

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: Kaitlyn Dymtrow

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Choir Director: Wash King

Reader Epistle: Michael Ropitsky

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – ST. MARY OF EGYPT

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

Services:

Sunday, April 2	8:45 AM – Church School
Sunday, April 2	9:30 AM – Liturgy of St. Basil – (St. Mary of Egypt) Adult Class "Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians," Chapters 7, 8, 9
Sunday, April 2	3:00 PM – Mission Service – St. John the Baptist in Nesquehoning
Wednesday, April 5	5:00 PM – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts (fast from noon)
Friday, April 7	5:00 PM – Akathist to Jesus Christ, Our Savior
Saturday, April 8	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – (Lazarus Saturday)
Saturday, April 8	5:00 PM – Great Vespers with Litiya & Confessions
Sunday, April 9	8:45 AM – Church School
Sunday, April 9	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – (Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem – Palm Sunday)
Sunday, April 9	5:00 PM – Bridegroom Service
Monday, April 10	5:00 PM – Bridegroom Service
Tuesday, April 11	5:00 PM – Bridegroom Service

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 Church Hall for Coffee Hour.

If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our Church Family.

Please Note: Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.

Prayer List:

Fr. James Weremedic, Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Danielle Bogosh, Elizabeth Brennan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Kimberly Evetushick, Nadine Fegley, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Michael Kulick, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Antoinette Nugent, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pierson, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Mary Simone, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Joseph Tosca, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, George Yurchak, & Marie Yurchak.

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 (April 2)

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Mary & Andrew Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh
Altar Candles... In memory of **Jennie Harb** offered by Jeanne & John Cannon
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members
Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh
7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory of **David O'Shura** offered by Millie O'Shura & Family
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Anastasia Scarloss** offered by Michael & Natalie Bolinski

Candles (April 8)

Altar Candles... In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members
Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Friends

April Birthdays: 4- Elizabeth Warcholak, 10- Jackie Babinetz, 14- Marie Yurchak, 16- Mary Evetushick, 17- Julie McHugh, 17- Anastasia Babinetz, 22- Martha Teno, 22- Amanda Skripnek, 23- Anne Ostrosky, 24- Dennis Vayra

Financials 2/26/23: *Operating Acct:* Envelopes \$687 Non envelope \$250 Holy Day \$132
Candles \$122 Donations \$225 Mission Service/Gettysburg Mission \$228
Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

April 2 Russell King

April 9 - Michael Tatusko

April 16 Pascha Luncheon

There is a sign-up sheet for the Pascha Luncheon.

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.

AN IMAGE OF TRUE REPENTANCE

Throughout the season of Great Lent, one message is echoed repeatedly: *REPENTANCE*. In fact, even before the beginning of this 40-day fast, our Church places before us the thought that we must repent of our sins. Will we be found worthy of the great gift of salvation that the Resurrected Christ brings to His faithful followers?

True repentance is a process that is often misunderstood. It involves much more than merely confessing our sins. It even goes far beyond expressing sincere sorrow for our transgressions. Indeed, true repentance calls out to us to *CHANGE OUR LIVES COMPLETELY!* When we repent of our sins, we are expected to strive with all of our strength to rid our lives of the shameful things that we do which are contrary to God's laws. Repentance is "making right" all of the "wrongs" of which we are guilty.

No one understood the necessity of true repentance better than *ST. MARY OF EGYPT*. In her early years, Mary lived a life of immorality and promiscuity. While visiting Jerusalem one day, her eyes were opened to the sinfulness of her ways when some "hidden force" prevented her from entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Realizing her unworthiness before God, this 6th century saint retired to the desert region beyond the Jordan River, leaving her past life behind. For nearly 50 years, she devoted her life to prayer and fasting, as she attempted to live in a manner that properly captured the spirit of repentance.

This is why our Church honors her memory annually on the 5th Sunday of Lent. As this sacred time of year rapidly draws to a close, we are asked to be imitators of Mary of Egypt. May we find encouragement in her example as we struggle to overcome our sins.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Tone 1. St Mary of Egypt.

Virgin Martyr Theodora of Tyre. Ven. Titus the Wonderworker (9th c.). Martyrs Amphianus (Apphianus) and Edesius (Aedesius) of Lycia (306). Martyr Polycarp of Alexandria (4th c.).

Troparion — Tone 8

In you, O Mother, was preserved with exactness what was according to the image; / for you took up the Cross and followed Christ. / By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away; / but to care for the soul, since it is immortal. / Therefore, O Venerable Mary, your spirit rejoices with the Angels.

Kontakion — Tone 3

Having been a sinful woman, / you became a Bride of Christ through repentance. / Having attained the angelic life, / you defeated demons by the weapon of the Cross; therefore, O most glorious Mary you are a Bride of the Kingdom.

Galatians 3:23-29 (Epistle, Saint)

But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

Therefore, the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Hebrews 9:11-14 (Epistle)

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Luke 7:36-50 (Gospel, Saint)

Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it."

"There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.

You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.

Therefore, I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Mark 10:32-45 (Gospel)

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed, they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."

And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."

But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

They said to Him, "We are able." So, Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared."

And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.

But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."