

St. Mary's Orthodox Church
217 First Street, Coaldale Pa 18218

Phone: 570-645-2772

OUR WEBSITE: www.stmarysnativity.org

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic

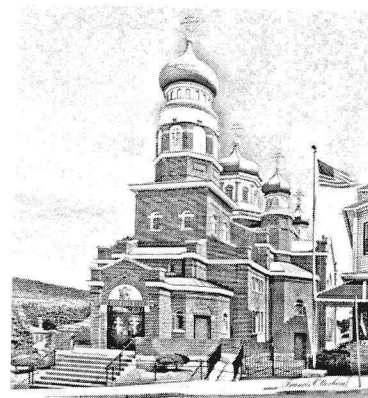
Retired Attached: V. Rev. Paul Ropitsky

President: Dr. Ronald Berezniak

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Reader Hours: Edward Pierson

Reader Epistle: Michael Ropitsky



SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE
Beginning of the Lenten Triodion. Forefeast of the Meeting.

Please call Fr. James Weremedic at (570) 427- 3686 for emergencies!

Please call (570) 764-4323 for non-emergencies.

Please do not call the rectory phone # at this time!
At the request of Archbishop Mark, the rectory is currently
being used by his new administrated Secretary and family.

We welcome all our visitors today! We want to let you know that we are so glad you came to pray with us. Please come again; join us after the Divine Liturgy in the parish hall for fellowship. If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our parish family. **Only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through strict Fasting on the morning of the Liturgy, recent Confession and at peace with each other may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.**

Saturday, January 31 4:00 PM: No Vespers

Sunday, February 1 9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy (**Publican & Pharisee**), Church School, Fellowship

Monday, February 2 9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy (**Meeting of the Lord in the Temple**) Blessing of Candles

Saturday, February 7 4:00 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, February 8 9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy (**Prodigal Son Sunday**), Church School, Fellowship

Saturday, February 14 4:00 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, February 15 9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy (**Last Judgment**), Church School, Fellowship

Saturday, February 21 4:00 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, February 22 9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy, (Forgiveness Vespers) **Cheese-Fare Sunday**,
(**Forgiveness Sunday**) Church School, Fellowship

Prayer List*: Fr. James Weremedic

Robert Boguski, Bob Brunda, Jeanne Cannon, Todd Cleary, Julia Forte, Nancy King, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy Macenka, Paul Macenka, Olga Martsyniv, Dave Mazaika, Tom McCarthy, Ron Pierce, Millie O'Shura, Melissa Schmitt, Olga Sidoriak, Jolie Skelton, Amanda Skripnek, SD James Weremedic, Jr.

* Names will cycle off approximately every 30 days. You may request to have your name or the name of a loved one placed back on the list at any time by contacting Fr. James directly.

Candles (January 25)

7/Day: In memory of **Colleen Agosti** offered by Russell & Geri King

Altar Candles: In memory of **Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Eternal Lamp: In memory of **Stephen W. Hood** offered by Russell & Geri King

7/Day Tetrapod : In memory of **Deceased Members Wyshosky Family** offered by Julia Forte

Vigil Crosses: In memory of **Michael & Helen Bogosh, Harry & Kathleen Harahush** offered by Terri & David Bogosh

February Birthdays: 1- Michael Kulick, Shannon Gradwell, 3- Michael Tatusko, Charlotte Gauronsky, 6- Barbara Faenza, 7- Ira James, 9- Wendy Kulick, 15- Claire Remington, 16- Emma Fidler, 17-Eric Maher, Kimberly Gauronsky, 22- Peter Harahus

If you have any Redner receipts, please call or get them to Helen King.

Please use your Boyer's card when shopping at Boyers; if you need one call Helen King.

Financials Christmas 1/25/2026: Envelopes \$, Building \$, Altar Candles \$, Candles \$, Donations \$, FUEL \$.

How much is my tithe?!

Weekly Income	10%	5%	4%	2%
\$200	\$20	\$10	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$10
\$750	\$75	\$38	\$30	\$15
\$1,000	\$100	\$50	\$40	\$20
\$1,500	\$150	\$75	\$60	\$30
\$2,000	\$200	\$100	\$80	\$40

We are not required to bring a tenth of our income to the Church; we can bring twenty, thirty, or even one-hundred percent, as did the poor widow (*Mark 12:42-43*). But we can start with a small step. We can at least bring as much as the Old Testament Hebrews, at least the ten percent that rightly belongs to God and not us. But if we don't have as much zeal for the temple of God as the Old Testament people had, then the Lord will accept and bless even seven or five percent or any other amount offered with a pure heart. **We must begin somewhere!**

On Tithing | A Russian Orthodox Church Website
(pravmir.com)

Date	Hours	Epistle	Fellowship Hour
February 8	Curtis Wetzell	Chad Snyder	OPEN
February 15	Chad Snyder	Edward Pierson	Meatfare Sunday
February 22	Mat. Lisa	Michael Ropitsky	Forgiveness Sunday
March 1	Gloria Bench	Chad Snyder	John Evetushick

If anyone is in need of a priest: Please call Fr. James Weremedic at (570) 427-3686.

Please do not call the rectory at this time!

If anyone is in need of a priest.

Please call Fr. James Weremedic at (570) 427-3686 or (570) 764-4323.

Please do not call the rectory at this time!

For urgent priestly needs.

Please note the new phone 570-427-3686 and update in your contacts.

February 1, 2026 SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE
Beginning of the Lenten Triodion. Forefeast of the Meeting.

Matthew 28:16-20 (1st Matins Gospel)

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, // Who grants us the Resurrection!

Tone 1 Kontakion

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb and blessed Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now You have come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, // O only Lover of Man!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
V. For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for behold, all generations will call me blessed.

2 Timothy 3:10-15 (Epistle)

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra - what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Tone 8 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

V. Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation!

V. A Light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

Luke 18:10-14 (Gospel)

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’

And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Introduction - Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee













The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy Saturday.

To understand the meaning of the "Liturgy of the Publican and Pharisee," consider these key points:

- It is a parable from the Gospel of Luke (18:9-14) illustrating humility and repentance.
- The Publican (tax collector) represents a sinner who acknowledges his faults and seeks mercy.
- The Pharisee symbolizes self-righteousness and pride, boasting about his good deeds.
- The story emphasizes that true righteousness comes from humility, not self-exaltation.
- It serves as a reminder to approach God with a contrite heart rather than a sense of entitlement.
- The liturgical context marks the beginning of the Lenten season in the Orthodox Church, focusing on repentance.

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2026

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 1st	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 8th	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 15th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 22nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 1st	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 8th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 15th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 22nd	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent MARCH 29th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 5th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 10th	 <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 12th NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!