

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: Mat. Lisa Weremedic

Sunday, April 23, 2023
Choir Director: Wash King
Reader Epistle: Edward Pierson

ANTIPASCHA 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA ST. THOMAS SUNDAY

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Christos Anesti Alithos Anesti
El Messieh Kahm! Hakken Kahm!
Cristos a Inviat! Adevarat a Inviat!

Services:

Sunday, April 23 8:45 AM – Church School
 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (St. Thomas Sunday)
 Adult Class: "Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians", Chapters 10 & 11 Session
Saturday, April 29 5:00 PM – Great Vespers, Parastas, & Confessions
 In memory of Michael Harb offered by Jeanne & John Cannon
Sunday, April 30 8:45 AM – Church School
 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Sunday of the Myrrhbearers)
Saturday, May 6 5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, May 7 8:45 AM – Church School
 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Sunday of the Paralytic)

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, Dorothy & Joseph Macenka, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pierson, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Mary Simone, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, 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 23)

7-day Vigils-Altar... For the Health of **Russell & Geri King** offered by Julia Forte
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
7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Friends
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Anastasia Scarloss** offered by Michael & Natalie Bolinski

*We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Antoinette Nugent,
who fell asleep in the Lord on 4/8/2023.*

Memory Eternal!

and

*We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Robert E. Ehret, Jr,
who fell asleep in the Lord on 4/8/2023*

Memory Eternal!

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 Vavra

Financials 2/26/23: Operating Acct:

Weekly Envelopes \$455 Non-envelope \$551 Holy Days \$837
Candles \$269 Prospera \$78

Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

April 23 Russell King April 30 Helen King

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.

FROM HOPELESSNESS TO CELEBRATION

Almost immediately after our Lord's Resurrection, stories of Him appearing to some of His followers began to surface. He appeared to Mary Magdalene, who, at first, thought she was speaking to a gardener rather than Christ Himself. He appeared to His Apostles on the evening of His Resurrection in the same Upper Room where they had shared the Last Supper. Without a doubt, however, the most dramatic post-Resurrection encounter occurred along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

Emmaus was a small town approximately 7 miles from Jerusalem. St. Luke's Gospel details a late afternoon journey between the two cities by two disciples: Cleopas and Luke. As they were walking, engrossed in conversation about recent events in the Holy City, Cleopas and Luke were suddenly joined by a "stranger" whom they did not recognize as their Savior! When questioned by Him concerning their apparent sadness, the disciples told their new companion about Christ's death and rumored Resurrection. They spoke about their pain, grief and mourning.

Upon hearing this, our Lord goes into a comprehensive explanation of all of the prophecies concerning Himself. Enlightened and encouraged by His words, the disciples invite Jesus to remain with them for the evening after reaching Emmaus. As He breaks bread with them at supper and blesses it, the disciples realize that this "stranger" is their beloved Master. After Christ vanishes before their eyes, Cleopas and Luke quickly return to Jerusalem to share their astonishing experience with the Apostles.

ANTIPASCHA. 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA Tone 1 St. Thomas Sunday.
Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Victorybearer, and Wonderworker George
Martyr Alexandra the Empress, wife of Diocletian (303). Martyrs Anatolius and Proton, soldiers converted by witnessing the martyrdom of St. George (303).

Antipascha: Saint Thomas Sunday

Troparion — Tone 7 - From the sealed tomb, You did shine forth O Life! / Through closed doors You did come to Your disciples, O Christ God! / Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, / by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all!

Kontakion — Tone 8 - Thomas touched Your life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, / when You did come to Your apostles through closed doors. / He cried out with all: You are my Lord and my God!

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." The Slavonic inscription is, "The Belief of Thomas." When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as "Antipascha." This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek.

Acts 5:12-20 (Epistle)

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.

And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

Also, a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

John 20:19-31 (Gospel)

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

So, Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So, he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Greatmartyr, Victory-bearer, and Wonderworker George

Troparion — Tone 4 - You were bound for good deeds, O martyr of Christ: George; / by faith you conquered the torturer's godlessness. / You were offered as a sacrifice pleasing to God; / thus you received the crown of victory. / Through your intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.

Kontakion — Tone 4 - God raised you as his own gardener, O George, / for you have gathered for yourself the sheaves of virtue. / Having sown in tears, you now reap with joy; / you shed your blood in combat and won Christ as your crown. / Through your intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.

The Holy Great Martyr George the Victory-Bearer, was a native of Cappadocia (a district in Asia Minor), and he grew up in a deeply believing Christian family. His father was martyred for Christ when George was still a child. His mother, owning lands in Palestine, moved there with her son and raised him in strict piety. When he became a man, Saint George entered into the service of the Roman army. He was handsome, brave and valiant in battle, and he came to the notice of the emperor Diocletian (284-305) and joined the imperial guard with the rank of comites, or military commander. The pagan emperor, who did much for the restoration of Roman might, was clearly concerned with the danger presented to pagan civilization by the triumph of the Crucified Savior, and intensified his persecution against the Christians in the final years of his reign.

Following the advice of the Senate at Nicomedia, Diocletian gave all his governors full freedom in their court proceedings against Christians, and he promised them his full support. Saint George, when he heard the decision of the emperor, distributed all his wealth to the poor, freed his servants, and then appeared in the Senate. The brave soldier of Christ spoke out openly against the emperor's designs. He confessed himself a Christian, and appealed to all to acknowledge Christ: "I am a servant of Christ, my God, and trusting in Him, I have come among you voluntarily, to bear witness concerning the Truth."

"What is Truth?" one of the dignitaries asked, echoing the question of Pontius Pilate. The saint replied, "Christ Himself, Whom you persecuted, is Truth."

Stunned by the bold speech of the valiant warrior, the emperor, who had loved and promoted George, attempted to persuade him not to throw away his youth and glory and honors, but rather to offer sacrifice to the gods as was the Roman custom. The confessor replied, "Nothing in this inconstant life can weaken my resolve to serve God."

Then by order of the enraged emperor the armed guards began to push Saint George out of the assembly hall with their spears, and they then led him off to prison. But the deadly steel became soft and it bent, just as the spears touched the saint's body, and it caused him no harm. In prison they put the martyr's feet in stocks and placed a heavy stone on his chest.

The next day at the interrogation, powerless but firm of spirit, Saint George again answered the emperor, "You will grow tired of tormenting me sooner than I will tire of being tormented by you." Then Diocletian gave orders to subject Saint George to some very intense tortures. They tied the Great Martyr to a wheel, beneath which were boards pierced with sharp pieces of iron. As the wheel turned, the sharp edges slashed the saint's naked body. At first the sufferer loudly cried out to the Lord, but soon he quieted down, and did not utter even a single groan. Diocletian decided that the tortured one was already dead, and he gave orders to remove the battered body from the wheel, and then went to a pagan temple to offer thanks.

At this very moment it got dark, thunder boomed, and a voice was heard: "Fear not, George, for I am with you." Then a wondrous light shone, and at the wheel an angel of the Lord appeared in the form of a radiant youth. He placed his hand upon the martyr, saying to him, "Rejoice!" Saint George stood up healed.

When the soldiers led him to the pagan temple where the emperor was, the emperor could not believe his own eyes and he thought that he saw before him some other man or even a ghost. In confusion and in terror the pagans looked Saint George over carefully, and they became convinced that a miracle had occurred. Many then came to believe in the Life-Creating God of the Christians.