



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

Choir Director: Wash King

Readers: **3rd Hour:** 2/4 Matushka Lisa – 2/11 Claire Remington

Epistle : 2/4 John Evetushick – 2/11 Nancy Lorchak

Sunday, February 4, 2018

35th Sun/ Pentecost

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Epistle – 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel – Luke 15:11-32

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Sun... February 4 ... 9:30 AM

Sat...February 10... 9:30 AM

Sat...February 10...4:00 PM

Sun...February 11...9:30 AM

Glory Be Forever!

Divine Liturgy / Coffee Hour

Memorial Saturday - Parastas

Great Vespers / Confessions

Divine Liturgy / Coffee Hour

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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 services 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 sign the guest book in the Vestibule, so we can have a record of your visit.....** **Please Note:** Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.

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Flowers – Tetrapod –

7-Day Vigils/Altar ...In memory of Kay Maliniak & for the health of Paul Maliniak offered by Friends

Altar Candles... In memory of Olga Macalush offered by Carol & John

Eternal Lamp... In memory of father, Simon Stafiniak offered by Children & Grandchildren

Vigil Crosses ... For the health of St. Mary's Church Council & Parishioners offered by Terri Bogosh

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the health of Sue O'Shura offered by Millie O'Shura

Dec Candles /Tetrapod...

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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.

Clark Bogosh, Ted Bogosh, Jane Bubernak, Stephanie Chmel, Edward Conarty, Raymond Danchak, Joseph Devine, John Evetushick, Nadine Fegley, Gloria Ferri, Michael & Julia Harahus, Mary Harahush, Olga Hebda, Mary Hudak, Joseph Herbert, Martha Katchur, Andrew Kinn, Peter Kinn, Al & Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Helen Macenka, Nicholas Maholick, Barbara Maliniak, Paul Maliniak, Gloria Maliniak, Natalie Miller, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Kathy Puschak, Nancy Ruggeri, Helen Scheese, Helen Sheers, Eleanor Sidorik, Olga Sidorik, Helen Suda, Mary Taylor, Martha Teno, Nancy Vanno, Sylvester Vavra, Elizabeth Warcholak, Richard York, Ronald & Marie Yurchak.

(If you wish to have loved ones added to or removed from the Prayer List...Please contact - Gloria Bench 570-386-5855

If anyone is in need of a priest please call Father James Weremedic at 570-645-2772Visitation 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.

COMING EVENTS

Wed Feb. 21 ...7:00 PM

Church Council Business Meeting

Tues. March 20 ...1:00 PM

Ladies Aid Meeting

Please take the time to check the BULLETIN BOARD IN THE CHURCH HALL for activities in the Diocese and events in our area.

Financials 1/28/18 Operating Acct: -Dues 1,445 – Candles 77 – Weekly 422 – Non-Env 46 – Holy Day 20 – Altar Candles 270 – Flower Remit 0 – Donations 400 = **Total \$ 2,680.00**
Building Fund 0 - ... Cemetery Care 0 -...Initial Offering 0 -Christmas 0-... Thank You.

Financials 1/30/18 Operating Acct: -Dues 160 – Candles 15 – Holy Day 45 – Altar Candles 20 - Donation 5,000 = **Total \$ 5,240.00** Thank You.

Coffee Hour: Please join us in the Parish Hall following Divine Liturgy, every Sunday, for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

February 4 – Geri King, John King, Geri Vavra

February 11 – Margaret Miller, Marie Skripnek

February 18 – John Evetushick, Roz Harkins, Michael Tatusko

Drawing Winner – Helen Ostrosky

Important: Please inform a person on coffee hour or Helen Ostrosky (570-645-7199) at least a week ahead of time if you are bringing food or a cake for a special occasion. This will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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

Please do not cut the bottom off the Redner tapes; we cannot get credit if any part of the tape is missing.

Please note: 2018 Sam's Club Memberships are \$45.00. There are a few openings. See Helen King ... ASAP ... 570-645-9484.

Pysanky Egg Workshop – February 24 (9 AM-12 noon) - \$40 – Tamaqua Community Art Center – call 570-668-1192

Coaldale Volunteer Fire Co. – Fish Fry (4 – 6 PM) - \$ 10 – Eat in or take out – Feb. 14, Feb. 16, Mar 2, Mar 16, Mar 30 – call 570-645-3796

The Eternal Lamp fixture is being cleaned and polished. In the meantime the Eternal Flame is on the Tetrapod.

54th Annual Diocesan Assembly Report

The 54th Annual Diocesan Assembly was held at St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church in Wilmington, Delaware. To see the full reports go to www.stmarysnativity.org, scroll down and click on Diocese of Eastern PA, and click on Diocesan Assembly 2018 (at the top of the page).

Archbishop Mark's Message

On October 20, 2017, after much work and time, the Diocesan Center has full title of 1.93 acres. The closing date to sell the land to St. Tikhon's Monastery is February 1, 2018. Possible property to be purchased for the new Diocesan Center is located at 325 N. Walnut Street, Bath, PA 18014. This property is already zoned commercial and can be viewed on Realtor.com

Up-dated parish by-laws are completed in 28 out of 34 parishes. Parish rectors, councils, dean, chancellor and archbishop are still involved in helping the 6 remaining parishes to up-date their by-laws. "While we do not always agree, those who disagree may help us to see something the rest of us have missed."

The Diocese of Eastern PA has the highest rate of compliance with OCA policy for required background checks. A coordinated program has been implemented for background checks to provide safety in church life. In order to volunteer at the Teen Winter Retreat and Summer Camp Program, the application process will include reference forms and training in chain of command issues on disciplinary matters.

Clergy peer groups were started by V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Sotak. It is important we have healthy clergy and clergy families so they can promote healthy parishes. Continuing education programs for clergy provided opportunities for practical pastoral development. Seven programs were sponsored by the Diocese to give clergy and council members the opportunity to enrich their knowledge about spiritual and parish life. Following up on the presentation by Bill Marianes, the small group was most effective for deepening relationships among parishioners. Sandra Anderson spoke on a Ministry of Visitation and sharing our gifts with each other through presence, encouragement, and practical needs. A request was made to promote the speakers by posting flyers and inviting friends and relatives. Many clergy peer groups were held, including one for the matushki. Fr. Nicholas Solak has stepped down from this position to assume other responsibilities, and Father John Edward was appointed to position. The coming year will focus on various challenges we face in our parishes from social pathologies, such as opioid abuse, addiction, and internet-related issues.

Looking over the parish budget, Archbishop Mark remarked that little has been earmarked for charity. However, the appeal for Fr. John Nightingale raised over \$100,000.00 and Fr. George Volkovinsky and his family got their legal status through contributions. The faithful have been generous to the seminarians, and numerous activities of a charitable nature were reflected in parish reports.

All Dioceses are struggling to find priests to fill parish vacancies. Men should be encouraged to go into the priesthood, and it is important that an attractive compensation package be offered to attract priests.

Archbishop Mark ended with a message of personal growth in Christ; fasting not only from particular food but also from sin; guard our eyes, ears, and tongue; receive Holy Mysteries and more frequent Confessions; attend Lenten and Holy Week Services; focus on the quality of our prayer life and meditative readings of the Holy Scripture; and "think not of what we are giving up, but what habits and behaviors we can get rid of."

Chancellor's Report – 2018

This past year was dedicated to “Creating a Mission Mindset” through workshop presentations from Bill Marianes and Sandra Anderson. Articles in Alive in Christ also focused on this theme. In 2018 we look forward to the 19th All-American Council in July which focuses on the theme of **For the Life of the World**. This year is also the 55th anniversary of the publication of V. Rev. Schmemmann's book of the same title. Perhaps every parish can have a book group or series of presentations based on this book as part of parish education or parish retreat since many people have been influenced by this book and began their journey to the Orthodox Church after reading it. V. Rev. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann diagnosed a fundamental ill in our society and showed how Orthodox Christianity offers the remedy for healing that illness, with clarity and truth. **For the Life of the World** may be more relevant today than when it was written.

Through the power of our faith, we have added three new priests to our clergy family – Fathers Ignatius Hunter, Matthew Joyner, and Seraphim Reynolds. Several parishes have increased their memberships. All parishes can grow. In some parishes young adults and youth groups are very active. The parishes which are growing are almost keeping pace with the parishes which are losing members. In the next few years several priests will also be retiring. Several clergy were congratulated for the service they have offered to the church, community, and world, near and far, through various media. Recognition was given to Father David and Matushka Sharon Shewczyk for over thirty years of priestly service and many years of teaching and oversight of pastoral practice and liturgical education at St. Tikhon's Seminary. He will retire in February and relocate to North Carolina.

The Diocesan Magazine, Alive in Christ, underwent a major change to the format. Fr. Martin is the Editor and provides a broad range of articles. The quality of the publication has increased significantly and is focusing on Worship, Witness, Fellowship, and Service. “Good administrative order is a necessity mandated by Saint Paul and essential to the optimal functioning of the Church in its fulfillment of its mission.” Please submit only quality photos along with a narrative when submitting photos to the magazine and the website.

The Diocesan website saw over 10,000 visitors each month in 2017. The website is updated at least weekly, and news items are posted as they are received. Publicizing your parish lets the public know what you are doing, and shows that you are active and doing good works. The website has the capability to add video galleries, but it is not being used. If anyone can help with this, please volunteer.

“The core belief of the Communications Department is to spread the word, create excitement and interest, and make people sit up, take notice, and want to get involved in the Orthodox Faith along with its good works.”

Since we have moved to proportional giving, the Diocese of Eastern PA and the Midwest give a larger percentage of their revenue to the OCA than other Diocese. Hopefully, at the 19th All-American Council it can be approved that all Diocese contribute at the same percentage. At the end of December 2017, 22 out of 34 parishes (65%) are tithing. Each year the Standardized Parish Financial Report and the Giving Level Proposal must be submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer.

Church and Diocese Summary Reports for 2017 and a Census breakdown are available on the Diocese of Eastern PA website. Parishes in the Philadelphia, Frackville, and Wilkes-Barre Deaneries held various events and activities throughout the year. For a print out of these reports click on them or see Gloria Bench.