

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

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Choir Director: Wash King

10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

Sunday, August 21 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship

Saturday, August 27- 5:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, August 28 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Parastas and Fellowship

In memory of Jennie & Michael Harb offered by Jeanne & John Cannon

In memory of Catherine Hedes offered by Veronica Hedash

In memory of John Sidoriak, Sr. offered by Eleanor Sidoriak & Family

Saturday, Sept. 3 5:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, Sept. 4 9:30 AM – **Divine Liturgy celebrating by Archbishop Mark**

Wednesday, Sept. 7- 5:00 PM – Great Vespers

Thursday, Sept. 8 - 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – Nativity of Most Holy Theotokos

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:

Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Andrew Balliet, Michael Birocik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Danielle Bogosh, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Nadine Fegley, Julia Forte, Karen Harkins, Nancy King, Russell King, Michael Kulick, John & Olga Kushnir, Mary Maholick, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, Dale Renninger, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, 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 (August 21)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... In memory of **Mary Staruk** offered by classmate, Geri King
Altar Candles... For the Good Health of **Nadine (Stafiniak) Fegley** offered by Russell & Geri King
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 **Kay & Paul Maliniak** offered by William Yelsh
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

August Birthdays:

2- David Bogosh, 5- Rose Harkins, 14- David King, 22- Nancy Lorchak, 31- Jerome Balliet

August Anniversaries: 20- Dennis & Geri Vavra

Financials 8/14-15/22:

Operating Acct: Candles 73 - Altar Candles 20 - Offerings 783 –
Non-Envelope 153 - Holy Days 143 = Total \$1,172.00. Building Fund 70.
Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

**Nominations for Church Council and Officers are now open.
Please see Father James, Matushka Lisa, or Lynn Sharpe
if you are willing to fill one of these positions.**

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

August 21	Michael Tatusko
August 28	Lena Berezniak
September 4	John Evetushick: small meal with Archbishop Mark.
September 11	Russell King
September 18	Lena Berezniak
September 25	Michael Tatusko

There is a sign-up sheet for our fellowship hour in the vestibule if you would like to host.

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.

THE UNIQUE ROLE OF APOSTLES & BISHOPS

The episcopate forms a unique body in the Church which Jesus founded. Our Bishops are entrusted with the great responsibility of governing the Church, and in the preservation and promotion of the Gospel of our Lord.

But we must remember that Bishops are **SUCCESSORS** of the Apostles of Christ. The 12 Apostles were a special group. Our Lord Himself selected and trained them for their work. And when one of them defected, care was taken to obtain a successor so that the group would continue intact. The original 12 consecrated their successors and the line of Bishops has continued unbroken to our day. This "APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION" is one of the hallmarks of our Church.

Although we are all more familiar with the original 12, our Lord also selected a group of 70 "lesser" apostles. The 12 generally remained at Christ's side while the 70 preceded Him at the places He visited. They assisted in spreading the Word of God in the region. While they suffered much and were tortured, their firm faith helped illuminate the unbelievers.

SAINT THADDEUS is among this larger group of 70. He was a disciple of St. John the Baptist. He is not to be confused with Apostle Jude Thaddeus of the 12. Following our Lord's glorious Ascension, Thaddeus was sent to Edessa, to help heal Prince Avgar of his leprosy. After the royals' complete healing and baptism, Avgar wanted his people to come to the knowledge of the One True God. They cast away their idols and unclean living to embrace the Christian faith.

10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST **Tone 1. Afterfeast of the Dormition.** Apostle Thaddæus of the Seventy. Martyr Bassa of Edessa and her sons Theogonius, Agapius, and Pistus. Ven. Abramius the Wonderworker, Archimandrite of Smolensk, and his disciple, Ven. Ephraim. Ven. Abramius the Lover-of-Labor, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th-13th c.). Holy Schema-nun Martha.

Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Mother of God

Troparion — Tone 1 - In giving birth you preserved your virginity, / in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. / You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, / and by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death.

Kontakion — Tone 2 - Neither the tomb, nor death could hold the Theotokos, / who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. / For being the Mother of Life, / she was translated to life by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb.

1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (*Epistle*)

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored!

To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.

And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;

being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you.

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel.

Therefore, I urge you, imitate me.

Matthew 17:14-23 (*Gospel*)

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying,

"Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.

So, I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

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

And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

So, Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Venerable Abramius the Wonderworker, Archimandrite of Smolensk

Saint Abramius of Smolensk, a preacher of repentance and the Dread Last Judgment, was born in the mid-twelfth century at Smolensk of rich parents, who had twelve daughters before him, and they begged God for a son.

From childhood he grew up in the fear of God, he was often in church and had the opportunity to read books. The parents hoped that their only son would enter into marriage and continue their illustrious lineage, but he sought a different life. After the death of his parents, having given away all his wealth to monasteries, to churches and to the destitute, the saint walked through the city in rags, asking God to show him the way to salvation.

He was tonsured in the monastery of the Most Holy Theotokos, five versts from Smolensk, at Selischa. Having passed through various obediences there, the monk fervently occupied himself with copying books, culling spiritual riches from them. The Smolensk prince Roman Rostislavich (+ 1170) started a school in the city, in which they taught not only in Slavonic, but also from Greek and Latin books. The Prince himself had a large collection of books, which Saint Abramius used. He had struggled for more than 30 years at the monastery, when in the year 1198 the igumen persuaded him to accept the dignity of presbyter. Every day he served the Divine Liturgy and fulfilled the obedience of clergy not only for the brethren, but also for the laity.

Soon the monk became widely known. This aroused the envy of the brethren, and then of the igumen also, and five years later, the monk was compelled to transfer to the Exaltation of the Cross monastery in Smolensk itself. With offerings from the devout, he embellished the cathedral church of the poor monastery with icons, and with curtains and candle-stands. He himself painted two icons on themes which most concerned him. On one he depicted the Dread Last judgment, and on the other the suffering of the trials of life. Lean and pale from extreme toil, in priestly garb the ascetic resembled Saint Basil the Great in appearance. The saint was strict both towards himself, and towards his spiritual children. He preached constantly in church and to those coming to him in his cell, conversing with rich and poor alike.

The city notables and the clergy demanded that Bishop Ignatius bring the monk to trial, accusing him of seducing women and tempting his spiritual children. But even more terrible were the accusations of heresy and the reading of forbidden books. For this they proposed to drown or burn the ascetic. At the trial by the Prince and the Bishop, the saint answered all the false accusations. Despite this, they forbade him to serve as a priest and returned him to his former monastery of the Most Holy Theotokos. A terrible drought occurred in consequence of God's wrath over the unjust sentence, and only when Saint Ignatius pardoned Saint Abramius, permitting him to serve and preach, did the rain again fall on Smolensk.

The bishop Saint Ignatius built a new monastery, in honor of the Placing of the Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos, and he entrusted the guidance of it to Saint Abramius, and he himself settled into it, retiring from the diocese because of age. Many wished to enter under the guidance of Saint Abramius, but he examined them very intensely and only after great investigation, so at his monastery there were only seventeen brethren. Saint Abramius, after the death of Saint Ignatius, having become his spiritual friend, urged the brethren, more than before, to think about death and to pray day and night, that they be not condemned in the Judgment by God.

Saint Abramius died after the year 1224, having spent 50 years in monasticism. Already at the end of the thirteenth century a service had been compiled to him, together with his disciple Saint Ephraim. The terrible Mongol-Tatar invasion, seen as the wrath of God for the nation's sins, not only did not stifle the memory of Saint Abramius of Smolensk, but rather was a reminder to people of his calling to repentance and recollection of the dread Last Judgment.