

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

Parish Office at:
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Fr. Frank A. Hanincik ~ Pastor
Cantor ~ Mr. William Komnath



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.
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byzcatch.org/Allentown

I. Monk Ephraim

In the year of 1425 a monk was taken captive and tortured to death in his monastery in Greece for being a Christian. He was slowly tortured to death over a period of a year. After each episode his wounds were allowed to heal, and then he was subjected to new and worse punishments. Finally, they executed him. He was hung upside down from a tree in his monastery grounds and run through with a pole which had been sharpened to a point and set on fire. All traces of his life and martyrdom were forgotten until this century, when he appeared to the abbess of a convent and told her of his life and sufferings. He also revealed the spot where his bones, which had never decomposed, were buried. They dug up the bones for the glory of God.

Some years later an American teenager in the Midwest was grappling with his own life. He was heavily using drugs (cocaine and heroin) and was quickly sliding to destruction. He had neither a stable family life nor a religious upbringing, and though still young was in serious trouble.

One night an ugly old man appeared to him and said, "I am your friend, I want to make an appointment with you to meet me." He directed him to get into his car and drive as quickly as he could down a certain road which had a hairpin turn at the end with a sheer cliff at the bend. The young man did as he was told, got into his car and drove as fast as he could down the road. Losing his nerve at the last minute he managed to slam on his brakes and barely made the turn. He arrived home shaken.

Two nights later, the old man appeared again and said with anger and indignation, "I am very disappointed that you didn't meet me. Get into your car again and drive as fast as you can and this time don't put on the brakes." The young man felt strangely compelled to do this. Once again he got into his car, drove as fast as he could and this time didn't stop but drove at high speed off the cliff. The car was demolished but, surprisingly, he escaped with only cuts and bruises, and with a concussion.

A few weeks after he was out of the hospital, the ugly man appeared to him once again and said, "I am furious with you for not keeping our appointment. Tonight without fail you will meet me! Put a double dose of the drug in your needle." Again the boy felt compelled to do this, and after injecting himself went into a coma from the overdose. He was taken to the hospital where doctors told his family that he probably wouldn't live. And if by chance he did live he would only be semi-conscious - in a vegetative state. There was almost no chance of recovery. In two weeks, however, the young man did awake, fully conscious. He told those around him that he had seen a man which looked like some sort of radiant monk. He came to him and said, "I have been praying for you.... God has given you another chance. You will live, but you must correct your life. You are to go to Greece so as to visit the resting place of my bones, giving thanks to God for your salvation. My name is Ephraim.

A short prayer to be said continually by one who is struggling with addiction to drugs or alcohol***:
O Lord, Jesus Christ, through the prayers of Thy Holy Martyr Ephraim, have mercy on me and deliver me from this cruel bondage.

***Note: that this could potentially be changed based on whatever one's specific need might be, e.g. depression, disease, passion, etc.

Sacrificial Giving for the Weekend of November 28 & 29	
Allentown	\$1776.00
Total Bills	\$622.00
Offerings Vs. Expenses	+\$1154.00
Palmerton	
Total Bills	\$-
Offerings Vs. Expenses	+\$-
Bills paid this week: PPL (Church):\$132.00;PPL (Rector):\$93.00; PPL (Center Budget Plan):\$297.00; Dean's Visit: \$100.00	
Palmerton: No Liturgy last week Dean's Visit: \$100.00	

Liturgical Schedule for The Week of December 6, 2015

Saturday ~ December 5
Vigil~ 28th Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 PM [P] For the People

Sunday ~ December 6
28th Sunday after Pentecost/
Feast of St. Nicholas

10:00 AM [A] +Allen Boyer by Therese Boyer

Tuesday ~ December 8
Maternity of Saint Ann /Solemn

7:00PM [A] For the People

Saturday ~ December 12
Vigil~ 29th Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 PM [P] For the People

Sunday ~ December 13
29th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM [A] +Teresa Stockmal by the Stockmal Children

The readings at the Divine Liturgy for next week are Colossians 3:12-16
Luke 17:12-19

Prayer List: In your kindness, please remember the following persons in prayer: Carol Baran, John & Alicia Sefcik, Shirley Balascak, Loretta Brosky, Antoinette DeFronzo,, 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, Barry Hoffman, Chet Greene

A Prayer for People Struggling with Addiction

Holy Martyr Ephraim, look with compassion upon my distress and, as thou didst deliver the young man from his cruel addiction, so also pray for me that our Lord and Saviour, for Whom thou didst witness unto death, may deliver my soul from captivity to Satan. For I am in cruel bondage and suffering because of my weakness and sinfulness. Beseech our merciful Lord that, as He didst lead the Hebrews forth from slavery in Egypt and called His people out of Babylon, as He delivered the youth from the demon, and freed the daughter of the Canaanite woman, and healed the woman taken in adultery and restored the Samaritan woman, that He may also set me free and deliver me from the demon of addiction***. I confess that I have fallen into this evil through my own slothfulness and weakness, but have mercy and pray for me, O saint and martyr of God.