

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church**  
**217 First Street – Coaldale Pa 18218-1602**  
**Phone: 570-645-2772**  
**OUR WEBSITE: [www.stmarysnativity.org](http://www.stmarysnativity.org)**

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic

**Sunday, August 22, 2021**

Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky

Choir Director: Wash King

**9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 8. Afterfeast of the Dormition.**

Martyr Agathonicus of Nicomedia and his companions: Martyrs Zoticus, Theoprepus, Acindynus, Severian, Zeno, and others who suffered under Maximian. Hieromartyr Athanasius, Bishop of Tarsus in Cilicia, Ven. Anthusa—Nun, and her servants, Martyrs Charesimus and Neophytus. Virgin Martyr Eulalia of Barcelona and the Martyr Felix.

***Glory Be to Jesus Christ***

***Glory Be Forever!***

Tone 8 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 8 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.

Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,//

and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Silent Prayer before reading the Holy Scripture:

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

The church bulletin is in transition from the financial secretary to the rector. We ask going forward, all donations (no cash, please use checks) be mailed to the church: St. Mary's Orthodox Church, 217 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Coaldale, PA 18218. Of course, you can continue placing donations in the donation's basket in the church when attending services. Also, we have a black binder at the candle desk for candle/flower offerings for 'the health of' or 'in memory of'. Please see one of our council members who are stationed at the candle desk. In the near future, we will have the Parastas included with this transition. Mistakes will occur as you may have seen. I, Fr. James, take responsibility for these errors. Thank you for your consideration during this transition.

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.

#### CONFESSION

Confessions have resumed with minor modifications. Please call the rectory at 570-645-2772 and talk to Father James for a reservation. Call between 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Individual schedule times will be spread out during the week. Husband and wife can be scheduled together. Anyone wanting to have a confession, but has concerns of COVID-19, should contact Father James to make the appropriate accommodations.

Prayer List:

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Ellen Gundersen, Karen Harkins, John King, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Olga Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Marie Yurchak.

August Birthdays: 2- David Bogosh, 5- Rose Harkins, 14-David King, 22-Nancy Lorchak

August Anniversaries: 20- Dennis & Geri Vavra

## TOGETHER FOREVER IN ETERNITY

**E**very husband and wife enter their married lives with great expectations. Sometimes, however, hopes and dreams for a long and prosperous life together are dashed by some unforeseen tragedy. Such was the case for the **HOLY MARTYR ADRIAN** and **NATALIA**, his beloved wife.

The saintly couple were both born into wealthy families. Their marriage was to last for only a little over a year. Tradition has it that the wicked Emperor Maximian visited their home town of Nicomedia, determined to seek out every Christian in the village and put them to death. 23 Christians were found hiding in a cave and were taken before the local magistrate.

Adrian, who was not yet a Christian (Natalia secretly was), questioned these faithful followers about their motivation for their willingness to suffer for Christ. He was so impressed with their sincerity that he boldly proclaimed before the Emperor: "I AM A CHRISTIAN AS WELL." Natalia then ministered to her husband and fellow Christians while they were in prison. Adrian finally succumbed to the severe tortures inflicted upon him. His grieving wife was permitted to take his remains to Constantinople for burial.

While in Constantinople, Natalia had a vision of her husband Adrian, who appeared to her bathed in light. He assured her that God would soon be calling her home as well and that they would then be together in the Kingdom of Heaven. A few days later, Natalia peacefully fell asleep in the Lord, commending her soul into His Divine Hands.

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

Parastas: August 29

In memory of Michael & Jennie Harb offered by John & Jeanne Cannon  
In memory of Olga Hebda offered by Sister Anna & nieces & nephews  
In memory of John Sidoriak offered by Olga Sidoriak  
In memory of Mary Hudak offered by Lori & Bill Hudak  
In memory of Richard York offered by Gloria Bench  
In memory of Helen Scheese offered by the Family  
In memory of Walter G. Scheese offered by the Family  
In memory of Helen & Nicholas Macenka, Jr offered by Shelly Macenka & Elaine  
(Macenka) Andrews

1 Corinthians 3:9-17 (*Epistle*)

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Matthew 14:22-34 (*Gospel*)

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.

Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

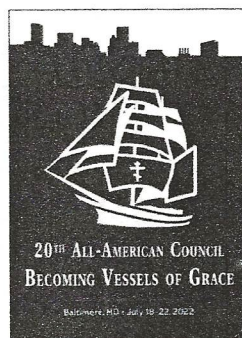
But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

## The 20th All-American Council Becoming Vessels of Grace

### Synopsis

The 20th All-American Council is scheduled to take place Monday, July 18th - Friday, July 22nd 2022 in Baltimore, Maryland at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel.



### **Metropolitan Tikhon officially announces the 20th All-American Council, AAC webpage goes live**

On Wednesday, July 28, 2021, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon was hosted by Archpriest Thomas Soroka for a live conversation in which His Beatitude formally announced the convening of the 20th All-American Council. The Council will take place at the Hilton Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, MD on July 18–22, 2022.

The conversation was live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook Live, and the recording is available on both platforms.

His Beatitude pointed out that, as in the past, the Council will take place in conjunction with the National Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA). Additionally, the Council will again have a youth component.

The 20th All-American Council was initially scheduled for the end of July 2021. However, in light of the uncertainty brought about by the pandemic, last December the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America approved the decision of the Metropolitan Council to postpone the 20th All-American Council from July 2021 to July 2022.

His Beatitude began by quoting the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, the governing document of our autocephalous Church. According to Article III, Section 1, “The All-American Council is the highest legislative and administrative authority within the Church. The Council brings together the various elements of the Church to bear witness to her identity, unity, and mission.” His Beatitude also emphasized that, “The All-American Council is an incredible opportunity for all parts of the Church to gather together and to express the conciliarity of our autocephalous Church. Although last year the pandemic prevented us from celebrating the 50th anniversary of the granting of autocephaly, it is an event that we should be grateful for, and the All-American Council is the key expression of our work as a local Church.”

The regular sessions of the All-American Council convene every three years. Its members are delegates from various bodies within the Orthodox Church in America, as well as observers and

guests. Delegates are members of the Holy Synod, parish priests, assigned deacons, lay delegates from parishes, military chaplains, members of the Metropolitan Council, representatives from theological institutions, superiors of monasteries, and members of the Preconciliar Commission. The Council also welcomes observers who may be admitted in accordance with the registration procedures but without the right to vote (Article III, Section 2).

His Beatitude then urged all of our parishes, monasteries, and institutions to begin their planning for this event. He noted that parishes should especially be reminded that, according to our Statute, they must “elect at a Parish Assembly lay delegates equal to the number of priests... and a single alternate. In order to be validly elected and accredited, the lay delegates and alternate to the All-American Council from Parishes must be Voting Members of the Parish” (Article III, Section 7.a)

Additionally, participation in the Council presents an important financial cost for each parish, monastery, and institution; as such, they should properly budget for this event ahead of time.

Beatitude then introduced the theme of the 20th All-American Council as approved by the Metropolitan Council, the Holy Synod of Bishops, and the Preconciliar Commission. He pointed out that, having lived through the pandemic over the last sixteen months, people are seeking answers, truths, peace, and, most of all, God. As a matter of fact, many of our parishes are welcoming a great number of inquirers and catechumens. His Beatitude continued, “the Orthodox Church is that safe haven where peace is found, where people are nurtured, where answers are found not just for our intellects but for our hearts. The Church is where truth abides because she is the Body of Christ, Jesus Christ our Lord who reveals Himself to us as ‘the way, the truth, and the life’ (Jn 14:6).”

“The present challenges,” His Beatitude noted, “urge us ever more to reflect and prayerfully consider what our vocation is as a people, as Christians, and as Church. And that’s why the Holy Synod of the Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America chose ‘vocations’ as the theme of the upcoming All-American Council. Yet, before we even talk about the specific kinds of vocations in the Church, it is important to affirm unmistakably and unhesitatingly that the most important vocation—and one that is shared by every single man, woman, and child—is to become like the perfect human being, to become like Jesus Christ. It is to grow in the likeness of our Lord, God, and Savior in whose image we were created.”

The theme is thus “Becoming Vessels of Grace” as anchored to the greater theme of vocations. His Beatitude noted that, “We offer ourselves and we journey toward fuller union with our God through different vocations, since we are all called to serve the Church in unique ways. And the Church, as a good and loving mother, is called to guide each of her children in this process. This is why nurturing, supporting, developing vocations—priesthood, diaconate, monasticism, choir ministry, lay ministries, etc.—is a primary responsibility for us.” On this note, His Beatitude clarified that by “us” he was not referring solely to the bishops, or the Central Administration, or the seminaries. “Us” means the Church, each and every one of us. His Beatitude explained, “That’s why I write in my Four Pillars, ‘What is called for is a Church-wide endeavor, involving every parish, institution, and individual of the Orthodox Church in America.’”

The 20th All-American Council webpage is now live. There will be various links posted throughout the next twelve months, including necessary information for registration. Registration will officially open in January.

Finally, His Beatitude noted that there are various meetings planned over the course of the next year that will be focused on the preparation of the 20th All-American Council. Among these meetings, the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod will gather for their regular Fall Sessions this October in Cleveland, OH. Moreover, during the same week the two bodies will come together for two days in an extended meeting that will also include Diocesan Chancellors, representatives from the three OCA seminaries, and superiors from four monastic communities. This special meeting has very few precedents in the life of our Church. It will be an opportunity for the leadership of the Church to gather together after a long hiatus due to the pandemic, and to share ideas, pray together, and discuss the topic of vocations.

#### SERVICES

Sunday, August 22 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, August 29 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Beheading of St. John The Baptist) Strict Fast Day  
to follow: Parastas

Sunday, September 5 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, September 8 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Nativity of the Theotokos)

#### Offerings for August 22

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the health of Russell King offered Ted Bogosh

Altar Candles... In memory of parents, John & Helen Molotzak offered by John Molotzak

Eternal Lamp... In memory of Helen Suda offered by Julia Forte

Vigil Crosses ... In memory of Andrew & Mary Bybel Family offered by Friends

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In memory of Mary & Andrew Yelsh offered by William Yelsh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod... In memory of Harry Wyshosky, Jr. offered by Julia Forte

Financials: Candles \$53 Offerings \$295 Holy Day \$ 88 Donation \$100 Dues \$200

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