

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

Liturgical Schedule for The Week of January 10, 2016

Saturday ~ January 9 Vigil~ Sunday after Theophany

4:00 PM [P] For the People

Sunday ~ January 10 Sunday after Theophany

10:00 AM [A] +Charles Hysick by Granddaughter Anna Hysick

Saturday ~ January 16 Vigil~ Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

4:00 PM [P] Health & Blessings for Timothy Walck by Joe & Barbara Herman

Sunday ~ January 17 Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

10:00 AM [A] For the People

The Sunday readings for next week are: 2 Timothy 3:10-15
Luke 18:10-14

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

From Saint Seraphim of Sarov

“One should not think about the doings of God when one’s stomach is full; on a full stomach there can be no vision of the Divine mysteries.”

“One should not oppose authorities who act for good, so as not to sin before God and be subjected to His just chastisement: *Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves* (Romans 13:2).”

“The Lord sometimes allows people who are devoted to Him to fall into such dreadful vices; and this is in order to prevent them from falling into a still greater sin—pride. Your temptation will pass and you will spend the remaining days of your life in humility. Only do not forget your sin.”

“The fact that I am a monk and you are a layman is of no importance. The Lord listens equally to the monk and to the man of the world provided both are true believer. He looks for a heart full of true faith into which to send his Spirit. For the heart of a man is capable of containing the Kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit and the Kingdom of God are one.”

Sunday After Theophany

Before Christ's baptism when the Spirit came upon Him in the form of a dove, John baptized preparing people for repentance, that is to recognize their need to change direction and perceive their sinfulness (Acts 19:4). However, his baptism did not cleanse the soul, for only God has that authority and power. We sing at both Christmas and Theophany of the Light of knowledge coming to us. These two Feasts, centuries ago, were celebrated together since they both show God revealing Himself to those who sat in darkness (Mt 4:16, Is 60:1). First to a select few, the shepherds who represented Israel, the chosen people of God, whom He came for first, and then months later the Magi, who represent the Gentiles or the rest of the world who God invites home. Yet, it was at the Jordan, with many people on the banks, that John saw the One with Whom the Spirit stayed, Christ. The Father's voice bore witness and it was for all the world to see that Christ is God, one with the Father and the Holy Spirit - this is the Theophany that is a revelation of God in Trinity (Jn 1:32, Mt 3:16, 17).

Jesus certainly did not need baptism for He is the pure God. Yet taking on flesh He identifies Himself with us so we can restore our true identity with Him. It is on Christmas that the key to paradise turns. It is on Theophany that we hear the latch pull back once more, seeing the Light of Heaven through the opening Door to paradise (Jn 10:9). Yet, we find that paradise is no longer a distant location out of reach but it now reaches for us! Paradise is brought to us. Christ walks with us again. The Word of God searches for His sheep like Adam, calling no longer through many prophets but with His own voice once more shouting for us by name (Lk 19:5). He does not invite us to a location far away but knocks on the doors of our own hearts desiring to return paradise within and all that comes with Him - peace, rest, healing and salvation! With Baptism we have the indwelling of the Grand Gardener Himself who brings with Him the seeds of eternal life and the very life giving water needed to bear fruit, yet we must tend to this garden every day, in and out of season (2 Tim 4:2). This Living Water is what the world thirsts for. Remember how Christ sat at the well of Jacob with Photinie and how thirsty she was, but turning to all the wrong avenues she continued to thirst even beside a well. Christ said to her you have five husbands and the one you are with isn't even yours (Jn 4:15-18). She was looking in the wrong places in life and God quenched her thirst with what every soul needs, His Life, what every garden needs, His Light. Until Christ is our focus in life we will not see life 'in focus', and things will again appear dimly lit as before when we sat in darkness. Answer His all this winter, spring and Theophany season and drink the Life giving drink and see how good the Lord is! Truly the Sun has Risen and the watered gardens that He planted can have life once more (Ps 80:15).

OPPORTUNITY! Remember to participate in our fundraising opportunities! **GIFT CARD** orders are placed every Monday. Register on line to order any time you would like using Prestopay or place your order with a paper order form located in the back of the church and make check payable to St. Michael's BC Church. **ST. MICHAEL'S AFFINITY GROUP** - Whenever you or anyone you know is buying or selling real estate, contact Janice or Nick Kavounas at Coldwell Banker Heritage Real Estate. 20% of the brokerage fee will be donated back to the church. Call Janice Kavounas at [484-553-3828](tel:484-553-3828) or jmk@cbheritage.com for details.

Mary's Shelter: Between now and the end of January we will be collecting baby supplies for Mary's Shelter in Bethlehem. Mary's Shelter Cay Galgon Center provides housing and social services to young women who are pregnant and need a supportive environment because of a lack of suitable housing or favorable family relationships. Applicants must be pregnant, clean and sober and motivated to actively participate in the program activities. Their wish list of baby supplies needed is at http://www.marysshelter.org/wish_list.php. Last year the people at the shelter were overwhelmed by your generosity. Let's overwhelm them with generosity again this year

Sacrificial Giving for the Weekend of January 2 & 3	
Allentown	\$1838.00
Total Bills	\$1290.33
Offerings Vs. Expenses	+\$547.67
Palmerton	\$385.00
Total Bills	\$0.00
Offerings Vs. Expenses	+\$385.00
Bills paid this week: PPL (Rectory): \$93; PPL (Church); \$132; PPL (Hall): \$297.93; Furnace Repair: \$661; Bulletins: \$106.40	
Palmerton: No bills this week	