



His Eminence, the Most Reverend

+ **MARK**

*Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
Orthodox Church in America*

November 12, 2025
Saint John the Merciful

V. Rev. Aleksey Paranyuk
131 N. Willow Street
Mount Carmel, PA 17851

Dear Archpriest Aleksey, Matushka Natalia, and the faithful of St. Michael's Church,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to me during my Archpastoral Visit from November 7–9, 2025, for the celebration of your patronal feastday of the Holy Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers. It was a joy to be with you once again and to join in prayer and fellowship with your community.

The liturgical services were beautiful, and I was deeply moved by the devotion and reverence of all who participated. I especially liked the parish's honoring of its veterans and altar servers, a fitting expression of gratitude and love that reflects the spirit of your parish family. It was also wonderful to see some new people and families; may it be blessed! I am especially thankful to you, Father Aleksey and Matushka Natalia, for your kind hospitality and the delightful dinner on Friday evening. Your warmth and generosity made the beginning of the visit especially joyful.

Please convey my gratitude to Joseph and Sandra Tosca and the Parish Council, to those who prepared and served the festive meals, and to all who labored to make the weekend such a joyous occasion. The love and dedication of your parish family are truly evident in every aspect of your life together.

May our Lord continue to bless you. May He look down from Heaven, visit and establish this Vine which He has planted with His own right hand.

With archpastoral love and gratitude in Christ,

+MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

CC: V. Rev. Raymond Browne, Chancellor
V. Rev. Timothy E. Hojnicky, Vice-Chancellor