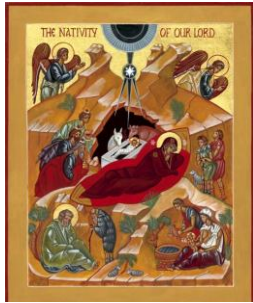




Saint Michael's Romanian Orthodox Church



Southbridge, Massachusetts
www.stmichaelorthodox.com
December 2023



The Nativity Sermon of St. John Chrysostom

Behold a new and wondrous mystery. My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing. The Archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt His glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He Who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised. Nature here rested, while the Will of God labored. O ineffable grace! The Only Begotten, Who is before all ages, Who cannot be touched or be perceived, Who is simple, without body, has now put on my body, that is visible and liable to corruption. For what reason? That coming amongst us he may teach us, and teaching, lead us by the hand to the things that men cannot see. For since men believe that the eyes are more trustworthy than the ears, they doubt of that which they do not see, and so He has deigned to show Himself in bodily presence, that He may remove all doubt. For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit; and so He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit that He may save me. Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels. Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven did not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infant's food from His Virgin Mother. So, the Father of all ages, as an infant at the breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star. To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Spirit, we offer all praise, now and forever. Amen.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday

9:00am Divine Liturgy
10:00am Memorial Service
5:00pm Vespers

Sunday

9:00am Matins
10:00am Divine Liturgy
**Every Day Liturgy During the 40
days of Nativity Fast**

Feast days

- Dec. 2nd – St. Porphyrios
- Dec. 6th – St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
- Dec. 7th – St. Filofteia of Romania
- Dec. 12th – St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
- Dec. 20th – Bishop Ignatius the Godbearer of Antioch
- Dec. 25th – Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
- Dec. 26th – Synaxis of the Most-Holy Theotokos
- Dec. 27th – St. Stephen the First Martyr

Saint Michael's Romanian Orthodox Church
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Website: www.StmichaelOrthodox.com
Email: stmichaelromanianorthodox@gmail.com
Facebook: St. Michael Orthodox Christian Church

2021 Parish Council

President: Luke Yanka
Vice President: Spiro Thomo
Secretary: Debby Thomo
Treasury: Paul Yanka

2021 Ladies Society Committee

President: Genevieve Boilard
Vice President: Katie Mironidis
Secretary: Susan Silva
Treasurer: Debby Thomo

Clergy

Fr. John Downie fr.john_downie71@yahoo.com

Parish News & Events

Happy Birthday!! God Grant You Many More Years!!

December 3rd – Michelle Grasso
December 4th – Maria Rapsomanikis
December 8th – Maria Mironidis
December 10th – Matthew Dowling
December 14th – Carol Porra
December 16th – Michael Pitsillides
December 18th – Thomas Richard Burren
December 20th – Scott Burren
December 23rd – Luke Yanka and Eva Pitsillides
December 31st – Anthony Rapsomanikis

Happy Name Day

Dec. 5th – St. Savvas – Savvia Pitsillides
Dec. 6th – St. Nicholas – Nick Thomo, Nicholas Goulas
Dec. 12th – St. Spyridon – Spiro Thomo, Spiro Kelly, Spiro Kelly Jr.
Dec. 27th – St. Stephen – Stephen Giavara, Stephanie Rapsomanikis

Please Pray for health:

Henrietta; Virginia; Mary and George



New Year Party!



As the St. Michael's tradition, we invite you to join us in a nice celebration on December 31st as follows:

- 7:00 pm - Pot Luck New Year Dinner in the Priest Apartment
- 10:30 pm Vespers and Litia for Our Lord Circumcision and St. Basil feast day
- 11:55 pm Champaing and bell rings in the Church
- 12:00 am Thanksgiving services for New Year (New Year Te Deum)



Please join us for our Christmas party after the Divine Liturgy on December 17th. We will have a potluck and Santa Claus will bring presents to the children.

Please sign-in for food with Genevieve (Jenny).



25+ VEGAN
POTLUCK DISHES
PLATTERS, SALADS, & DIPS

Movie and Book Corner

Movie: *The Holy Archipelago*

The Holy Archipelago is a Russian documentary directed by Sergei Debizhev about the famous Solovki Monastery and it was named the Best Film at the Great Lakes Christian Film Festival on November 6th, 2023.



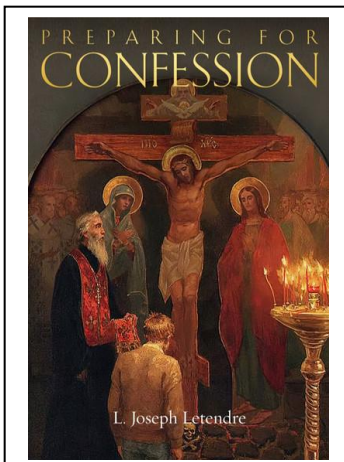
The Holy Archipelago also won the Best Documentary Feature, Best Cinematography (documentary), and Best Sound/Music (documentary).

“The Holy Archipelago is addressed directly to the soul and heart of a person,” Debizhev told Ivestia. “The film touches on the deep meanings of existence, faith, hope and love. These meanings are close to everyone, no matter what country they live in.” He continued:

“The phenomenal success of the film in Russia and around the world shows that man is still alive, feeling, looking for light, despite attempts to drag him into a cold, digital, virtual future. The Holy Archipelago is the first truly large-scale film on a spiritual and religious theme. We see the world not as a physical object, but as a creation of God. We know that Russia lives not in time, but in eternity, and this is our strength, this is a different model of being.”

In turn, co-producer Mikhail Skigin said that because of the film, “Americans saw Russia as a very beautiful country, where strong-willed people live and respect traditional values. We were able to directly reach the hearts of viewers and film critics in the United States.”

He also noted that to date, the film has received more than 30 awards and nominations in countries such as Italy, Greece, USA, Australia, India, Singapore, Serbia, Brazil, Cyprus and even the Kingdom of Bhutan.



Book: *Preparing for Confession* by Joseph Letendre

Preparing for Confession has been extremely popular ever since it was first published in 1987. Ancient Faith Publishing is pleased to bring to the public an expanded edition of this eminently useful booklet, which offers practical advice for preparation and answers questions such as "What is sin?" and "What is the priest's role?" This is the guide every Orthodox Christian needs for a more powerful experience of the Sacrament of Confession.

Elder Cleopa of Romania – about prayer and salvation

Translated by Fr. John

About Prayer

44. One Father asked him how to pray. The Elder told him, “Pray at first audibly, from the mouth prayer passes to the mind and then the heart. But for this we need great effort, many tears and the grace of the Holy Spirit!

80. Another time he said to one of the brothers in the monastery: “Your Reverend Father, tell us a word about holy prayer.

And the father said: “Prayer is the food and life of the soul. As the body has food and drink, so the soul without prayer dies.

69. Another time he said, “During prayer don’t receive thoughts or imaginings. The gate of the heart has two toll houses: the toll house of imagination and the toll house of reasoning.

The toll house of imagination is the first station.

The shortest law for prayer is to not imagine anything when you pray. Because if you stop at imagination then your mind can’t enter your heart at the time of prayer. So, during prayer you are not permitted to imagine anything. Not even holy imaginings, not Christ on the Holy Cross, not the Throne of Judgment. Nothing. Because all imaginings are on the mountain of Quarantania, since their role is to tempt you from Scripture. And all kinds of true and lofty reasonings come to us during prayer! But the devil isn’t upset by this, when he sees that you reason. He rejoices. It



is good that you theologize¹ when you pray! Brothers, these things do not belong in the time of prayer!

The devils’ purpose is to give our mind over to theologizing and to bring to mind all of the Scripture, if you wish, only so that you won’t pray! He knows that prayer burns him. And you obtain spiritual conceit: “That is why such lofty words as these come to me when I pray to God!” And he laughs, smiling from ear to ear! You are not praying then, but theologizing. The Savior says to pray: “Do not speak with many words like the hypocrites since it seems to them that because of their many words the Lord will hear them!”

And we, during prayer, especially prayer of the heart, when we want to lower the mind into the heart, we should pray with a single thought, that is, thinking only on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason we descend into the heart saying, “Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have

mercy on me a sinner.” A different reason than this should not be sought for. If you abandon this ‘theology’ during prayer, with the help of the Lord, your mind will enter the heart immediately.

70. Another time he said: “As soon as the mind enters the heart, you have a natural sign. Something begins like a nail of fire and your heart gets warmed up from its center. Then everything gets warm, then your chest, your shoulders, your spinal cord, your whole

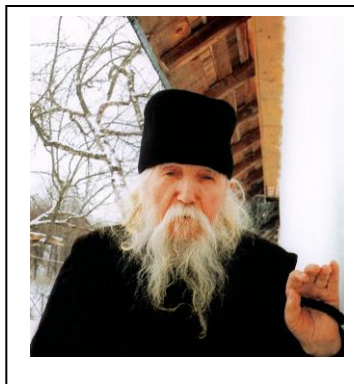
¹ Father Cleopa is clearly using the western understanding of theologizing here... when we simply “think” of God.

body and powerful sweat begins to flow and your eyes begin to pour hot tears of repentance with great fire. This is prayer of fire!

Now the Groom as encountered the bride. Christ with our soul. This spiritual union makes man one spirit with God. It is what the Apostle says, "*The one who unites with a harlot becomes one body with her...and the one who cleaves to God is one spirit with Him.*" This union and cleaving to God in the heart through Jesus Christ brings a great spiritual sweetness and great warmth."

71. He also said about prayer of the heart: "but it is not the foundation of the work, nor sweetness or the warmth in the heart. The foundation for the work is breaking the heart, repentance, pain of heart for sins and tears of repentance that flow at that time. In this state our soul has such joy, such lightness, such warmth and spiritual sweetness that after one awakens from this contrition of union with Jesus Christ in the heart, such a one cannot say even three words.

What joyous moments, what sweetness, what joy such a one has had in his heart! And if a worker of prayer stays in this condition for one hour or two, with the mind descended into the heart, that is the mind united to the heart, after he comes back to his senses, for a week or two not one thought from this world can enter into his heart! The heaven of his heart is purified to the extent that the climate of the heart is full of the work of the Holy Spirit. O joyous heart, who has drunk the tears of repentance and with great love from the union with Jesus Christ. Spiritual Love which no tongue can describe!"



31. Again his disciple would say, "As long as I was Father Cleopa's disciple, he had the habit of doing this rule: Morning prayers, the Akathist to the Savior with the canon and the Akathist to the Holy Mother, especially of the Annunciation. And on the day there was a saint with an Akathist, he would read the Akathist of the saint. Then he read a few kathismata from the Psalter and three or four canons to the Holy Mother. Afterwards he would speak to the people that came to him.

Around 3:00 to 4:00 pm he started his evening rule which was: he read a canon to the Holy Mother according to the tone of the day, which was one of the 7 canons, the Canon of Repentance, the Canon to the Guardian Angel, the Canon to all saints and he read from the Psalter. Afterwards he spoke to the faithful and sat at table, then did the evening prayers.

When he stayed in the evening with the faithful until he was too tired for more, he came back to the cell, made three signs of the cross reaching to the ground then went to sleep. And even though he was so tired he did not sleep much. He would awaken after an hour at the most and read the evening prayers and said the Jesus Prayer. He always had his hand on the prayer rope, to the extent that his thumbnail that he used to move the knots on the rope was deformed.

He also read the Holy Scriptures and from the Holy Fathers."

33. When the faithful asked him if it was good to read the Psalter, Father Cleopa answered, "Saint Basil the Great said that, 'it is better for the sun to stand still than for the Psalter to remain unread in Christian houses. And as the sun is the greatest among the luminaries, so is the Psalter among the

other books inspired by the Holy Spirit.’ Keep the Psalter like good sweet bread. When you are hungry, cut another piece, eat some more, do some more work, then read another kathisma, or two, or three as many as you can.”

About Salvation

40. One brother asked Father Cleopa, “What should I do, Reverend Father, to be saved? ‘Have the fear of God on your right and remembrance of death on your left and in your mind and heart the prayer, “Lord, Jesus Christ...” and you’ll become a saint, brother!”

45. “Father Cleopa, give me a useful word,” one Father said to him.
“Don’t forget about death. Death, death, death! Fear of death preserves us from every sin!

54. Once a brother came to Father Cleopa after he had listened to him many times and asked him, “Father what must I do to be saved?” And the father who knew his heart answered him, “Do what you know [is right] and you will be saved.” Then he examined himself and realized that it wasn’t knowledge that he lacked but spiritual living.

60. One of the monks in the Sihăstria Monastery said to the Elder:
“What should I do, Father Cleopa, to be saved?”
“You should have death continually before you and ‘Lord Jesus...’ in mind and heart and don’t be afraid of anything! Have the repentance of the thief on the cross!”

61. Again he said to the brothers:
“Everything is passing! Take care of your

soul, confess, receive communion, lead a pure life, give alms, do everything you can and live in love one with other, because love never dies!”

77. Father Cleopa said: “Don’t give advice to anyone until you yourself have lived it! The one who gives advice but has not lived it is like a spring of water painted on a wall. But the one who speaks from experience is like a spring of living water!”

General “Cleaning of the Soul” – Confession on request. Call Fr. John

A complete guide for Confession written by Elder Cleopa will be available on the website, and e-mail.

Before the Confession check this list/guide and you will be amazed to see how much boxes you need to check 😊

General Cleaning of the church and the Hall

Please join us for a **deep cleaning** in the **Church and Hall** before Christmas Party and Christmas Feast Day.

Call Fr. John or Presbytera/Preoteasa Camelia and come anytime during week **December 11th-16th**. There are plenty of things to do in the church: cleaning the brass oil candles, candle stand, spider webs, cabinet, windows, iconostasis, etc.

For the Hall – we need volunteers for Christmas hall’s decoration

Parish Life in Images

Church Feast Day November 8th and Banquet November 12th



Parish Life in Images

Becoming full member of the Orthodox Church - Justinian (Jonathan) Colon



St. Porphyrios Night Vigil, December 1st-December 2

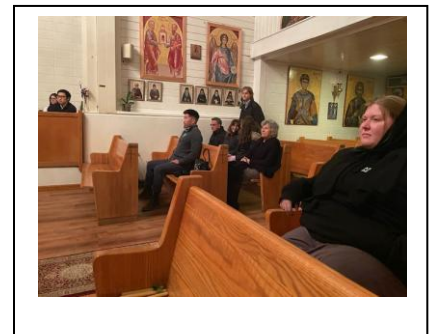
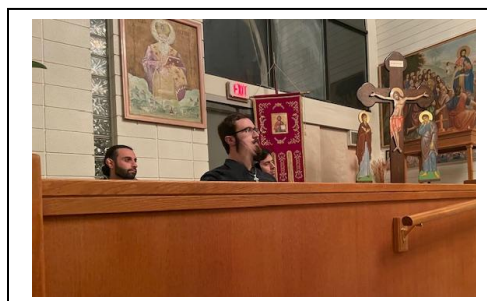
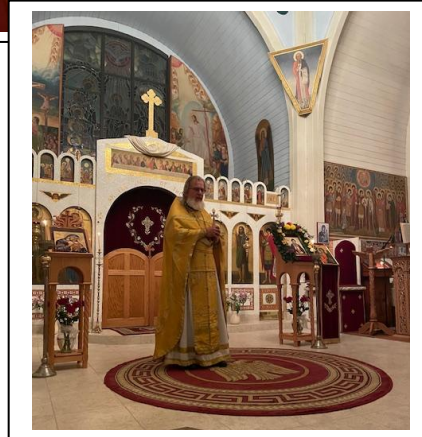
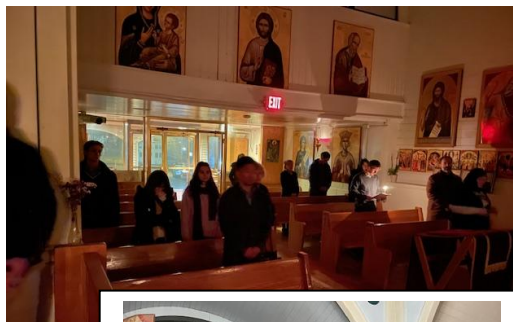


Schedule:

- 10:00 pm – 11:00 pm Vespers and Litia
- 11:00 pm – 12:30 am Matins
- 12:30 am -12:45 am Prayers Before Holy Communion
- 12:45 am – 2:00 am – Divine Liturgy
- 2:00 am Coffee, tea, and light meal

Fr. Constantine Semyanko (ROCOR) will serve together with fr. John.

Pictures from Night Vigil



Sister Parish Project and Christmas donations for poor children in Romania

We remind you that our Metropolia has asked that we partner with a parish in Romania to help each other with various church projects. We have been paired with Holy Theotokos Church in Micsunesti, Romania, under the care of Fr. Caesar Cranta. The church, built in 1743, is a historical monument. It was built in the Brancoveneau style on the site of a wooden church and was founded by King Mihai Viteazul. It is a very active church that runs many different projects, including:

- Free summer and spring camps for children
- Church pharmacy – available for people in need
- Ready for school project – donations of school supplies for parish children
- Pregnant women and new born children project – support for pregnant women and donations for new borns – whatever is necessary
- And many other projects.

Please consider donating for poor children in this parish, and bring some cash or check with you at the church on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th.



Perfect God and Perfect man, Christ is Born!

A Nativity Epistle from St. Justin Popovich

God is born on earth, and moreover He is born as a man: perfect God and perfect man--the unique God-man. He has forever remained as the God-man both on earth and in heaven. Indeed, the God-man is the first perfect man on earth. Perfect man? Yes, because only in the God-man is man without sin, without evil, without death, totally filled with God, and thereby with all divine perfections.

The God-man has demonstrated and proved this most convincingly: man is only a true man when he is completely united with God, and in everything and every way completely lives in God, thinks in God, feels in God, acts in God, is virtuous in God, is immortal in God, is eternal in God. Only and solely in God is man a man, a true man, a perfect man, a man in whom all the fullness of the Godhead lives.

We can analyze this fundamental, evangelic, Divine-human truth about man.

The soul of man?--Only and solely as the Divine Soul in the God-man does it become and forever remain sinless, immortal, God-like, holy, perfect eternal.

The mind of man?--Only and solely as the Divine Mind in the God-man does it become and forever remain sinless, immortal, God-like, holy, perfect, eternal.

The heart of man?--Only and solely as the Divine Heart in the God-man does it become and remain sinless, immortal, God-like, holy, perfect, eternal.

The conscience of man?--Only and solely as the Divine Conscience in the God-man does it become and remain sinless, immortal, God-like, holy, perfect, eternal.

The will of man?--Only and solely as the Divine Will in the God-man does our will become and forever remain sinless, immortal, God-like, holy, perfect, eternal.

The body of man?--Only and solely as the Divine Body in the God-man does the body become and forever remain sinless, immortal, God-like, holy, perfect, eternal.

The life of man?--Only and solely as the Divine Life in the God-man does our life become and forever remain sinless, immortal, God-like, holy, perfect, eternal.

Everything that man is, and everything that is of man perfectly lives, works, thinks, feels, is human, immortal, divine, and eternal only and solely in the God-man and through the God-man. Only through the God-man Christ is man divine majesty and the highest value next to God in all worlds. For this reason God became man, and has remained the God-man for all eternity.

With the God-man Christ, all that is God's has become man's, human, ours, so that each of us individually and all of us assembled together in the Divine-human body of Christ, the Church, might become god-men, having at "to the perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:12-13).

Therefore Christmas, the day of the birth of the God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the greatest and most important day in the history of all the worlds in which man moves and lives. Truly this is "great joy"--

truly the only true joy, the only eternal joy of a human being in all worlds.

The God-man?--This is the most important Event of all the worlds of man: the Ultimate Event.

The God-man?--This is the most important Justice of all the worlds of man: the Ultimate Justice.

The God-man?--This is the most important Love of all the worlds of man: the Ultimate Love.

The God-man?--This is the most important Good of all the worlds of man: the Ultimate Good.

The God-man?--This is the most important Man of all the worlds of man: the Ultimate Man.

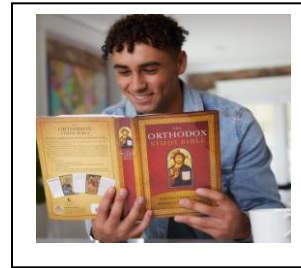
The God-man?--This is the most important God of all the gods of man: the Ultimate God.

On account of all these, the Nativity is our only eternal Joy: the Ultimate Joy. The Joy of all joys, the Joy above all joys. Therefore, again and again: Christ is born! Hristos se naste!The God-man is born! Our deification is born! Our divine transformation is born!

Lady Society “Andrei Shaguna” invites all women to attend the Christmas Luncheon on December 9th at Public House

Bring a present - \$10 – for a present exchange game

Bible Study – December 7th – 7:00 pm on Zoom



**The link will be sent on the
email**

Donations Nursing Home Southbridge

Suggestions for presents blankets, hats, gloves, sweaters, hoodies, cosmetics and hygiene products, etc). Please label your present man or women and wrapped nicely.

**Bring your present at the
church not later than
December 17th.**



Parent's school corner

Teachings from St. Porphyrios about Parental Education and Upbringing

Education, says elder Porphyrios, lasts throughout life (lifelong education) and starts from fetal life, and constantly evolving. The most important education and upbringing is the one held by the family.

According to elder Porphyrios, the family is the first physical means of upbringing and educating people. In the first 5 years of human life the family with all functions – visible and hidden, conscious and unconscious – helps on shaping the personality. The child and the adolescent observe the family roles played by parents. Children often identify themselves with the roles of parents. Sometimes, however, the children reject their parents and adopt a reactive behavior. This is obvious especially in dysfunctional families.

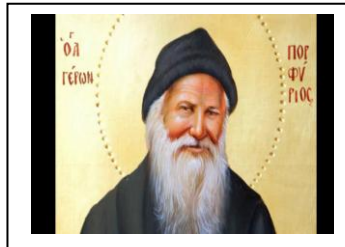
Elder Porphyrios teaches that the core of the personality of young people is organized in the framework of the dynamic relationships in the family. Elder Porphyrios in all the cases that came to him for confession, he studied their background of their intra-familial and marital relationships.

What makes good children, says elder Porphyrios, is the virtuous lives of parents at home. Parents should love God. Parents, according to elder Porphyrios, should become 'saints', 'holy' near their children and have gentleness, patience and love.

They should be always available for their children, with enthusiasm and love for them. Then, with the grace of God, and their "holiness" they will transfer their good and virtuous feelings to their children.

For the bad behavior of the children, says elder Porphyrios, we should blame the parents. Parents don't help their children with their advices and by 'lecturing'; neither by imposing a strict discipline, nor by controlling their life. If the parents don't 'sanctify' and become 'saints' and virtuous, they make a big mistake and send the wrong message to their children.

Love, unity and cooperation of parents and good understanding between them and their children gives a sense of security and confidence to their children. Otherwise, the children become unsafe and insecure. Often the unsecure children can lead to the 'safety' of a gang and/or obtain a violent behavior (as a reaction to a dysfunctional family).



The behavior of the children is related to the situations they experienced in their family. The negative attitude of parents creates wounds in the hearts of the children and leaves scars of injury in their souls that keep during their whole life. These psychological scars are affecting their behavior and their relationship with the others, during the rest of their lives.

People often telephone me from abroad and ask me about their children and about other matters. Today a mother phoned me from Milan and asked me how she should behave

towards her children. What I said to her was this:

‘Pray, and when you have to, speak to your children with love. Lots of prayer and few words. Lots of prayer and few words for everyone. We mustn’t become an annoyance, but rather pray secretly and then speak, and God will let us know in our hearts whether the others have accepted what we have said. If not, we won’t speak. We will simply pray mystically. Because if we speak we become an annoyance and make others react or even infuriate them. That is why it is better to speak mystically to the heart of others through secret prayer rather than to their ears.

Pray and then speak. That’s what to do with your children. If you are constantly lecturing them, you’ll become tiresome and when they grow up they’ll feel a kind of oppression. Prefer prayer and speak to them through prayer. Speak to God and God will speak to their hearts. That is, you shouldn’t give that in a voice that may do this speak to God Christ children. I entrust them to you. You gave them to me, but I am weak and unable to guide them, so, please, illuminate them.” And God will speak to them and they will say to themselves, “Oh dear, I shouldn’t have upset Mummy by doing that!” And with the grace of God this will come from their heart.’

This is the most perfect way — for the mother to speak to God and for God to speak to the children. If you do not communicate in this way, constant lecturing becomes a kind of

intimidation. And when the child grows up it begins to rebel, that is, to take revenge, so to speak, on its father and mother who coerced it. One way is the perfect way — for the mother’s and father’s holiness and love in Christ to speak. The radiance of sanctity and not human effort makes for good children. When the children are traumatized and hurt on account of some serious situation, don’t let it affect you when they react negatively and speak rudely. In reality they don’t want to, but can’t help themselves at difficult times. They are remorseful afterwards. But if you become irritated and enraged, you become one with the evil spirit and it makes a mockery of you all.”

Congratulations to Mary Andrea for becoming Orthodox, and to her God Mother Lynn DiPetro



Christmas Ladies Luncheon – December 9th, 2023





December 2023



Saint Michael's Romanian Orthodox Church
 Southbridge, Massachusetts
www.stmichaelorthodox.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Divine Liturgy 8:00am Night vigil - St. Porphyrios Vespers, Litia, Matins 10:00pm	2 St. Porphyrios Divine Liturgy 12:00am
3 Matins 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am	4 St. Great Martyr Barbara Divine Liturgy 8:00am	5 St. Savva Divine Liturgy 9:00am Vespers– St. Nicholas Shrewsbury 6:00pm	6 St. Nicholas Divine Liturgy 8:00am	7 St. Filofteia Divine Liturgy 8:00am Bible Study – zoom 7:00pm	8 Divine Liturgy 8:00am	9 Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service 9:00am
10 Matins 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am	11 Divine Liturgy 8:00am	12 St. Spyridon Divine Liturgy 9:00am	13 Divine Liturgy 8:00am	14 Divine Liturgy 8:00am	15 Divine Liturgy 8:00am	16 Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service 9:00am Vespers - 5:00pm
17 Matins 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am Church Christmas Party	18 Divine Liturgy 8:00am	19 Divine Liturgy 9:00am	20 St. Ignatius the Godbearer Divine Liturgy 8:00am	21 Divine Liturgy 8:00am	22 Non liturgical Day* Royal Hours – 3:00pm	23 Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service 9:00am
24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> 9:00 am Matins 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Vespers, Litia, Matins 4:00pm - 6:00pm?? Carols – 6:00pm- 6:15pm	25 <u>Nativity of Our Lord</u> Akatist of Nativity-9:15am Divine Liturgy – St. Basil Liturgy 10:00am	26 Synaxis of the Most-Holy Theotokos Matins-8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am	27 Archdeacon Stephen Divine Liturgy 9:00am	28	29	30 Vespers 5:00pm
31 9:00 am Matins 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Vespers, Litia – 10:00pm	January 1 Lord Circumcision and St. Basil Matins 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am					

*If the Eve of the Nativity is Sunday (and the Christmas is or Monday), there are changes in the Christmas services: Friday, before the Christmas Eve there is no Liturgy (aliturigal day) and the "Royal Hours" are read. On the day of the Christmas Eve, the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is performed, without being united with Vespers, and on the evening of the Eve, the Great Vespers is performed united with the Litia and, the Matins. On the day of the Christmas, the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great is held.