

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday, August 9th10:00 am - God’s Blessings on His People

Tuesday, August 11th3:00 pm - God’s Blessings & Health on Bogomaz Family & Children by daughter, Irina

Saturday, August 15th Dormition of the Theotokos 10:00 am - +Catherine Dudish by Kathryn Lynch

Sunday, August 16th10:00 am -+Irene Flaherty, our loving mother, by daughter, Paula

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER WEEKLY SERVICES

Saturday, August 8th4:00 pm - +Herbert & +Mary Jansson by Elizabeth Jansson & Family

Wednesday, August 12th9:30 am - +Joan Rennick by Midge & Bill Umbenhaur

Friday, August 14th Dormition of the Theotokos 4:00 pm - +Wassil Draovitch by Lucille O’Connor

Saturday, August 15th4:00 pm - God’s Blessings on His People (+Bishop Walter Paska)

Lector Schedule		St. Michael	St. Nicholas
Saturday, August 8 th	1 Cor 9:2-12	No Divine Liturgy	Lucille O’Connor
Sunday, August 9 th	1 Cor 9:2-12	Michele Caputo	No Divine Liturgy
Saturday, August 15 th	1 Cor 15:1-11	No Divine Liturgy	Angela DeMario
Sunday, August 16 th	1 Cor 15:1-11	Paul Caputo	No Divine Liturgy

Weekly Income

May God bless you for supporting your parishes.

St. Michael: Collection \$230.00 Candles \$62.00
Air conditioning \$50.00 Seminary \$25.00
Total \$437.00 Cemetery \$70.00 Thank you!

St. Nicholas: 7/25 Collection \$505.00 Candles \$50.00
Air Conditioning \$25.00 Seminary \$10.00
Total \$590.00 Cemetery \$20.00 Thank you!
8/1 Collection \$527.00 Candles \$16.00
Air conditioning \$40.00 Seminary \$60.00
Total \$643.00 Cemetery \$120.00 Thank you!

Sanctuary Light
St. Michael – In memory of our loving mother, +Irene Flaherty by daughter, Paula

St. Nicholas – In memory of +Herbert & +Mary Jansson by Elizabeth Jansson & Family

St. Michael
Candles by 4 Icons – In memory of +Dorothy & +George Minarchick, +Jason Mitchell, & +Robert Kalavage

2 candles by altar & by 2 Icons – Special Intention

St. Nicholas – Icon of the Blessed Mother – Special Intention
Icon of St. John the Baptist – Special Intention

St. Michael’s – Candles 2026

Sanctuary Lights - \$15.00 - 8/23, 8/30, 9/6, 9/20, 9/27,10/11

Seven Branch Candle - \$35.00 - 8/16, 8/23, 8/30, 9/6, 9/13, 9/20

Weekly Bible Study – Reading Through the Scriptures
St. Michael’s Parishioners – Tuesdays - 4:00 pm
St. Nicholas’ Parishioners – Wednesdays – 10:30 am

Please remember to bring your flowers and herbs to be blessed on the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

August Envelopes
St. Michael’s Parishioners – Please use a white envelope for cemetery care \$20.00 and your donation for seminary

St. Nicholas’ Parishioners – Please use a white envelope for air conditioning \$20.00

Seminary Day 2026 Raffle Winners

1st prize - \$1,000 Rosemary Mohutsky, Frackville

2nd prize - \$200.00 Joe Kwalchick, Pottsville

3rd prize - \$100.00 Hitman, Pottsville

4th prize - \$100.00 Alan Horshack, Shamokin

5th prize - \$100.00 Patty Makara, Forestville

Congratulations to all the Winners!

Why Flowers and Herbs are Blessed on the Feast of the Dormition of Theotokos



According to our Byzantine Catholic Tradition, flowers are solemnly blessed on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. From ancient times we have been taught that when Mary, the Mother God, fell asleep the whole company of the Apostles - except Thomas - was miraculously brought together in Jerusalem. Amid divine and heavenly praises, they commended her soul into the hands of God and placed her body in a little tomb in Gethsemane. For three days a choir of Angels continued to sing above her tomb. And on the third day Thomas arrived. So that he could venerate the body that had given birth to Christ God, the Apostles opened the tomb. They found not the body of the Mother of God but the winding sheet and the most beautiful and sweet-smelling flowers. Mary's body had been taken up into the heavens by her Son. Flowers were blessed from the earliest times in both East and West. Over time seeds and herbs used for medicinal purposes were also blessed, in commemoration of the many healings and blessings that were bestowed upon the pilgrims at Mary's tomb.

Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers – those who are sick that God will restore them to health, those who are homebound, and those who requested prayers for special intentions. Thank you!

St. Michael: Mary Bickowski Mary Luscavage Andrea Pytak Michelle Pasinski Dolores K. Paul Kerrick Kathy Lynch
Dolores O’Connell Leahy Richard Michalik Irene Acalin Gerald Acalin Stephen M. Tom Prete Charlie Calise Nancy Sawka
Teddy Weinrich Michael Welikonich Susan Chernesky Anna Demanski Catherine Mozdy Jennifer Mackeravage Sally Litwak

St. Nicholas: Mary Mistishen Jim Rehnert Elaine Naradko Georgine Draovitch Marie Plasha
Marie Carol Unuscavage Elizabeth Jansson

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant – Mt 18:23-35

“So also, my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”
Mt. 18:25

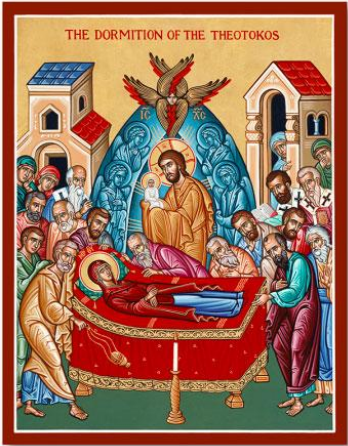
Forgiveness is the expression of mercy and Jesus has blessed the merciful:
“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” Mt.5:7

In today’s Gospel reading we hear the parable of a man that is in debt. He is called before the king to settle his account. On this Sunday we are reminded that we have a merciful God that is ready to forgive our trespasses. All we need to do to receive this forgiveness is to humble ourselves and ask for forgiveness. For many of us, this is a difficult thing because our self-pride gets in the way. Our pride gets in the way because we think, driven by our self-will, that we can solve all of our own problems. We don’t need the help of others or God. As result of this pride, we struggle with life.

When we are ready to ask for forgiveness and mercy, God is there for us, ready to receive us and show mercy. The strong message of the Gospel reading reminds us that not only must we be willing to ask for mercy or forgiveness, but we must be willing to practice forgiveness and mercy. The Gospel of Saint Luke further reminds us of this when our Lord says, “Be you therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful” (Luke 6:36). Our Lord even reminds us of this when He teaches us to how pray in the prayer Our Father: “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Matthew 6:12).

When our Lord was asked by the Apostle Peter how often he should forgive sin, our Lord replied, “Until seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:22). When our Lord said this, he did not mean a specific number of times. He was using the biblical understanding of numbers to explain how patient we should be with the sinner or the one that trespassed against us. The number seven in biblical terms means fullness. Thus, seventy times seven means that we are willing to forgive forever.

Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos – Assumption - August 15th



The Feast of the Dormition reveals God’s ultimate plan for mankind: that having completed this earthly life, the faithful shall be resurrected in body and soul and united with Christ for all eternity. Thus, this Feast is a feast of hope, hope in Resurrection and life eternal. It is the celebration of the fact that all men are “highly exalted” in the blessedness of the victorious Christ, and that this high exaltation has already been accomplished in Mary the Theotokos.

The Feast of the Dormition is the sign, the guarantee, and the celebration that Mary’s fate is the destiny of all of those whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the Word of God. What happened to Mary will happen to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience, and love. All will have Christ born in them by the Holy Spirit. All will become temples of the living God. All will share in the eternal life of His Kingdom.

So, let this feast be a time of both the joyful praise of Our Lady and of all God has done in her and through her for us; but this should also be a time of reflection on just what is our relationship with God: to what extent are we willing to give ourselves over to that participation in his life, allowing Him to take over our lives, and make something *new* out of us? St. Paul said, “He will transform these lowly bodies of ours, and make them like his glorious Body.” That’s what He did for the Mother of God; that’s what He wants to do for us. But it’s not automatic; we don’t line up in single file at the last day and receive our glorious bodies like ticket stubs at a movie theater—“here’s yours; ‘Admit One’.” No; there’s something that has to be real, a change in us, so that God can recognize Himself in us and say, “You belong to Me. My Spirit is in you, and I see that you are changed that you have surrendered yourself to Me,” as Our Lady did.

Everything has been accomplished in her, and we, as her children, are on this pilgrimage on our way to that glory, step by step through that ascetical, sacramental, and mystical life of the Church, of our vocation, our interior relationship with God. Our lives should move in that direction of communion, of participation, of letting Christ live in us, so that we will come one day to the gates of Heaven, to that glorious kingdom where the Mother of God and all the righteous will be standing, transformed, in this eternal, loving, *living* communion with God forever — which is his will for us from the very beginning.



It is truly right to bless you, O God-bearing One,
as the ever-blessed and immaculate Mother of our God.
More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim;
ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word,
O true Mother of God, we magnify you.