

THE MANTLE

Saint Michael's Orthodox Church

7313 N. Waukegan Road Niles, Illinois 60714-4321

July 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Very Rev. Protopresbyter Samuel J. Sherry, Pastor ~ E-mail: FrSam@juno.com
Rev. Deacon Peter E. Sodini

Phone/Text (847) 647-8398

www.stmichaelniles.org



Sunday, July 28

❖ 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Panachida for God's Departed Servant:

Anne Laduzinsky

3rd Anniversary of Repose

offered by her Husband, Steve Laduzinsky,
Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchild

❖ **Confessions** will be heard following the Panachida.
Please sit in the left front pew.

❖ The **Coffee Social** will be sponsored by the **Sodini** Family. All of our faithful and guests are invited and encouraged to attend and join in fellowship!

The Dormiton Fast begins on Thursday, August 1.

Sunday, August 4

❖ 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

❖ A Combined Panachida is scheduled to be served.

❖ **Confessions** will be heard following the service.

❖ The Coffee Social will be sponsored by the Moran Family.



Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

Welcome to St. Michael's Orthodox Church

Thank you for being here to worship with us. Whether you are searching for a new church home, or you are just visiting, we extend a warm and special welcome to you. We are very happy to have you with us and hope you will consider joining us regularly for services and fellowship.

Please stay following the Sunday service and join us downstairs for fellowship. Feel free to ask Deacon Peter any questions you might have. You can also contact Father Sam by phone 847-647-8398 or e-mail FrSam@juno.com.

Rubrics

Hardbound Divine Liturgy Book:

(Page 90) Resurrection Tropar - Tone 4

(Page 90) Resurrection Kondak - Tone 4

(Page 91) Birthgiver Hymn - Tone 4

(Page 92) Prokimen - Tone 4

(Page 92) Alleluia Verses

Epistle Reading

St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 10:1-10. BRETHREN, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

Gospel Reading

Saint Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1. At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

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Gather or Scatter ~ Gather in the Lord

"He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathers not with Me scatters abroad." Matthew 12:30

Christianity is a religion of asceticism, instructing us to store up our treasures in heaven, where the benefits have eternal value. Throughout the New Testament we read of the importance of struggle, where focus on the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart is paramount to what it means to be a Christian. The Lord Jesus Christ tells us that if we are to be worthy of Him, we must be willing to take up our cross and follow Him. We are to be a people whose true homeland is Christ's Kingdom, which is within. Christ Himself calls us to holiness, and this change of heart can only be brought about through struggle.

Our world places a great deal of emphasis on being comfortable, and we tend to avoid anything that does not bring pleasure. If being open about our Christian faith invites ridicule, we remain silent. If keeping the fasting rules of the Church prevents us from enjoying evenings out with our friends, we ignore the fast. If voicing disapproval when hearing our Christian faith being trashed, makes us appear less cool, we choose to go the route of the politically correct. Is it any wonder we are therefore unprepared to stand firm when faced with real trials that come our way, having avoided the very things that would transform us into strong, committed Christians?

If we embrace Christianity with dedication of heart and mind, we will receive the power to live in this world, filled as it is, with temptations and disappointments, yet remaining true to our vocation as a holy people. Committing ourselves to being full-time Christians empowers us to live our lives in such a way that we give glory and witness to the very Christ Whom we worship. If, however, we avoid ascetic struggle, and choose to keep our Christian faith sidelined, and rejecting real commitment, we will ultimately have become Christian in name only. For those who, out of laziness or personal selfishness, choose to relegate fasting, private prayer, and even church attendance, as something done only when we feel "in the mood," we will stand before the Throne of God with a darkened heart that cannot withstand the power of God, and eternity will be for us a lake of fire.

Abbot Tryphon

<https://www.facebook.com/profile/100044595542112/search/?q=gather%20or%20scatter>



Dear Faithful: During the summer months church attendance declines, but church expenses and maintenance costs remain. Please donate according to your means! Thank you.

Saints and Feasts

Prochoros, Nicanor, Timon, & Parmenas the Apostles of the 70: These Apostles of the Seventy are mentioned in Acts 6:5. Saint Prochoros became Bishop of Nicomedia and reposed in peace. Saint Nicanor was stoned to death in Jerusalem. Saint Timon became Bishop of Bostra in Arabia and ended his life in martyrdom by fire at the hands of the pagans. Saint Parmenas died in peace in Jerusalem.

Irene the Righteous of Chrysovalantou: Saint Irene, who was from Cappadocia, flourished in the ninth century. Because of her great beauty and virtue, she was brought to Constantinople as a prospective bride for the young Emperor Michael (842-867); however, as Saint Joannicius the Great foretold, it was God's will that she assume the monastic habit instead. She shone forth in great ascetical labours, and suffered many attacks from the demons; while yet a novice, she attained to the practice of Saint Arsenius the Great, of praying the whole night long with arms stretched out towards Heaven (see May 8). God showed forth great signs and wonders in her, and she became the Abbess of the Convent of Chrysovalantou. She was granted the gift of clairvoyance and knew the thoughts of all that came to her. She appeared in a vision to the king and rebuked him for unjustly imprisoning a nobleman who had been falsely accused. Through a sailor from Patmos to whom he had appeared, Saint John the Evangelist sent her fragrant and wondrous apples from Paradise. She reposed at the age of 103, still retaining the youthful beauty of her countenance. After her repose, marvelous healings beyond number have been wrought by her to the present day.

Our Righteous Father Paul of Xeropotamou

Vigil Candles at the Iconostas

In Memory of **Anne Laduzinsky**
3rd Anniversary of her Passing
offered by her Husband, Steve Laduzinsky

In Memory of **Anne Laduzinsky**
3rd Anniversary of her Passing
offered by her Children,
Grandchildren and Great-Grandchild

The MANTLE is sponsored by
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