

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
Choir Director: Wash King

Sunday, December 13, 2020
27th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Forefathers and St. Herman of Alaska

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

Liturgical Services will resume on December 13 with the Divine Liturgy.
And the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on December 13 in the Church Hall.

Sat...**December 12...NO VESPERS**

Sun...**December 13...9:30 AM** – Divine Liturgy followed by Parastas and **Annual Parish Meeting**

Parastas: In memory of **Wasil Horvath & Wash Yurchak** offered by Helen & George Yurchak

In memory of **Fannie & Michael Yurchak** offered by Helen & George Yurchak

In memory of **Kathryn & Stephan, & Justine Yurchak** offered by Helen & George Yurchak

In memory of **Justine & Kathryn Yurchak** offered by Attorney Robert Yurchak

In memory of **Marlene Cox** offered by Helen & George Yurchak

In memory of **Janet Jupin** offered by the Jupin Family

In memory of **Sophie Herbert** offered by the Herbert Family

In memory of **John O'Shura** offered by the Herbert Family

In memory of **John Fedora** offered by Barbara Faenza & Family

In memory of **Benjamin & Olga Macalush** offered by the Herbert Family

In memory of **Nicholas Teno** offered by Martha Teno

In memory of **Kathryn Puschak** offered by Kate Puschak

NO COFFEE HOUR UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

Sat... **December 19...4:00 PM** – tentative - Vespers in **church hall basement** – must wear a mask

Sun...**December 20...9:30 AM** – Divine Liturgy – **NO COFFEE HOUR**

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, Jane Bubernak, Cecil Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Edward Conarty, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda,

Peter Holoviak, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Alexandra Miller, Britney Miller, Courtney Miller, Isaac Miller, Margaret Miller, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, Helen Suda, Martha Stafiniak, Joseph Tosca, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Richard York.

December Birthdays: 3- Richard York, 9- Odess Remington, 11- Stephanie Chmel (100), 16- Sbdn James Weremedic, 22- Karoline Vavra, 28- Sophia James

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 12/1-6/20: *Operating Acct:* Offerings 222 – Holy Days 95 – Altar Candles 30 – Christmas 110 = Total \$457.00; Poinsettias 50 – Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. – Thank you!

Candles (December 13):

Flowers... For the health of **Olga Hebda** offered by Dr. Michael & Rebecca Danchak

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the health of **All Shut-ins** offered by the Good Samaritans

Altar Candles... In memory of **the Pavlick Family** offered by Alice (Rosahac) Styler

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Michael Hebda** offered by Olga Hebda

Vigil Crosses ... For the health of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod... For the health of **Anastasia & John Zarsky & Family** offered by A Friend

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.

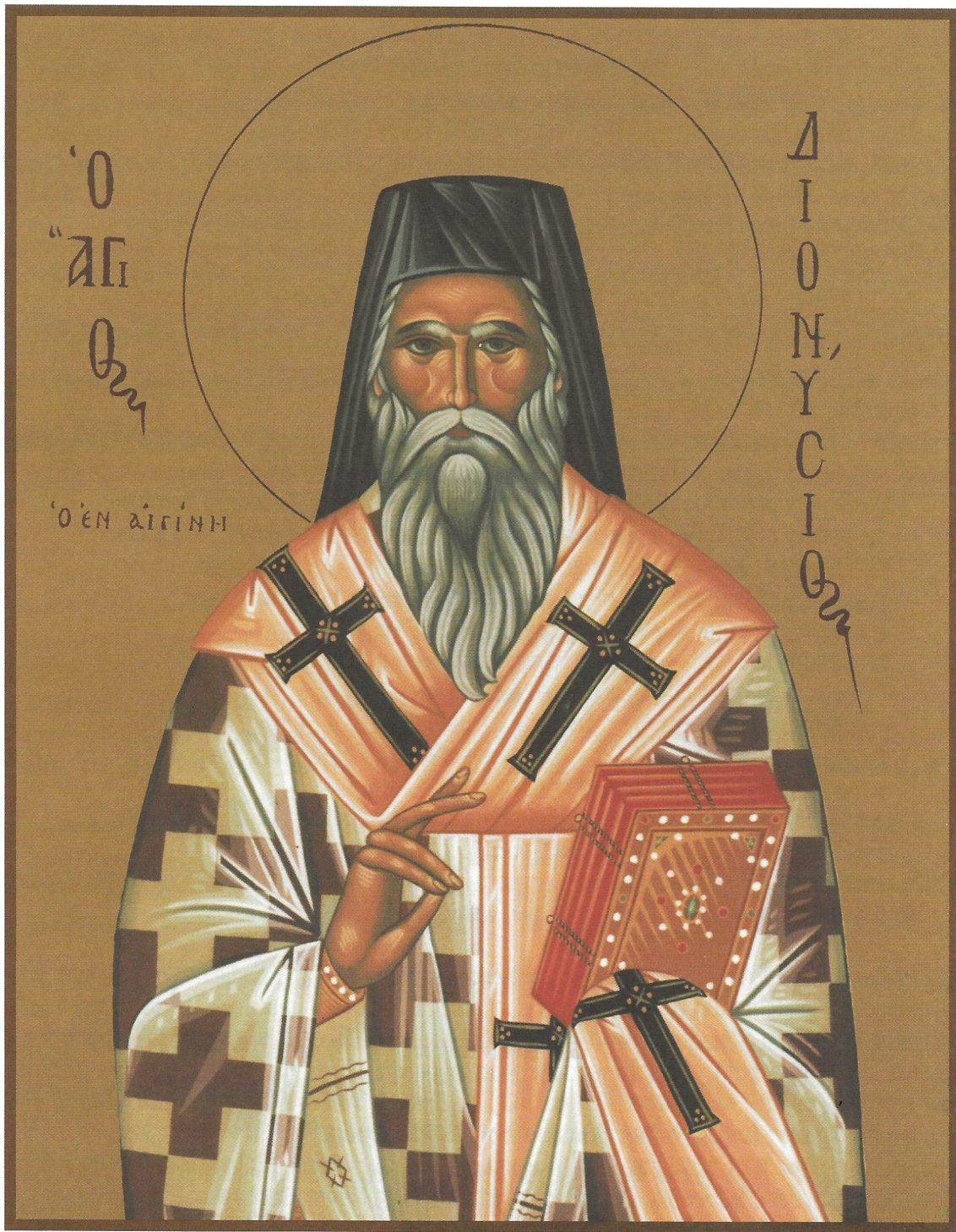
At the top of the page – Click on Live Streaming – Scroll down to church services

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

We received \$13.71 from Amazon Smile in November.

Father Paul and Matushka Lovey wish to “Thank” everyone for “Good Wishes,” “Prayers,” and “Cards” sent to them on their Birthdays. Thank-you.

Thank you to everyone for all the cards and prayers. They were greatly appreciated – Richard York.



Ο
ΑΓΙΟΣ

Ο ΕΝ ΑΙΩΝΗ

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΣ

A BELOVED HIERARCH OF THE CHURCH

The cry of "AXIOS - WORTHY!" is proclaimed at the consecration of a Bishop to the service of God and Church. It is so today and has been for centuries. Worthy indeed was the monastic named Daniel who became a Hierarchy of the Church in the sixteenth century, and who assumed the name DIONYSIUS at that time.

He was born in 1546 on the island of Zakynthos in Greece and raised in the bosom of the Church from infancy. His parents saw to his fine education and he responded by developing a keen intellect and a proficiency in several languages. He had also learned of the emptiness of the world with its materialism and so entered a monastery after the death of his dear parents.

He had his heart set on visiting the Holy Land and praying at the sacred sites associated with the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is said that he went to Athens to book passage, but instead the Christian leaders spoke to him of the vacant episcopal see at the island of Aegina. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he agreed and was consecrated Bishop and assumed the ranking post in the Church of Aegina. He became Archbishop of the Church and was instrumental in developing great spirituality among the faithful. Indeed, pilgrims from surrounding areas came to seek his blessing and to listen to his instruction. He later returned for a time to the monastery and fell asleep in Christ in the 75th year of his life. His body is at the Church of Dionysius on Zakynthos and has been preserved intact over the centuries.

**27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. Repose of Ven. Herman of Alaska,
Wonderworker of All America. Sunday of the Forefathers.**

Sunday of the Forefathers

Commemorated on December 13

Troparion — Tone 2

Through faith You justified the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: / She who bore You without seed. / So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Kontakion — Tone 6

You did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed ones, / but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, / you were glorified in a trial by fire. / From the midst of unbearable flames, you called on God, crying: / Hasten, O compassionate One! / Speedily come to our aid, / for You are merciful and able to do as You will.

Sunday of the Forefathers

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

Repose of Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America

Commemorated on December 13

Troparion — Tone 7

O joyful north star of the Church of Christ, / guiding all men 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, O blessed father Herman, / on your evangelical journey to America, / proclaiming 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!

Galatians 5:22-6:2 (Epistle, Saint)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Colossians 3:4-11 (Epistle)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Luke 6:17-23 (Gospel, Saint)

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed.

And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake.

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

Luke 14:16-24 (Gospel)

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'

But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'

And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'

Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.'

And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'

Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'

'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

Rest of Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America

Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America. A spiritual mission was organized in 1793 with volunteers from the monks of the Valaam Monastery. They were sent to preach the Word of God to the native inhabitants of northwestern America, who had come under the sovereignty of Russia only ten years before. Saint Herman was one of the members of this mission.

Saint Herman came from a family of merchants of Serpukhov, a city of the Moscow diocese. His name before he was tonsured, and his family name are not known. There is a possibility, however, that his baptismal name was Gerasimus. He had a great zeal for piety from his youth, and he entered monastic life at sixteen. (This was in 1772, if we assume that Herman was born in 1756, although sometimes 1760 is given as the date of his birth.) First he entered the Trinity-Sergius Hermitage which was located near the Gulf of Finland on the Peterhof Road, about 15 versts (about 10 miles) from Saint Petersburg. He also spent time at at Sarov, where he first met Father Nazarius, who became his Elder at Valaam. Later, Saint Herman followed him to Sanaxar where Saint Theodore (February 19) was their igumen.

Miraculous Healing

At the Saint Sergius Hermitage there occurred the following incident to Father Herman. On the right side of his throat under his chin there appeared an abscess. The swelling grew rapidly, disfiguring his face. It became difficult for him to swallow, and the odor was unbearable. In this critical condition Father Herman awaited death. He did not appeal to a physician of this world, but locking his cell he fell before an icon of the Mother of God. With fervent tears he prayed, asking of Her that he might be healed. He prayed the whole night. Then he took a wet towel and with it wiped the face of the Most Holy Mother, and with this towel he covered the swelling. He continued to pray with tears until he fell asleep from sheer exhaustion on the floor. In a dream he saw the Virgin Mary healing him. When Herman awoke in the morning, he found to his great surprise that he was fully healed.

The Rest of Father Herman

The time of the Elder's passing had come. One day he ordered his disciple Gerasim to light a candle before the Icons, and to read the Acts of the Holy Apostles. After some time his face glowed brightly and he said in a loud voice, "Glory to Thee, O Lord!" He then ordered the reading to be halted, and he announced that the Lord had willed that his life would now be spared for another week. A week later, again by his orders, candles were lit, and the Acts of the Holy Apostles were read. Quietly, the Elder bowed his head on Gerasim's chest; the cell was filled with a sweet-smelling odor; and his face glowed, and Father Herman was no

more! Thus he died in blessedness, he passed away in the sleep of a righteous man in the eighty-first year of his life of great labor the 25th day of December 1837. (It was the 13th of December according to the Julian Calendar, although there are some records which state that he died on November 28th and was buried on December 26th).

Those sent with the sad news to the harbor returned to announce that the administrator of the colony Kashevarov had forbidden the burial of the Elder until his own arrival. He also ordered that a finer coffin be made for Father Herman, and that he would come as soon as possible and would bring a priest with him. But then a great wind came up, a rain fell, and a terrible storm broke. The distance from the harbor to Spruce Island is not great—about a two hour journey—but no one would agree to go to sea in such weather. Thus it continued for a full month, and although the body lay in state for a full month in the warm house of his students, his face did not undergo any change at all, and not the slightest odor emanated from his body. Finally, through the efforts of Kuzma Uchilischev, a coffin was obtained. No one arrived from the harbor, and the inhabitants of Spruce Island alone buried the remains of the Elder in the ground. Thus the words which Father Herman uttered before his death were fulfilled. After this the wind quieted down, and the surface of the sea became as smooth as a mirror.

One evening, above the village Katani (on Afognak) an unusual pillar of light which reached up to heaven was seen above Spruce Island. Astonished by the miraculous appearance, experienced elders and the Creole Gerasim Vologdin and his wife Anna said, “It seems that Father Herman has left us,” and they began to pray. After a time, they were informed that the Elder had indeed passed away that very night. This same pillar was seen in various places by others. On the night of his death a vision was seen in another of the settlements on Afognak; it seemed as though a man was rising from Spruce Island into the clouds. The disciples buried their father, and placed a wooden memorial marker above his grave. Father Peter Kashevarov, the priest on Kodiak, says, “I saw it myself, and I can say that today it seems as though it had never been touched by time; as though it had been cut this day.” Having witnessed the life of Father Herman glorified by his zealous labors, having seen his miracles, and the fulfillment of his predictions, finally having observed his blessed falling asleep, “in general, all the local inhabitants,” Bishop Peter witnesses, “have the highest esteem for him, as though he was a holy ascetic, and they are fully convinced that he has found favor in the presence of God.” In 1842, five years after the passing away of the Elder, Archbishop Innocent of Kamchatka and the Aleutians, was near Kodiak on a sailing vessel which was in great distress. He looked to Spruce Island, and said to himself, “If you have found favor in God’s presence, Father Herman then may the wind change.” It seems as though not more than fifteen minutes had passed, said the bishop, when the wind became favorable, and he successfully reached the shore. In thanksgiving for being saved, Archbishop Innocent himself conducted a Memorial Service (Panikhida) over the grave of the blessed Father Herman.

O Holy Father Herman of Alaska, pray unto God for us!