

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 25, 2022
Choir Director: Wash King

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Services:

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
Thursday, January 5- 4:00 PM – Great Compline (Theophany Eve)
Friday, January 6- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – Theophany – Blessing of Water
Saturday, January 7- 4:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, January 8- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

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 Birozik, 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 25)

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory **Kay & Paul Maliniak** offered by William Yelsh
Altar Candles... In memory 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... In memory of **Mat. Lovey Ropitsky** offered by Fr. Paul & Michael Ropitsky
7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory of **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Rose (Winsko) Maliniak** offered by Friends

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

Financials 12/18/22: Operating Acct: Candles 65 - Altar Candles 980 - Offerings 517
Non-Envelope 150 - Christmas 100 = Total \$1,812.00.
Poinsettias 120 – Alaska Collection 410
Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

December 25 Gloria Bench January 1 New Year's Dinner

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

Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon.

***We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Claire and Odess Remington
on the passing away of Claire's sister, Jean Huffman (Haspe) on 12/16/2022
Memory Eternal!***

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

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!!!

HAS CHRISTMAS LOST IT'S TRUE MEANING?

We have probably heard that troubling query expressed hundreds of times over the course of the past few weeks. Each of us, no doubt, has lamented the misplaced emphasis and focus during this season when we are supposed to be commemorating the BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR. Through the years, we have watched helplessly as Christ has effectively been taken out of our celebration of Christmas. "Receiving" has become more important than "giving." Solemnity has given way to revelry. When we attempt to speak out against those who have distorted the meaning of this sacred day, we are truly "a voice crying in the wilderness!" Consequently, we find ourselves saying little about it - except to those who share our sentiments. As we witness the self-indulgent way that today's society observes a day that should be filled with spiritual joy, we are tempted to echo the words uttered by Ebenezer Scrooge: "Christmas? Bah, humbug!"

We must truly remember that CHRIST IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON. God gave of Himself for the benefit of all mankind. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son . . .*" Christ brought peace to the world . . . He brought hope to the world . . . He brought salvation to the world. Only those who willingly give of themselves for the benefit of others can receive these wonderful "gifts" offered freely by our Lord.

Perhaps it involves giving a gift to your favorite charity. Perhaps it involves a donation of your time or talent to a person in need. It could even be something as simple as a kind word of encouragement or an attentive ear. All of these acts are viewed positively by our Lord above.

It is refreshing to see that the true message of Christmas has not been lost. Hopefully this restores our faith in humanity, melts away our cynicism and reminds us what Christmas is all about. May the "SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS" live on in the hearts of those who love and serve the Lord.

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar. Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks, and went to see the Lord.

Troparion — Tone 4 - Your Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shone to the world the Light of wisdom! / For by it, those who worshipped the stars, / were taught by a Star to adore You, / the Sun of Righteousness, / and to know You, the Orient from on High. / O Lord, glory to You!

Kontakion — Tone 3 - Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! / Angels with shepherds glorify Him! / The wise men journey with a star! / Since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a Little Child!

Galatians 4:4-7 (Epistle, Nativity)

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Matthew 2:1-12 (Gospel, Nativity)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star, in the East and have come to worship Him."

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So, they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are, not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Nativity of our Lord 2022

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, My Beloved Children in the Lord, Christ is born! Glorify him!

'But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and his Mother, and go to the land of Israel..." (Mt. 2:19-20)

The protagonist, so to speak, for the first two chapters of Saint Matthew's Gospel is the humble and silent man whom we call the Righteous Joseph the Betrothed. Joseph is called 'just,' that is, he walked according to the commandments of God (Mt. 1:19). And, according to the scriptures, in keeping the commandments, a man may learn true knowledge. As the Psalmist says, 'Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments' (Ps. 118:66).

We find that this is exceptionally true in the case of Saint Joseph. So just, so righteous, was he, that he was worthy to be taught and led by an angel. In an event that is sometimes called the annunciation to Saint Joseph, an angel comes to the righteous man in his moment of doubt concerning the pregnancy of his betrothed, telling him not to fear.

And this exhortation not to be afraid is no mere formality, for the next words of the angel disclose a dread and fearful task. The angel asks Joseph to serve the most holy Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary in place of an earthly husband ('take Mary your wife'), and to minister to the Lord Jesus Christ in the place of an earthly father ('you shall call his name Jesus').

This alone—the command to serve as a foster father to the God of all and as a guardian for the Mother of the Light—would be fearful enough. But soon Saint Joseph and the holy Mother and Child for whom he is obliged to care are beset by extraordinary circumstances: a murder plot, an escape to a distant land, and a sojourn in that foreign country. We can only assume that, in Egypt, among strangers, away from home and property, the responsibility to provide for his supposed wife and son weighed very heavily upon this righteous man.

But again, the words of an angel, and this time these are words of relief and joy: 'Go to the land of Israel.' Return home to your kin; return home to your property; return home to your people and your customs and your land.

The first time an angel visited the righteous Joseph, he brought a dread order from the Almighty, an order that would have to be carried out under the most trying of circumstances. The second time an angel came, he brought a welcome reprieve.

But in both cases, the just man Joseph was equally obedient to the divine will. When he was commanded to care for Mother and Child, he took up the task without hesitation, no matter what difficulties ensued. And when he was told to return to Israel, he went just as readily.

The same paradoxical way that Saint Joseph protected and cared for the omnipotent Master who holds all creation in the palm of his hand, God has given to us, Orthodox Christians, a special charge of sacred stewardship. God needs nothing from us, and yet he delights in allowing us to cooperate with him in the work of preaching the Gospel and sanctifying the world.

We might say that, just like the Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, we are, by divine grace, charged with caring for the newborn Christ. For what is the Church but Christ's Body, growing in this world in wisdom and stature until it reaches the measure of the stature of the fullness in the age to come (Lk. 2:52, Eph. 4:13)? And we all share a responsibility, according to our station in life, to care for the Church through prayer, financial support, sacramental participation, and sharing and teaching the faith.

And then, on another level, we are each charged to care for Christ in our life, in our own heart. Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians that he was in travail until Christ be formed in them (Gal. 4:19). Each of us is called to reveal Christ in our life, to become a saint, to become Christ by grace. Through baptism and the Eucharist we have all received Jesus Christ within ourselves, as it were as a new-born Child. By prayer, careful practice of the virtues, attentiveness to our thoughts, and the cultivation of authentic love for God and man, we allow Christ to grow in us, until, we pray, it is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us (Gal. 2:20).

Today, celebrating the Nativity of the Savior in the flesh, may we all take Saint Joseph as our example as we seek to foster Christ in the Church and in our own hearts. Let us practice the commandments, discern the will of God, and do his will, even when the circumstances are difficult.

Truly, this world is an Egypt, and caring for Christ and his Church as Saint Joseph did always involves obstacles and challenges. But if we sojourn with the Christ-child in Egypt, faithfully attending to him in our lives and our communities, we can be assured that we, like Saint Joseph, will one day hear those welcome words: 'Go to the land of Israel'—that is, come, ye righteous, and enter the heavenly mansions the Father has prepared for you from before all ages (Mt. 25:34).

By caring for our infant Savior and Lord in this way, we show our willingness to cooperate with the grace of God, God who so desired to have us as his fellow-workers, his brethren, and his friends that he deigned to be born in a cave and laid in a manger, on a cold night 'while gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone' (Wis. 18:14). To him, our newborn God and Lord, be all glory, honor, and adoration, together with his eternal Father and his most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit.

With the blessing of the newborn Messiah, who is Lord and God before the ages, I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada



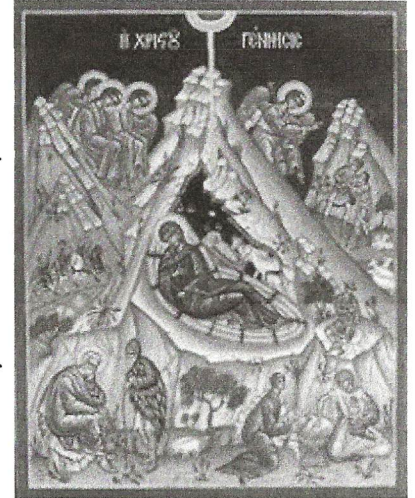
The Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

December 19, 2022

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Beloved Clergy, Matushki, and Faithful,

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, proclaiming the present mystery; for He hath broken the middle wall of partition, and the flaming spear shall turn about, and the cherubim shall admit all to the tree of life. As for me, I shall return to enjoy the bliss of paradise from which I was driven away before, by reason of iniquity; for the likeness of the Father, and the Person of His eternity, which it is impossible to change hath taken the likeness of a Servant, coming from a Mother who has not known wedlock; free from transubstantiation, since He remained as He was, true God, and took what had not been, having become Man for His love of mankind. Wherefore, let us lift our voices unto Him crying, O Thou Who wast born of the Virgin, O God, have mercy upon us.



Have a blessed Feast of the Nativity and a Joyous New Year! May our Lord bless you with good health, length of days and a happy and peaceful new year! Thank you for your hospitality over the last year as well as your generosity.

Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania



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"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine

2022 Poinsettias

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church
Coaldale, PA 18218-1602**

Poinsettias on Tetrapod

In Memory of:

Very Rev. Paul & Mat Irene Borick
Matushka Lovey Ropitsky

Requested by:

Church Council & Parishioners
Fr. Paul & Michael Ropitsky

Other Poinsettias

For the Health & In Honor of:

V. Rev. James & Mat Lisa Weremedic & Family
Ilene Devine & Peter Weremedic
All members of St. Mary's Church
Church Family Shut-ins
Geri & Russell King
Elizabeth A. Sabol
Nancy A. Sabol
SPC James Gilbreath, USA

Requested by:

Parishioners
Fr. James & Mat. Lisa
Geri & Russell King
Good Samaritans
Andrew Rudenko
Nancy A. Sabol
Nancy A. Sabol
Edward Pierson

In Memory of Deceased Members of the:

Devine & Weremedic Families
Augustine extended Family
Chmel Family
Scarloss Family
Yaroma & Goida Families
King Family Members
Kostin & Niadna Families
Lepley Family
Pohlod Family
Rosahac & Churrun Families
Lorchak Family
Terry, Redash, & Pavuk Families

Requested by:

Fr. James & Mat. Lisa
Michael & Barbara Birosik
Stephanie Chmel
Stephanie Chmel
Rose Harkins
King Family
Geri & Russell King
Geri & Russell King
Geri & Russell King
Walter Rosahac
Martha L. Teno
Thom Terry

In Memory of:

Michael & Helen Bogosh &
Peter Harahush
Richard York
Irene, Theodore, Anastasia, Walter, &
Olga Scarloss
Michael Bolinski
John, Rose, John, Jr. Bench
John & Anna Bogosh

Requested by:

Terri Bogosh
Anastasia Babinetz & Tommy Shanosky
Michael & Natalie Bolinski
Michael & Natalie Bolinski
Gloria Bench & Family
Gloria Bench & Family

Andrew & Mary Bybel Family
Andrew & Mary Bybel Family
Rose (Winsko) Maliniak
Michael & Jennie Harb &
Alexis Gancasz
Harry Wyshosky, Jr.
Peter Sr. & Theresa Wyshosky
Peter Wyshosky, Jr.
Mother, Olga Kash
Father, Joseph Kash
Daughter, Elaine Harahus Rottet
Wife, Mary Harahuess
Mother, Anna Harahuess
Father, Andrew Harahuess
Mother, Mary Harahuess
Mary Hudak
Matushka Lovey Ropitsky
Matushka Lovey Ropitsky
Mothers and Sisters
Joseph & Helen O, Boril
John & Anna McHugh
John Lorchak
Parents, Peter & Anna Soley &
Parents, Nicholas & Mary Macenka
Karen Macenka
Mary Ann Macenka
Mary Ann Macenka
Mary & John Macenka
John O'Shura, Sr.
David O'Shura
Cpl Christopher Bordonni, USMC
Kay & Paul Maliniak
Michael F. Zemanik
Mary K. Zemanik
Parents, Mary & Dimitry Sidoriak
John Sidoriak Sr.
Ted & Florence Hawranick
Helen McMichael
Simon Stafiniak
Gertrude Tatusko
Nicholas Teno
Ronald Yurchak

Family Members
Friends
Friends

Jeanne & John Cannon
Julia Forte
Julia Forte
Julia Forte
Barbara Groegler & Family
Barbara Groegler & Family
Michael & Julia Harahus
Husband, Gary Harahuess
Son, Gary Harahuess
Son, Gary Harahuess
Sharon Lewis
Lori & Bill Hudak
Geri & Russell King
Helen & Wash King
Helen & Wash King
daughter, Nancy Lorchak
niece, Nancy Lorchak
Children & Grandsons

Joseph & Dorothy Macenka
Paul J. Macenka
Mary Hertzog
Husband, Paul Macenka
Paul Macenka & Family
Mildred O'Shura & Family
Mildred O'Shura & Family
Edward Pierson
Julia Rudenko
Nancy A. Sabol
Nancy A. Sabol
Olga Sidoriak
Eleanor Sidoriak
Eleanor Sidoriak
Children
wife, Martha Stafiniak & Family
Michael Tatusko
Martha L. Teno
Marie Yurchak & Family

Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!