

# 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 26, 2020**

**St. Thomas Sunday**

Tone 1

**Prokeimenon – Tone 3 – Great is our God and abundant in power;  
His understanding is beyond measure!**

***Christ is Risen!***

***Indeed, He is Risen!***

Khristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese! Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

El Messieh! Hakken Kahm! Cristo ha Resucitado! Verdaderamente ha Resucitado!

**All liturgical services are cancelled until further notice!**

This includes Divine Liturgy, Akathist, Vespers, Parastas, etc. and all meetings and events at the church are **CANCELLED**.

Please read the **Epistle, Gospel and Scripture Readings** on OCA website or use your bible with the Readings listed on the Church Calendar during this period of time.

*April 22, 2020*

*Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. We celebrate the abolition of death, the destruction of Hades and the first fruit of everlasting life. And as we leap with joy, we praise the Cause of these good gifts, the God of our fathers who is alone blessed and mostly gloried.*

*Beloved of God,*

*Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! El Messieh Kahm! Hakken Kahm! Khristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese! Let us embrace one another and forgive all things for the sake of Christ's Holy Resurrection. May Christ's Holy Resurrection strengthen us for a life of purity and Holiness. Let us say with St. Paul "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2: 20) Let us guard this gift of eternal life so freely bestowed! Forgiving as Christ forgives. Let us love as Christ loves. Christos Anesti! Alithos anesti! Cristos Vaskres! Vaistinu Vaskres! Cristos a inviat! Adevarat A Inviat!*

Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

**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, Michael Birosik, James Blair, Terry Blair, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Jane Bubernak, Cecil Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Edward Conarty, Irene David, Ilene Devine, Gloria Ferri, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Helen Macenka, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Alexandra Miller, Courtney Miller, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Helen Scheese, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Sherlock, Helen Suda, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Nancy Vanno, 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- Martha Teno, Amanda Skripnek, 23- Britney Miller, Anne Ostrosky, 24- Dennis Vavra ; **May 2** – Lynn Sharpe

**April Wedding Anniversaries:** None; **May 9** – Richard and Julie McHugh

**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.**

**Local 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 Holy Week Worship Options

Scroll down to Livestream Calendar and Click on Service you want to watch

**Christ the Saviour – Harrisburg, PA --- Readers Vespers – 5 PM**

**Sunday Typica Prayers – 9:30 AM**

**Holy Apostles Orthodox Church – Mechanicsburg, PA --- Vespers – 6 PM**

**Sunday Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM**

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church – Mogadore, OH – You Tube**

Services every day of the week – Mon. to Fri. at 7:00 PM

Sat. Vespers- 5:00 PM, Sunday Divine Liturgy- 9:30 AM

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**Our sympathy is extended to Wash and Helen King on the passing away of her brother, John Bluvass (in California) on 04-11-2020**

**Our sympathy is extended to Russell and Geri King on the passing away of her brother, Joseph Kupetz, Jr. on 04-19-2020**

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**Financials April 12-18, 2020 Operating Acct:** -Dues 130 – Candles 5 – Weekly 353 – Non-Env 0 – Holy Days 146 – Altar Candles 0 – Pascha Offerings 220 – Donations 0 = **Total \$ 854.00** Building Fund 0- ... Charity Donation 0- ... Furnace Fund 0- ... Cemetery 0- ... Flowers 0 ... **Thank you.**

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**Please keep filling your church envelopes**  
**April 12-18 income –\$854.00; April 12-18 expenses - \$365.64**  
**Expenses – Fuel Oil and Electricity**  
**Checks can also be sent to the church**

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## **April 26 – THE LIFE-GIVING FOUNTAIN**

“In Greek Orthodox communities, the week after Pascha is called ‘**The Week of Renewal.**’ We are reminded that just as the Spring season brings a renewal of nature, Christ’s Resurrection brings with it a ‘new creation.’

The Sixth Ecumenical Council offered some specific guidelines for how this week was to be spent. It was decreed that: ‘From Pascha to St. Thomas Sunday, the faithful are required to spend time in a state of leisure, attending church and rejoicing in Christ’s Resurrection. They are to listen attentively to the readings of the Holy Scriptures, for in this way, we shall rise with Christ and be glorified with Him.’

Friday of Renewal Week has a special significance for us. This day is dedicated to the Holy Virgin, extolling her as the LIFE-GIVING FOUNTAIN. This commemoration dates back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century, when a church was built by the Emperor Leo the Thracian, in Constantinople, near a spring where a great number of healings were attributed to the intercession of the Theotokos. When the Byzantine Empire fell, the magnificent edifice was destroyed and replaced by a mosque. Somehow, the spring managed to survive the devastation around it, and the site continued to be a source of comfort and consolation for the faithful in the surrounding area. When the ruins of the church were completely demolished in 1821, the spring mysteriously sank into the ground and disappeared!

In 1834, permission was given by the government to rebuild a church on the original foundation of the former one. A large crowd gathered for its consecration, joyfully singing the Kontakion for the day: ‘I beseech you, O Life-Giving Fountain, to moisten me with the dew of your grace, so that I may cry to you: Rejoice, O water of salvation!’ “

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

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### **ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE METROPOLITAN TIKHON PASCHA 2020**

To the Venerable Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,  
**Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!**

Today we celebrate the feast of feasts, the radiant joyful feast of the Lord’s Resurrection. He became a man like us, and was crucified, suffered, and was buried for us. And today, after three days in the tomb, He rises from the dead, offering us all the promise of Resurrection unto eternal life.

Our life in the Resurrection begins even now. Although we still live in the flesh, we should not live according to the flesh, only thinking of our own bodily needs and desires. Jesus Christ’s Resurrection calls us, regardless of our situation in life, to live spiritually mature lives even now. The essence of such a spiritual life is to lay down one’s life for others, in imitation of Christ who died for the benefit of all. This is the calling of the new life that Christ’s Resurrection gives us: “so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).”

This year, our Paschal celebration comes in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, and not one of us is experiencing the full celebration of the services. A few are present at the limited services, while the majority are praying along at home. Yet all of us, wherever we find ourselves, can live according to the Resurrection by putting others’ needs before our own. In the Old Covenant, in the same breath in which

God urged His people to “keep His Sabbaths,” He also urged them to remember the poor and the sojourner, and leave portions of their grain and grapes to them (Leviticus 19:3-10). May we too, in keeping the Lord’s Pascha, the First of Sabbaths, remember the poor and needy, the sick and suffering before ourselves, particularly at this time of the economic turmoil caused by the Coronavirus. As many of us are unable to commune of the heavenly Bread of Christ’s Body at this time as is customary, let us at least focus on ensuring that our brothers and sisters around us have enough common bread: food and other basic needs. In so doing, we will follow Christ’s example, who made sure that the thousands had enough food to eat, and who worked to heal the diseased and the sick.

My beloved children in Christ, the manner in which we celebrate Pascha this year, whether in our homes or in limited services, should suggest to no one that our Lord’s Pascha has been canceled or in any way diminished. Giving thanks to Christ for the mystery of his salvation, let us all boldly cry out in full knowledge and assurance, “Christ is Risen!” Let us respond, indeed, by courageously walking in the “newness of life” that Christ gives us today.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Lockdown began on March 25th at midnight ... And now is extended through May 3rd..\*

\*It's exactly 40 days from the 25th of March to the 3rd of May...\*

QUARANTINE

The Latin root of the word "quarantine" is "forty".

So what does the Bible say about 40?

The flood lasted 40 days.

40 years Moses fled Egypt.

40 days Moses stayed on Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments.

Exodus lasted 40 years.

Jesus fasted for 40 days.

Lent is 40 days.

40 days for a woman to rest after giving birth.

A group of theologians think the number 40 represents "change". It is the time of preparing a person, or people, to make a fundamental change.

Something will happen after these 40 days. Just believe and pray.

Please know that during this "quarantine", rivers are cleaning up, vegetation is growing, the air is becoming cleaner because of less pollution, there is less theft and murder, healing is happening, and most importantly, people are turning to God Almighty. The Earth is at rest for the first time in many years, and hearts are truly transforming.

Post from Facebook

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

**ANTIPASCHA. 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 1. St. Thomas Sunday.** Hieromartyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea. St. Stephen, Bishop of Perm. Righteous Virgin Glaphyra. St. Joannicius of Devich, Serbia.

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.

**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!

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

*John 1:17*

**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.

### **Venerable Stephen, Abbot of the Kiev Far Caves, and Bishop of Vladimir, in Volhynia**

Saint Stephen, Igumen of the Caves, Bishop of Vladimir in Volhynia, pursued asceticism at the Kiev Caves monastery under the guidance of Saint Theodosius (May 3). Saint Theodosius sometimes entrusted him to exhort the brethren with edifying words. Before the death of Saint Theodosius the monks asked him to appoint Saint Stephen as Igumen, who was the domesticus (chief arranger for the choir). "He grew up under your instruction," they said, "and he served you. Give him to us." So Saint Theodosius transferred the guidance of the monastery to Saint Stephen.

During his tenure as Superior, he laid the foundations of a spacious church in honor of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, begun under Saint Theodosius. The cells of the brethren were moved near the new church. At the front of the place there were several cells for monks who were entrusted with burying the dead. They served the Divine Liturgy each day, and also commemorated the dead.

In 1078 Saint Stephen was removed from office and driven from the monastery through the malice of an evil monk. He endured this meekly and without bitterness, and continued to pray for those who had turned against him. Saint Stephen learned that master builders had come from Greece with an icon of the Theotokos, and they told him of the appearance of the Heavenly Queen at Blachernae. Because of this, Saint Stephen also built a church at Klovo in honor of the Theotokos (in memory of the Placing of Her Robe at Blachernae). The monastery was founded in thanksgiving for solicitude of the Most Holy Theotokos for the Caves monastery.

In 1091 Saint Stephen was made Bishop of Vladimir in Volhynia, and he participated in the transfer of the relics of Saint Theodosius from the cave to the monastery (August 14). He also labored to convert the inhabitants of Volhynia to Christianity. Saint Stephen died on April 27, 1094 during the sixth hour of the night.