

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, January 10, 2021
31th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday after Theophany

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

Sun... **January 10**... 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Installation of Church Council and Blessing of Water
– NO COFFEE HOUR and no blessing of homes at this time. **Plastic containers will be available.**

Please do not bring containers from home.

Sat... January 16 – NO VESPERS

Sun... January 17... 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy and Parastas – NO COFFEE HOUR

Parastas: In memory of Joseph Herbert offered by the Herbert Family

In memory of Kathryn (Harahuess) Yurchak offered by Gary & Mary Harahuess & Sharon Lewis

In memory of John & Helen Yaroma offered by the Family

In memory of deceased members of the Goida Family offered by the Family

In memory of deceased members of the Yaroma Family offered by the Family

In memory of Walter Fedora offered by Barbara Faenza & family

In memory of Wash Fedora offered by Barbara Faenza & family

In memory of Jane Bubernak offered by Eleanor Sidoriak

Sat... January 23– NO VESPERS

Sun... January 24... Divine Liturgy – NO COFFEE HOUR

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, 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, Alexandra Miller, Britney Miller, Courtney Miller, Isaac Miller, Margaret Miller, 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.

January Birthdays: 2- Tommy Shanosky, 3- Allysa Vavra, 7- Ted Bogosh (96), 10-Helen Yurchak (95), 13- Dr. Ronald Berezniak, 21- Helen Sheers

January Wedding Anniversaries: 9- Wash & Helen King, 23- Russell & Geri King.

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 10):

Flowers/Tetrapod... For the health of **Helen Yurchak** (95) offered by George Yurchak

7-Day Vigils/Altar... In memory of **Filomena Hankey** offered by Martha Stafiniak

Altar Candles... For the health of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & MaryJo Danchak

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Helen Scheese** offered by Martha Teno

Vigil Crosses ... In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & MaryJo Danchak

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the health of **Mary Maholick** offered by Ted Bogosh

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

Financials 12/28-31/20: *Operating Acct:* Altar Candles 30 - Offerings 260 – Holy Days 5 – Donation 400 = Total \$695.00; 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

If you do not feel comfortable coming to church yet, you may continue to watch

On-line Services:

Go to the Diocese of Eastern PA website at the bottom of our church website.

At the top of the page – Click on Live Streaming – Scroll down to church services

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church – Mogadore, OH – You Tube



✠ ✠ "THE GOSPEL BEGINS AT THE JORDAN" ✠ ✠

These words of St. Cyril of Jerusalem cause us to focus on the time and place that our Lord stepped out from the background of 30 years of obscurity and into the forefront of mankind's consciousness. From the moment He emerged from the Jordan River after His Baptism by John, Christ embarked upon His divine mission to teach and save the world.

The Feast Day of **THEOPHANY** has a long and rich history among our faithful. Long before Christ's Birth was formally observed, early Christians celebrated the events that occurred along the banks of the Jordan with great solemnity. In addition to commemorating Christ's Baptism, this Feast Day places before us one of the most profound truths of our Orthodox Faith: the mystery of the Holy Trinity. The word "*Theophany*" literally means "*Manifestation of God.*" In one timeless moment, Father, Son and Holy Spirit were revealed to the world. As the Troparion for this magnificent day proclaims: "*The voice of the FATHER bore witness to You, calling You His beloved SON, and the SPIRIT in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words.*" Never had the world experienced such an event!

Traditionally, the "*Great Blessing of Water*" takes place during the celebration of Theophany. In the prayers of blessing, we are reminded that ". . . *today we have been delivered from darkness and illuminated with the light of the knowledge of God.*" The custom of blessing homes is still observed by many Orthodox during the season of Theophany. This pious practice further emphasizes our belief that Christ is the source of protection and guidance for our household.

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Theophany. Sunday after Theophany.

The fourth day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 10. Some of the hymns of this period compare the streams of the Jordan to the life-giving waters of Baptism.

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."

WE REJOICE EVEN IN TRIBULATION OF THE HOLY SYNOD OF BISHOPS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2020 – December 31, 2020

To the Venerable Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, cherished members of the Body of Christ, called to be saints in this North American land, sealed by the gift of the Holy Spirit, grace to you and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

OPENING THANKSGIVING Our dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we give thanks to God for you! In a year of tribulations—a testing of our faith, perseverance, and character—you have shown great love to Christ in your willing obedience and unwavering service to the Church. How can we convey to you the concern each bishop has felt for his flock during these weeks and months? God knows our prayers for you, and He has sent us the consolation of your faithfulness and love. WE REJOICE EVEN IN TRIBULATION: Not only to us, however, have you shown this love, but also within your communities, in caring for one another: within families, between households, among brother clergy and circles of friends. Even beyond those closest to you, you have responded to those in need: to those who are homebound, or who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, and even their family members. Beloved, your love and service are the light of Christ and the seeds of the Kingdom. What hope we have obtained from these manifestations of the Holy Spirit in your hearts! Having received this consolation from you, we write now to strengthen you, in case anyone is becoming weary. We do not know what the coming year will bring, but we know that Christ is in our midst—He is, and ever shall be! It is precisely in these times of tribulation that we exclaim this with greater conviction than ever. As St. Paul writes to the Romans, “we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Rom 5:3-5). Let us not be downcast by our tribulations, but take courage and find in them our hope of the Resurrection.

Beloved, we have just come through the Nativity season, in which we celebrated the Birth in the Flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is with us! He condescends to us with ineffable love, precisely so that He may take all the suffering of the world into Himself upon the Cross. He shares our life, filled with tribulation, so that we may share in His life. This is our hope! This is our joy! Because He is with us, we need not be afraid. Our burdens are His burdens; He will not remove them from us, but He makes us able to bear them by dwelling within us. When Our Lord and Savior lives in us, we can do all things through Him, Who strengthens us (Phil 4:13). What were the words of the Archangel to the Theotokos at the Annunciation (Lk 1:30)? “Do not be afraid.” What were the words of Gabriel to Joseph the Betrothed in his dream (Mt 1:20), and the exclamation of the angels to the shepherds in the fields (Lk 2:10)? “Do not be afraid.” Christ Himself says to us, “In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). As we begin the New Year, the Year of Our Lord 2021, we will celebrate the Feast of Theophany, in which Christ descends into the chaotic waters and transforms them into the waters of life. One of the prophecies read at the Great Blessing of the Waters says, “Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle tree” (Is 55:13). Dear children of AN ENCYCLICAL OF HOPE • 2020 - God, this is not a promise that God will remove tribulation from our temporal lives. Rather, it is a promise that God will transform the tribulation we encounter into the means by which we enter the Kingdom. This is the way of the Cross: a scandal and foolishness to many, but the power of God to those of us who believe (I Cor 1:23). Thus the briar becomes the myrtle; the tribulations become the crosses we take up in order to follow Christ into the Resurrection. By His grace, no longer will they be heavy burdens, but the light yoke for which we give thanks and by which we enter into everlasting life. Let us rejoice! Let us bear one another’s burdens, let us give aid to those who are suffering or oppressed, let us not judge one another. Pray for one another. Pray for us, your bishops; we pray for you earnestly, with great tenderness. You are our joy in the Lord, because Christ is manifest among you! At Theophany, Christ sanctifies the waters by which we receive the Holy Spirit; we receive His light so that we may in turn shine forth as spiritual lights in the world. This is our calling in 2021, and every day of our lives: to enthrone Christ in our hearts, so that it is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us (Gal 2:20). This is our hope, this is our joy! Let this be a year of our renewal, a year we will remember as one in which we received great grace. Remembering our membership in the Body of Christ, the unshakable Church, let us “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made WE REJOICE EVEN IN TRIBULATION and known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:6-7). Amen.