



*Message from Fr. Michael.....*

Dearly Beloved Faithful who thirst for the Word of God:

As we approach the start of the ecclesiastical New Year on September 1st, we are reminded of the gracious words of our Lord as he stood in an Synagogue and opened the book of the Prophet Isaiah and we heard the following words:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

As September 1st marks the Indiction, or *Indictio* as it was known in the earlier centuries of Church history, which is the start of the ecclesiastical New Year, we offer special prayers "to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." The Lord preaches to us the *Good News* and we start this great year fully attentive and thirsty for His Word, with our hearts and minds open to His calling.

We may wonder and ask, "How will we benefit from this?" Well, the start of the Church New Year is a chance for a *fresh new start* in our lives. It is an opportunity to begin to live a Godly life and to focus on what really matters in life: our personal relationship with God. A life without faith is a life with no shield against evil forces. Our faith is our breastplate of armor. Our prayers are our incense that ascend to Heaven. Our fast is our *secret text message* to God. Our devotion to His Holy Icons in Church is our *Skype* or *FaceTime* with God. For He sees us and we see Him through the majesty of the Holy Icons, our windows to Heaven.

Be joyous today for the start of this blessed ecclesiastical New Year and be more joyous than the secular January 1st New Year. May the blessing of our Lord be upon you as you venture into this Blessed New Year.

Quench your thirst with the Word of God! May this year be the year of intense scripture study. We will, at some point, resume our Bible study group again in October. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements as to dates when we will meet.

Prayerfully yours, in His service,

+Fr. Michael

## Job of Pochaev



Saint Job of Pochaev was born about 1551 in southwest Galicia of a pious Orthodox family. In his tenth year the Saint departed for the Ugornitsky Monastery of our Saviour in the Carpathian Mountains. Tonsured after two years, he was ordained hieromonk about 1580. Renowned for his meekness and humility, Job was invited by the great zealot for Holy Orthodoxy in the Carpatho-Russia, Prince Constantine Ostrozhky, to be Abbot of the Monastery of the Cross in Dubno. In his zeal for the preservation and propagation of the Orthodox Faith, and to counteract the propaganda of the Uniates, he printed and widely disseminated Orthodox spiritual and liturgical books. About 1600 he removed to the Mountain of Pochaev where at insistence of the brethren, he became Abbot of the Monastery of the Dormition of the Theotokos, which he enlarged and made to flourish. Through his labours, a large printing works was founded at Pochaev and greatly assisted in the nurture of the Orthodox faithful in that region. His monastery became the center of the Orthodox Church in western Ukraine. The Saint reposed, having taken the schema with the name of John, in 1651, at the advanced age of one hundred.

## Moses the Black of Scete

Saint Moses, who is also called Moses the Black, was a slave, but because of his evil life, his master cast him out, and he became a ruthless thief, dissolute in all his ways. Later, however, coming to repentance, he converted, and took up the monastic life under Saint Isidore of Scete. He gave himself over to prayer and the mortification of the carnal mind with such diligence that he later became a priest of exemplary virtue. He was revered by all for his lofty ascetical life and for his great humility. Once the Fathers in Scete asked Moses to come to an assembly to judge the fault of a certain brother, but he refused. When they insisted, he took a basket which had a hole in it, filled it with sand, and carried it on his shoulders. When the Fathers saw him coming they asked him what the basket might mean. He answered, "My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and I am come this day to judge failings which are not mine." When a barbarian tribe was coming to Scete, Moses, conscious that he himself had slain other men when he was a thief, awaited them and was willingly slain by them with six other monks, at the end of the fourth century. He was a contemporary of Saint Arsenius the Great.

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS**...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Michalena (Skiadas) Sukenik, Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon, Presbyteria Magdalena Michalopoulos, Henry Nussbaum, and Sam Kashou. Please notify Fr. Michael if you have anyone else who should be included for special prayers. May they be under the grace and tender watch of our Lord.

***If you wish to request a Memorial Service, Trisagion Service, or a sacramental service such as a Baptism, Confirmation, or Marriage PLEASE always go through the Priest first. Please contact Fr. Michael (home phone 795-1474) and not the Parish Council or Parish Council officers as they do not schedule these. Thank you for your cooperation in doing so.***

*Please note: There will be no coffee hour for the remainder of August 2016 due to the lack of volunteers and assistance. Please consider volunteering for our coffee hour in September so that we may continue this.*

*The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, September 15 at 6:45 pm.*

PASTICHIO OPEN 2016 GOLF TOURNAMENT. Captain and crew, shotgun start at 1:30 pm. \$80 per golfer - \$320 per team. Register as a team or as an individual, golf will include buffet Greek dinner, prizes will be awarded for longest drive, closest to the pin, and skins game. Sunday, September 18, 2016 at Traditions at the Glen, 4101 Watson Blvd., Johnson City, New York. Deadline to register is September 10, 2016. Contact at Jim 343-1601 or John at 343-0090 to reserve your spot.

Junior Choir Retreat, September 6th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Snacks will be served. All children ages 5 - 14, are invited, boys are welcome to attend. Learn about Choir hymns, St. Romanos, the Melodist.

Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "ANTIDORON" (blessed bread) which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast" that followed worship in the early Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. We hope that you will return often to worship with us, to grow in Christ and in our Orthodox Faith. For any spiritual, religious, or sacramental matters, please contact Fr. Michael (607) 795-1474. For any building, facility or church property issues, please contact Parish Council President Steve Anastos, (607) 296-9799. Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.