

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 9, 2020
Choir Director: Wash King

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

At this time, we are utilizing up to 50% capacity in the church, so the first 75 people who arrive at the church to attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday will be permitted to attend the service. At the candle stand will be a sign-in sheet that you must sign so we know who is attending the service. There is no pressure or expectation to attend services during this period of COVID-19. Remember to wear a mask and practice social distancing of six feet except for immediate family members. These procedures and guidelines are in effect not only to protect ourselves but also to protect one another. It is essential that we know who is attending the Divine Liturgy in the event that a "notice of infection" is requested and contact tracing becomes necessary.

Some points to remember:

You no longer need to call Father James each week to confirm that you will be in church.

Please have the usher write down your name and phone # on the attendance sheet as soon as you enter the church. Your temperature will be taken.

Please follow the directions of the usher on lighting candles.

Please expect assigned seating to ensure proper social distancing.

Icons can be venerated by blessing yourself with the sign of the cross and bowing without physical contact (no kissing or touching the icons)

Please follow the instructions of the Priest on how to receive Communion.

Antidoron will not be distributed at this time.

Please remember to wear a mask and bring your own Divine Liturgy Book.

Liturgical Services have started, although with 'preventative measures'! Please see May 31, 2020 bulletin for the full procedures. We are blessed to have the services with restrictions and we pray for the time that these conditions are no longer necessary!

Vespers Services

Great Vespers will be held at 4:00 PM outside in the Church yard in front of the wooden Cross. Everyone is welcomed, but must wear masks and keep physical distance of six feet. If it is raining or looking like it will rain, this service will be cancelled. We will not be able to make an announcement of the rain cancellation.

Sun...August 9... 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Celebrate Transfiguration and bless fruit)

Sat...August 15...4:00 PM – VESPERS – in church yard (weather permitting)

Sun...August 16...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Celebrate Dormition and bless flowers & herbs)

Sat... August 22...4:00 PM – VESPERS – in church yard (weather permitting)

Sun...August 23...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by PARASTAS

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, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Jane Bubernak, Cecil Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Edward Conarty, Irene David, Ilene Devine, Gloria Ferri, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Alexandra Miller, Courtney Miller, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Helen Scheese, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Helen Suda, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Richard York

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.**

Financials 8/2/20 *Operating Acct:* - Candles 50 – Weekly 436 – Non-Env 300 – Holy Days 105 – Altar Candles 40 – Donations 1,000 = Total \$ 1,931.00 Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Building Fund 1 – Cemetery 445.

Thank you!

Please support St. Mary's Orthodox Church by shopping at Amazon Smile.
When you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon will make a donation to St. Mary's Orthodox Church.
See St. Mary's Facebook page for details.

August Birthdays: 5-Rose Harkins, 11-Alexandra Miller, 14- David King, 15- Courtney Miller, 18-Jane Bubernak, 22-Nancy Lorchak, 30- Daniel Skripnek, Jr, 31-Jerome Balliet

August Wedding Anniversaries: 20 – Dennis & Geri Vavra , 30 – Helen & George Yurchak (73rd)

Candles (from May 17):

7-Day Vigils/Altar...In memory of Mary Lutash offered by Olga Hebda

Altar Candles... For the health of Russell King (80th birthday) offered by wife, Geri King

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

Vigil Crosses ... For the health of Helen Sheers offered by Ted Bogosh

7-Day Vigil/Tetrapod... In memory of Andrew & Mary Bybel Family offered by Friends

Candles (from August 2):

7-Day Vigils/Altar... In memory of John Bluvus offered by Geri & Russell King

Altar Candles... For the health of Aunt Olga Hebda offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Eternal Lamp... In memory of Mother, Mary Lutash offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Vigil Crosses ... For the health of Gloria Ferri offered by Ted Bogosh

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the health of Julia Forte offered by Ted Bogosh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod... In memory of Helen Macenka offered by Stephanie Chmel

If you do not feel comfortable coming to church yet, you may continue to watch 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 Live Streaming – Scroll down to church services

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

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

Saturday Vespers – 5:00 PM; Sunday Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

GROWTH THROUGH TRIALS

“BELOVED, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.” (1 Peter 4:12-13)

“There is a wise saying that claims: ‘Into each life some rain must fall.’ We all realize that we are instruments of God. His plan for us includes birth, growth, and maturity. God uses the Bible, the Church and other believers to help shape us. He also uses TRIALS in our life to mold us.

Why does Mankind face trials? It is because we live in a sinful world. It is written in Romans 3:10-23 that we are all part of a fallen race and fall short of the glory of God. Our world is filled with turmoil, crime, and sickness. Our adversary is Satan. He tempts us to be unfaithful and to do evil. Our goal must be to strive to overcome this evil with good.

But why are CHRISTIAN TRIALS different? We are aware that we do not suffer alone. There is a design to our difficulties. We look to JESUS, the One Who cares and understands. Through Him will come our glory.

Let us examine how Christians should react to several tribulations. Perhaps we have financial troubles, maybe not of our doing. These trials may teach us to care and show gratitude for the assistance the Lord gives. Sometimes, health problems get in our way. They teach us to sympathize, pray and lean on Jesus. Maybe we have family concerns. Rejoice in the fact that you are part of a larger family of God and seek out help from Christian counselors. The question is this: How are you doing in God's School of Trials? Let's hope these trials are making you BETTER and not BITTER.”

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin, Vestal, Cliffwood, N.J.

9th Sunday after Pentecost. After feast of the Transfiguration

Prokeimenon – Tone 8: Pray and make your vows/ before the Lord our God!

Troparion — Tone 7

You were Transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, / revealing Your glory to Your disciples as far as they could bear it. / Let Your everlasting Light shine upon us sinners! / Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to You!

Kontakion — Tone 7

On the Mountain You were Transfigured, O Christ God, / and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it; / so that when they would behold You crucified, / they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary, / and would proclaim to the world, / that You are truly the Radiance of the Father!

The Church's hymns today invite us to "ascend the holy mountain" and "with the eyes of faith," to "behold the radiant Transfiguration of the Lord." Christ has transformed our fallen human nature and restored its original beauty "by the burning radiance of His divinity."

Glorification of Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America

Troparion — Tone 7

Joyful North Star of the Church of Christ, / guiding all people to the Heavenly Kingdom; / teacher and apostle of the True Faith; / intercessor and defender of the oppressed; / adornment of the Orthodox Church in America: / Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, / pray to our Lord Jesus Christ / for the salvation of our souls!

Troparion — Tone 4

O blessed Father Herman of Alaska, / north star of Christ's holy Church, / the light of your holy life and great deeds / guides those who follow the Orthodox way. / Together we lift high the Holy Cross / you planted firmly in America. / Let all behold and glorify Jesus Christ, / singing his holy Resurrection.

Kontakion — Tone 3

The eternal light of Christ our Savior / guided you, blessed Father Herman, / on your evangelical journey to America / to proclaim the Gospel of peace. / Now you stand before the throne of glory; / intercede for your land and its people: / Peace for the world and salvation for our souls!

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.

Prayer to Saint Herman of Alaska

O Almighty God, We praise and glorify Thee, Our Lord and Creator. All the earth and everything within it acknowledges Thee as Creator, the Eternal Father.

Heaven and Earth, Angels and Men, together, praise and glorify Thee, the most glorious company of Apostles, the praiseworthy fellowship of Prophets, the great and noble gathering of Martyrs, the whole community of Saints, all praise Thee.

We the members of the holy community on earth pray: Make us worthy with all the Saints in Heaven, especially the newly glorified Elder, the Blessed Herman of Alaska, to reign in Thine everlasting glory.

On this day the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church praises and glorifies Thee, our God, in joyful thanksgiving. The inheritors and children of the Holy Church of Christ which you, O Blessed Father Herman and your holy companions planted here, now flowering and growing throughout this great continent, gather at your reliquary. We gaze at your Relics in the knowledge that your soul joins together with the Apostles, Prophets, Martyrs, Saints and the Heavenly Hosts before the Throne of the Most Merciful God in praise of the Holy Trinity.

O Blessed Hermit of Spruce Island, good teacher of the faith in the Holy Trinity, and our Spiritual Father, intercede before the throne of the Almighty God, for peace within the Church, the dispelling of all disunity, faithlessness and discord.

Come to the aid of our spiritual leaders that they may always be true and effective instruments of the Holy Spirit, with the power to proclaim the evangelical truths, with the wisdom to enlighten the unenlightened, with the spirit to inspire all to love the knowledge of God, with the perseverance to defend the Church, even unto death, from all enemies both within and without and at all times.

May the hearts of your spiritual children be filled with that faith and love of the Holy Church which you manifested in your holy life; praying to Him to: deliver us from the temptations which cause us to fall; renew our child-like faith in our Heavenly Father; replace our trust in God, and in Him alone; satisfy our thirst for the true knowledge of God; teach us to serve God faithfully; transfigure our life that it may truly reflect the image and likeness of God.

O Holy Father and Patron of the Church in America: Be a physician to the weak in faith; be a support to the fallen; be a defender to the defenseless; be a bulwark of strength to the weary in spirit; be a guide to the travelers by sea, by land and by air; be our heavenly intercessor.

O Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, together with all the Saints and the Heavenly Hosts, pray to God that on each of us He will bestow wisdom for our mind, strength for our will, light for our spirit, enabling us to attain to the true peace of life which is from God alone. We praise with joyous and grateful hearts, the Life-Creating Trinity: Father Almighty, Only-Begotten Son, Comforter, Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayers of Protection from the Coronavirus

A Prayer To Be Offered in the Morning

Lord our God, You who are rich in mercy, and with careful wisdom direct our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, bring an end to this new infectious disease, this new epidemic, just as you averted the punishment of your people in the time of David the King. You who are the Physician of our souls and bodies, grant restored health to those who have been seized by this illness, raising them from their bed of suffering, so that they might glorify You, O merciful Savior, and preserve in health those who have not been infected. By your grace, Lord, bless, strengthen, and preserve, all those who out of love and sacrifice care for the sick, either in their homes or in the hospitals. Remove all sickness and suffering from your people, and teach us to value life and health as gifts from You. Give us Your peace, O God, and fill our hearts with unflinching faith in Your protection, hope in Your help, and love for You and our neighbor. For Yours it is to have mercy on us and save us, O our God, and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, to the ages of ages. Amen.

All the Angels were awestruck by the courage and fortitude * of Saint Nikiforos the Leper * in ascetic deeds and contests, * for like another Job he suffered pains * with patience, ever glorifying God, * who has crowned him now with glory, granting him grace * to work great and wondrous miracles. * Rejoice, O guide of monastics and their aid, * Rejoice, O shining beacon of light, * Rejoice for your relics now exude * a fragrance bringing joy to all.

A Prayer To Be Offered in the Evening

Lord Jesus Christ our God, You traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At Your command, the sick were made well.

Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of this virus, that we may experience Your healing love. Heal those O Lord who are suffering with this pandemic's illness. May they regain their strength and health through medical care.

Heal us from our fears, which prevent nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Lord Jesus Christ, healer of all and physician of our souls and bodies, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with You in Your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know Your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know Your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to choose long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know Your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Lord Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

For You are the Physician of our souls and bodies Christ our God and to You do we offer glory, thanksgiving and worship together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Another Prayer, To Be Offered At Any Time

O Holy Father, God of unknown, uncreated depth, You are beyond all description and expectation. You are the Creator of all worlds, physical and metaphysical. As You are only love, in love You created everything that truly is. Through Your Son, everything has form and purpose, and through Your Spirit, everything lives and moves back toward You.

O Father, we are troubled by this scourge that is infecting Your people around the world. From the ancient Fall away from You, there are many consequences that we cannot begin to understand. As traces of this pestilence are being studied in labs, we shiver at its demonic malevolence for destruction, especially of the frail and the elderly.

Our hearts are open to You, loving Father; we come to You as children, meek and lowly. We beg You to help the doctors who work to find a cure. We beg You to help our leaders to put away childish things, to forget political advantage, and to be good stewards of their people. We beg You to help us to be wise ourselves and to care for human life in the least of those around us.

We cry out to You as One Who did not send this plague. We cry out to You as One Who only heals and redeems. You did not send this, but we know You can destroy it.

So Father, cease this plague, and turn it back to the abyss from which it came.

Heal Your people, the humanity of this earth, cleanse us and strengthen us toward You.

We are weak, but You are strong, and in our weakness Your strength is revealed. Help us, we beg You, in the Name of Your Son, the Great Physician, Who, together with You and our Comforter, the Holy Spirit, Are due all glory and honor, to the ages of ages. Amen.

Next to God who honored you, * O Nikiforos, * you do stand with boldness now, * like the tenth leper who returned * in great thanksgiving and gratefulness; * so, as is fitting, we honor your memory.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you... do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27