

Sunday, 17th of November 2024

MARTYR GOBRON (MICHAEL) AND 133 WITH HIM

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Troparion – Tone3

Your holy martyr Gobron and his companions, O Lord, / through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God. / For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through their intercessions, save our souls!

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protosphyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Dorothy, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna and Birgit. Amen!

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

Holy Spirit Orthodox Church
102 Route 284, Wantage, NJ 07461

Father Michael - Priest-in-charge
(848)228-1563

holyspiritwantage@gmail.com

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

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The WEEKLY BULLETIN

**HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

November 17th, 2024

MARTYR GOBRON (MICHAEL) AND 133 SOLDIERS, OF GEORGIA - In the year 914 a certain prince by the name of Michael-Gobron distinguished himself in a battle against the Arab Muslim invaders. After they had captured the fortress of Kvelistsikhe in southern Georgia, the Muslims took captive those who remained alive, and Prince Gobron was among them. Deeply impressed by the Georgian soldier's valor, the emir Abu al-Qasim ordered his army to treat him with respect. King Adarnerse sent Abu al-Qasim a large sum of money as a ransom for his people, and some were released. Gobron, however, was not among them. The Georgian prince recognized clearly what the future would bring, and he prepared to be martyred for Christ's sake. The Saracens escorted Gobron and 133 Georgian soldiers to their execution. Abu al-Qasim tempted the faithful prince by offering him earthly glory and honor in exchange for his renunciation of the Christian Faith. But Saint Gobron firmly declined all of his offers. Then the furious Abu al-Qasim ordered that he be taken into the yard and shown his fallen countrymen on one side and the promised wealth on the other. When the emir cunningly asked which one he would choose, Gobron answered, "I told you from the very start that I will not retreat from Christ my Lord!" Then the emir devised a new, more cruel trial: "He knows not the grief of death. Lead him outside and execute every living Christian before his eyes!" he commanded. They led the saint out in the midst of his brothers and proceeded to slaughter every one of them. The blood of the dead flew around Gobron in every direction, and the martyrs' limp bodies collapsed at his feet, but none of these horrors could break his will. Then they compelled him to bow his head and brandish their swords above him two times. Prince Gobron traced a cross on his brow with blood and said, "I thank Thee, Lord Jesus Christ, that Thou hast accounted me, the most contemptible and chief among sinners, worthy to lay down my life for Thy sake!" Again, they brought Saint Gobron before the emir. For the last time Abu al-Qasim tried to entice him to apostatize, but the saint, dripping with blood, declared, "Do as you wish. I am a Christian and will never retreat from the name of my Christ!" Having lost all patience, Abu al-Qasim ordered that Saint Gobron's head be chopped off and thrown in with the other mutilated bodies. Then they dug three large holes, tossed in the relics of the martyrs, refilled the holes with earth, and forbade all Christians to approach that place. At night the graves shone with a divine light visible to believers and unbelievers alike. For laying down their lives for Christ, the valorous prince Michael-Gobron and the 133 martyrs were numbered among the saints by the Georgian Apostolic Church. The day of their commemoration was designated as November 17, the day of their martyrdom.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 16th of November

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 17th of November

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Wednesday 20th of November

Great Vespers at 6 pm

Thursday 21st of November

Entrance of the Theotokos

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Saturday 23rd of November

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 24th of November

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Julia Pawelko talk after coffee hour

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitors Welcome

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Everyone is welcome to visit and worship with us. Following Divine Liturgy, please join us for light refreshment in the church hall.

Thank you

Matushka Mihaela and Father Michael would like to thank all those who participated at St. Michael's Day Slava in their home. Thank you for making our special day even more special with your presence.

40th Day Panikhida

Before Vespers on Saturday 9th of November, there was a Panikhida for +Archpriest Joseph Chupeck. On Sunday, 10th of November, following the Divine Liturgy, Matushka Ellen Chupeck hosted the Coffee Social. Thank you Matushka Ellen and Memory Eternal Archpriest Joseph Chupeck.

Christmas Fast

The Christmas Fast began on November 15th. Please refrain from using any animal products until Christmas. We are also called to fast from sin, gossip, jealousy, anger and from other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Spiritual Talk

Julia Pawelko is giving a talk on Practices of Orthodoxy: The meaning, the reason and purpose of the Baptismal Name. This talk will take place on Sunday, November 24th after coffee hour. Please consider attending.

Spirit of Orthodoxy Christmas Concert

The Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir will have its concert on Friday December 13th, 2024, at 7:30 pm in our Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for outreach so please, invite your friends and family. The official flyer and more information is coming soon. This is the first time that we are hosting such a wonderful event, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Clothing Bin

Please continue to use the clothing bin located in the church parking lot. Each donation supports the church financially and your participation is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

Sussex Help Center Announcement

Recently Dan Taylor had a meeting with the Sussex Help Center Food Pantry. Their requests are for soups or stews and items for school lunches for children. This is an ongoing HSOC outreach program and thank you for your support and contributions.

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com.