

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, February 12, 2023
Choir Director: Wash King

35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PRODIGAL SON

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

St. Mary's Orthodox Church will remove all COVID restrictions at this time. Over time, we slowly reduced the preventative measures. We are grateful for everyone keeping those measures during the worst portion of the pandemic. As an individual, taking preventative measures for yourself is acceptable and every one should respect their decision.

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.

Services:

Sunday, February 12- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Parastas, and Spaghetti Dinner – Prodigal Son
 In memory of Jean (Haspe) Huffman offered by the Family
 In memory of J. Ronald Devine offered by Fr. James & Mat. Lisa Weremedic
 In memory of Mark Gunderson offered by Fr. James & Mat. Lisa Weremedic
Saturday, February 18- 4:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, February 19- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Fellowship, and Book Study – Meatfare (Last Judgment)
Saturday, February 25- 4:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, February 26- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Forgiveness Vespers and Fellowship
Monday, February 27 – Thursday, March 2 – Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Saturday, March 4- 4:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, March 5 – 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, **Archbishop Mark Celebrating** (Orthodoxy Sunday)

Prayer List:

Fr. James Weremedic, Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Danielle Bogosh, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Nadine Fegley, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Michael Kulick, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, 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 (February 12)

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Parents, George & Helen Ostrosky** offered by Marie & Chris Kalavritinos & Anne Ostrosky

Altar Candles... In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Peter Wyshosky, Jr.** offered by Julia Forte

Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory of **Father, Joseph Pohlod** offered by Russell & Geri King

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Wife, Mary Harahuess** offered by Husband, Gary Harahuess

February Birthdays: 1- Michael Kulick, 3- Michael Tatusko, 7- Ira James, 9- Wendy Kulick, 15- Claire Remington, 22- Peter Harahus, 26- George Yurchak (98)

Financials 1/29/23: Operating Acct: Weekly Envelopes \$ 747, Weekly Non- envelope \$ 250, Holy Days \$ 108, Initial offering, \$ 80, Altar \$ candles \$ 320, Candles \$ 82, Book Store \$ 60

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

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

February 12 Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

February 19 Michael Tatusko

February 26 OPEN

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

Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner is on February 12, 2023 @ 11:30 AM

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

St. Tikhon's Summer Camp – July 1-8 – See Flyers in the back of the church

Volunteers are needed – Contact: Michael Shepherd at 570-229-4829 or

Info@StTikhonsCamp.org

THE GOOD SHEPHERD CARES FOR ALL!

Written in the Gospel of Matthew 18:12, it states: "IF A MAN HAS 100 SHEEP AND ONE GOES ASTRAY, DOES HE NOT LEAVE THE 99 TO SEEK THE ONE THAT IS LOST?" Just as the icon on today's bulletin depicts, he is referring to our Lord as the GOOD SHEPHERD.

Artists often give the impression that the life of a shepherd is a peaceful and idyllic one. In reality, it was a grim struggle for survival that he experienced on a daily basis. In the rugged and rough hills of Judea, a shepherd had to be a companion, leader, defender and provider for his flock. Indeed, a flock's very existence depended upon their shepherd. To the shepherd, EVERY MEMBER OF HIS FLOCK was important. He would seek out the sheep who would stray from the rest, and he would give special attention to the weak and injured entrusted to his care.

It is no wonder, then, that Christ would proclaim: "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, AND I KNOW MY SHEEP, AND AM KNOWN BY MY OWN." (John 10:14) Yes, our Saviour takes the role of a shepherd to the ultimate level. He protects His flock from their enemies. He feeds them with His own Body and Blood. He knows His sheep from within, dwelling in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. He loves His sheep - loves them so much that He would willingly give up His life for them.

Christ clearly points out the reward that awaits His chosen flock: "I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE, AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH." (John 10:28)

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON — Tone 2. St. Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch (381). St. Aleksy (Alexius), Metropolitan of Moscow, Wonderworker of All Russia (1378). St. Meletius, Archbishop of Khar'kov and Akhtyrsk (1840). Ven. Mary (who was called Marinus), and her father, Ven. Eugene, at Alexandria (6th c.). St. Anthony, Patriarch of Constantinople (895). St. Kristo the Gardener (Albania—1752). The “Ivéron” (Iberian) Icon of the Mother of God.

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Kontakion — Tone 3 - I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had given me. / Therefore, I cry to You like the Prodigal: / “I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father; / receive me a penitent and make me as one of Your hired servants.”

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (Epistle)

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.”

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Luke 15:11-32 (Gospel)

Then He said: “A certain man had two sons.

And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood.

And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”

And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So, he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.

And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore, his father came out and pleaded with him.

So, he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.'

But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.'

It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

Saint Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow, Wonderworker of All Russia

Saint Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia the Wonderworker (in the world Eleutherius), was born in the year 1292 (or according to another source, 1304) at Moscow into the family of the noble Theodore Byakont, a descendant of the Chernigov princely line.

The Lord revealed to the future saint his lofty destiny from early childhood. At twelve years of age Eleutherius went to a field and set nets to ensnare birds. He dozed off and suddenly he heard a voice: "Alexis! Why do you toil in vain? You are to be a catcher of people."

From this day on the boy abandoned childish games and spent much time in solitude. He frequently visited church, and when he was fifteen he decided to become a monk.

In 1320, he entered Moscow's Theophany monastery, where he spent more than twelve years in strict monastic struggles. The renowned ascetics of the monastery, the Elders Gerontius and Saint Stephen (July 14), brother of Saint Sergius of Radonezh, were guides for him and his companions.

Metropolitan Theognostus, who had taken notice of the virtuous life and spiritual gifts of Saint Alexis, bade the future saint to leave the monastery and manage the ecclesiastical courts. The saint fulfilled this office for twelve years. Towards the end of 1350, Metropolitan Theognostus had Alexis consecrated as Bishop of Vladimir. After the death of the metropolitan, he became his successor in the year 1354.

During this period the Russian Church was torn by great rifts and quarrels, in part because of the pretensions of Metropolitan Romanus of Lithuania and Volhynia. In 1356, in order to put an end to the troubles and disturbances, the saint went to Constantinople to the Ecumenical Patriarch. Patriarch Callistus gave Saint Alexis the right to both be called and to consider himself Archbishop of Kiev and Great Russia with the title, "All-Venerable Metropolitan and Exarch."

On the return journey, during a storm at sea, the ship was in danger of shipwreck. Saint Alexis prayed and vowed to build a temple to the saint of that day on which the ship should come to shore. The storm subsided, and the ship arrived on August 16. Moscow delightedly came out to meet the saint.

In spite of problems on every side, Saint Alexis devoted himself to his flock: he appointed bishops, he established cenobitic monasteries (on the model of the Trinity Lavra, founded by Saint Sergius), and he brought order to Russian relations with the Khans of the Horde. The saint journeyed more than once to the Golden Horde. In 1357 the Khan told the Great Prince that the saint should come to him and heal the blindness of Taidulla, his wife.

"This is beyond my powers," said Saint Alexis, "but I believe that God, Who gave sight to the blind, will also aid me." Through his prayer, and after being sprinkled with holy water, the wife of the Khan was healed.

When Great Prince Ioann died, his young son Demetrius (the future saint), still a minor, was taken under the saint's guardianship. The holy bishop had much toil in reconciling and appeasing princes obstinately refusing to accept the authority of Moscow. Nor did the metropolitan neglect the work of organizing new monasteries. In 1361 he founded the Icon of the Savior Not-Made-by-Hands monastery at the Yauza in Moscow (Andronikov, the disciple of Saint Sergius, was the first igumen of the monastery), fulfilling the vow he had made on his return journey from Constantinople, when the ship was in danger.

He also founded the Chudov monastery in the Moscow Kremlin. Ancient monasteries were restored: the Annunciation monastery at Nizhni-Novgorod, and Saints Constantine and Helen at Vladimir. In 1361 a women's cenobitic monastery was named for him (the Alekseev).

Saint Alexis reached the advanced age of seventy-eight, having spent twenty-four years upon the metropolitan cathedra. He reposed on February 12, 1378 and was buried in accord with his last wishes at the Chudov monastery. His relics were uncovered in a miraculous manner fifty years later, after which the memory of the great holy hierarch and man of prayer began to be celebrated.

Memorial Saturdays 2023

February 18, March 11, 18 and October 21

Dear Father,
Kindly include the following names of the beloved souls
To be remembered in the Saturday Memorial Services

Family Name: _____

First Names:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____

Submitted by _____

Offering _____

Please send your list and offering made payable to:

V. Rev. James Weremedic
c/o St. Mary's Orthodox Church
217 First Street, Coaldale, PA 18218

Drop in collection basket marked – Attn: Father James

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