. 12:2-4), the dedication of the firstborn son to God (cf. Num. 3:13), and that firstborn son’s symbolic redemption (Ex. 13:13). Nevertheless, it is easy to see that the spiritual center of the event described is completely transferred into New Testament history. *Now* (Lk. 2:29) means that the time awaited by many generations of the coming of the Messiah has arrived.

Holy righteous Simeon speaks of the departure from this world (the verb *depart* in the Greek and Slavonic texts is in the present tense). The elder Simeon’s inspired speech is filled with praise and thanksgiving to God that the time of promise is now fulfilled. According to patristic tradition, the holy [Prophet Zacharias](#), father of [St. John the Baptist](#), placed the Holy Virgin who came according to the law to fulfill the rite not in the place designated for women there for purification, but in the place designated for virgins (women who had husbands were not allowed to stand there). And when the scribes and Pharisees expressed their indignation, Zacharias proclaimed that this Mother remains and will remain a Virgin and pure: “Therefore I have not forbidden this Mother to stand in the place appointed for virgins, because She is higher than all virgins.”

The third meeting is of an extremely personal character. For the elder Simeon, the day has come for which he had waited an unusually long time. He was promised to see the Savior of the world, born of the Most Pure Virgin Mary. Righteous Simeon, distinguished by his brilliant learnedness, as a wise man who knew the Divine

Scripture very well, labored together with seventy-two translators on the island of Pharos in Alexandria in the 380's B.C. over the translation of the [books of the Old Testament](#) from Hebrew into Greek. While translating the book of the Prophet Isaiah, he came to the words, *Behold, a virgin shall conceive in the womb, and shall bring forth a son* (Is. 7:14). When he read this, he doubted, thinking that it was impossible for a woman to give birth without a husband.

Simeon took a knife and wanted to erase these words from the scroll and replace "virgin" with "woman". But then an angel of the Lord appeared to him stayed his hand, saying, "Have faith in the words written, and you yourself will behold their fulfillment, for you shall not see death until you have seen the Lord Christ born of a virgin."

Believing the angels words, the elder Simeon waited impatiently for Christ's coming into the world, and led a righteous and blameless life. According to tradition, elder Simeon was vouchsafed a blessed end in the 360th year of his life. His holy relics were translated during the reign of Emperor Justinian the Younger (565-578) to Constantinople and placed in the chapel of the Apostle Jacob of the Chalkoprateia church.

The prayer of St. Simeon the God-Receiver (*now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, O Master*) is sung (on feast days) or read (during simple services) every evening, so that the passing day would remind every believer of the sunset of his life, which ends with his departure from this temporary life. We must live our lives in peace with God and fulfillment of the Gospel commandments, so that like the holy elder Simeon, we might joyfully greet the endless and bright day in the Kingdom of Heaven.

[Hieromonk Job \(Gumerov\)](#)

Translation by OrthoChristian.com

[Pravoslavie.ru](#)

### **Important Information for Youngsters Heading to Camp Nazareth this Summer!**

If you are parents of youngsters between the ages of 8 and 18, it is time to start making plans for your student's participation in the incredible programs at Camp Nazareth this summer.

On Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> (prior to Registration opening on March 15), Camp Nazareth will be offering two informational webinars (they are the same webinar, but will be offered twice) about the 2022 Summer Camping Weeks for all our campers, parents, clergy, volunteers and potential Staff. Both webinars will be offered at 7pm. Plan on attending one of the webinars to get the latest information on our 2022 Summer Camping Weeks including information about the Camp's facility, kitchen, medical and program plans as they relate to up-to-date information about the Coronavirus. The links to register for the Webinars are as follows (registration just requires your name and email and then you will be sent a link to the webinar):

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 7pm: [Register for March 1, 2022](#)

Thursday, March 3 2022 at 7pm: [Register for March 3, 2022](#)

Our Diocesan Camping Weeks are as follows:

**Week 1: Sunday, July 17 – Saturday, July 23, 2022** – Pittsburgh, Mid-Atlantic, Tri-State and Washington D.C. Deaneries

**Week 2: Sunday, July 24 – Saturday, July 30, 2022** – New England, NY, NJ, Florida and Canada Deaneries

**Week 3: Sunday, July 31 – Saturday, August 6, 2022** -- Johnstown, Pocono, Southern Tier, Youngstown and Chicago Deaneries

**Science and Nature Camp: Sunday, August 7 – Saturday, August 13, 2022**

### **Information on joining the 2022 Summer Staff at Camp Nazareth!**

If you are 18 by the beginning of the Summer Season and have completed High School or already are in college, plan to be part of the Camp's Summer Staff. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in this vital and meaningful Diocesan apostolate, form lasting friendships, and use your God-given talents for the benefit and up-building of our Church. We have worked with a number of students to design internship positions that help them earn credit in their program of study as well. Staff Applications can be found on the Camp's website [campnazareth.org](#).

# *The Prayer of a Broken Heart, An Orthodox Christian Reflection on African American Spirituality*

by Rev. Paul Abernathy

What do African American spirituality and Orthodox Christianity have in common? More than you might think. Drawing on both his own background as a biracial convert to Orthodoxy and historical resources that span St. Athanasius to Frederick Douglass, Fr. Paul Abernathy details the many intersections between these two traditions, including a redemptive understanding of the Cross and a faith shaped by suffering and persecution. In so doing, he points to a new path whereby Orthodox Christianity can uniquely answer the spiritual needs of African Americans.

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## **Praise for *The Prayer of a Broken Heart***

"*The Prayer of a Broken Heart* situates itself far beyond the narrow confines of the American moral imagination. Within those confines any descendant of slaves who resurrects narratives of the painful past can only be expected to air 'grievances.' But in Fr. Paul's hands, these narratives are triumphant, delineating a path heavenward for spiritual ancestors whom we do well to learn from. He interweaves his chapters with history, his own rich pastoral experiences, and a way forward. His reflections throughout

use the lens of our timeless Orthodox Christian ethos and its foremost authors. Read and expand your heart." -**Nun Katherine Weston**, President of the Fellowship of St. Moses the Black and author of *Race, Identity, and Reconciliation*

"In reading Fr. Paul Abernathy's *The Prayer of a Broken Heart* we find ourselves sitting at the feet of the Black Church and, in particular, the African American community located in Pittsburgh's Hill District. We quickly realize they are our great teachers, and perhaps among the greatest in the Kingdom, given that they have suffered greatly, endured, and yet hope and rejoice. In a most disarming way, Fr. Paul calls us to repent while also highlighting the intersections between African American and Orthodox spirituality. This book is humble, brilliant, beautiful, and instructive. It is a gift. Generously share its riches with others." -

**Marlena Graves**, *The Way Up Is Down: Becoming Yourself by Forgetting Yourself* (IVP)

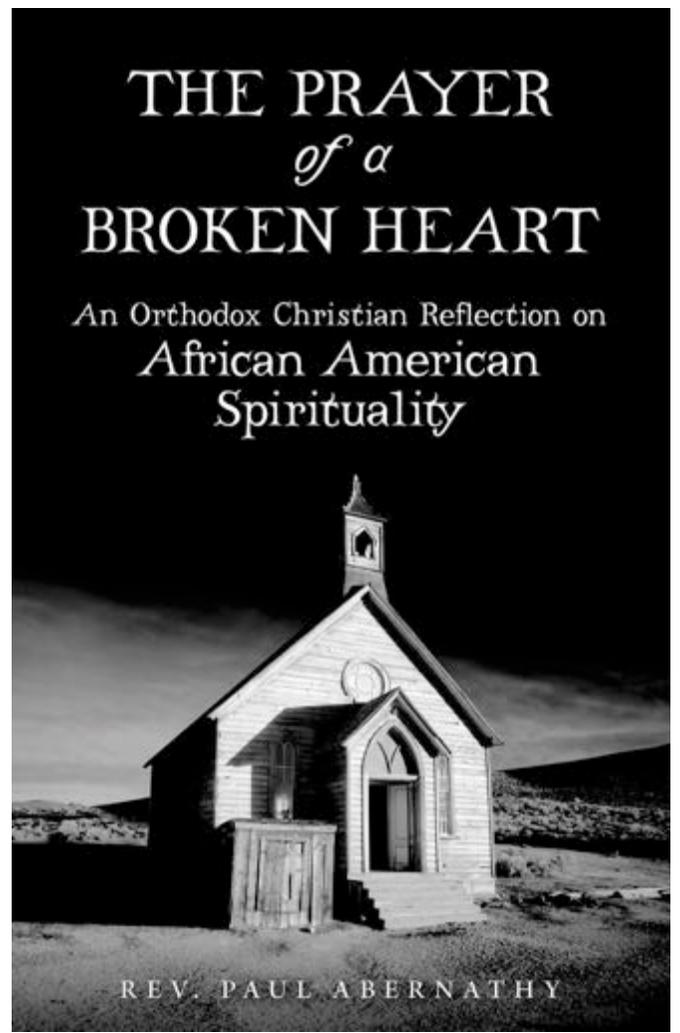
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**About the Author:** Fr. Paul Abernathy is an African American Orthodox Christian priest and founding pastor of St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church in the Hill District, a predominantly Black neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the founder and CEO of the Neighborhood Resilience Project, an Orthodox Christian nonprofit focusing on building resilient, healing, and healthy communities through Trauma Informed Community Development. He is a nationally renowned speaker whose work has been featured on NBC, ABC, CBS, BBC, Ard (German) TV, and NPR. Fr. Paul is a U.S. Army Iraq War veteran and holds master's degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary. He and his beloved wife Kristina have two beautiful children.

**Author:** Rev. Paul Abernathy

**Paperback:** 216 pages, \$16.

ORDER FROM: <https://store.ancientfaith.com/the-prayer-of-a-broken-heart/>



## Looking for Authentic Heroes: Read “101 Orthodox Saints!”

Item No. 9781944967888

by Sarah Wright and Alexandra Schmalzbach, illustrated by Nicholas Malara

Did you know there was a saint who used a dogsled for transportation? Or a saint who turned down a marriage proposal from the Roman Emperor? How about the saint who jumped from building to building during a siege to bring the Eucharist to his parishioners?

Discover all of these stories and more in *101 Orthodox Saints*. Written for children and those with a childlike curiosity, this visual encyclopedia will enhance your family’s understanding and celebration of the saints of the Church. Each page is filled with illustrations, icons, graphics, and fascinating facts about the martyrs, monks, and mothers who boldly lived out their Faith to the glory of God.

### About the Authors:

**Presbytera Sarah Wright** is an Orthodox Christian, wife, mother of three, and teacher. As a teacher, the highlight of her job is helping kids get hooked on reading. She hopes to write books that will encourage that love of reading and, more importantly, a love for Christ and His Church. She and her family live in Waco, Texas, where her husband is the priest of a lovely and loving parish. Sarah also writes the popular blog *Orthodox Motherhood*, and she can usually be found at her Texas home watching an old movie, hiking, or eating Mexican food with her family.

**Alexandra Schmalzbach** is a lifelong Virginian and Orthodox Christian. Alexandra was born in Arlington to second-generation Greek Americans. Alexandra majored in American history and religious studies at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, graduated in 2007, and three weeks later married her husband, Brian. They now reside in Richmond with their five children: Stella Virginia, Peter, Josiah, Sebastian, and Raphael.

### About the Illustrator:

**Nicholas Malara** grew up in Denver, Colorado, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in illustration. Over the course of his twenty-year-long career, he has illustrated books, designed games, and created products of all kinds for children. Using his talents to serve the Kingdom of heaven is his greatest passion. He currently resides in Spokane, Washington, with his wife and two children.

**Age Range:** For children of all ages, and independent readers age 7 - 14

**Authors:** Sarah Wright and Alexandra Schmalzbach

**Illustrator:** Nicholas Malara

**Hardcover:** 120 pages

**Dimensions:** 9.5 x 11 inches

**Publisher:** Ancient Faith Publishing, \$24.95

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/101-orthodox-saints/>

