

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, January 9, 2022
Choir Director: Wash King

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 4
Afterfeast of the Theophany

Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!

Services:

Sunday, January 9	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – followed by rescheduled annual parish meeting
Sunday, January 16	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy
Sunday, January 23	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy
Sunday, January 30	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – followed by Parastas



Home Blessing: Please use the 2022 Home Blessing Sign-up Sheet in the vestibule for those who want their homes blessed. Fr. James will set a schedule to limit contact between homes.

If anyone is concerned about COVID and want their house blessed, please call the rectory at 570-645-2772 to be scheduled. We can discuss modifications if any are possible.

CONFESSION

Confessions have resumed with minor modifications. Please call the rectory at 570-645-2772 and talk to Father James for a reservation. Individual schedule times will be spread out during the week or prior to a service (with prior notification). 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.

Prayer List:

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic,
Andrew Balliet, Dr. Ronald Berezniak, Michael Birosik, 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, Anna Pisko, 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.

Candles (January 9)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of **Russell Wishousky** Ted Bogosh

Altar Candles... In memory of **Mary & Andrew Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh

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

Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Joseph Kupetz** offered by Steve & Mary Hadermayer

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In memory of **Joseph Herbert** offered by Millie O'Shura

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

January Birthdays: 2- Tommy Shanosky, 3- Allysa Vavra, 7- Ted Bogosh (97), 13- Dr. Ronald Berezniak, 21- Helen Sheers

January Anniversaries: 9- Wash & Helen King (65 yrs), 23- Russell & Geri King

Financials 1/2/22: *Operating Acct:* Candles 46 - Altar Candles 150 - Offerings 797

Non-Envelope 150 - Holy Days 105 = Total \$1,248.00.

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.

ASPECTS OF THE FEASTDAY OF THEOPHANY

The Feast of Theophany marks the time that our Lord was baptized in the waters of the Jordan. It is termed the day of “**Divine Manifestation**” because of the revelation that day of Christ’s true identity, along with that of the Holy Trinity.

It is not surprising that **WATER** is emphasized this day, since Jesus went to the Jordan River to receive baptism by St. John the Baptist. So the blessing of this basic element of life has a prominent part in the Feast.

Many people also know this day as the Feast of “**Enlightenment or Illumination.**” **LIGHT** is one of the earth’s remarkable substances. St. Basil the Great, in his profound work on the six days of creation, wrote that the making of light was God’s first gift and blessing to mankind. It has been said that man has polluted the air, the land, the seas, but light cannot be defiled.

No wonder that light has theological dimensions and has a part in the thinking, praying, and worship of the Church. Christ called Himself the “**Light of the world.**” What is perhaps the oldest hymn of Christendom, sung at Vespers, speaks of “**Serene Light, the glory of the Immortal Father . . .**” And we cannot conceive of a worship service in church without the illumination from lamps and candles.

The Church has always felt that the baptism of Christ has great spiritual significance. It is viewed as a renewal of nature, a re-creation to undo the harm of man’s sin, a restoration to pristine wholeness and holiness. Indeed, this is a magnificent Feast of the Church!

Afterfeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

The third day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 9. The hymns of this period invite us to purify our minds in order to see Christ.

Troparion — Tone 1

When You, O Lord were baptized in the Jordan / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest / for the voice of the Father bore witness to You / and called You His beloved Son. / And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, / confirmed the truthfulness of His word. / O Christ, our God, You have revealed Yourself / and have enlightened the world, glory to You!

Kontakion — Tone 4

Today You have shown forth to the world, O Lord, / and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us. / Knowing You, we sing Your praises. / You have come and revealed Yourself, / O unapproachable Light.

Ephesians 4:7-13 (*Epistle, Sunday After*)

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Therefore, He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."

(Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Matthew 4:12-17 (*Gospel, Sunday After*)

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.

And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Prophet Shemaiah (Samaia or Semeias)

The Prophet Shemaiah (Samaia) lived under King Solomon and his son Rehoboam. At that time, the kingdom of Israel in the north was divided from the southern kingdom of Juda. Israel was comprised of ten loosely united tribes, and Juda of two tribes. The prophet ordered Rehoboam not to make war against the ten tribes of Israel, who had separated themselves from the offspring of David (3/1 Kings 12:22, 2 Chron. 11:2). His name means "God hears."

Martyr Polyeuktos of Melitēné in Armenia

Saint Polyeuktos¹ was the first to be martyred for Christ in the Armenian city of Melitēné. He was a soldier during the reign of Emperor Decius (249-251), and he later suffered martyrdom in the reign of Valerian (253-259). He was a friend of Néarkhos (Νέαρχος) a fellow-soldier and a firm Christian. Polyeuktos, however, although he led a virtuous life, he remained a pagan.

When the persecution against Christians began, Néarkhos said to Polyeuktos, "Friend, soon we shall be separated, for they will take me to torture, and you, alas, will renounce your friendship with me." Polyeuktos told him that he had seen Christ in a dream. The Savior took his soiled military cloak from him and dressed him in a radiant garment. "Now," he said, "I am prepared to serve the Lord Jesus Christ."

Enflamed with zeal, Saint Polyeuktos went to the city square, and tore up the edict of Decius which required everyone to worship the idols. A few moments later, he met a procession carrying twelve idols through the streets of the city. Dashing the idols to the ground, he trampled them underfoot.

His father-in-law, the magistrate Felix, who was responsible for enforcing the imperial edict, was horrified at what Saint Polyeuktos had done and advised him to obey the imperial edict. Polyeuktos told him that we must obey God rather than men. Felix declared that Polyeuktos must die for this. "Go then, bid farewell to your wife and children," he said. Paulina wept and urged her husband to renounce Christ. Felix also wept, but Saint Polyeuktos remained steadfast in his resolve to suffer for Christ.

Bowing his head beneath the executioner's sword, he was baptized in his own blood. In the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, when the Church of Christ had triumphed throughout the Roman Empire, a church was built at Melitēné in honor of Saint Polyeuktos. Many miracles were worked through his intercession. In that same church, the parents of Saint Euthymios the Great (January 20) prayed fervently for a son. The birth of this great luminary of Orthodoxy occurred in the year 376, through the prayers of the Holy Martyr Polyeuktos.

Saint Polyeuktos was also venerated by Saint Akakios, the Bishop of Melitēné (March 31), who participated in the Third Ecumenical Council, and was a great proponent of Orthodoxy. In the East, as well as in the West, the Holy Martyr Polyeuktos is venerated as the patron Saint of vows and treaties.

The Polyeucte Overture of French composer Paul Dukas is only one of many pieces of classical music inspired by the Saints. It premiered in January of 1892. The French dramatist Pierre Corneille has also written a play, "Polyeucte" (1642), based on the Martyr's life.

¹ The name Polyeuktos means much-desired.

Saint Eustratius the Wonderworker

Saint Eustratius came from the city of Tarsus. At twenty years of age he secretly left his parents' home and settled in the Abgar monastery (on Olympos in Asia Minor). There he lived a strict ascetic life, eating only bread and water, and spending his nights at prayer. After a certain while he was chosen as igumen of the monastery.

During the reign of the Iconoclast Leo the Armenian (813-820), Saint Eustratius hid from pursuit by roaming the hills and the wilds. After the death of the emperor he returned to the monastery. Prayer was always on his lips, and he constantly repeated the words: "Lord, have mercy!"

Before his death he gave instructions to the monks not to be attracted towards earthly blessings, and constantly to think about the future life. Signing himself with the Sign of the Cross, he said, "Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit" and he died in peace at age 95.