

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
Choir Director: Wash King

Sunday, September 13, 2020
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

At this time, we are utilizing up to 50% capacity in the church, so the first 75 people who arrive at the church to attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday will be permitted to attend the service. At the candle stand will be a sign-in sheet that you must sign so we know who is attending the service. There is no pressure or expectation to attend services during this period of COVID-19. Remember to wear a mask and practice social distancing of six feet except for immediate family members. These procedures and guidelines are in effect not only to protect ourselves but also to protect one another. It is essential that we know who is attending the Divine Liturgy in the event that a "notice of infection" is requested and contact tracing becomes necessary.

Some points to remember:

Please have the usher write down your name and phone # on the attendance sheet as soon as you enter the church. Your temperature will be taken.

Please follow the directions of the usher on lighting candles.

Please expect assigned seating to ensure proper social distancing.

Icons can be venerated by blessing yourself with the sign of the cross and bowing without physical contact (no kissing or touching the icons)

Please follow the instructions of the Priest on how to receive Communion.

Antidoron will not be distributed at this time.

Please remember to wear a mask and bring your own Divine Liturgy Book.

Liturgical Services have started, although with 'preventative measures'! Please see May 31, 2020 bulletin for the full procedures. We are blessed to have the services with restrictions and we pray for the time that these conditions are no longer necessary!

Sun...September 13...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Celebrating Exaltation of the Precious Cross) ...

Sat...September 19...4:00 PM – VESPERS – in church hall – must wear a mask

Sun...September 20...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Sat...September 26...4:00 PM – VESPERS – in church hall – must wear a mask

NEXT Parastas is scheduled for September 27, 2020

Prayer List: HEAVENLY FATHER ... Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent your only begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit us and heal us, Your servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments through the grace of Your Son Jesus Christ; grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body and spirit, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your word to pray for each other that we may be healed. Youaika are the source of healing and to You, we give glory; to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Michael Birocik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Jane Bubernak, Cecil Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Edward Conarty, Irene David, Ilene Devine, Gloria Ferri, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, Peter Holoviak, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Alexandra Miller, Courtney Miller, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Helen Suda, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Richard York.

September Birthdays: 14- Matushka Lisa Weremedic, 14- Olga Hebda (100), 18- Adam Balliet, 20- Joseph Macenka (97), 30- Eleanor Sidoriak

September Wedding Anniversaries: 1- John & Olga Kushnir, 17-John & Ann Yaroma, 20- Michael & Wendy Kulick, 27- Andrew & Analisha Danko

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.

Financials 9/1-6/20 *Operating Acct:* - Candles 54 – Weekly 567 – Non-Env 150 – Holy Days 90 – Altar Candles 90 – Donations 1,325 = Total \$2,276.00 Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Building Fund 21 – Flower Fund 100 – Cemetery Fund 20 - Thank you!

Please support St. Mary's Orthodox Church by shopping at Amazon Smile
When you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon will make a donation to St. Mary's Orthodox Church.
See St. Mary's Facebook page for details.

=====

Candles (September 13):

Flowers in Vases...For the health of Olga Hebda – for 100 years offered by St. Mary's
7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the health of All Shut-ins offered by the Good Samaritans
Altar Candles... For the health of Aunt Olga Hebda offered by Raymond & MaryJo Danchak
Eternal Lamp... In memory of Mother, Mary Lutash offered by Raymond & MaryJo Danchak
Vigil Crosses ... In memory of Joseph P. Kupetz, Jr. offered by Mike & Susan Lukac
7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In memory of Michael Fedora offered by Olga Hebda
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod...In memory of Theodore Scarloss offered by Natalie & Michael Bolinski
Flowers around Cross...In memory of sisters, Helen Butts & Mary Lutash offered by Olga Hebda

If you do not feel comfortable coming to church yet, you may continue to watch On-line Services:
Go to the Diocese of Eastern PA website at the bottom of our church website.
At the top of the page – Click on Live Streaming – Scroll down to church services

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church – Mogadore, OH – You Tube
Services every day of the week – Mon. to Fri. at 9:00 PM
Saturday Vespers – 5:00 PM; Sunday Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

=====

TODAY THE CROSS IS EXALTED

“These words capture the mood that surrounds our observance of the Feast Day of the ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. We venerate this precious Christian relic, for mankind truly is sanctified by virtue of our Lord's Crucifixion upon it.

Church historians generally agree that two distinct events brought about the institution of this blessed holy day: the finding of the Cross of our Lord by St. Helen in the 4th century and its return from Persian captivity to Jerusalem in the 7th century. It is a pious tradition of our Church that St. Helen, mother of the Emperor Constantine, did not know exactly where on Golgotha to look for Christ's Cross, since it had been buried for nearly 300 years. As she searched the hillside, St. Helen came across a sweet-smelling plant and decided to dig in that area. It was there that she found the life-giving Cross of the Savior! This plant was given the name 'Basil,' which means 'the plant of the King.'

During the consecration of the Church of the Resurrection of our Lord in Jerusalem in 335 A.D., it is said that the Patriarch ELEVATED the Cross for all the faithful to see. Those present fell to their knees and prayed repeatedly: LORD HAVE MERCY! This ritual is still practiced today in Orthodox Churches throughout the world.

The Cross was taken away from Jerusalem by Persian invaders in 614 A.D. Fourteen years later, the Emperor Heraclius won a great victory over the Persians and returned to Jerusalem with the Cross. Once again, the Cross was treated with great reverence, and was held aloft for proper veneration. Due to the commemoration of the suffering and death of our Lord upon the Cross, this day is appointed to be kept as a strict fast.”

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin.....Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Elevation of the Cross. Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem. Sunday before Elevation. Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion. Martyrs Chronides, Leontius and Serapion, of Alexandria. Martyrs Macrobius and Gordian at Tomi in Romania. Hieromartyr Julian of Galatia. St. Peter of Atroë. Greatmartyr Ketevan, Queen of Georgia. Ven. Hierotheus the Younger of Iveron

Prokeimenon – Tone 6: O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!

Troparion — Tone 4

You have revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Your glory on earth / to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord. / Through the prayers of the Theotokos, / strengthen it for ever and ever / and accept our supplication / which we ceaselessly offer to You therein, / the life and resurrection of all.

Kontakion — Tone 4

(Podoben: “Today You have shown forth...”)

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light / which enlightens all the faithful. / Standing within it we cry: “Establish this house, O Lord.”

Troparion — Tone 1

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.

Kontakion — Tone 4

As You were voluntarily raised upon the cross for our sake, / grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power, / granting them victories over their adversaries, / by bestowing on them the Invincible trophy, Your weapon of Peace.

2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 (*Epistle*)

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

Matthew 22:1-14 (*Gospel*)

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”’ But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

1 Corinthians 1:18-24 (*Epistle*) the Precious and Lifegiving Cross

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35 (*Gospel*) the Precious and Lifegiving Cross

Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre) at Jerusalem
The Dedication of the Temple of the Resurrection of Christ at Jerusalem celebrates the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection, built by Saint Constantine the Great and his mother, the empress Helen.

After the voluntary Passion and Death on the Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the holy place of His suffering was long trampled on by pagans. When the Roman emperor Titus conquered Jerusalem in the year 70, he razed the city and destroyed the Temple of Solomon on Mount Moriah, leaving there not a stone upon a stone, as even the Savior foretold (Mt.13:1-2).

Later on, the zealous pagan emperor Hadrian (117-138) built on the site of the Jerusalem destroyed by Titus a new city named Aelia Capitolina for him (Hadrian Aelius). It was forbidden to call the city by its former name. He gave orders to cover the Holy Tomb of the Lord with earth and stones, and on that spot to set up an idol. On Golgotha, where the Savior was crucified, he constructed a pagan temple dedicated to the goddess Venus in 119. Before the statues they offered sacrifice to demons and performed pagan rites, accompanied by wanton acts.

In Bethlehem, at the place the Savior was born of the All-Pure Virgin, the impious emperor set up an idol of Adonis. He did all this intentionally, so that people would forget completely about Christ the Savior and that they would no longer remember the places where He lived, taught, suffered and arose in glory.

At the beginning of the reign of Saint Constantine the Great (306-337), the first of the Roman emperors to recognize the Christian religion, he and his pious mother the empress Helen decided to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. They also planned to build a church on the site of the Lord's suffering and Resurrection, in order to reconsecrate and purify the places connected with memory of the Savior from the taint of foul pagan cults.

The empress Helen journeyed to Jerusalem with a large quantity of gold, and Saint Constantine the Great wrote a letter to Patriarch Macarius I (313-323), requesting him to assist her in every possible way with her task of the renewing the Christian holy places. After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress Helen destroyed all the pagan temples and reconsecrated the places desecrated by the pagans. She was zealous to find the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and she ordered the excavation of the place where the temple of Venus stood. There they discovered the Sepulchre of the Lord and Golgotha, and they also found three crosses and some nails.

In order to determine upon which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius gave orders to place a dead person, who was being carried to a place of burial, upon each cross in turn. When the dead person was placed on the Cross of Christ, he immediately came alive. With the greatest of joy, the empress Helen and Patriarch Macarius raised up the Life-Creating Cross and displayed it to all the people standing about.

The holy empress quickly began the construction of a large church which enclosed within its walls Golgotha, the place of the Crucifixion of the Savior, and the Sepulchre of the Lord, located near each other. The holy Apostle and Evangelist John wrote about this: "Now in the place where He was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore, they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day, for the tomb was nearby" (John 19:41-42). The Church of the Resurrection was ten years in building, and the holy empress Helen did not survive to see its completion. She returned to Constantinople, and reposed in the year 327. After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress-built churches in Bethlehem, on the Mount of Olives, at Gethsemane and in many other places connected with the life of the Savior and events in the New Testament.

The construction of the church of the Resurrection, called "Martyrion" in memory of the sufferings of the Savior, was completed in the same year as the Council of Tyre, and in the thirtieth year of the reign of Saint Constantine the Great. Therefore, at the assembly of September 13, 335, the consecration of the temple was particularly solemn. Hierarchs of Christian Churches in many lands: Bythnia, Thrace, Cilicia, Cappadocia, Syria, Mesopotamia, Phoenicia, Arabia, Palestine, and Egypt, participated in the consecration of the church. The bishops who participated in the Council of Tyre, and many others, went to the consecration in Jerusalem. On this day all the city of Jerusalem was consecrated. The Fathers of the Church established September 13 as the commemoration of this remarkable event.



100th Birthday Celebration

On Monday, September 14, 2020, Olga Hebda will be 100 years old, and we (the parish) would like to celebrate the occasion with her. However, we will have to practice social distancing by having a drive-by birthday celebration at 10:30 AM in front of her house. Everyone (parishioners and community) are welcomed to join us by lining up the cars on First Street (between the Rectory and High Street) and on Phillip Street (between First Street and East Street). We will drive down First Street, turn left unto Ridge Street and turn left unto Second Street. Please start to line up the cars (trucks) around 10:10 or 10:15 AM. Those of you living in Coaldale, please spread the word to Olga's neighbors.

Please stay in your vehicles and wear a mask when on Second Street.