



St. Michael's Parish Bee

Fr. James S. Dutko, (607) 725-3672
frjimdutko0@gmail.com

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

Fr. Deacon Charles Ellis, 785-143

Live-Stream: 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

25th Sunday after Pentecost, December 7, 2025

2nd Advent Sunday prior to the Nativity feast

Sunday Antiphons for Entrance of Theotokos, p. 118, Tropar Tone 1, p, 81, Tropar, Entrance of Theotokos p. 119, Kondak, Birthgiver Hymnm Prokimen, Allellulia verses, Tone 1, pp.. 82-83

Schedule of Services & Activities for this Week

Sunday: *Divine Liturgy, 1st Sunday of Advent, 9 AM
*Church School Classes, 10:30 AM
*Coffee Shoppe, 10:30-11:30 AM
*Ladies Guild Meeting in Atrium following Liturgy today!
*St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe Preps, after Liturgy

Monday: *St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe Preps, 10 AM
*Please note that the next meeting of our Adult Religious Education Program, the Way, will resume next Monday, December 15!

Wednesday: *St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe Preps, 10 AM
*Moleben to the Mother of God, 7 PM, St. George, Taylor, PA

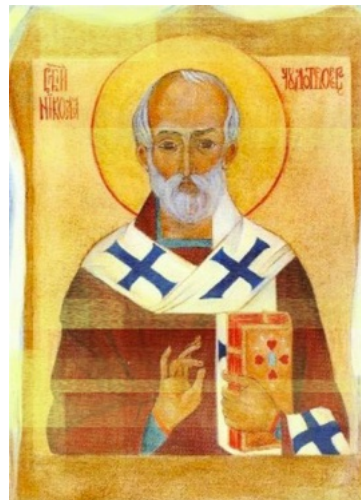
Thursday: *CHOW Pantry, Lower Lounge, 4-6 PM

Friday: *Divine Liturgy, +Richard Senko by Elaine and Ronald, 8:30 AM
*St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe Preps, 10 AM

Saturday: *St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe Volunteers, 9:30 AM
*St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe, 10 AM-2 PM
*Confessions 4 PM, Vespers, 5 PM

Sunday: *Divine Liturgy, 3rd Sunday of Advent, 9 AM
*Church School Classes, 10:30 AM
*Coffee Shoppe, 10:30-11:30 AM

Tickets are available today for our St. Nicholas Breakfast!



St. Nicholas Breakfast
Sunday, December 21
following our Divine Liturgy

Featuring Traditional Favorites
followed by a Christmas celebration
and a visit from St. Nicholas!

Tickets, \$8
Students, K-12, \$5
Under 5, No Charge

Be sure to mark the date and plan on coming with family and Friends as we celebrate the annual St. Nicholas Feast and welcome St. Nicholas to greet all of our children and families. The date is Sunday, December 21. Be sure to join us!



You are cordially invited to
Christmas Dinner
At St. Michael's
Recreation Center
Following the
Christmas Liturgy
On January 7!

Please feel free to bring a dish
to pass if you'd like,
but not required to attend!

Scripture Readings for the Week of December 7

Sunday:	Ephesians 6: 10-17	St. Luke 21: 12-19
Monday:	-5II Timothy 5 1-10	St. Luke 19: 37-44
Tuesday:	1 Timothy 5: 11-21	St. Luke 19: 45-48
Wednesday:	1 Timothy 5: 22-6:11	St. Luke 20: 1-8:11
Thursday:	1 Timothy 6: 17-21	St. Luke 20: 9-18
Friday:	2 Timothy 1: 1-2, 8-18	St. Luke 20: 19-26
Saturday:	1 Corinthians 4: 9-16	St. John 1: 35-51
Sunday:	Ephesians 6: 10-17	St. Luke 13: 10-17

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5: 9-19

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), proving what is acceptable to the Lord.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Gospel Reading: St. Luke 13: 10-17

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.

But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity."

And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or his donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it?"

"So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound; think of it; for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

A Special Note for All Who Like to Bake for the Holidays!

To All Bakers: St. Michael's Ladies Guild has lekvar, apricot, and raspberry fillings available for sale. Price is \$5 per pound. Please call Diane Marusich at 607 765-3114 and leave a message to request filling(s), or see Dr. Bill in Coffee Shop following today's Liturgy to make your purchase. Quantities are limited. Thank you!

St. Nicholas Shoppe Offers Lessons in the Joys of Christmas Giving!

Over the years, one of the highlights of the Advent Season here in the Southern Tier has been the annual *St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe* at St. Michael's Recreation Center. It is hard to believe that our first venture with this project was in December of 2014!

While many associate the feast of St Nicholas and Christmas with the receiving of gifts, the focus on this special program is helping youngsters from the First Ward's Woodrow Wilson Elementary School experience the joy not only of receiving gifts but of giving gifts to others!



Woodrow Wilson School is well known to generations of the children of St. Michael's whose families came to Binghamton early in the 20th century to work at the EJ shoe factory. The school continues to embrace children of immigrants today who now come from 27 countries! As in the past, many of them come from families who are no strangers to poverty. More than 92 percent of them fall below the poverty level in the United States.

Turning a Vision into a Reality

The vision of the *St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe* was to enable these children to experience the joy, not of receiving gifts for themselves but of giving gifts to their loved ones. Yet the giving of gifts usually entails money which they don't have.

As a result, our appeal began in early November in the parish to have the faithful provide gifts for the *Shoppe*. In order to make this happen, we collect those little items that all of us have at home (gifts that we received but never used, items we bought "just because" and never used, and all the little "*chachkies*" that we all have lying around the house.) It doesn't matter the value – items can be from The Dollar Store, or something more expensive – just nothing "bigger than a toaster," as little hands will have to carry them. Gifts to be given are thus donated by many caring faithful of the parish.

This week, times are set aside of Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 10 AM to have these gifts are arranged on tables in the Recreation Center. Come and help! You will be glad that you came! Before the doors open on the Saturday of the event, the hall will be filled with delights for men and women, from books to tools to appliances, jewelry and clothing.

More than 400 invitation have been distributed at Woodrow Wilson School inviting the children to come to the Recreation Center between 10 AM and 2 PM. When they arrive, they will be given two "St. Nicholas Tickets" with which they can "purchase" two gifts for the special adults in their lives.



They will be aided by volunteers who are “Shopping Assistants” who will help them look at all the items available. And many of our volunteers are Binghamton University Fraternity brothers and sisters who assist us every year! When the gifts are selected, they then help the children carefully wrap the presents in a variety of Christmas gift wraps.



During these ‘shopping hours,’ no parents are allowed into the main center where the gifts are on display. As the children “shop,” they will be led to the Atrium where they can enjoy coffee and donuts until the children are done.

The Spirit of St. Nicholas!



There is no question that one of the greatest consequences of the *St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe* is the gift of joy which encompasses the faithful who carefully provide the gifts to be given, the volunteers who come to arrange the tables as well as the “Assistant Shoppers” and the staff that provide Coffee and Donut reception for the parents.

But most of all, the greatest gift is the experience the children themselves will have on Christmas Day. This will be “little St. Nick’s,” as they present their gifts to the special adults, parents, grandparents in their lives who will be the recipients of this love.

The children will also receive an Icon Card of St. Nicolas and a booklet outlining many of the miracles associated with this great saint.

We are grateful to Barbara Dahulich Harrington who has chaired the program and to all the faithful and friends who make this vision a reality.

This year’s Annual St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe at St. Michael’s here in Binghamton will take place on Saturday, December 13th from 10 AM-2 PM. To one and all, a Blessed St. Nicholas Day and Christmas.

St. Michael's Sunshine List for the Advent Season, 2025!

Willow Point Center

3700 Vestal Road
Vestal, NY 13850
John Petras
Julia Sedlack

Vestal Nursing Home

Route 26
Vestal, NY 13850
Barbara Havtur

Elizabeth Church

863 Front Street
Binghamton, NY 13905
Helen Pivarnik

Bridgewater Rehab

159 Front Street
Binghamton, NY 13905
Hilary Soperak
Tammy Sedor

Fairview Good Shepherd

80 Fairview Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13904
Helen Gavula

Folks at Home

Helen Boback
821 Tyler Street
Johnson City, 13790

Darlene Bocinski

1406 Broad Street
Endicott, NY 13760

Anne Bezek

224 Myrtle Avenue
Johnson City, NY 13790

Steve & Joan Bezek

15 Culver Parkway
Vestal, NY 13850

Fran & Olga Bucek

34 Bartell Road
Binghamton, NY 13904

Robert & Renee Chalachan

315 Ferndale Dr
Binghamton, NY 13905

Helen Demetry

2614 Columbia Drive
Endwell, NY 13760

Mary Dervay

204 Jay Street
Johnson City, NY 13790

Julianna Dranichak

Apartment 3136
282 Deyo Hill Road
Johnson City, NY 13790

Mary Duke

181 Albany Avenue
Johnson City, NY 13790

Thomas Gazda

764 Lake Sophia Road
Brackey, PA 18812

Helena Gee

260 Crocker Hill Road
Binghamton, NY 13904

Steve Kutchka

8 Holland Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13905

Dolores Kundrat

725 Lee Circle, Apt B5
Johnson City, NY 13790

Bernadine Nemcek

81 Wren Street
Johnson City, NY 13790

Carol Paccio

1014 Elmwood Drive
Endicott, NY 13760

Irma Petras

604 Queensbury Court
Vestal, NY 13850

Mary Puzakulics

212 Avondale Court
Vestal, NY 13850

Richard Rogers

23 Vankuren Drive
Binghamton, NY 13903

Ron Sablich

13 JT Blvd, Unit j
Binghamton, NY 13905

Michael Suvak

41 Zoe Avenue
Johnson City, NY 13790

Margaret Vavra

57 Leigh Street
Johnson City, NY 13790

Helen Woodruff Merrill

9 Woodruff Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13903

Folks Out of Area:

Diane Kearing

The Laurels
39 Central Ave, Apt 1G
Welsboro, PA 16901

Christine Boras

Mohawk Meadows
Rehab & Nursing Center
B-222

1 O'Brien Lane

Lafayette, NJ 07848





It was a joy to welcome these students from the Advanced Placement Human Geography section from the Owego Free Academy who spent an hour at St. Michael's this past Thursday morning. They were on a tour of an Orthodox Church, a Catholic parish, a Synagogue and a Mosque in the Triple Cities because religion occupies a central place in the field of cultural geography. It was the first time for all of them to enter and Orthodox Church and discover some of the beauty and relevance of Eastern Christian spirituality in the contemporary world. This was a wonderful opportunity to for them to meet folks of different faiths face to face and widen their circle of understanding of these neighbors in their midst. May Our Lord bless all of them!

St. Michael's Annual Christmas Giving Tree!

It is no secret that we are in the Advent season in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! Since this is a special time of spiritual growth through prayer, fasting, the sacramental life and charity, we ask your support to assist three families in need through our St. Michael's Annual Christmas Giving Tree outreach.

Family Number 1 is a recently single Mom with four children: twin 14 year old boys and two girls, 10 and 12. This family just left an abusive husband with basically what they could carry.. Friends arranged furnished housing for them.

Family Number 2 is a single Mom with two girls, ages 8 and 12. They were in a shelter for awhile and just got an apartment. They are also in need of household items and furniture.

Family Number 3 is a single Dad with two girls, 7 and 8.

You will see a number of tags on our Giving Tree. Your assistance will be a blessing not only to those you assist but to each who provide assistance.



ON THE OCCASION OF THE 1700th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL
COUNCIL OF NICAEA

(27 November - 2 December 2025)

MEETING OF HIS HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW I
AND HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV
AND SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION

Patriarchal Palace (Istanbul)

Saturday, 29 November 2025

JOINT DECLARATION

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever"

Psalm 106 (105): 1

On the eve of the feast of Saint Andrew the
First-called Apostle, brother of the Apostle
Peter and patron of the Ecumenical
Patriarchate, we, Pope Leo XIV and
Ecumenical

Patriarch Bartholomew, give heartfelt thanks
to God, our merciful Father, for the gift of this
fraternal meeting. Following the example of
our venerable predecessors, and heeding the
will of our Lord Jesus Christ, we continue to
walk with firm determination on the path of
dialogue, in love and truth (cf. Eph 4:15),
towards the hoped-for restoration of full
communion between our sister Churches.

Aware that Christian unity is not merely the result of human efforts, but a gift that comes from on high, we invite all the members of our Churches - clergy, monastics, consecrated persons, and the lay faithful - earnestly to seek the fulfilment of the prayer that Jesus Christ addressed to the Father: "that they may all be one, even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you... so that the world may believe" (Un17:21).

The commemoration of the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, celebrated on the eve of our meeting, was an extraordinary moment of grace. The Council of Nicaea held in 325 AD was a providential event of unity. The purpose for commemorating this event, however, is not simply to call to mind the historical importance of the Council, but to spur us on to be continuously open to the same Holy Spirit who spoke through Nicaea, as we wrestle with the many challenges of our time. We are deeply grateful to all the leaders and delegates of other Churches and ecclesial communities who were willing to participate in this event. In addition to acknowledging the obstacles that prevent the restoration of full communion among all Christians - obstacles which we seek to address through the path of theological dialogue - we must also recognize that what binds us together is the faith expressed in the creed of Nicaea. This is the saving faith in the person of the Son of God, true God from true God, homoousios with the Father, who for us and our salvation was incarnate and dwelt among us, was crucified, died and was buried, arose on the third day, ascended into heaven, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. Through the coming of the Son of God, we are initiated into the mystery of the Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and are invited to become, in and through the person of Christ, children of the Father and co-heirs with Christ by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Endowed with this common confession, we can face our shared challenges in bearing witness to the faith expressed at Nicaea with mutual respect, and work together towards concrete solutions with genuine hope.

We are convinced that the commemoration of this significant anniversary can inspire new and courageous steps on the path towards unity. Among its decisions, the First Council of Nicaea also provided the criteria for determining the date of Easter, common for all



Christians. We are grateful to divine providence that this year the whole Christian world celebrated Easter on the same day. It is our shared desire to continue the process of exploring a possible solution for celebrating together the Feast of Feasts every year. We hope and pray that all Christians will, "in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Col 1:9), commit themselves to the process of arriving at a common celebration of the glorious resurrection of our Lord J e s u s Christ.

This year we also commemorate the 60th anniversary of the historic Joint Declaration of our venerable predecessors, Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, which extinguished the exchange of excommunications of 1054. We give thanks to God that this prophetic gesture prompted our Churches to pursue "in a spirit of trust, esteem and mutual charity the dialogue which, with God's help, will lead to living together again, for the greater good of souls and the coming of the kingdom of God, in that full communion of faith, fraternal accord and sacramental life which existed among them during the first thousand years of the life of the Church" (Joint Declaration of Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, 7 December 1965). At the same time, we exhort those who are still hesitant to any form of dialogue, to listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches (cf. Rev 2:29), who in the current circumstances of history urges us to present to the world a renewed witness of peace, reconciliation and unity.

Convinced of the importance of dialogue, we express our continued support for the work of the Joint International Commission for the Theological Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, which in its current phase is examining issues that have historically been considered divisive. Together with the irreplaceable role that theological dialogue plays in the process of rapprochement between our Churches, we also commend the other necessary elements of this process, including fraternal contacts, prayer, and joint work in all those areas where cooperation is already possible. We strongly urge all the faithful of our Churches, and especially the clergy and theologians, to embrace joyously the fruits that have been achieved thus far, and to labor for their continued
i n c r e a s e .

The goal of Christian unity includes the objective of contributing in a fundamental and life-giving manner to peace among all peoples. Together we fervently raise our voices in invoking God's gift of peace upon our world. Tragically, in many regions of our world, conflict and violence continue to destroy the lives of so many. We appeal to those who have civil and political responsibilities to do everything possible to ensure that the tragedy of war ceases immediately, and we ask all people of good will to support our entreaty. In particular, we reject any use of religion and the name of God to justify violence. We believe that authentic interreligious dialogue, far from being a cause of syncretism and confusion, is essential for the coexistence of peoples of different traditions and cultures. Mindful of the 60th anniversary of the declaration *Nostra Aetate*, we exhort all men and women of good will to work together to build a more just and supportive world, and to care for creation, which is entrusted to us by God. Only in this way can the human family overcome indifference, desire for domination, greed for profit and xenophobia.

While we are deeply alarmed by the current international situation, we do not lose hope. God will not abandon humanity. The Father sent his Only-Begotten Son to save us, and the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, bestowed upon us the Holy Spirit, to make us sharers in his divine life, preserving and protecting the sacredness of the human person. By the Holy Spirit we know and experience that God is with us. For this reason, in our prayer we entrust to God every human being, especially those in need, those who experience hunger, loneliness or illness. We invoke upon each member of the human family every grace and blessing so that "their hearts may be encouraged, as they are knit together in love, to have all the riches of assured understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery," who is our Lord Jesus Christ (Col 2:2).

From the Phanar, 29 November 2025

Schedule for Assisting with the St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe This Week!

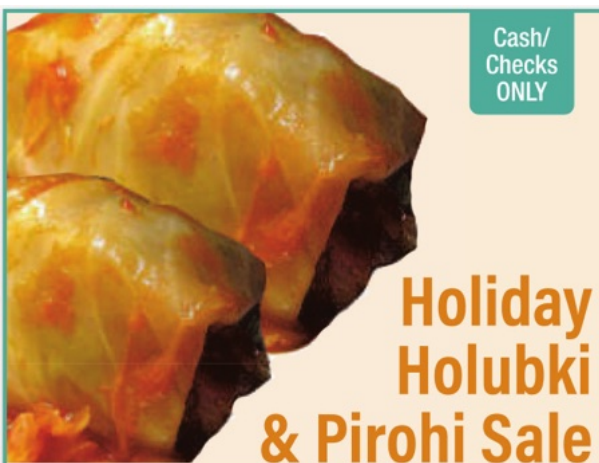
- a) You can help wrap and arrange the gifts of table in the hall during these times: Sunday after Liturgy, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 AM!
- b) You can be a Christmas Shopping Assistant in taking a child to view all of the gifts and then to select two gifts and aid in wrapping them on Saturday. Please arrive by 9:30 AM!
- c) You can be host or hostess in our Atrium meeting room for parents waiting while their children shop. We will have cookies and donuts and coffee and hot chocolate. Come and be a host! Please arrive by 9:30 AM Saturday morning!



Dr. Nick Seketa, Dec 1
Laurie Akulis, Dec 6
Dr. Jim Marusich, Dec 12

Sharon Castelli, Dec 17
Alan Smith, Dec 25
Kaylie Witt, Dec 31

If you have a December birthday that we missed, please text (607)725-3672 or send an email: frjimdutko0@gmail.com. To one and all with a December birthday, may God grant you good health, peace and joy. Many Blessed Years!



Cash/
Checks
ONLY

Holiday Holubki & Pirohi Sale

Phone in your pre-order of St. Michael's delicious Holubki and frozen Pirohi--just in time for the Holidays!

Orders may be picked up at
St. Michael's Recreation Center
298 Clinton Street, Binghamton, NY

Fri., Dec. 19th, 3PM – 6PM
Sat., Dec. 20th, 9AM – NOON

Order today: 729-0261

Deadline for all orders is
Tuesday, December 16th

Cost: \$25 per dozen Holubki
\$12 per dozen frozen Pirohi

Holiday Cookie Sale

Hosted by St. Michael's Ladies Guild



Saturday
Dec 20, 2025
9am – 12pm

St Michael's
Recreation Center
296 Clinton St
Binghamton, NY