

St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

Moscow Patriarchate

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Web Site – <http://saintmichaelredford.org>

Rt. Rev. Mitred Archbishop 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

June 29, 2025

Epistle: 2 Cor 11: 21-12-9

Gospel: Matt 16: 13-19

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

THE HEALTH: Please pray for the following: Stephanie Kennedy, Drake Kennedy, Wellington Kennedy, Conrad Kennedy, Gloria Wheeler, Judy Wadysz, Anna Hagopian, Reader Gary (Paul) Repella, Michael Gaujanian, Marion Kurtyka, Sonia Kurtyka, Bradley Webster, Roger Wodkowski, Daniel Moran, Marge Wade, Mary Varchola, Zlatko Petrovich, Ronald Miller, Tamara Perri, Wyatt Alexander Jankowski, Jim Fisher, Eileen Fremont, Pat Dominick, Mary Ann Harvilla, Sophie Miller, Joan Marie Ruppert, Stephanie Henkel, David Tomchuk, Margaret Lawrence and Karen Telep.

THANK YOU: *Karen Telep* wants to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, cards, vigil lights, candles during her recovery from her operation. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – The next scheduled meeting is **TODAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH**. All council members, make every effort to attend..

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Our Orthodox Church faith takes death frankly and openly into account. Our Church calendar provides many occasions when we are asked to face up to the fact of death. Easter is one such occasion. Sunday is another. Every Sunday is a “little Easter” on our Church calendar celebrating Christ’s victory over death. On our church calendar every year there are special Memorial Saturdays or “Saturdays for the Souls” which provide another opportunity for us to face up to death. On these Saturdays, the Divine Liturgy is celebrated and special prayers are offered for our deceased loved ones. We pray for the dead especially on Saturdays since it was on the Sabbath day that Christ lay dead in the tomb, “resting from all His works” and “trampling down death by death.” Thus, in the New Testament, Saturday becomes the proper day for remembering the dead and offering prayers for them. Death may take loved ones out of sight but becomes the proper day for remembering the dead and offering prayers for them.

Death may take loved ones out of sight but it certainly does not take them out of mind, or out of heart. We continue to love them and think of them as we believe they continue to love and think of us. How can a mother forget a child who has passed over to a life beyond? The same Christian love which led her to pray for that child when he lived will guide her to pray for him now. For in Christ all are living.

It is customary among Orthodox Christians from Greece to bring a tray of boiled wheat kernels to church for the memorial service to express belief in everlasting life. Jesus said, “Unless a grain of wheat fall into the earth and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it bears much fruit (John 12:24). Just as new life rises from the buried kernel of wheat, so we believe that the one buried will rise to a new life with God. The wheat kernels are covered with sugar and raisins to express the bliss of eternal life with God in heaven.

FOURTH OF JULY:

Known as Independence Day, it is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified on July 4, 1776. It is a day for celebrating American freedom and independence, often marked by patriotic displays, fireworks, parades, and family gatherings. Please also remember this day with some prayers for our country and enjoy your freedom!

