

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church**  
**217 First Street – Coaldale Pa 18218-1602**  
**Phone.....570-645-2772**

OUR WEBSITE...[www.stmarysnativity.org](http://www.stmarysnativity.org)

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic  
Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky  
Choir Director: Wash King

**Sunday, February 28, 2021**

38th Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son

***Glory Be To Jesus Christ!***

***Glory Be Forever!***

Sunday, February 28: 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy  
Sunday, March 7: 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy  
Sunday, March 14: 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, followed by Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

Candles (February 28):

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of **Michael Harahus** offered by Ted Bogosh

Altar Candles... For the Health of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Harry Wyshosky, Sr** offered by Julia Forte

Vigil Crosses ... For the Health of **Irene Puschak** offered by Ted Bogosh

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

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod...In memory of **Harry Wyshosky, Jr.** offered by Julia Forte

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.

Prayer List: *HEAVENLY FATHER ... Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent your only begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit us and heal us, Your servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments through the grace of Your Son Jesus Christ; grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body and spirit, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your word to pray for each other that we may be healed. You are the source of healing and to You, we give glory; to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic,  
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Cecil Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, Peter Holoziak, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, Helen Suda, Martha Stafiniak, Joseph Tosca, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Richard York.

March Birthdays: 1- Logan Leatherman, 6- Marie Kalavritinos, 16- Anthony Vavra, 21-Mildred O'Shura, 24- Neil Skripnek, Tracy Skripnek, Zachary King, Olga Sidoriak (99) 29- Sandra Zuber

Financials 2/15-21/21: Candles 59 - Altar Candles 100 - Offerings 1,508 - Non-Envelope 150 - Holy Days 57 - Donations 320 = Total \$2,194.00; Building Fund 5.00

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

### CONFESSION

Starting on the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>, confessions will resume with modifications due to COVID-19. A schedule of dates and times are being finalized. Everyone will need to call the rectory at 570-645-2772 and talk to Father James for their reservation. Individual schedule times will be spread out so limited contact occurs. Husband and wife can be scheduled together. Lysol will be used between confessions. Anyone wanting to have a confession, but has concerns of COVID-19, should contact Father James to make the appropriate accommodations. Caution in this period of time is the safe choice for many of our parishioners.

### LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Forgiveness Sunday Vesper Service will follow the Divine Liturgy on March 14.

Cannon of St. Andrew will be on Tuesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 18. The time will be posted in next week's bulletin.

Presanctified Liturgies will start on Wednesday, March 24 and the following Wednesdays. The time will be posted in next week's bulletin.

Holy week will be posted as we get closer to Palm Sunday.

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO REPENT

**T**hroughout His public ministry, Christ preached the message of repentance, and stressed the forgiving nature of His Heavenly Father. Today our Holy Church places before us the most classic example of this: The Parable of the PRODIGAL SON.

In this well-known story, the younger son impatiently demands his share of his promised inheritance, and sets out on his own. He soon finds, however, that his new-found independence and wealth do not bring him happiness. His fortune disappears very quickly. Soon, he is left with nothing.

From the depths of his despair, the Prodigal Son has one glimmer of hope: his Father. Swallowing his pride and recognizing the folly of his wasteful and sinful behavior, the Prodigal Son begins his long journey home. He hopes that his Father will, at least, treat him like one of the servants.

The welcome he received, however, went far beyond his expectations. His Father and his entire household rejoiced that this "lost son" had returned home safely! No lectures or reprimands were given; only the warm embrace of a father delighted that his son had returned to his home and to his senses.

Sin brings all of us down to the level experienced by the Prodigal Son. At such times, we are confronted with two distinct choices: remain in such a hopeless state, or follow the example of the Prodigal Son and "arise and return to our Father." It is never too late to repent. Our Heavenly Father awaits our return to Him with outstretched loving arms. His capacity to forgive is without limit. Let us remember this in this season of repentance.

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

### THE PRODIGAL SON

May this wonderful parable encourage us to return to the road that will lead us back to our Heavenly Father.

**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON — Tone 5.** Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of Ven. Procopius at Decapolis (750). Bl. Nikolai, Fool-for-Christ at Pskov (1576). Hieromartyr Proterius, Patriarch of Alexandria (457). Hieromartyr Nestor, Bishop of Magydos in Pamphylia (250). Ven. Marina (Marana), Cyra (Kyra) and Domnica (Domnina), of Syria (ca. 450). Venerable Domnica (ca. 450). John Cassian the Roman (435). Devpeteruv Icon of the Mother of God (14th c.).

## **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.'"

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." (Psalm 137). 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.

### Psalm 137 King James Version (KJV)

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.

How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?

If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.

If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof.

O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.

Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.