

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

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky

Third Sunday of Lent

Choir Director: Wash King

Veneration of the Cross

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever

Sunday, April 4	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, April 7	5:00 PM – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
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

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, 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.

Hebrews 4:14-5:6 (*Epistle*)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So, also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You."

As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek";

Mark 8:34-9:1 (*Gospel*)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Candles (April 4):

Flowers – Cross: In memory of Husband, Michael; Parents, Michael & Anna Fedora; and Sisters, Mary Lutash & Helen Butts offered by Olga Hebda

7-Day Vigils/Altar: In memory of Jennie Harb offered by Jeanne & John Cannon

Altar Candles: In memory of Lillian Yelsh offered by William Yelsh

Eternal Lamp: In memory of Robert (Bob) Tallick offered by JoAnn (Terry) Taras

Vigil Crosses: In memory of Mary & Andrew Yelsh offered by William Yelsh

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod: In memory of Marion Pickenheim offered by William Yelsh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod: In memory of deceased members of the Augustine & Birosik Families offered by Michael & Barbara Birosik

Candles (April 7)

Altar Candles: For the Health of Fr. Paul Ropitsky offered by Ted Bogosh

Vigil Crosses : For the Health of Mat. Lovey Ropitsky offered by Ted Bogosh

On that solemn day, the paths of THREE men met, for the purpose of their deaths. TWO were completely guilty; ONE was completely innocent. TWO were paying their debt to society; ONE was paying for our debt of sin. Our Saviour would be crucified for all of our sins. All the prophecies concerning Him had to be fulfilled. Everything converged at the Cross.

The one thief realizes that he is a sinner. He admits his guilt, sees justice in his punishment and proclaims the righteousness of Christ. We are privileged to witness this remarkable revelation. He calls out "LORD, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM." This expresses the thief's belief that the Lord was King and that He would establish a Heavenly Kingdom. This enlightenment is even more amazing considering that he probably never saw a miracle or heard a sermon by Jesus.

Some would look at this criminal and think that his soul was too wicked to be saved. That is not the case with our forgiving Saviour. Jesus had time to win one more soul! He would make a remarkable promise. From this tortuous cross, Christ would proclaim "TODAY, SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN PARADISE." Oh, the questions answered by this promise. We are assured of salvation by faith alone. Heaven is assured following the death of a believer.

What message does this last minute convert teach us? That any sinner can be saved by faith in Jesus. Don't wait one more moment to believe!

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

A MOST REMARKABLE CONVERT

During His earthly ministry, Jesus was given the task of making an unbeliever into a believer. People were challenged to come and follow the True Light. Of course, there were CONVERTS from all walks of life. Among the rich was Joseph of Arimathea; among the religious was Nicodemus; among the rejected was the Samaritan woman at the well. There were so many, but perhaps the most remarkable convert may be the THIEF ON THE CROSS.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT. Tone 2. Veneration of the Cross. Ven. Joseph the Hymnographer. Ven. George of Mt. Maleon in the Peloponnesus. Ven. Joseph the Much-ailing, of the Kiev Caves. Ven. Zosimas, Abbot of Vorbozómok. Ven. Zosimas, of Palestine. Virgin Martyr Pherbutha of Persia, her sister, and servants. Martyr Nikita of Pojani. St. Isidore, Bishop of Seville. Ven. Theonas, Archbishop of Thessalonica.

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the Lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

Troparion — Tone 4

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians, / over their adversaries. / And by virtue of Thy Cross / preserve Your habitation!

Kontakion — Tone 7

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; / it has mysteriously been quenched by the wood of the Cross! / The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; / for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell: / "Enter again into paradise."

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.

As we enter into the third Sunday of Great Lent, we celebrate the Veneration of the Precious Life Giving Cross. Traditionally before Vespers, the priest will transfer the Precious Cross from the Table of Oblation to the Holy Table while singing the Troparion and Kontakion. At the end of Matins, as the choir sings the Doxology the priest puts on all his vestments. He takes incense and goes around the Holy Table (with the Precious Cross) 3 times while the choir sings Holy God slowly and solemn melody. The priest will stop in front of the Royal Doors facing east and say: "Wisdom! Stand upright!" Then we sing the Troparion of the Cross, "O Lord, save Thy People ..." 3 times while the priest places the Precious Cross on the Tetrapod and censes the cross. Then the priest, choir and people will sing "Before Thy Cross" while making 3 prostrations. During the veneration of the Cross, the choir sings the stikheron, "Come you faithful ..." and the rest.

Since we are not having Vespers or Matins during this period of time due to COVID, we will begin the transfer of the Precious Life-Giving Cross from the Holy Table to the Tetrapod at 9:30 AM on Sunday morning. In recent years, most people have not been present at Vespers and Matins as attendance has declined. So please, take this time to appreciate this gift to engage in the modification of this service; Pray for the end of COVID, the fullness of services to be restored and the reversal of the decline of attendance of all the services. Whether you have experienced COVID or not personally, we have all been affected in one way or another.

May our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, give us the strength to endure and prosper during our Lenten journey. May we glorify God in the highest, with all our soul and all our mind. Lord, have mercy!

Financials 3/22-28/21: Operating Acct: Candles 63 - Altar Candles 20 - Offerings 1,522 - Non-Envelope 150.75 - Holy Days 106 - Donations 100 = Total \$1,961.75; Building Fund 11.

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



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

March 26, 2021
Leave-taking of the Annunciation
Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

**TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT, PUBLISHED IN THE BULLETIN AND POSTED
ON PARISH WEBSITES**

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! Greetings as we begin the third week of Great Lent. I pray your Lenten Journey is proving fruitful.

The past year has truly been a rollercoaster ride for all of us and we need to be mindful and considerate of those suffering from isolation, fear, anxiety, depression, substance abuse and loneliness, as well as those who have lost loved ones. Additionally, divisions occurred as people lost the ability to discuss differing opinions on a variety of matters. Hopefully, we are encouraged by the drastic decrease in the number of hospitalizations and deaths attributed to COVID 19 since mid-January, even before significant numbers were administered the experimental COVID 19.

On January 22, 2021 the Assembly of Bishops issued a **Statement Regarding Developments in Medicine: COVID-19 Vaccines & Immunizations.**¹ The fourth paragraph explicitly states, “*We therefore encourage all of you – the clergy and the lay faithful of our Church – to consult your physicians in order to determine the appropriate course of action for you, just as you do for surgeries, medications, and vaccinations, in cancer treatments and other ailments.*”

Each person must prayerfully consider what the correct course of action is. As your Bishop, I insist each of you respect the **conscience** and privacy of your brothers and sisters in Christ. No one is to be asked if he or she has or has not received the injections. No one is to be denied full participation in the Divine Services or parish life regardless of his or her decision. No one should be judged or criticized one way or the other.

Let us continue the Fast focusing on drawing nearer to Christ the Source of Life and to one another.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

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

¹ The text of which may be found at the following link,
<https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/assets/files/messages/AoB%20Exec%20Co%20Medicine%20Statement.pdf>



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“Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee.” Augustine