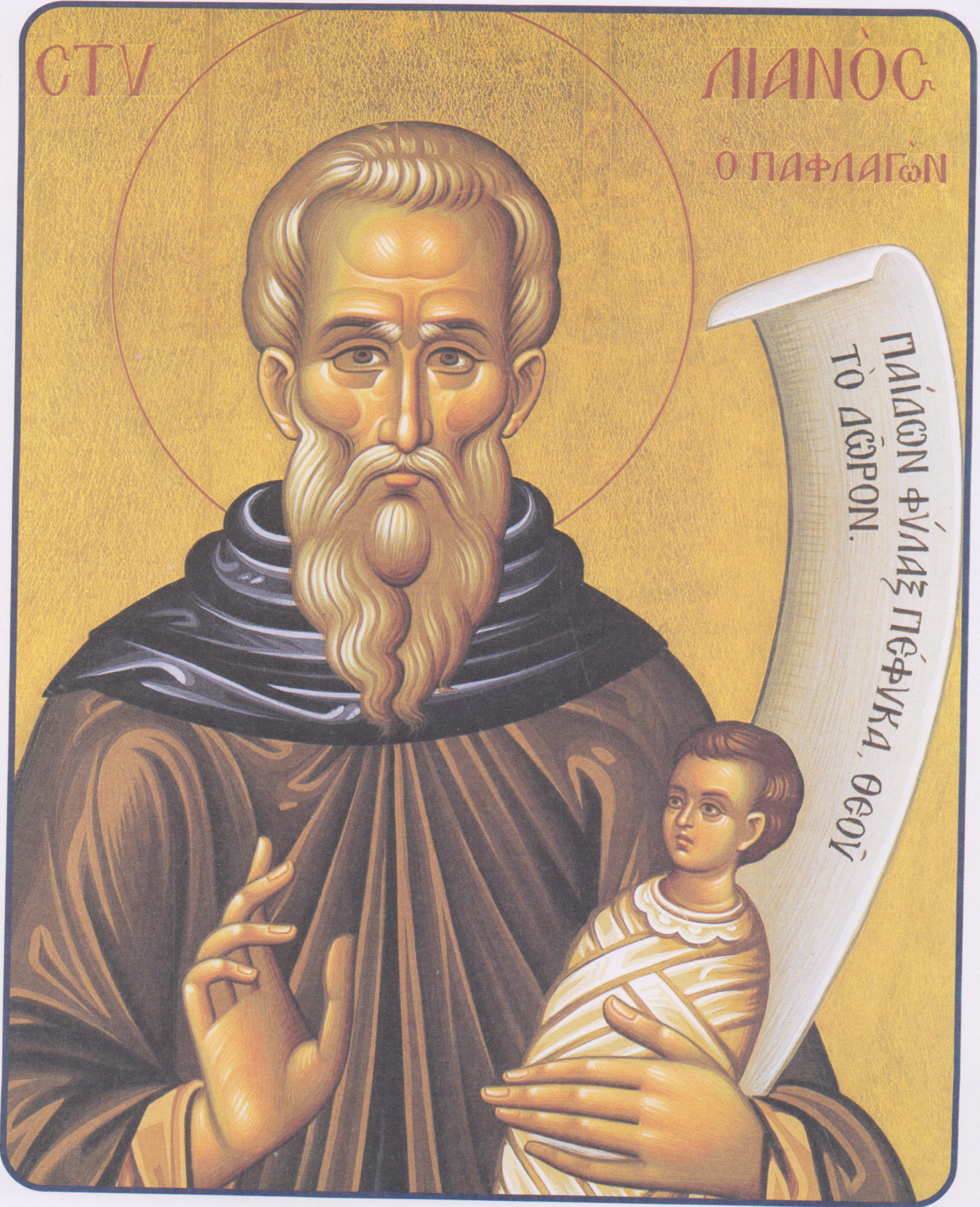


CTV

ΛΙΑΝΟΣ

Ο ΠΑΦΛΑΓΩΝ



ΠΑΙΔΩΝ ΦΥΛΙΑΣ ΠΕΦΥΚΑ, ΘΕΟΥ
ΤΟ ΔΩΡΟΝ.

"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME UNTO ME . . ."

S AINT STYLIANUS was born in Pamphlagonia in Asia Minor sometime between the 4th and 6th centuries. Like many of the early saints, Stylianus inherited a great fortune when his parents died. He could have lived out his life in luxury, never wanting for anything. Instead, he chose to give everything away so that he could "take up his cross" and follow the Lord. Stylianus left the city to live in a monastery, where he zealously practiced the ascetic virtues. When the other monks became jealous of his pious life, Stylianus left the community and went to live in a wilderness cave, constantly spending his days in prayer and fasting.

Word soon spread of the exemplary life that Stylianus was living. Many inhabitants of his home town of Pamphlagonia would come to hear his teachings and seek his wise counsel. It is said that his healing prayers were powerful, and many people were cured of their illnesses through his prayers.

St. Stylianus was known to strongly care for children. It seemed that his healing prayers were most successful when sickly children were brought to him. When St. Stylianus died, his face shone radiantly, and an angel appeared to take his soul to heaven. Even after his death, many parents continued to pray to him to intercede in behalf of their little ones. When a child became ill, it was quite common for parents to have an icon of St. Stylianus painted and hung over the child's bed.

St. Stylianus is remembered as a protector of children and a patron saint to childless women. This is the reason he is depicted holding a child.

St. Mary's Orthodox Church
217 First Street – Coaldale Pa 18218-1602
Phone.....570-645-2772
OUR WEBSITE...www.stmarysnativity.org

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic
Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky
Reader Hours: Edward Pierson

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Choir Director: Wash King
Reader Epistle: Michael Ropitsky

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 8. The Righteous Gideon.
Ven. Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis Ven. James the Solitary of Syria.

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

You descended from on high, O Merciful One! You accepted the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 8 Kontakion (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.
Eve exults in Your Resurrection, // and the world celebrates
Your rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

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 properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.

SERVICES:

Sunday, Nov. 26	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Church School & Fellowship
Saturday, Dec. 2	4:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Dec. 3	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Church School & Fellowship
Tuesday, Dec. 5	4:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Wednesday, Dec. 6	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas, the Wonderworker
Saturday, Dec. 9	4:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Dec. 10	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Church School & Fellowship

Prayer List*:

Fr. Michael Evans, Fr. James Weremedic, Sbdn. James Weremedic
Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy & Joseph Macenka, Anna Pierson, Melissa Schmitt, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Elizabeth Warcholak, Victoria Weremedic, Marie Yurchak

* 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.

On December 24, 2023, we will have our first parish 'Holy Supper' in our church hall with traditional strict fasting foods. Celebrating as a family of St. Mary's is important to prepare for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!

A great big "Thank You" to everyone who prepared, served, cleaned up and attended the 'Thanksgiving Molebin' and the 'Thanksgiving Meal.' There were 42 meals this year.

If anyone is in need of a priest, please call Father 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 (November 26)

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Mat. Lovey Ropitsky** offered by Father Paul & Michael Ropitsky
Altar Candles... In memory of **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & MaryJo Danchak
7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory of **Andrew, Mary Bybel & family** offered by family members
Decorated Candles... In memory of **William & Helen Evetushick** offered by Evetushick Family
Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & MaryJo Danchak

November Birthdays: 1- Nicholas Teno, Jr., 2- Justin Babinetz, 4- Lena Marie Berezniak, 11- Nancy King, 17- Irene Puschak, Victoria Weremedic, 18- Amelia Buchanan, 26- Barbara Birosik, Helen King, 27- Chris King, Walter Rosahac

December Birthdays: 3- Izrael Bracero, 9- Odess Remington, 11- Stephanie Chmel, 16- James Weremedic, Jr., 18- Kathryn Jupin, 19- Ixsaviar Bracero, 22- Karoline Vavra, 28- Sophie James

November Anniversaries: 13- Walter & Louise Rosahac, 14- Simon & Mary Herbert

Financials 11/19/2023: **Operating Acct:** Weekly Envelopes \$775, Non-envelope \$153, Holy Day \$225, Altar Candles \$10, Candles \$70, Donation \$650

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

November 19 Russell King November 26 Helen King December 3 John Evetushick
December 10 Michael Tutusko December 17 OPEN

St. Mary's Youth Group

St. Mary's youth group will be collecting items to deliver to our shut-ins during the month of December. A collection bin is located in the back of the church. If you are unable to shop and wish to make a monetary donation, please see Barbara Birosik or Mat. Lisa. They will take a child shopping for the items of your choice. Suggested items include:

neck pillows	baby wipes	all occasion card	flashlights
lap blankets	hand cream	note cards	thick pens
slipper socks	tissues	puzzle books	stamps
gloves	hand sanitizer	adult coloring books	grocery gift cards

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8.

The Righteous Gideon. Ven. Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis (7th c.).
Dedication of the Church of the Greatmartyr George at Kiev (1051-54).
Repose of St. Innocent, first Bishop of Irkutsk (1731).
Ven. James the Solitary of Syria (457).

Ephesians 4:1-6 (Epistle)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, **beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Silent Prayer before the Gospel:

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings.

Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee.

For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Luke 13:10-17 (Gospel)

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.

But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound - think of it - for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

We are called by God to Change

Food and drink were intended for nourishment and enjoyment. Passion transforms the natural acts of eating and drinking into gluttony and dissipation.

The theme of repentance is heard so often during Great Lent because it expresses the essential conviction of our Christian faith that the human person is called by God to change. This involves above all a struggle (podvig) against what the Holy Fathers term the "passions". These include our basic inclinations as well as thoughts and feelings which drive a wedge between ourselves and God, between ourselves and other persons. The passions are not sinful in and of themselves. They are the product of "fallen" or corrupted nature, and as such they incite to sin. Here are a few examples:

- Sexuality was intended for our participation through intimate conjugal union in God's work of creating human persons in His image and likeness. Passion transforms sexuality into "sex," meaning the self-centered drive to satisfy lust.
- An innate longing for God characterizes human nature as it was intended to be. Passion transforms that longing into idolatry, and insatiable desire to worship, serve, and manipulate gods of our own making.
- Passion turns righteous indignation into anger and condemnation.
- Passion turns the desire for participation in the glory of God into "vainglory," the need to please others and receive their praise.
- Passion distorts a commitment to truth and justice into expressions of anger and a thirst for vengeance.

Our Church, however, not only takes seriously the consequences of the Fall, she offers an antidote: God's saving plan for healing and transformation. Applying this antidote constitutes the "program" of Great Lent. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann often used to say that Lent is simply the return to the natural order of things. We begin by acknowledging our need for thoroughgoing change. Then we take significant steps to effect such a change. Here are some of them:

- Reading the Holy Scriptures and spiritual teachings to first learn and then begin to obey the commandments of Christ.
- Praying, fasting, and giving alms that we may first see and then transcend our self-centeredness.
- Joining confession of sins and receiving the Eucharist to an ardent quest for mutual forgiveness and a genuine reconciliation and union with God and our fellow human beings.

What is the source of this transformation? The Grace and power of the Holy Spirit. God alone can save us; we can't save ourselves. Nevertheless, there is an essential "synergy" or cooperation between ourselves and God. The goal is holiness. Only as we ourselves grow in it can we influence other people, even social structures and institutions.

It is holiness as divine energy or power that brings about change in ourselves and the world around us.

Adapted from a talk given by Fr. John Breck, and reprinted from the [St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church website](#).