

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 26, 2021
Choir Director: Wash King

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 2 (14th of Luke)
Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity
Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James
the Brother of the Lord; Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!

Services:

Sunday, December 26 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

Parastas: In memory of Sophie Herbert offered by the Herbert Family

In memory of John Bench, Sr. offered by the Bench Family

In memory of Rose Bench offered by the Bench Family

Sunday, January 2 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – followed by Rescheduled Annual Parish Meeting
Third Annoucement

Thursday, January 6 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy - Theophany of Christ

Sunday, January 9 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy -

Prayer List:

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic,
Andrew Balliet, Dr. Ronald Berezniak, Michael Birosik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh,
Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia
Forte, Karen Harkins, John King, Michael Kulick, John & Olga Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, MaryAnn &
Paul Macenka, Mary Maholick, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga
Sidoriak, Mary Simone, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell
Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & 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 26)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of **John & Peggy Lampman** offered by Ted Bogosh
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 **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Friends
7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the Health of **Teddy Bogosh III and Betty Renninger** offered by Ted Bogosh
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

December Birthdays: 9- Odess Remington, 11- Stephanie Chmel (101), 16- Sbdn James Weremedic,
22- Karoline Vavra, 28- Sophia James. **January Birthdays:** 2- Tommy Shanosky, 3- Allysa Vavra,
7- Ted Bogosh (97)

Financials 12/19/21: *Operating Acct:* Candles 29 - Altar Candles 30 - Offerings 1,029 – Non-
Envelope 500 - Holy Days 560 – Donations 200 = Total \$2,348.00. – Poinsettias 50. Please
continue to keep filling your church envelopes. – Thank you!

*We express our deepest sympathy to the families of
Pauline Mateyak, who fell asleep in the Lord – 11/29/2021
and*

*Dr. Nicholas Bybel, Sr. who fell asleep in the Lord – 12/11/2021
Memory Eternal*

CONFESSION

Confessions have resumed with minor modifications. Please call the rectory at 570-645-2772 and talk to Father James for a reservation. Call between 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Individual schedule times will be spread out during the week. Husband and wife can be scheduled together. Anyone wanting to have a confession, but has concerns of COVID-19, should contact Father James to make the appropriate accommodations.

Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon.

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.

~::~ TAKING A LEAP OF FAITH ~::~

When we read both the Old and the New Testament, we can find example after example of God asking His servants to do some pretty preposterous things! He ordered Noah to build an ark in a region with no water in sight. He commanded Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised Land, even though they were shackled in the chains of slavery. He instructed Joshua to march around the walled city of Jericho with his troops, guaranteeing that the walls would come crashing down if His instructions were followed to the letter. He revealed to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to the Savior, even though she had no earthly husband. We can only imagine what went through the minds of these saintly individuals at the time of their encounter with the Lord. We do, however, know with certainty what their ultimate response was: **THEY OBEYED.** Whatever doubts they may have had, they were still willing to take that “leap of faith” and put their total trust in God.

In our own life, there will be times when we will be called upon to show the strength of our faith. Perhaps we will not be asked to do something as dramatic as Noah, Moses, Joshua and the Theotokos were. Nonetheless, the time will come when our faith will be tested – and God’s tests are never easy. But rest assured that God’s blessings are bestowed in abundance upon those who remain loyal to Him and are obedient to His commands. We must never be afraid to take a “leap of faith.” The strong hand of the Lord is always there to catch us.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

FAITH

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — **Tone 2. Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity . Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos . Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord.** Hieromartyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis (ca. 840). Ven. Constantine of Synnada (8th c.). Ven. Evaristus of the Studion Monastery (9th c.). Saint Nikódēmos the Sanctified of Tismana, Romania (Macedonia—1406). Hieromartyr Constantine the Russian of Lavra on Mt. Athos (Mt. Athos—1743).

Second Day of the Nativity of our 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 1:11-19 (Epistle, Sunday After)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Matthew 2:13-23 (Gospel, Sunday After)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Second Day of the Nativity of our Lord

On the day after the Nativity of Christ we celebrate the Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos, and come together to give her glory and praise. This is the second day of the three day Winter Pascha.

Combining the hymns of the Nativity with those celebrating the Mother of God, the Church points to Mary as the one through whom the Incarnation was made possible. His humanity—concretely and historically—is the humanity He received from Mary. His body is, first of all, her body. His life is her life. This feast, the assembly in honor of the Theotokos, is probably the most ancient feast of Mary in the Christian tradition, the very beginning of her veneration by the Church.

Six days of post-feast bring the Christmas season to a close on December 31. At the services of all these days, the Church repeats the hymns and songs glorifying Christ's Incarnation, reminding us that the source and foundation of our salvation is only to be found in the One who, as God before the ages, came into this world and for our sake was "born as a little Child."

Father Alexander Schmemmann, *The Services of Christmas* (1981)

Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.

Saint Joseph had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian.

Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God

On the second day of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Church has established the celebration of the Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God. The name of today's festival signifies the gathering of the faithful in order to praise and glorify the All-Holy Virgin, who gave birth to our Savior.

On the first day of the Nativity of the Lord, the Church glorifies the Redeemer of the human race, and the blessed deliverance which freed the sinful world from the snares of the Enemy. On the second day of the Nativity of the Lord, which was such a great event for our salvation, the Church calls upon us to honor the Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord, in an appropriate manner.

The day after many of the Church's Feast Days is called the Synaxis - such as the day after the Nativity of the Theotokos, when the righteous Joachim and Anna are commemorated; or the day following the Feast of Theophany, when we honor Saint John the Baptist, etc.

The Feast of the Synaxis of the Mother of God dates back to very ancient times. In the IV century, some Holy Fathers, such as Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus (May 12), were already preaching about it.

In the ancient Menaia, the Feast of the Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos was called "the Nativity Gifts." This refers to the gifts which the Magi from the East brought to the newborn King of the Jews - the Divine Child Jesus. The Feast of the Synaxis of the Mother of God was also called "the Flight into Egypt."

On December 26, the early Church commemorated the Wise Men who came to worship the Savior, and the flight into Egypt, as well as the Synaxis of the Mother of God. That is why some icons of the Nativity of the Lord depict His Birth, the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, as well as the Flight into Egypt. Sometimes the inscription reads "The Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos."

2021 Poinsettias

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

Poinsettias on Tetrapod

In Memory of:

Very Rev. Paul & Mat Irene Borick

Requested by:

Church Council & Parishioners

Other Poinsettias

For the Health & In Honor of:

V. Rev. James & Mat Lisa Weremedic & Family
Ilene Devine
Peter Weremedic
Ropitsky Family
Geri & Russell King
Skripnek Family
Stafiniak Family
Paul & MaryAnn Macenka
Bogosh Family

Requested by:

Parishioners
Fr. James & Mat. Lisa
Fr. James & Mat. Lisa
Michael Ropitsky
Andrew Rudenko
Marie Skripnek
Martha Stafiniak
Mary Hertzog
Ted Bogosh

In Memory of Deceased Members of the:

Augustine & Birosik Families
Marks Family
Rosahac & Pavlik Families
Terry, Redash, & Pavuk Families

Requested by:

Michael & Barbara Birosik
Helen & Wash King
Walter Rosahac
Thom Terry

In Memory of:

Michael & Helen Bogosh &
Peter, Harry, & Kathleen Harahush
Harry Wyshosky, Jr.
Peter Wyshosky & Family
Joseph P. Kupetz & Filka Hankey
Mary Hudak
Benjamin Macalush
Sophie Herbert
Joseph Herbert
Helen Herbert
Reader Leonty Macalush

Requested by:

Terri & David Bogosh
Julia Forte
Julia Forte
Steve & Mary Hadermayer
Bill & Lori Hudak
Herbert Family
Herbert Family
Herbert Family
Herbert Family
Herbert Family

Aunt Jenny
Aunt Irene
Aunt Gladys
Girlfriend – Sandy
Girlfriend – Mary

Wash Sr., Mary, Helen, Sylvester,
Nicholas, & Justin King

Joseph & Helen O, Boril
John & Anna McHugh
John Lorchak
Peter & Anna Soley &
Nicholas & Mary Macenka
Michael & Charlotte Charnak
John & Mary Macenka

John O'Shura, Sr.
David O'Shura
Mother, Olga Kash
Father, Joseph Kash
Husband, Jack Puschak
Parents
Kay & Paul Maliniak
Richard York
Parents, Mary & Dimitry Sidoriak
Paul Sheers
Helen McMichael
Simon Stafiniak
Gertrude Tatusko
Michael & Anna Tatusko
Joseph Devine
Marie Weremedic

Gerri & Russell King
Gerri & Russell King
Gerri & Russell King
Gerri & Russell King
Gerri & Russell King

King Family

daughter, Nancy Lorchak
niece, Nancy Lorchak
Children & Grandsons

Joseph & Dorothy Macenka
Paul & MaryAnn Macenka
Paul & MaryAnn Macenka

Mildred O'Shura & Family
Mildred O'Shura & Family
Barbara Groegler & Family
Barbara Groegler & Family
Irene Puschak
Matushka Ropitsky
Julia Rudenko
Tommy Shanosky
Olga Sidoriak
wife, Helen Sheers
Children
wife, Martha & Family
Michael Tatusko
Michael Tatusko
Fr. James & Mat. Lisa
Fr. James & Mat. Lisa

Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!