

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 December 25, 2016

Saturday December 24 Vigil~ Nativity of Our Lord

3:30 PM [P] For the People of Sts. Peter and Paul
7:00 PM [A] +Nicholas Skimbo by Brother Peter Skimbo

Sunday December 25 Nativity of Our Lord

10:00 AM [A] For the People of Saint Michael's

Monday December 26 Synaxis of the Theotokos; David, Joseph & James

10:00 AM [A] For the People

Saturday December 31 Vigil~ Circumcision of Our Lord

4:00 PM [P] For the People

Sunday January 1 Circumcision of Our Lord

10:00 AM [A] +Marie & Robert Strain by Granddaughter Loretta Brosky

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, Maryann Wilk, Barry Hoffman, Chet Greene, Josephine Koshute., Fatima Eslami, Roger Susanin, Father Phillip Scott, Lois Brink, Gabriella Yackanicz

Catholic Quotes

The Child, the Lord Jesus Christ... Word in our flesh, Wisdom in infancy, Power in weakness, and in true Man, the Lord of Majesty." – Pope St. Leo the Great

"Stay very close to the crib of this most beautiful Child, especially during these days of His birth. If you love riches, here you will find the gold the Kings left Him. If you love the smoke of honors, here you will find that of incense. And if you love the delicacy of the senses, you will smell the perfumed myrrh which perfumes the entire holy stable." – Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

"The Virgin today brings into the world the Eternal And the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible. The angels and shepherds praise Him, And the magi advance with the star, For you are born for us, Little Child, God eternal!" Saint Romanos the Melodist

"When the Eucharist is being celebrated, the sanctuary is filled with countless angels who adore the divine victim immolated on the altar." – Saint John Chrysostom

In a night similar to this one, a winter night, in a manger was born the Son of God Who has come into the world to bring us a new dimension of life, to proclaim to us God's truth about Himself and God's truth about men, and not only proclaim it, but to make it possible for us to participate in this mystery of communion between God and man. He has brought us a word about God which is a word of absolute truth, and has proclaimed the greatness of man in terms that are greater than all the imagination, which man had in the course of centuries, all the dreams: man called to be united to God as God united Himself to men in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Man, in the words of St Irenaeus of Lyon, called in his perfection and fulfillment, to be the glory, the shining, the resplendence of God on earth. We are called to proclaim to the whole earth this good news that God is one of us, and that we are the sons and daughters of our eternal Father. But we must proclaim the Gospel in its integrity, in an unadulterated manner because it is God speaking, God proclaiming the truth, and there is no adjustment which can be acceptable to the Gospel. The wise men who came to the manger, came with all the wisdom of the earth, all the knowledge that was then possessed, but they could recognize in the Babe of Bethlehem the

| Sacrificial Giving for the Weekend of December 17 & 18 | |
|---|-------------------|
| Allentown | \$1426.00 |
| Total Bills | \$0.00 |
| Offerings Vs. Expenses | +\$1426.00 |
| Palmerton | |
| Total Bills | \$190.00 |
| Offerings Vs. Expenses | +\$15.00 |
| Bills paid this week: No Bills This Week | |
| Palmerton: Priest Pension: \$175.00 | |

The Scripture readings for next week

Circumcision of our Lord) are: **Colossians 2:8-12 & Luke 2:20-21;40-52**

⁹ For in him [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

incarnated Son of God and worship Him as their King and their God because they were prepared to allow divine wisdom to supersede all wisdom of the earth. It is not in vain that Saint Paul has said that compared to Divine wisdom human wisdom is nothing but folly, a poor thing compared to the greatness of the mind, and heart, and wisdom of God. And we must have the determination to open ourselves to the wisdom of God, be prepared to judge all things of the earth from the point of view of the living God. Our thoughts, our feelings, our ways fall under the divine judgment. My ways are not your ways, and My thoughts are not your thoughts; My ways are so much above yours as My thoughts are greater than yours, - says the Lord. But it is not only wisdom, it is also simplicity and singleness of heart that can both see God, recognize Him and follow Him with infinite daring. The shepherds came because their hearts were open, because they were prepared to understand that there are things greater than anything they can imagine, anything they could dream of. And dreams of men came true: God became man. And He calls us to be a vanguard of His Kingdom. He sends us into this world to proclaim His truth, pure, unstained, He sends us into this world to live in such a way that anyone meeting a Christian, looking into his eyes, into his life or meeting a Christian

community should recognize that these people are men and women partaking already of the mystery of eternal life. Short of this we betray our calling. We must each of us and all of us be a revelation to the world of things eternal. We must learn from St Paul both the daring and the wholeness, the integrity of our Christian ways. He says to us: Be follower of me as I am of Christ... He was a persecutor, an unbeliever, and having met Christ face to face, the risen Christ, Who he knew had been killed on Calvary, murdered by his own people, he chose for Him and all his life was changed. Persecution, danger, beatings, rejection became his lot in life for him to be Christ's only; and to be Christ's only as he puts it means that all life is nothing but Christ, what he stands for, what he teaches, what he lived for, what he died for.

And death has no terrors for us, because nothing can deprive us of eternal life and the loss of temporal life is of no account to St Paul. He says: To die is not to divest myself of temporary life but to cloth myself with eternity... He longs to be reunited with Christ, Whom he has persecuted on earth, and for Whom, for Whose name, for Whose sake he lives and preaches and warns us not to subtract or add anything to God's own message about man and about God. And he calls us in the face of our longing for eternity to accept to live as long as it is necessary, as tragically as necessary for others to discover life eternal, the kingdom of God, which is the kingdom of love, of that love which Christ has revealed into us, love to the end, love crucified and love risen. Glory be to our Lord, to our God, to our Savior for ever and ever. Amen. Metropolitan Anthony Bloom