

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 23, 2025

Reader Hours: Edward Pierson
Reader Epistle: Michael Ropitsky



SUNDAY OF MEATFARE Tone 2. Sunday of the Last Judgment.

Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. Ven. Polycarp of Briansk. Ven. John, Antiochus, Antoninus, Moses, Zebinas, Polychronius, Moses, and Damian, Ascetics, of the Syrian deserts. Ven. Alexander, founder of the Monastery of the "Unsleeping Ones". Ven. Damian of Esphigmenou. Monastic Martyr Damian of Philotheou. St. Gorgonia, Sister of St. Gregory the Theologian.

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.**

SERVICES:

Saturday, February 22 9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy, Parastas:
John & Anna Bogosh by the family. Michael Harahus by Julia McHugh. Joseph Devine by Fr. James & Mat. Lisa.
Mark Gundersen by Mat. Lisa. Martha Stafiniak by the family.

Saturday, February 22 4:00 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, February 23 9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy, Church School, Fellowship (**Last Judgement-Meatfare**)

Saturday, March 1 4:00 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, March 2 9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy, **Vespers of Forgiveness**
Fellowship, Church School, **Cheesefare (Forgiveness Sunday)**

Monday, March 3 5:00 PM: Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and Confessions

Tuesday, March 4 5:00 PM: Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and Confessions

Wednesday, March 5 5:00 PM: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts (Fast from Noon)

Thursday, March 6 5:00 PM: Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and Confessions

Friday, March 7 5:00 PM: Vespers of St. Theodore the Recruit, Confessions

Prayer List*: Prayer List*: Archpriest Thomas & Mat. Evelyn Edwards, Mat. Lisa Robert Boguski, Jeanne Cannon, Stephanie Chmel, Kaitlyn & Shannon Dmytrow, Anna Eltgroth, Julia Forte, Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy Macenka, Paul Macenka, Olga Martsyniv, Dave Mazaika, Tom McCarthy, Ron Pierce, Odess Remington, Millie O'Shura, Melissa Schmitt, Olga Sidoriak, Jolie Skelton, Amanda Skripnek, Daniel Skripnek, Peter Weremedic

Prayer for Women and the Children to be Born of Them: Mena Maher.

* 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.

Camp registration is Open

The Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania looks forward to St. Tikhon's Summer Camp, scheduled for June 29-July 5, 2025, with registration opened on Friday, February 14, 2025.

Whereas in year's past registration was open for months, it will likely close in days. We need you to register our youths to be campers. We need to have staff and volunteer registrations, too. We cannot do this without our staff and volunteers! Regardless of your parish sending campers, they can still help in many other ways. DANIEL PECK welcomes volunteers. Helping with food preparation helps our other volunteers to be with the youth for other activities and builds relationships. Some parishes are choosing to donate prepared foods. Thank you. DANIEL PECK AND DIMITRI RESSATAR are on point to receive help in this manner!

If anyone is in need of a priest, please call Fr. James Weremedic at 570-645-2772.

Visitation of the Sick and Infirm: If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Fr. James at the Rectory. Emergency Calls: Please call the Rectory (570-645-2772) anytime (day or night) in an emergency.

Candles (February 23)

7-day Vigils-Altar: In memory of **Louise Schneider** offered by Terri Bogosh

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

Eternal Lamp: In memory of **Nicholas King, Jr.** offered by Russell King

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod: In memory of **Anna Scarloss** offered by Stephanie Chmel

Vigil Crosses: In memory of **Martha Stafiniak** offered by the Stafiniak family

February Birthdays: 1- Michael Kulick, 3- Michael Tatusko, 6- Barbara Faenza, 7- Ira James, 9- Wendy Kulick, 15- Claire Remington

March Birthdays: 1- Logan Leatherman, 6- Marie Kalavritinos, 7- Clarissa Buchanan, 14- Mary Hertzog, 21- Mildred O'Shura, 24- Olga Sidoriak,

Financials 2/16/2025: Operating Acct: Envelopes \$200, Non-envelope \$41, Candles \$22, Holy Day \$5, Donations \$2,010

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.

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

2/23 Russel King

3/2 Berezniak

3/9 Helen King

3/16 OPEN

3/23 Michael Tatusko

3/30 Berezniak

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 \(pravmir.com\)](#)

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

February 23, 2025

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE Tone 2. Sunday of the Last Judgment.

Mark 16:1-8 (12th Matins Gospel)

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead. And when from the depths You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: // "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

Tone 2 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble, and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat; the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, / His understanding is beyond measure. (Ps. 146:5)

V. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God! (Ps. 146:1)

Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (Epistle)

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps. 94:1)

V. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise. (Ps. 94:2)

Matthew 25:31-46 (Gospel)

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

The parable of the Last Judgment reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life.

At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, "Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed. As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/02/23/5-sunday-of-meatfare-of-the-last-judgment>