

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, March 15, 2026

Reader Hours: Curtis Wetzel
Reader Epistle: Mike Ropitsky



3rd Sunday of Great Lent Veneration of Precious Cross

Please call Fr. James Weremedic at (570) 427- 3686 for emergencies!
Please call (570) 764-4323 for non-emergencies.

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:

Sunday, March 15	9:30 AM: Liturgy of St. Basil & Fellowship (Veneration of Precious Cross)
Wednesday, March 18	5:00 PM: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts (Fast from Noon)
Friday, March 20	5:00 PM: Little Compline with the Akathist Canon, Confessions.
Saturday, March 21	4:30 PM: Parastas-Alexis Gancasz offered by Jeanne & John Cannon
Saturday, March 21	5:00 PM: Great Vespers, and Confessions
Sunday, March 22	9:30 AM: Liturgy of St. Basil & Fellowship (St. John Climacus of the Ladder)
Wednesday, March 25	5:00 PM: Vesperal Liturgy, The Annunciation of Holy Theotokos
Thursday, March 26	5:00 PM: Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and the life of St. Mary of Egypt
Friday, April March 27	5:00 PM: Little Compline with the Akathist Canon, Confessions
Saturday, March 28	5:00 PM: Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, March 29	9:30 AM: Liturgy of St. Basil, Archbishop Mark , Fellowship (St. Mary of Egypt)

Prayer List*:

Robert Boguski, Bob Brunda, Jeanne Cannon, Todd Cleary, William Evetushick, 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, Altheia Rosahac Shellock, 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 March 15

7/Day Vigils-Altar: In memory of **Stehpania Chmel** offered by Edward Pierson

Altar Candles: In memory of **Nancy Lorchak** offered by Edward Pierson

Eternal Lamp: In memory of **Frank Forte** offered by Julia Forte

7/Day Tetrapod: In memory of **Julia Harahus** offered by Russell & Geri King

March Birthdays: 1- Logan Leatherman, 3- Charlotte Gauronsky, 6- Marie Kalavritinos, 7- Clarissa Buchanan, 14- Mary Hertzog, 18- Kerry Freedman, 19- Shannon Golob, 20- Mary Louise Gauronsky, 21- Mildred O'Shura, 24- Olga Sidoriak,

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 3/8/2026: Envelopes \$1,018, Non-Envelope \$35, Altar Candles \$50, Candles \$86, Donations \$ 2,080, F.U.E.L. \$25, Building \$205, H.E.L.P. \$45 Holy Day 3

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
March 15	Curtis Wetzal	Michael Ropitsky	Mary Louise Gauronsky
March 22	Mat. Lisa	Edward Pierson	Berezniak
March 29	Gloria Bench	Michael Ropitsky	Kim Gauronsky

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

For non-urgent calls, please call the rectory at (570) 764-4323

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For urgent priestly needs.

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

March 15, 2026 3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

John 20:1-10 (7th Matins Gospel)

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Your Cross You destroyed death. To the thief You opened Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy. And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion of the Cross

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Your Cross, // preserve Your habitation!

Tone 7 Kontakion (Cross)

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell: // "Enter again into Paradise!"

(Instead of the Trisagion, we sing:)

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy Resurrection we glorify.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Cross)

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!

V. To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Hebrews 4:14-5:6 (Epistle)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek";

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!

V. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."