

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

Merry Christmas and Thank You! to everyone who gave
cards and gifts to Father Frank. May this Christmas season
be a time of joy and closeness to the Lord for you and your
families!

Christ the Light of the World By Msgr. John T.
Sekellick

A drive through our city streets and neighborhoods at this
time of year in the evening hours and at night is
particularly enjoyable as almost every home features some
form of decorative lighting either within a window, on the
house and/or in its yard. Towns, cities and business
establishments erect dazzling displays of ornamentation
which light up the streets. Light is a vital component of life.
Without it we could barely survive. When God first created
our world. He blessed it with light. He dispelled the
darkness of chaos and woke up the sleeping universe to a
glorious morning of trees, shrubs, green and golden meadows and blossoming orchards. God filled
the skies with the indescribable hues of the dawn and the sunset, of fields alive with fruit, grain,
beast and fowl and rivers teeming with fish that were to become our life-sustaining food. As that first
light dawned, the stage was set for God's greatest creation - man and woman. On (December 25),
we celebrate the dawn of another creation as the star of Bethlehem shines through the darkness of a
world depressed by the long-enduring night of sin, unbelief and exile from its Creator. The star of
Bethlehem announces the coming of Him Who is the Light of the World! The first light of creation
ended physical darkness and the vast void of chaos. The second light of Christmas ends moral and
spiritual darkness, the darkness of the soul shadowed in sin and brings enlightenment to every
person who comes into this world. When Saint John wrote his gospel almost a hundred years after
the holy birth of the Redeemer, he ties together that holy birth, the Christ of the Transfiguration,
Christ glorious in His miracles and His teachings, Christ against the lowering sky of Good Friday's
bloody sunset buried in a dark tomb, and Christ of the splendor and glory of promised Resurrection.
By divine inspiration, Saint John pens these profoundly reverent words: "In Him was life, and the life
was the light of men. And the light shines in the darknessHe is the true light that enlightens every
person who comes into the world." (Cf. John 1:4, 5, 9). From the Christmas Vespers, our Church has
us pray: "O Christ our God, Your kingdom is eternal, and Your reign is from generation to
generation. You became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and became man from the ever-virgin Mary.
Your coming, O Christ, has shed a great light upon us. You are the Light of Light and the radiance of
the Father. You have illumined the whole creation. Therefore, everything that breathes sings a hymn
of praise to You. You are the image of the Father's glory. You are the eternal God, existing before all
ages, Who shone forth from the Virgin. O Lord, our God, have mercy on us." As for Saint John, so
also for each of us, the holy birth of Christ is the dawn of new light once again, the dawn of powerful
love and of great hope renewed at Christmas for all of us. As we share in this renewed love and
hope, may its warm light bring you and yours happiness and peace now and through the New Year.
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Sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Pour into the hearts of men the peace which they sometimes seek so desperately, and which you alone can
give them. Help them to know one another better and to live as brothers, children of the same Father. Awaken
in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness; join them together in your love; and give us all your
heavenly peace. Pope Saint John XXIII

Sacrificial Giving for the Weekend of December 13 & 14	
Allentown	\$1012.00
Total Bills	\$1392.48
Offerings Vs. Expenses	-\$380.48
Palmerton	\$793.00
Total Bills	\$386.18
Offerings Vs. Expenses	+\$406.82
Bills paid this week:	
Allentown: Dean's Visit Stipend: \$100.00; Misc Handyman Svcs: \$50.00; Payment on Computer Desk: \$70.00; Cable: \$11.08; Bulletin Covers: \$130.40; Alarm System: \$336.00; Oil (Church Budget Plan): \$696.00	
Palmerton: Dean's Visit Stipend: \$100.00; Repair of Oil Tanks: \$172.00; PPL (Church): \$91.34; PPL (Hall): \$22.84	

**Liturgical Schedule for
The Week of December 21, 2014**
Saturday~ December 20
Vigil Sunday of the Ancestors

4:00 PM [P] Parish Families

Sunday ~ December 21
Vigil Sunday of the Ancestors

10:00 AM [A] + Mrs. Frances Kushner by
Franklin and Barbara Kushner

Wednesday~ December 24
Vigil Nativity of Our Lord

7:00 PM [A] Liturgy of Saint Basil for Parish
Family of Saint Michaels's

Thursday~ December 25
Nativity of Our Lord

8:00 AM [P] Parish Family of Saints Peter
and Paul
11:00 AM [A] Sister Ambrosia OSBM by
Sisters of Saint Basil the Great

Saturday~ December 27
Vigil Sunday after Christmas

4:00 PM [P] Parish Families

Sunday ~ December 28
Sunday after Christmas

10:00 AM [A] +John & Dolores Hysick by
the Hysick Family

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

Let us throw ourselves into the ocean of His goodness,
where every failing will be canceled and anxiety turned
into love. St. Paul of the Cross

Celebrate the feast of Christmas every day, even every
moment in the interior temple of your spirit, remaining like a
baby in the bosom of the heavenly Father, where you will be
reborn each moment in the Divine Word, Jesus Christ.
St. Paul of the Cross

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through
you. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Because of his boundless love, Jesus became what we
are that he might make us to be what he is." St. Irenaeus

Today the darkness begins to grow shorter and the light to
lengthen, as the hours of night become fewer.... Realize
that the true light is now here and, through the rays of the
gospel, is illumining the whole earth. St. Gregory of Nyssa