



**HOLY COMMUNION**

† COME FORWARD WITH FAITH AND LOVE! †

**W**hile the Church is a spiritual institution, it still must exist in a material world filled with contemporary problems. In recent years, concern over the spreading of the dreaded COVID virus has had a profound affect on one of the Church's most sacred of liturgical practices: the reception of Holy Communion. An alarming number of Orthodox Christians may question the "health risk" involved with the reception of the Eucharist. Others have called for changes in the method of distributing Holy Communion to the faithful, so that receiving the Sacrament will be "safer."

In examining this important issue, we must begin by stating our belief that the Holy Eucharist is the **BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**. We cannot explain **HOW** bread and wine takes this form during the Divine Liturgy. We simply believe that it **DOES**. In His public ministry, our Lord often spoke of **EATING THE FLESH** and **DRINKING THE BLOOD** of the Son of Man. He was quick to point out to His followers that those who obeyed this command would find eternal life. He further taught that this was the means of being united with Him. "**HE WHO EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS BY BLOOD ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM.**" (John 6:56)

The reception of Holy Communion, therefore, is completely a **MATTER OF FAITH**. If we truly believe Christ's words, how could we think for a moment that our Saviour would put us at risk by doing something so vital to our salvation? Do we not pray each time we approach the chalice that the partaking of this Mystery is for the **HEALING OF OUR BODY AND SOUL**?

No harm will **EVER** come to us from this most intimate contact with our Lord. Continue to **COME FORWARD WITH FAITH AND LOVE!**

**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: Matushka Lisa

**Sunday, November 5, 2023**  
Choir Director: Wash King  
Reader Epistle: Edward Pierson

**22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 4 Martyr Galacteon and his wife, Epistemis**

**Tone 5 Troparion (Resurrection)**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

**Tone 1 Troparion (Martyrs)**

Let us the faithful honor these two betrothed athletes: Galacteon and modest Epistemis. Their ascetic labors blossomed into martyrdom, Therefore we cry to them: “Glory to Him Who has strengthened you! Glory to Him Who has ^crowned you! // Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!”

**Tone 5 Kontakion (Resurrection)**

You descended into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

**Tone 2 Kontakion (Martyrs)**

You are numbered among the hosts of martyrs for you were illustrious in mighty contests. Galacteon, together with Epistemis, your faithful wife and companion in struggle, // unceasingly intercede to the one God for us all!

**SERVICES:**

Sunday, Nov. 5	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Church School & Fellowship
Saturday Nov. 11	3:30 PM – Parastas, Mary Harahush, Alfred Birosik, Nicholas Teno, Jenny Jupin
Saturday Nov. 11	4:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
<b>Sunday, November 12 – Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy – 3<sup>rd</sup> Announcement!</b>	
Saturday Nov. 18	4:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Nov. 19	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Church School & Fellowship
Thursday, Nov.23	11:00 AM – Molieben of Thanksgiving; Noon Thanksgiving Meal
Saturday, Nov 25	4:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Nov. 26	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Church School & Fellowship

On November 23, 2023, we will give ‘Thanks to God’ with a molieben at 11:00 am and a free Thanksgiving Meal for parishioners of St. Mary’s at noon. Donations are welcome. Please sign-up for an accurate head count. Eat in only. Shut-In meals are available.

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!

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.

**Prayer List\*:**

Fr. Michael Evans, Fr. James Weremedic, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Sbdn. James Weremedic Elizabeth Brennan, 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.

**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 5)**

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Mary & Andrew Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh

Altar Candles... In memory of **Matushka Irene Borick** offered by Julia Forte

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Helen (King) Vavra** offered by Gary Harahuess

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory **Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & MaryJo Danchak

Decorated Candles... In memory of **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh

Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel** offered by family members

**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

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

**Financials 10/29/2023: Operating Acct:** Weekly Envelopes \$641, Candles \$55, Donation \$305, Building Fund \$16

**Fellowship Hour Hosts:**

November 5 John Evetushick    November 12 OPEN    November 19 Russell King

**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

**22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5.** Martyrs Galaction and his wife, Epistemis, at Emesa (3rd c.). Repose of St. Jonah, Archbishop of Novgorod (1470). Apostles Patrobus, Hermes, Linus, Gaius, and Philologus, of the Seventy (1st c.). St. Gregory, Archbishop of Alexandria (9th c.).

*Galatians 6:11-17 (Epistle)*

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. **And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.**

*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 8:41-56 (Gospel)*

And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.

And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."

Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher."

But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead.

But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

## **Stewards Sunday: OCA Office of Pastoral Life**

SPRINGFIELD, VA [OCA]

The clergy in the Orthodox Church in America have unique needs and demands borne from their calling. The OCA's Office of Pastoral Life (OPL) strives to support clergy and their families so that they — in turn, may serve others.

The Office of Pastoral Life's current portfolio of programs to promote clergy health — spiritual, emotional, and physical — consists of four initiatives:

### **Thriving in Ministry**

The Thriving in Ministry (TiM) peer learning program is designed for clergy and clergy wives. Small groups of clergy or clergy wives come together with trained facilitators to break the cycle of isolation, cultivate parish ministry skills, provide mutual support, and foster lasting friendships. TiM recently secured a new five-year sustainability grant from the Lilly Endowment to further enhance the program's growth. This grant, combined with matching funds from the Church, will provide substantial support for the program's ongoing initiatives aimed at nurturing and sustaining the well-being of clergy and clergy wives.

### **Quarterly Synaxis**

The Synaxis Program holds quarterly, two-hour Zoom meetings that bring together our bishops, priests, and deacons with engaging speakers followed by open and honest peer interactions within small breakout rooms. Examples of Synaxis topics explored include preaching, confession, stress management, burnout prevention, and the pursuit of joy in ministry.

### **Clergy Wives**

The Clergy Wives Advisory Group (CWAG) provides relevant, spiritually-nourishing and feedback-based programs to connect, encourage, and support clergy wives of the Orthodox Church in America to champion their gifts in serving the Orthodox Church. Projects and activities to support our OCA clergy wives include, retreats, newsletters, and prayer lists and cards.

### **National Clergy Retreat**

A few weeks ago in October 2023, The Office of Pastoral Life hosted its first in-person National Clergy Retreat in Mundelein, IL. Prior to this event, the most recent national OCA clergy retreat was held 19 years ago. More than 120 bishops and priests participated in this opportunity to nurture spiritual brotherhood with a theme around The Prayer of the Heart. Clergy enjoyed shared meals, morning and evening prayer, and engaging education sessions. Participation in the National Clergy Retreat enables clergy to grow as priests, husbands, fathers, and devoted servants of Christ. The Office of Pastoral Life intends to offer this program every three years.

### **Quality Clergy Care is Critical**

We are grateful for those who support the wider work of the Orthodox Church of America, which includes the Office of Pastoral Life each year on Stewards Sunday.

Our programs offer opportunities for clergy and their families to combat isolation, cultivate new relationships, and rekindle existing relationships. This essential work would be impossible without financial support. Your offering of treasure enables us to continue the work of the church and provide excellent pastoral care to our clergy and their families. Please consider giving generously as we continue the work of the Church in these lands!

—Archpriest Nicholas Solak, Director of the OCA Office of Pastoral Life