

**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  
Reader Hours: Edward Pierson

**Sunday, February 19, 2023**  
Choir Director: Wash King  
Reader Epistle Michael Ropitsky

**36<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – LAST JUDGMENT - MEATFARE**

*Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!*

**Services:**

Saturday, February 18 4:00 PM – Great Vespers, **Memorial Saturday Service**, 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, **Cheesefare (Forgiveness Sunday)**  
Followed by Forgiveness Vespers and Fellowship  
Monday, February 27 5:00 PM – Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete  
Tuesday, February 28 5:00 PM – Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete  
Wednesday, March 1 5:00 PM – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts  
Thursday, March 2 5:00 PM – 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 (*St. Basil*), **Archbishop Mark Celebrating (Orthodoxy Sunday)**

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,  
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, 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 (February 19)

Flowers on Tetrapod...In memory of **Mother, Mary Harahuess** offered by daughter, Sharon Lewis  
7-day Vigils-Altar...In memory of **Mary & Andrew Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh  
Altar Candles... In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak  
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members  
Vigil Crosses...In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak  
7-day Vigils-Tetrapod...In memory of **Lillian Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh  
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Theodore Scarloss** offered by Michael & Natalie Bolinski

**A great big "Thank You" to everyone who prepared, served, cleaned up, bought tickets, and attended the Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner last week.  
Profit to the Parish was \$836.51.**

**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 \$1122, Non-Envelope \$140, Holyday \$5, Altar Candles \$ 60, Candles \$75 Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

#### **Fellowship Hour Hosts:**

February 19	Michael Tatusko	March 5	Light Lenten Meal
February 26	Russell King	March 12	Lena Berezniak

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

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](mailto:Info@StTikhonsCamp.org)

Ancient Christian writings and art forms became very graphic in their depictions of judgement. It was not unusual to see the angel of judgment carefully handling a scale. Into one end of the scale are placed the record of good deeds, and into the other end the record of vices. Great consternation is shown by the evil spirits as the scale tips in favor of the goodness of the person being judged.

The Creed also testifies to our belief in the judgment, saying that Christ "shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead." But there is also judgment in this life, indeed, every day of our lives. It's just another way of saying: you don't get away with anything. We know that everything we do marks us. Everything we say, leaves an impression. This is judgement taking place day by day.

To cite some instances of how this works, consider the person who drinks heavily. Well, it won't be long before there are problems in the family and sickness in the person. Or, say a person takes drugs. Soon there is deterioration of health; again judgement is taking place. Sometimes this judgement even involves others, such as a child of a mother on drugs.

So let us not scorn the idea of judgment or accountability. People reap in life pretty much what they sow. Life has a way of dealing with us to even things out. We can't really get away with anything. We get back in life what we put into it.

As for those cases that seem like exceptions to all this, as when the just suffer and the wicked prosper, let us remember that the final tally is not yet in. On Judgement Day, the Lord will take care of all these situations.

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

## THE SCALES OF JUDGMENT

**I**t is not popular in our day to talk about judgment. Not too many people, it seems, are concerned about judgment and all that it implies. The Scriptures, however, deal with this subject in no uncertain terms. The Gospel of Matthew contains this graphic description: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another . . ." Then our Lord goes on to describe the judgement based on love, identifying Himself with "the least of these My brethren."

# *Meatfare Sunday*

## SUNDAY OF MEATFARE Tone 3 Sunday of the Last Judgment

**Apostles of the Seventy Archippus (Arkhipp) and Philemon, and Martyr Apphia (1st c.).** Martyrs Maximus, Theodotus, Hesychius, and Asclepiodota, of Adrianopolis (305-311). Ss. Eugene and Macarius, **Presbyters and Confessors, at Antioch (363).** Ven. Dositheus of Palestine, disciple of Ven. Abba Dorotheus (7th c.). St. Rabulas of Samosata (ca. 530). Ven. Theodore of Sanaxar (1791).

### Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment

**Kontakion Tone 1** When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble / and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat; / the books shall be opened and the hidden things disclosed! / Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, / and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, Most Righteous Judge!

#### 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (Epistle)

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

#### Matthew 25:31-46 (Gospel)

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## **Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment**

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, "Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book *GREAT LENT* (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

### **Apostles of the Seventy Archippus and Philemon, and Martyr Apphia**

Saints Archippus, Philemon and Apphia, Apostles of the Seventy were students and companions of the holy Apostle Paul. In the Epistle to Philemon, the Apostle Paul names Saint Archippus as his companion, and mentions him again in the Epistle to the Colossians (Col. 4:17).

Saint Archippus was bishop of the city of Colossae in Phrygia. Saint Philemon was an eminent citizen of this city, and the Christians gathered in his home to celebrate church services. He was also made a bishop by Saint Paul and he went about the cities of Phrygia, preaching the Gospel. Later on, he became archpastor of the city of Gaza. Saint Apphia, his wife, took the sick and vagrants into her home, zealously attending to them. She was her husband's co-worker in proclaiming the Word of God.

During the persecution against Christians under the emperor Nero (54-68), the holy Apostles Archippus and Philemon and Apphia were brought to trial by the ruler Artocles for confessing faith in Christ. Saint Archippus was brutally slashed with knives. After torture, they buried Saints Philemon and Apphia up to the waist in the ground, and stoned them until they died.

### **Presbyters and Confessors Eugene and Macarius, at Antioch**

The Holy Confessors Eugene and Macarius were presbyters of the Antiochian Church. During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363) they were brought to the emperor for trial for their refusal to participate in pagan orgies. The presbyters boldly denounced him for his apostasy and they were given over to fierce tortures, which they underwent with prayer and spiritual rejoicing.

After the tortures, they sent them off to exile at Oasim, an oasis in the Arabian desert, and they intended to settle there upon a hill. The local people warned the saints that they should immediately abandon the place, since an enormous snake lived there. The holy martyrs asked them to point out this place, and through their prayer a lightning bolt struck the cave, reducing the monster to ashes.

Saints Eugene and Macarius began to live in this cave. The confessors prayed that they might die together. The Lord heard their prayer, and they died in 363 at the same time.



Goal Region OGA

Frackville Deanery

## Lenten Mission Services

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- Sunday, March 12: 4:00 pm (St. Gregory Palamas)  
*Holy Ascension Church, Frackville*
- Sunday, March 19: 4:00 pm (Ven. of the Holy Cross)  
*St. Michael's Church, Mt. Carmel*
- Sunday, March 26: 4:00 pm (St. John of the Ladder)  
*St. Mary's Church, Coaldale*
- Sunday, April 2: 5:00 pm (St. Mary of Egypt)  
*Holy Apostles Church, Mechanicsburg*



*Lenten Fellowship will be offered after the services. Please join us!*