

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, December 18, 2022
Choir Director: Wash King

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (13th of Luke)

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

Services:

Sunday, December 18- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Parastas, Fellowship, & **Special Parish Meeting**
Due to the weather last week, the Special Collection for Alaska will be held today

In memory of Benjamin Macalush offered by the Herbert Family

In memory of Sophie Herbert offered by the Herbert Family

In memory of John & Rose Bench offered by the Bench Family

Saturday, December 24- 4:00 PM – **Great Compline (Christmas Eve)** Eve of the Nativity

Sunday, December 25- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy and Fellowship (Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ)

Saturday, December 31- 4:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 1- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great and New Year's 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 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:

Fr. James Weremedic, Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Danielle Bogosh, Ashley Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Nadine Fegley, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen Harkins, Nancy King, Russell King, Michael Kulick, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, Dale Renninger, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, Mary Simone, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Joseph Tosca, 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 (December 18)

7-day Vigils-Altar...In memory **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Altar Candles... In memory of **Lillian Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh

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

Vigil Crosses...For the Good Health of **Fr. James Weremedic** offered by Anonymous

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod...In Thanksgiving for blessings received by **Edward & Anna Pierson**

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Michael Bolinski** offered by Mildred O'Shura

December Birthdays: 9- Odess Remington, 11- Stephanie Chmel, 16- Sbdn James Weremedic, 22- Karoline Vavra, 28- Sophia James

Financials 12/11/22: Operating Acct: Candles 54 - Altar Candles 60 - Offerings 1,011

Non-Envelope 175 - Holy Days 26 – Christmas 15 – Donation 210 = Total \$1,551.00.

Poinsettias 240

Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. – Thank you!

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

December 18 Michael Tatusko

December 25 Gloria Bench

There is a sign-up sheet for **Coffee Hour** in the vestibule if you would like to host.

Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon.

*****If you put your donation for Alaska in an envelope with you name or number on it, and write Alaska on the envelope, your donation will be recorded on your contribution sheet**

**Wall calendars for 2023 are in the back of the church
Boxes of offering envelopes for 2023 are in the church basement**

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

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church to sign up for the **New Year's Dinner** being held after Divine Liturgy on January 1, 2023. Everyone welcome!!!

THE VENERATION OF SAINTS

Every day of the year is dedicated to one or more of the saints of the Church. Commemoration is usually on the date of their “falling asleep” in Christ rather than a birthdate. We honor the saints because they were dear to God during their lives on earth and are now with the Lord, having received the crown of glory.

The honor and reverence accorded the saints is sharply distinguished from that given to God. We worship God, never the saints. We venerate and revere the saints, who are Christian heroes, having struggled for faith and virtue, and gave their lives for Christ.

The saints have been honored from the earliest days of Christianity. Early writers attest to this practice. Tertullian, year 240, writes “We offer oblations every anniversary in honor of their natal feasts.” The ancient Liturgies likewise make commemoration of the saints: “That they may offer their untiring prayers to Thee for us, so that, though we place little reliance on our own selves, we may though them presume to come to Thee.” (St. Basil).

Certainly there is a great need in our day to have proper heroes to emulate in life. What better than the countless numbers of saints, coming from every station in life, who have served God faithfully and are now with the Lord?

Our bulletin contains the icon of **ST. EUGENIA**, martyred in the 3rd century. In Greek, her name means “noble.” She was born into a pagan home, but came to believe in Christ, dedicating her life to Him. She is said to have converted her father Philip, a Roman officer, and the rest of her family. She met a martyr’s death by sword in Rome.

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 2. Sunday before the Nativity.

Martyr Sebastian at Rome and his companions: Martyrs Nicostratus, Zoë, Castorius, Tranquillinus, Marcellinus, Mark, Claudius, Symphorian, Victorinus, Tiburtius, and Castulus (ca. 287). Ven. Sebastian, Abbot of Pshekhónsk Monastery (Vologdá—ca. 150). Righteous Simeon, Wonderworker of Verkhotúr'ye (1694). St. Modestus, Archbishop of Jerusalem (633-634). St. Florus, Bishop of Amisus (7th c.). St. Michael the Confessor at Constantinople (ca. 845).

Sunday before the Nativity

Troparion — Tone 2 - Great are the accomplishments of faith, / for the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the source of the flame, as if by restful waters,¹ / and the Prophet Daniel appeared / as a shepherd of lions as of sheep. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Kontakion — Tone 6 - You would not worship an image made by hands, O thrice-blessed youths; / but shielded by the ineffable Essence, you were glorified through your ordeal by fire. / In the midst of the unbearable fire you called upon God, crying: / "Hasten, O compassionate One, / and in Your mercy come to our aid, / for if You will, You can do so."

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Epistle, Sunday Before)

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Matthew 1:1-25 (Gospel, Sunday Before)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.

Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

So, all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Righteous Simeon, Wonderworker of Verkhoturye

Commemorated on December 18

Saint Simeon of Verkhoturye was a nobleman, but he concealed his origin and led the life of a beggar. He walked through the villages and for free sewed half-coats and other clothes, primarily for the poor. While doing this he deliberately failed to sew something, either a glove, or a scarf, for which he endured abuse from his customers.

The ascetic wandered much, but most often he lived at a churchyard of the village of Merkushinsk not far from the city of Verkhoturye (on the outskirts of Perm). Saint Simeon loved nature in the Urals, and while joyfully contemplated its majestic beauty, he would raise up a thoughtful glance towards the Creator of the world. In his free time, the saint loved to go fishing in the tranquility of solitude. This reminded him of the disciples of Christ, whose work he continued, guiding the local people in the true Faith. His conversations were a seed of grace, from which gradually grew the abundant fruits of the Spirit in the Urals and in Siberia, where the saint is especially revered. Saint Simeon of Verkhoturye died in 1642, when he was 35 years of age. He was buried in the Merkushinsk graveyard by the church of the Archangel Michael.

On September 12, 1704, with the blessing of Metropolitan Philotheus of Tobolsk, the holy relics of Saint Simeon were transferred from the church of the Archangel Michael to the Verkhoturye monastery in the name of Saint Nicholas. Saint Simeon worked many miracles after his death. He frequently appeared to the sick in dreams and healed them, and he brought to their senses those fallen into the disease of drunkenness. A peculiarity of the saint's appearances was that with the healing of bodily infirmities, he also gave instruction and guidance for the soul.