

Saint Michael the Archangel
&
Saints Peter and Paul
Byzantine Catholic Churches
"I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except
Jesus Christ and him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2



Confessions:
Saturdays [P] 3:15-3:45 PM
Sundays: [A] 9:00-9:30 AM
and by appointment
Baptisms and Weddings:
See Father Frank

*If you are looking for a spiritual
home, please know you are
always welcome to be a part of
our Parish Family.*

byzcath.org/Allentown

**Liturgical Schedule for
The Week of December 28, 2014**

Saturday~ December 27
Vigil Sunday after Christmas

4:00 PM [P] Parish Families

Sunday ~ December 28
Sunday after Christmas

10:00 AM [A] +John & Dolores Hysick by
the Hysick Family

Saturday~ January 3
Vigil Sunday before Theophany

4:00 PM [P] Parish Families

Sunday ~ January 4
Sunday before Theophany

10:00 AM [A] +Elizabeth Walter by
daughter Denise

Monday~ January 5
Vigil Theophany/ Blessing of Water

7:00 PM [P] +Phyllis A. Dempsey by MM
George Pfeiffer

Tuesday ~ January 6
Theophany/ Blessing of Water

7:00 PM [A] Parish Families

***Prayer List: In your kindness, please remember
the following persons in prayer:*** John & Alicia
Sefcik, Shirley Balascak, Loretta Brosky, Antoinette
DeFronzo, Melissa Kavounas, Dolores Flannery,
Theresa Pinto, Patrice Danyluk, Hoyt Walter, Rosalie
Walter, Kristin & Bobbie Di Giacomo & family, The
Mehalshick Family, Doris Smicker & family, Peter
Skimbo & Family, Nicholas Yackanicz, Josephine
Wilk, Stephen Wursta, Maryann Wilk, Charles Hysick,
Father Steven Galuschik, Subdeacon Lewis Rabayda,
Father Diodoro Mendoza, Members of our Parish
Families, Father Frank and his family.

From the Saints

If at some time you show mercy to someone, mercy will
be shown to you. If you show compassion to one who
is suffering (and of course, this is not a great deed) you
will be numbered among the martyrs. If you forgive one
who has insulted you, then not only will all your sins be
forgiven, but you will be a child of the Heavenly Father.
If you pray from all your heart for salvation - even a
little - you will be saved. If you rebuke yourself, accuse
yourself, and judge yourself before God for your sins,
with a sensitive conscience, even for this you will be
justified. If you are sorrowful for your sins, or you weep,
or sigh, your sigh will not be hidden from Him and, as
St. John Chrysostom says, "If you only lament for your
sins, then He will receive this for your salvation. *St.
Moses of Optina*

Every time that we sin, we are born of the devil. But
every time that we do good, we are born of God. *St.
John Chrysostom*

**Christians in Middle East losing everything except
Christ, says church**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Violence, fear and poverty have
stripped Christians in the Middle East of everything except
Christ, said a number of church leaders there. "It will be a
Christmas where everything is gone except hope and faith. It
is all we have left and that is a lot -- Jesus, our Savior," said
Bishop Georges Abou Khazen, the apostolic vicar of the
Latin-rite Vicariate of Aleppo, Syria. Their faith in God's
permanent presence is what offers them "that joy that war
and violence tear away from us every day," he told the Italian
bishops' news agency, SIR, Dec. 22. Bishop Khazen and
other church leaders in the Middle East explained how
Christian communities were facing the continued dangers and
finding strength in the days before Christmas. Despite the
lack of many basic necessities, Bishop Khazen said Syrians
were gathering presents, sweets and candies for the children
so they could live "an atmosphere of celebration despite the
violence that surrounds them." The bishop's parish church of St. Francis was celebrating a novena of
evening prayers in preparation for Christmas. Christians of all denominations were attending, he said.

Pope: Christmas is reminder to heal wounds, fix defects, play with kids

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Christmas is the time to heal wounds and fix whatever defects still linger in one's

life and heart, Pope Francis told Vatican employees. And
leading by example, the pope asked everyone for their
forgiveness -- for any errors or shortcomings he and his
"colleagues" may be guilty of and "also for some scandals
that cause so much harm. Forgive me." The pope's
comments came during a special audience in the Vatican's
Paul VI hall Dec. 22. It was the first time the pope invited
everyone who works at the Vatican, along with their family
members and loved ones, to receive the pope's pre-
Christmas greetings. In the past, popes have held smaller
annual gatherings with certain groups, like the Vatican
police force, for a moment of reflection and thanks. The
pope continued to follow tradition with a pre-Christmas
meeting earlier in the day with members of the Roman
Curia -- the church's central administrative offices -- as well
as cardinals living in Rome and members of the papal
household. However, Pope Francis said he wanted to show
his thanks and appreciation for all those who serve the
church behind the scenes at the Vatican. "I did not want to
spend my second Christmas in Rome" without meeting the
people whose hard work and dedication often go unnoticed,
those who are "ironically defined as 'the unknown, the
invisible,'" like the gardeners, doormen and maintenance
staff.

**Abba Poemen said about Abba Pior that
every single day he made a fresh
beginning.
May you have the Holy Spirit as you
begin the rest of your life in the
upcoming New Year!**