

**St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church
Moscow Patriarchate**

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Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Timothy M. Barna, Rector

Fr. Deacon Daniel Woytowich

Matushka Sherry Barna, Choir Director

Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. – Weekdays Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

General Confession 1st Sunday of month

Private Confession every Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. or upon request

March 17, 2024

Epistle: Rom13:11-14:4

Gospel: Matt 6: 14-21

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY: TODAY, SUNDAY - MARCH 17TH – This is the day before **Great Lent** begins and is the time to ask forgiveness from all for any transgressions of the past year. I ask all of you for forgiveness if I have offended you, my brothers or sisters, in anyway, whether by my words, deeds, or thoughts.

Fr Timothy

COFFEE HOUR: There is a Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy. Come and enjoy Christian Fellowship.

THE HEALTH: Please pray for the following: Stephanie Kennedy, Drake Kennedy, Wellington Kennedy, Conrad Kennedy, Gloria Wheeler, Doris Sprague, Judy Wadysz, Anna Hagopian, Reader Gary (Paul) Repella, Michael Gaujanian, Marion Kurtyka, Sonia Kurtyka, Bradley Webster, Jestin Spears, Roger Wodkowski, Daniel Moran, Marge Wade, Mary Varchola, Zlatko Petrovich, Thomas Barkulis, Ronald Miller, Ronald Buck, David Tomchuck, Joanne Kowalenok, Tamara Perri, Helen Woytowich, and Wyatt Alexander Jankowski.

NEWSLETTER: Fr. Timothy mailed the Lenten newsletter on **Wednesday March 6th, 2023**. You should receive it in the next couple of weeks or sooner. Please see Fr. Timothy if you do not receive your newsletter. Attached to the newsletter are 2 envelopes (one for Lenten offering, and the other for candles for Holy Friday May 3rd thru the week of Holy Pascha /Bright Week). Please give with a cheerful heart!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: is scheduled for **Sunday, March 31st**, after Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour. Please all council members mark your calendar.

GREAT LENT

GREAT LENT BEGINS –Tomorrow, Monday, March 18th, 2024 – Now is the time to start preparing for Holy Pascha by attending more church services, praying during Great Lent, fasting, giving to others, helping the needy, visiting the sick, and cleansing our souls through the Holy Sacrament of Holy Confession and Holy Communion.

LENTEN ENVELOPE: Enclosed you will find a Lenten Envelope that we attach every Lenten period. Please donate as best you can. God loveth a “cheerful giver”. Thank you for your donation.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK DURING LENT:

Wednesday, March 20th - Confession and Absolution	5:30 p.m.
Presanctified Gifts Liturgy followed by Agape Meal	6:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 23rd – Souls Saturday Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.

MEMORIAL SOULS SATURDAYS: As in previous years, Fr. Timothy will pray for the repose souls of families and friends of our parish at Divine Liturgy on these Memorial Saturdays. Please list the names on the “Souls Saturday” envelope attached to the newsletter or found in the church vestibule, and bring it to church or give to Fr. Timothy before **Friday, March 22nd**. The first service will be served on **Saturday, March 23rd 10:00 a.m.**

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT LENT:

It is possible for one who fasts not to be rewarded for his fasting. How? When, we abstain from foods, but do not abstain from iniquities: When we do not eat meat, but gnaw to pieces the homes of the poor, when we do not become drunkards with wine, but become drunkards with evil pleasures: when we abstain all the day, but all the night we spend in profane entertainment. Then what is the benefit of abstention from foods, when on the one hand you deprive your body of a selected food, but on the other, offer yourself unlawful pleasure? **St. John Chrysostom**

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION: This is one of the seven holy “Mysteries” of the church, e.g. Baptism, Eucharist, etc. It is also called the sacrament of Repentance, from the Greek word *metanoia*, a change, a turning around of our heart, mind and will. The Lord instituted this mystery when He conveyed His own Priesthood upon the bishops and priests of the Church, through His Holy Apostles. He breathed on them and said, “*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.*” (John 20:22-23) While confessing frequently throughout the year, the faithful are to do so, especially, during Great Lent.