

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 20, 2022
Choir Director: Wash King

35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 2

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

Services:

Sunday, February 20 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – Prodigal Son
Followed by Parish Council Meeting
Sunday, February 27 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)
Followed by Parastas

In memory of Helen Herbert offered by the Herbert Family

In memory of Reader Leonty Macalush offered by the Herbert Family

In memory of Anna Pisko offered by Mimi Taylor

In memory of Joseph Devine offered by Fr. James & Mat. Lisa Weremedic

In memory of Mark Gundersen offered by Fr. James & Mat. Lisa Weremedic

Sunday March 6 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – Forgiveness Sunday
Followed by Forgiveness Vespers
Followed by Coffee Hour

Prayer List:

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birozik, 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, Melissa
Schmitt, Lynn Sharpe, 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.

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.

Candles (February 20)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of **Father Paul Ropitsky** offered by Ted Bogosh

Altar Candles... In memory of **Reader Leonty Macalush** offered by the Herbert Family

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

Vigil Crosses... For the Health of **Matushka Lovey Ropitsky** offered Ted Bogosh

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the Health of **Theodore Bogosh III** offered by Ted Bogosh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Theodore Scarloss** offered by Natalie & Michael Bolinski

February Birthdays: 1- Michael Kulick, 3- Michael Tatusko, 7- Ira James, 9- Wendy Kulick, 15- Claire Remington, 22- Peter Harahus, 26- Catherine Hedes, 26- George Yurchak (97)

Financials 2/13/22: *Operating Acct:*

Candles 29 - Altar Candles 320 - Offerings 937 - Non-Envelope 150 - Holy Days 12 - Donations 40 = Total \$1,488.00. Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. - Thank you!

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.

St. Francis Center in Bethlehem is hosting a seminar titled "Prayer through Icons: Windows into Heaven". The seminar will be held on February 26th from 9-3 and includes lunch. The cost is \$75.

The speaker is an ordained Deacon in the Greek Orthodox Church. For additional information and to register for the seminar, go to their website at www.stfrancisctr.org.

THE ICON "NOT MADE BY HANDS"

The legend of the Icon "NOT MADE BY HANDS" has been a part of the oral and written tradition of our Holy Church for centuries. No less of an authority than the famous church historian Eusebius relates this fascinating tale.

We are told of King Abgar of Edessa, who suffered from the dreaded disease of leprosy. He had heard of the miraculous works of Jesus of Nazareth, but being too ill to travel, Abgar dispatched an artist named Ananias to find Christ and draw an image of Him. A man of strong faith, Abgar believed that if only he could gaze upon a LIKENESS of Christ, he would be healed.

Ananias arrived in Jerusalem, where he found Jesus was preparing Himself and His Apostles for His ensuing arrest, trial and crucifixion. With no time to pose for a portrait, it is said that Jesus merely applied a piece of linen cloth to His face, leaving an unmistakable impression on the fabric!

With great haste, Ananias returned to King Abgar with this precious treasure. When the king saw this miraculous icon, he was healed instantly. The icon "NOT MADE BY HANDS" remained in Edessa until 951 A.D., when it was brought to Constantinople as a means of healing the ailing Emperor Romanos. This revered relic disappeared when Constantinople was plundered and looted by the Crusaders. Its whereabouts are still unknown to this day.

Today is the Sunday of the PRODIGAL SON. As our Church continues to place the image of repentance before us, the words of the Kondakion must be on our lips as well: When I foolishly separated myself from your Fatherly Glory, I squandered in wickedness the riches You had given me. So now I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal Son, saying "I have sinned before You, O Merciful Father, receive me, repentant, and make me as one of Your servants."

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON — Tone 2. St. Leo, Bishop of Catania in Sicily (ca. 780). Ven. Agafón (Agathon), Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th -14th c.). Beheading of Ven. Cornelius, Abbot of the Pskov Caves (1570). Hieromartyr Sadoc (Sadoth), Bishop of Persia, and 128 Martyrs with him (342-344). St. Agathon, Pope of Rome (682).

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.'"

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.

Saint Leo, Bishop of Catania in Sicily

Saint Leo was bishop of the city of Catania, in Sicily. He was famed for his benevolence and charity, and his Christian love for the poor and the vagrant. The Lord granted him the gifts of healing various illnesses and working miracles.

When Saint Leo was Bishop of Catania, there was a certain sorcerer named Heliodorus, who impressed people with his fake miracles. This fellow was originally a Christian, but then he rejected Christ and became a servant of the devil.

Saint Leo often urged Heliodorus to repent of his wicked deeds and return to God, but in vain. Once, Heliodorus impudently entered the church where the bishop was serving, and tried to create a disturbance, sowing confusion and temptation by his sorcery.

Seeing the people beset by devils under the sorcerer's spell, Saint Leo realized that the time for gentle persuasion had passed. He calmly emerged from the altar and, tying his omophorion around the magician's neck, he led him out of the church into the city square. There he forced Heliodorus to admit to all his wicked deeds. He commanded that a fire be lit, and jumped into the fire with the sorcerer. Thus they stood in the fire until Heliodorus got burnt. Saint Leo, by the power of God, remained unharmed. This miracle brought Saint Leo great renown during his lifetime.

When he died, a woman with an issue of blood received healing at his grave. The body of the saint was placed in a church of the holy Martyr Lucy (December 13), which he himself had built. Later on, his relics were transferred into the church of Saint Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours (November 11).