

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, April 11, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent

.. St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Sunday, April 11	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, April 14	5:00 PM – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Thursday, April 15	5:00 PM – Canon of St. Andrew
Sunday, April 18	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, April 21	5:00 PM – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Sunday, April 25	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Palm Sunday

Glory Be Forever

Candles (April 11):

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of Elizabeth Warcholak offered by Ted Bogosh
Altar Candles... In memory of Mother, Mary Lutash offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
Eternal Lamp... For the Health of Mary Maholick offered by Ted Bogosh
Vigil Crosses ... In memory of Mary & Andrew Yelsh offered by William Yelsh
7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In memory of David O'Shura offered by Millie O'Shura
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod...In memory of deceased members of the Augustine & Birosik
Families offered by Michael & Barbara Birosik

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. You 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,
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Cecil Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, Peter Holoviak, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Joseph Tosca, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Richard York.

April Birthdays: 3- Anna Pisko, 4- Elizabeth Warcholak, 10- Jackie Babinetz, 14- Marie Yurchak, 16- Mary Evetushick, 17- Julie McHugh & Anastasia Babinetz, 22- Amanda Skripnek, 22- Martha Teno (95), 23- Britney Miller & Anne Ostrosky, 24- Dennis Vavra

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 3/22-28/21: *Operating Acct:* Candles 68 - Altar Candles 20 - Offerings 725 – Non-Envelope 150 - Holy Days 58 – Donations 1000 = Total \$2,021.00; Building Fund 5 - Flowers 100. Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon.

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

CONFESSION

Confessions resumed with modifications due to COVID-19. Please call the rectory at 570-645-2772 and talk to Father James for a reservation. Call between 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Individual schedule times will be spread out so limited contact occurs. Husband and wife can be scheduled together. Lysol will be used between confessions.

Anyone wanting to have a confession, but has concerns of COVID-19, should contact Father James to make the appropriate accommodations. Caution in this period of time is the safe choice for many of our parishioners.

HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA 2021

Our tentative plans for Holy Week and Pascha are listed below.

These plans are subject to change as we get closer to the end of Great Lent.

- Saturday, April 24 at 9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy – Lazarus Saturday
- Sunday, April 25 at 9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Palms and Pussy Willows.
- Thursday, April 29 at 6:00 PM: The 12 Gospel Readings
- Friday, April 30 at 5:00 PM: Burial Service
- Saturday, May 1 at 9:30 AM: Vespral Liturgy
- Sunday, May 2 at 8:30 AM: Nocturn, Matins, Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of Baskets

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE PREPARES A CHRISTIAN

Numerous times in the Bible, our Christian Life is compared to a **RACE**. Each year we run another leg of the journey; each year brings us closer to our goal of the Lord's Kingdom. All "runners" long to win but what do we actually need to do to accomplish this?

Since our goal is salvation, we need **DISCIPLINE**. Just think of the astronauts that have "The Right Stuff." They are chosen carefully and go through rigorous training, all to become disciplined. Likewise, believers must be disciplined. This should be evident in our devotional life and in everything we think, say and do. Physically and morally, we need to achieve self control. Strive to be temperate in all things. Ultimately, we must be guided by the Holy Spirit and not by the flesh.

We also need **DIRECTION**. In Philippians 3:13-14, we are instructed to "forget things that are behind." Leave your past behind, forgetting old wrongs. We cannot win by looking back. "Reach forth" to seize opportunities to serve Christ. Stretch forward with anticipation, eagerly welcoming all the spiritual challenges that await us. We should "keep pressing toward the goal." Make the best use of your time and talent in service to the glory of God. Live life with eternal rewards in mind.

We do want to be dressed correctly for this race. Lay aside your earthly cares. Extra weight will only slow you down. Be willing to lose the unnecessary weights that may be hindering your progress. Remember that it will all be worth it, when we finally reside with our Saviour.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS

GREAT LENT: A SPIRITUAL RACE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 3. St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*). Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum, disciple of St. John the Theologian (92). Ven. Jacob (James), Abbot of Zheleznobórovsk (1442), and his fellow ascetic, James. St. Varsonúfii (Barsanuphius), Bishop of Tver' (1576). Martyrs Processus and Martinian of Rome (1st c.). Ven. Pharmuthius, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.). Ven. John, disciple of Ven. Gregory of Decapolis (9th c.). St. Callinicus of Cernica, Bishop of Rimnicului in Romania (1868). The Appearance of the "FOOTPRINT" Icon of the Mother of God at Pochayev.

Troparion — Tone 1

Dweller of the desert and angel in the body, / you were shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father John. / You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. / Glory to Him who gave you strength! / Glory to Him who granted you a crown! / Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!

Kontakion — Tone 4

The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence, / to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, / O our Father and Teacher John.

Hebrews 6:13-20 (*Epistle*)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Ephesians 5:9-19 (*Epistle, Saint*)

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Therefore, He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. The abbot of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt. 10: 12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Eph 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt. 24:13).

Mark 9:17-31 (*Gospel*)

Then one of the crowds answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So, I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me."

Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

So, He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"

Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead."

But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

So, He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it.

For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

Matthew 4:25-5:12 (*Gospel, Saint*)

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



The Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

April 9, 2021

Dear Clergy,

Glory be to Jesus Christ during this period of Holy and Great Lent!

The Hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Bishops are aware of the many pastoral issues we face regarding mental health among the faithful. These issues are complex and challenging and, during the pandemic, have increased significantly. It is well known among mental health professionals that many people of Faith approach their parish priest, before their physician or a therapist, with mental health struggles. The Mental Health Task Force of the Assembly of Bishops has completed a Directory of Orthodox Mental Health Professionals as a first resource to immediately meet an urgent need. We hope that you have been sharing it, listing it on your websites, and encouraging Orthodox Christian providers in your region to apply to be listed.

In an effort to further understand and respond to the specific mental health needs of our clergy and faithful, we are now conducting a comprehensive anonymous survey:

- The Needs Assessment Survey can be accessed at: <https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/mental-health-task-force/mental-health-needs-assessment-survey>
- The survey is completely anonymous and takes about 15 minutes to complete
- Both clergy and the faithful age 18 and older are asked to complete the survey by June 15, 2021
- All faithful are invited to complete the survey, regardless of their experience with mental health or their level of engagement with the Church.
- Parishes are encouraged to print copies of the survey for parishioners who are not comfortable using a computer. Guidelines are provided on the aforementioned survey page.
- Data collected from the survey will be analyzed by the Task Force to create mental health related resources that reflect our Orthodox praxis and theological perspective.

In order for the work of the Task Force to successfully serve you and the faithful, I ask you to assist by the following:

1. Please participate in the anonymous survey and ask your parishioners to participate in the survey. **Please help us meet our goal of at least 50 parishioners from each parish.**

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2. Please promote the survey across all communication platforms you use with your parish. For your convenience, promotional icons for social media and bulletin inserts are available at [assemblyofbishops.org/mental-health](https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/mental-health).
3. Please continue to promote in your community the Directory of Orthodox Mental Health Professionals and encourage Orthodox providers you know to join the directory: <https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/directories/mental-health/>

Thank you for distributing the survey to all of your parishioners, continuing to promote the Directory, and for your ongoing assistance as we attend to our faithful in need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Mark

+MARK

Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania