



Saint John

The Forerunner



KILLING THE MESSENGER FAILS TO SILENCE THE MESSAGE!

Every Orthodox Christian is familiar with the tragic details that led to the beheading of St. John the Baptist. Soon after baptizing Christ in the Jordan, John was arrested and imprisoned by Herod Antipas, the son of the infamous ruler of the same name, who reigned at the time of our Lord's birth. His "crime" was speaking out against the King for his marriage to Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.

Not content with merely seeing the Baptist in captivity, Herodias devised a plan for his untimely demise. When Herod promised her daughter Salome anything she wanted after pleasing the King with her dancing at his birthday celebration, she instructed her to make this gruesome request: "I WANT YOU TO GIVE ME AT ONCE THE HEAD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST ON A PLATTER."

It is interesting to note that soon after this terrible deed had been carried out, Herod and Herodias were driven into exile by Prince Aretas, whose daughter had been Herod's lawful wife! It is recorded that they lived in great need and poverty for the rest of their lives.

It is equally fitting that Salome's life ended in tragedy as well. While living in Spain with her exiled mother and step-father, Salome fell into the frozen Sikaris River. The ice broke, and Salome found herself in the water up to her throat. After struggling as the ice pierced her neck, she was eventually decapitated. Ironically, her body was washed away, and those who found Salome's head brought it to her mother on a platter, in a manner similar to how she had once received the blessed head of the Baptist!

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: Gloria Bench

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Choir Director: Wash King
Reader Epistle: Edward Pierson

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 3. Ven. Pœmen the Great. Hieromartyr Kuksha and Ven. Pimen of the Kiev Caves. St. Hosius the Confessor, Bishop of Córdoba. St. Liberius, Pope of Rome. Ven. Pœmen of Palestine. Martyr Anthusa. Ven. Savva of Benephali. St. Cæsarius, Bishop of Arles.

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice!/Let the earth be glad!/For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. /He has trampled down death by death./He has become the first born of the dead./He has delivered us from the depths of hell,/and has granted to the world//great mercy.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,/leading us from the gates of death./ On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;/with the Prophets and Patriarchs//they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Services:

Sunday, August 27	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Saturday, Sept 2	2:00 PM – Reception of Amy Lee Beamesderfer and her children in Baptism: Ixsaviar Junior Bracero, Emmanuel Julian Andrades, Ixsaiah Paul'lee Bracero, Izreal Edgar Bracero and Jhaniyah Destiny Snow Bracero
Saturday, Sept. 2	5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Sept 3	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Thursday, Sept. 7	5:00 PM – Great Vespers with Litya
Friday, Sept 8	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Nativity of the Theotokos)
Saturday, Sept. 9	5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Sept 10	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Wed, Sept. 13	5:00 PM – Great Vespers with Litya
Thursday, Sept 14	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Exaltation of the Holy Cross)
Saturday, Sept. 16	4:30 PM – Parastas
Saturday, Sept. 16	5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Sept 17	8:45 AM – Start of Church School (Please notify Barbara Birosik to enroll your children)
Sunday, Sept 17	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Halupki Dinner

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 parish hall for fellowship. If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our parish family. 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

The newly illumined Kasandra Anne Buchanan

Theodore Bogosh, Elizabeth Brennan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Olga Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy & Joseph Macenka, Effie Mavrelos, Melissa Schmitt, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Marie Yurchak

* Names will cycle off approximately every 30 days. You may request to have your name or the name of a loved one placed back on the list at any time by contacting Fr. James directly.

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.

*We celebrate the Baptism of Kasandra Anne Buchanan!
May God Grant Kasandra Anne, her parents Ashley Ann and Samuel Buchanan and her sponsor Claire Remington, Many Blessed Years!*

Candles (August 27)

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Michael & Jennie Harb** offered by Jeanne & John Cannon

Altar Candles... In memory of **Cip Vavra** offered by Russel & Geri King

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory **Lillian Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory **Michael Bolinski** offered by Michael & Natalie Bolinsky

Vigil Crosses... In memory of **John Sidoriak** offered by Wife Eleanor Sidoriak

August Birthdays:

5- Rose Harkins, 9- Samuel Buchanan, 14- David King, 15-Kaitlyn Dmytrow, 21-Rowan Buchanan, 22- Nancy Lorchak, Amy Beamesderfer, 24- John Law

August Anniversaries:

14-Ashley & Samuel Buchanan, 20-Dennis & Geri Vavra

Financials 8/20//2023: *Operating Acct:* Weekly Envelopes \$305, Non-envelope \$205, Holy Day \$121, Altar Candles \$60, Candles \$145

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

August 27 Michael Tatusko
September 17 Halupki Dinner

September 3 John Evetushick
September 24 Michael Tatusko

September 10 Open
October 1 John Evetushick

Halupki Dinner is on September 17, 2023

See Mat. Lisa Weremedic or call the Rectory, (570) 645-2772 for Tickets

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 3

Hieromartyr Kuksha and Ven. Pimen of the Kiev Caves (12th c.).

St. Hosius the Confessor, Bishop of Córdoba (359). St. Liberius, Pope of Rome (366). Ven. Pøemen of Palestine (ca. 602). Martyr Anthusa. Ven. Savva of Benephali. St. Cæsarius, Bishop of Arles (543). Ven. Pøemen the Great (ca. 450).

Hieromartyr Kuksha and Venerable Pimen of the Kiev Near Caves

The Hieromartyr Kuksha and Saint Pimen the Faster died after the year 1114. Saint Simon, Bishop of Vladimir and Suzdal (May 10), in a letter to Saint Polycarp, Archimandrite of the Caves (July 24), wrote of Saint Kuksha: "How can I worthily proclaim the glory of those saintly men dwelling in the holy Monastery of the Caves, in which pagans were baptized and became monks, and Jews accepted the holy Faith? But I cannot keep silent about the holy hieromartyr and Black-Robed Kuksha of this monastery. Everyone knows that he cast out devils, baptized the Vyatichi, caused it to rain, dried up a lake, performed many other miracles, and after many torments was killed together with his disciple Nikon."

The death of the hieromartyr Kuksha was revealed to Saint Pimen the Faster. Standing in the church of the Monastery of the Caves, he loudly exclaimed, "Our brother Kuksha was killed today for the Gospel." After saying this, he also surrendered his soul to God.

The Vyatichi, among whom the hieromartyr Kuksha preached and died, were pagans living along the River Oka, and they occupied the area of the Orlov and Kaluga districts. Saint Nestor the Chronicler (October 27), writing about the Vyatichi, was shocked by their brutal customs and he added that they live "only for the present day," remaining unacquainted with the Law of God, and making their own law instead.

The Hieromartyr Kuksha preached to the Vyatichi during the era of Saint Theoctistus, Bishop of Chernigov (August 5). He was buried, as was Saint Pimen the Faster, in the Near Caves. The Monks of the Near Caves are commemorated on September 28.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (*Epistle*)

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. **Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.**

Silent Prayer before the Gospel:

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.

Matthew 19:16-26 (Gospel)

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "

The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"

Jesus said to him, "**If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**"

But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "**With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**"

Prayer for Travel

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the true and living Way, Who didst will to journey with Thy guardian Joseph, and Thy most pure Virgin Mother into Egypt, and didst accompany Luke and Cleopas on their way to Emmaus: we now humbly entreat Thee, O most holy Master: do Thou accompany now *this* Thy servant(s) N. by Thy grace. Send unto *him* as to Thy servant Tobias, an angel as a guide and guardian, protecting and delivering *him* from every evil assault of enemies both visible and invisible; directing *him* to the fulfillment of Thy commandments, sending *him* on *his* way peacefully, profitably, and soundly and bringing *him* back again safely and in peace.

Grant that *he* may fulfill all *his* good purpose unto Thy good pleasure, and favorably unto Thy glory. For Thine it is to be merciful and to save us, O Christ our God, and to Thee do we send up glory, together with Thy Father Who is without beginning, and Thy most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.