

**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.*  
stmichaelallentown@ptd.net  
byzcatch.org/Allentown

**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](mailto:jmk@cbheritage.com) for details.

The Sunday readings for next week are: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 & John 17:1-13.

**ASCENSION:**  
*By Fr. Basil Shereghy*

On the Thursday after the Sunday of the Man Born Blind, which is the fortieth day after Easter, we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ. The feast commemorates the return of our Redeemer to Heaven. It is a day of victory for our Lord, a day of triumph that He fully merited. Christ left the throne of His Father, humbled Himself in the womb of the Virgin, lay in Bethlehem in a rough stable, fled from His own people into Egypt and spent years in Nazareth as a common laborer. Tirelessly He searched for the lost sheep of the house of Israel. His own brethren repaid Him with nothing but unkindness and misunderstanding. Then, beginning on the Mount of Olives and ending on Golgotha, He patiently paid the price of our redemption. All this He did because He loved us, because He sought to free us from Satan's power. This work is now complete. He returns to heaven as a conqueror. The Son stands before the Father by whom He was sent and whose will He so perfectly performed.

The Ascension as a feast does not appear in the brief lists of Church festivals given by Tertullian and Origen. The first witness for it is Eusebius. He calls it a "high festival" in the treatise he composed on the discussions concerning the date of Easter at the First Ecumenical Council in 325 A.D. In earliest documents mentioning it, the feast of Ascension is called "the Taking up (into heaven)" after Luke 9 :51. Numerous sermons among the works of the Fathers give additional evidence for the existence of this feast. St. Augustine in his letter to Januarius, is inclined to attribute the keeping of the feast to a decree of the apostles. One thing is certain: as soon as persecution ceased, the feast of the Ascension made its way into all parts of the Church.

It was impossible that the concluding act of our Savior's earthly life should remain unnoticed among festivals and in the liturgy. The Empress Helena had already ordered to be built on the Mount of Olives a splendid basilica which was unfortunately, destroyed by Saracens and has never been rebuilt.

The liturgy reflects the somber mood of the apostles, who at first felt lonely and uncertain without their Lord. "When the Apostles saw You ascending the clouds, O life-giving Christ, they frowned deeply and mourned with tears, saying: Do not leave us orphans ... " (stichera of vespers). But at the same time they were filled "with great joy" because they "were gladdened with the promise of the Holy Spirit." The troparion, among many other hymns, describes this joy: "You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and delighted the disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; through this blessing they were assured that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world." For us too the Ascension is an occasion of deepest rejoicing. The glorification of Christ in this mystery is also our glorification. It is the elevation of our human nature. Our nature now shares divine honor as, in human form, Christ our brother enters heaven. The future is no longer cloudy. We will be with Christ. We will be at home, for He is our way. We amend the selfless words of Thomas who said, "Let us also depart so as to be able to die with Him," to say instead, "Let us go to live with Him!"

The feast of the Ascension, with its post-festive periods, lasts nine days. The concluding day of this feast's cycle falls upon the Friday of the following week.

<b>Sacrificial Giving for the Weekend of April 23 &amp; 24</b>	
<b>Allentown</b>	\$1596.00
<b>Total Bills</b>	\$883.52
<b>Offerings Vs. Expenses</b>	<b>+\$712.48</b>
<b>Palmerton</b>	\$432.00
<b>Total Bills</b>	\$0.00
<b>Offerings Vs. Expenses</b>	<b>+\$432.00</b>
<b>Bills paid this week: Phone/ Fax: \$24.33; Bulletins: \$106.40; Water/Sewer (Church): \$91.34; Water/ Sewer (Rectory): \$197.09; Gas (Rectory): \$14.36; Cantor: \$150.00; Cleaning: \$300.00</b>	
<b>Palmerton. No Bills This Week</b>	

**Liturgical Schedule for The Week of May 1, 2016**

**Saturday April 30**  
**Vigil~ Sunday of the Man Born Blind**

**4:00 PM [P]]** Health & Blessings for Gary Dvorak by Joseph & Barbara Herman

**Sunday May 1**  
**Sunday of the Man Born Blind**

**10:00 AM [A]** For the People

**Wednesday May 4**  
**Vigil~ Ascension**

**7:00 PM [P]** For the People

**Thursday May 5**  
**Ascension~ Holy Day of Obligation**

**7:00 PM [A]** +Nikolas Skimbo by Peter Skimbo

**Saturday May 7**  
**Vigil~ Fathers of 1<sup>st</sup> Council**

**4:00 PM [P]** For the People

**Sunday May 8**  
**Fathers of 1<sup>st</sup> Council/ Mother's Day**

**10:00 AM [A]** Living & Deceased Mothers of our Parish Families

**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, Faye Ketz, Lila Smerkanich

**Quotes**

"In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall, under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favor, you shall reach the goal. How good and pleasant it is to dwell in the Heart of Jesus! Who is there who does not love a heart so wounded? Who can refuse a return of love to a Heart so loving? Amen."

– St. Bernard of Clairvaux

"No earthly pleasures, no kingdoms of this world can benefit me in any way. I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth. He who died in place of us is the one object of my quest. He who rose for our sakes is my one desire."– St. Ignatius of Antioch