

**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

**Sunday, February 7, 2021**  
35<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

***Glory Be Forever!***

35<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 2. Afterfeast of the Meeting. St. Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont. Ven. Luke of Hellas. The 1,003 Martyrs of Nicomedia.

Troparion — Tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! / From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. / Enlightening those who sat in darkness! / Rejoice, and be glad, O righteous elder; / you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, / Who grants us the Resurrection.

Kontakion — Tone 1

By Your nativity, You did sanctify the Virgin's womb, / and did bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. / Now You have come and saved us through love. / Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man!

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (*Epistle*)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 15:21-28 (*Gospel*)

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

## SERVICES

Sun... February 7, 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Candles

Sun... February 14, 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Parastas

Sun... February 21, 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Parish Council Meeting

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 Buchanan, Evanna Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Edward Conarty, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, Peter Holoviak, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Sherlock, Olga Sidoriak, Helen Suda, Martha Stafiniak, Joseph Tosca, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Richard York.

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

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 7):

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of **Sue O'Shura** offered by Millie O'Shura

Altar Candles... In memory of **Kay & Paul Maliniak** offered by William Yelsh

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Matushka Irene Borick** offered by Julia Forte

Vigil Crosses ... For the Health of **Michael & Barbara Birosik** – 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

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

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod... For the health of **George Yurchak, Jr.** offered by

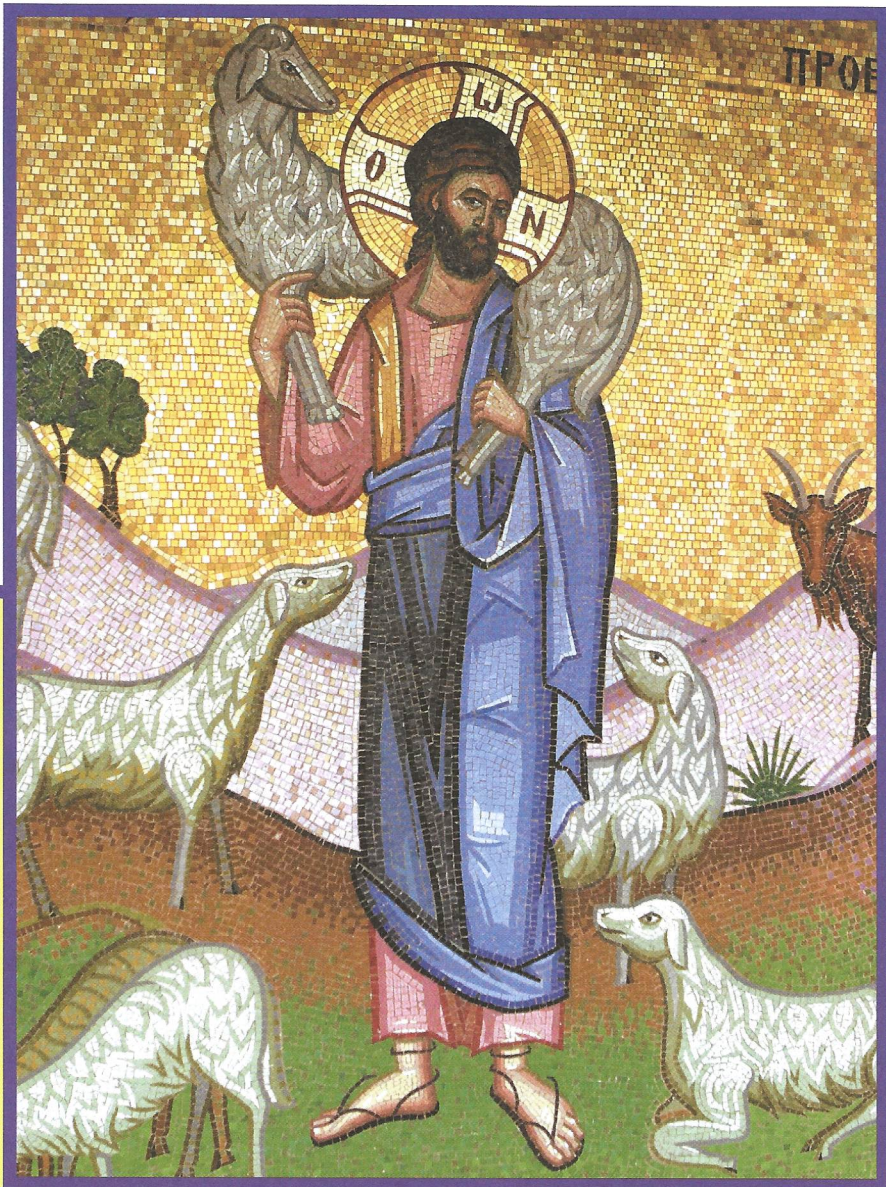
Helen & George Yurchak

Financials 1/25-31/21: *Operating Acct:* Candles 27 - Altar Candles 220 - Offerings 557 – Non-Envelope 155 -

Holy Days 9 – Initial (to pay for envelopes) 5 = Total \$973.00; – Please continue to keep filling your church

envelopes. – Thank you! **Sam's Club memberships are open (\$45.00 per year) –**

**See Helen King as soon as possible if interested.**



JESUS  
Our Shepherd



◆ ◆ ◆ TURN AWAY FROM SIN ◆ ◆ ◆

**T**he Bible portrays humanity as wayward and wandering sheep. Usually the reason we go astray is we are tempted by SIN. Jesus came to save us and died on the Cross to defeat the ultimate enemies - sin and death.

We think as humans we can flirt with temptation. Satan dangles temptation right in front of us. We think we can get very close to the edge and walk away. We know the action is wrong and yet we toy with it. But Satan's power ends there. He cannot force us into temptation. His power stops at the edge of our will, when we make the right decision with the help of our Lord. Jesus puts it simply: "*Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.*" (John 8:34)

Having experienced great temptation himself, Apostle Peter wrote later in life, "*Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion . . . Resist him, standing firm in the faith . . .*" (1 Peter 5:8-9) We must always be alert for attacks at every turn. God gives us the strength and wisdom to recognize when we are tempted. Rely on Him for strength to resist. Respond to the lies of Satan with the truth of God's Word.

Remember that a big fall starts with a little stumble. Wayward sheep need the guidance of the Shepherd to seek and to save us. We can, with God's love and support, successfully resist Satan and his most enticing tactics!

## Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont

### Troparion — Tone 4

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; / your humility exalted you; / your poverty enriched you. / Hierarch Father Parthenius, / entreat Christ our God / that our souls may be saved.

### Kontakion — Tone 3

*(Podoben: "Today the Virgin...")*

You received divine grace to work miracles, / wise and holy God-bearing wonderworker Parthenius. / You cleansed the passions of all the faithful / and drove out evil spirits. / Therefore, we praise you as a great initiate of the grace of God.

Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus, was a native of the city of Melitoupolis (in northwestern Asia Minor), where his father Christopher served as deacon. The youth did not receive adequate schooling, but he learned the Holy Scripture by attending church services. He had a good heart, and distributed to the poor the money he earned working as a fisherman.

Filled with the grace of God, Saint Parthenius from age eighteen healed the sick in the name of Christ, cast out demons and worked other miracles. Learning of the young man's virtuous life, Bishop Philetus of Melitoupolis educated him and ordained him presbyter.

In 325, during the reign of Constantine the Great, Archbishop Achilles of Cyzicus made him bishop of the city of Lampsacus (Asia Minor). In the city were many pagans, and the saint fervently began to spread the faith in Christ, confirming it through many miracles and by healing the sick.

The people began to turn from their pagan beliefs, and the saint went to the emperor Constantine the Great seeking permission to tear down the pagan temple and build a Christian church in its place. The emperor received the saint with honor, gave him a decree authorizing the destruction of the pagan temple, and provided him with the means to build a church. Returning to Lampsacus, Saint Parthenius had the pagan temple torn down, and built a beautiful church of God in the city.

In one of the razed temples, he found a large marble slab which he thought would be very suitable as an altar. The saint ordered work to begin on the stone, and to move it to the church. Through the malice of the devil, who became enraged at the removal of the stone from the pagan temple, the cart overturned and killed the driver Eutychnian. Saint Parthenius restored him to life by his prayer and shamed the devil, who wanted to frustrate the work of God.

The saint was so kind that he refused healing to no one who came to him, or who chanced to meet him by the wayside, whether he suffered from bodily illnesses or was tormented by unclean spirits. People even stopped going to physicians, since Saint Parthenius healed all the sick for free. With the great power of the name of Christ, the saint banished a host of demons from people, from their homes, and from the waters of the sea.

Once, the saint prepared to cast out a devil from a certain man, who had been possessed by it since childhood. The demon began to implore the saint not to do so. Saint Parthenius promised to give the evil spirit another man in whom he could dwell. The demon asked, "Who is that man?" The saint replied, "You may dwell in me, if you wish."

The demon fled as if stung by fire, crying out, "If the mere sight of you is a torment to me, how can I dare to enter into you?" An unclean spirit, cast out of the house where the imperial purple dye was prepared, said that a divine fire was pursuing him with the fire of Gehenna.

Having shown people the great power of faith in Christ, the saint converted a multitude of idol-worshippers to the true God. Saint Parthenius died peacefully and was solemnly buried beside the cathedral church of Lampsacus, which he built.

#### Venerable Luke of Hellas

Saint Luke of Hellas was a native of the Greek village of Kastorion. The son of poor farmers, the saint from childhood had toiled much, working in the fields and shepherding the sheep. He was very obedient to his parents and very temperate in eating. He often gave his own food and clothing to the poor, for which he suffered reproach from his parents. He once gave away almost all the seed which was needed for planting in the fields. The Lord rewarded him for his charity, and the harvest gathered was greater than ever before. As a child, he prayed fervently and often. His mother saw him more than once standing not on the ground, but in the air while he prayed.

After the death of his father, he left his mother and went to Athens, where he entered a monastery. But through the prayers of his mother, who was very concerned about him, the Lord returned him to his parental home in a miraculous manner. He spent four months there, then with his mother's blessing he went to a solitary place on a mountain called Ioannou (or Ioannitsa). Here there was a church dedicated to the holy Unmercenary Cosmas and Damian, where he lived an ascetical life in constant prayer and fasting. He was tonsured there by some Elders who were on pilgrimage. After this, Saint Luke redoubled his ascetic efforts, for which the Lord granted him the gift of foresight.

After a seven years on Ioannou, the saint moved to Corinth because of an invasion of the Bulgarian armies. Hearing about the exploits of a certain stylite at Patras, he went to see him, and remained for ten years to serve the ascetic with humility and obedience. Afterwards, the saint returned again to his native land and again began to pursue asceticism on Mount Ioannou.

The throngs of people flocking there disturbed his quietude, so with the blessing of his Elder Theophylactus, Saint Luke went with his disciple to a still more remote place at Kalamion. After three years, he settled on the desolate and arid island of Ampelon because of an invasion of the Turks. Steiris was another place of his ascetic efforts. Here brethren gathered to the monk, and a small monastery grew up, the church of which was dedicated to the Great Martyr Barbara. Dwelling in the monastery, the saint performed many miracles, healing sicknesses of soul and of body.

Foreseeing his end, the saint confined himself in a cell and for three months prepared for his departure. When asked where he was to be buried, the monk replied, "Throw my body into a ravine to be eaten by wild beasts." When the brethren begged him to change these instructions, he commanded them to bury his body on the spot where he lay. Raising his eyes to heaven, he said, "Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit!" Saint Luke fell asleep in the Lord on February 7, 946. Later, a church was built over his tomb. Myrrh flowed from his holy relics, and many healings occurred.