

*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

Stewardship: To date Saints Peter and Paul have offered \$320.00 toward the eparchial stewardship campaign. This represents 32% of our goal of \$1000.00. Saint Michael’s has offered \$2310.00. This represents 23% of our goal of \$10,000. Please remember that if we make our goals, 40% of the money comes back to the parish. But even more importantly, by supporting the eparchial appeal we help spread the gospel and help churches in need. Our church is receiving a considerable amount of help from the eparchy right now and it would be a good gesture to meet our goal. The appeal closes on December 31 after which time the money must be sent in. Please consider giving to this appeal and thank you for your generosity.

Sacrificial Giving for the Weekend of November 29 & 30	
Allentown (regular)	\$771.00
Total Bills	\$1028.08
Offerings Vs. Expenses	-\$257.08
Palmerton	\$246.00
Total Bills	\$1159.07
Offerings Vs. Expenses	-\$913.07
Bills paid this week:	
Allentown:: Phone (Center): \$29.41; Gas (Rectory): \$978.00; Fax Line: \$69.52; Snow Removal/ Yard Work: \$320.00; Electric (Rectory): \$97.00; Electric (Center- Budget Heating Plan): \$340.88; Electric (Church) \$117.99; Pest Control: \$43.50	
Palmerton: Candles: \$569.80; Heating Oil: \$589.27	

**Liturgical Schedule for
The Week of December 7, 2014**

**Saturday~ December 6
Vigil Twenty-sixth Sunday after
Pentecost**

4:00 PM [P] Parish Families

**Sunday ~ December 7
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 AM + Dolores Hanincik by Father Frank & Family (First anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord.)

**Monday ~ December 8
Maternity of Holy Anna
Celebrated on Sunday**

**Saturday~ December 13
Vigil Sunday of the Forefathers**

4:00 PM [P] Parish Families

**Sunday ~ December 14
Vigil Sunday of the Forefathers**

10:00 AM Health & Blessings for Robert DiGiacamo by Catherine & Joseph M. Brosky

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

Do not say, “This happened by chance, while this came to be of itself.” In all that exists there is nothing disorderly, nothing indefinite, nothing without purpose, nothing by chance...How many hairs are on your head? God will not forget one of them. Do you see how nothing, even the smallest thing, escapes the gaze of God? ***St. Basil the Great***

It is an indubitable truth that the highest Divine Providence arranges all of creation. God considers all things beforehand and takes care for all things. This is Divine fatherly care of which the blessed apostle Peter speaks: “Cast all your cares upon Him, because He is concerned for you.” (1 Peter: 5-7) ***Saint Elias Minjatos***

“I love them that love me, and glorify them that glorify me,” says the Lord of His saints. The Lord gave the Holy Spirit to the saints and they love us in the Holy Spirit. The saints hear our prayers and have the power from God to help us. The entire Christian race knows this. ***Saint Silouan the Athonite***

Christmas Schedule: The schedule for the Christmas Holidays will be in next week’s bulletin. It will probably be about the same as last year’s schedule.

As We Approach Christmas

A few Years ago Pope Benedict wrote a book called, “God is Near Us.” That phrase, “God is near us,” could be the theme for the Christmas season but really it’s the theme of all of Salvation History. Salvation History is the process God used to save mankind from its sinfulness and the unhappiness and pain that sin brings. Throughout History it’s been the case that “God is near us.”

In the book of Genesis we’re told that after creation Adam would walk with God in the cool of the evening in the Garden of Eden. As the children of Israel wandered in the desert, God was with them, guiding them. His glory was shown to them in the form of a pillar of cloud that led them by day and a pillar of fire that led them by night. After the temple had been built, God’s glory was said to be present in the Holy of Holies and the Ark of the Covenant was His footstool. God has always been near His people. But ever since the Fall, ever since the sin of our first parents, His presence had been hidden or veiled.

It’s hard to relate to a pillar of fire or cloud or an invisible God who lives in the Temple. In fact to see a pillar of fire or cloud must have been awesome, even frightening. And so God became a little baby, the most innocent, unscary thing imaginable. And He did this so we could realize, once and for all, without any doubt that God is near us. So near that if we had lived in Bethlehem 2000 years ago we could have picked Him up and bounced Him on our knee.

God is still near us. And he left us a memorial of His presence in the Eucharist. When we receive Him in Holy Communion He is nearer to us than He would have been if we had held Him and cuddled Him as a baby 2000 years ago. As we approach the Feast of Christmas lets be grateful for all God has done for us. Especially for becoming a little child so that we could always know that GOD IS NEAR US. Amen. Glory to Jesus!