

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 16, 2022

Choir Director: Wash King

30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 5
Veneration of the Precious Chains of Apostle Peter

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

Services:

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.

Prayer List:

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic,
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birozik, 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 16)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of **Julia Forte** offered by Ted Bogosh
Altar Candles... In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh
7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the Health of **Irene Puschak** offered by Ted Bogosh
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 1/9/22: *Operating Acct:* Candles 0 - Altar Candles 0 - Offerings – Non-Envelope 0 - Holy Days 0 – Donations 0 = Total \$0.00. – Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. – Thank you!

CONFESSION

Confessions have resumed with minor modifications. Please call the rectory at 570-645-2772 and talk to Father James for a reservation. Call between 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Individual schedule times will be spread out during the week. 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.

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

~::~ A WORTHY CHAMPION OF OUR FAITH ~::~

S AINT ATHANASIUS THE GREAT was born in Alexandria, Egypt, about the year 297. His childhood was spent during the years that Christians were persecuted for their faith. He lived among people and was taught by teachers who suffered for Christ. But by 313, peace came to the Christian community, for Constantine the Great granted religious freedom after his famed vision of the Cross.

Now, however, a different enemy arose, one from within the Church. The heresy of Arius infected the Church and caused great troubles. It was young Athanasius, now an Archdeacon and secretary to the aged Patriarch of Alexandria, who arose to defend the faith. He relentlessly challenged Arians on the real issue: "Either admit that the Son is of the same substance with the Father, or say openly that He is a creature, in which case He cannot be worshipped . . ."

The controversy resulted in the calling by the Emperor of the Great Council, held in Nicea. It was Athanasius who led the struggle against the heresy. The Patriarch died shortly after the council, and Athanasius was elected to succeed him. He had a stormy career as Archbishop. The Arian troubles did not fade away but persisted for years. Five times Athanasius was banished; five times he returned in triumph, to the joy of the people.

Athanasius was Archbishop of some 46 years, and he was 77 years old when death came in 373. This warrior for Christ finally received his crown of glory.

30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-glorious Apostle Peter. Bl. Maxim of Tot'ma, Fool-for-Christ (Vologdá—1650). Martyred brothers Speusippus, Eleusippus, Meleusippus, and those with them, in Gaul (161-180). Martyr Danax the Reader, in Macedonia (2nd c.). St. Honoratus, Archbishop of Arles and founder of the Abbey of Lérins (429). Hieromartyr Damascene the New (Mt. Athos—1771).

Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-Glorious Apostle Peter

Troparion — Tone 4

You came to us without leaving Rome / through the precious chains that you wore. / First-enthroned of the apostles, / we bow down to them in faith and pray: / “Through your prayers to God grant us great mercy.”

Kontakion — Tone 2

Christ the Rock radiantly glorifies the Rock of Faith, / the first-enthroned of the disciples; / He calls us to honor the miracles wrought through Peter's chains, / so that He may grant us forgiveness of our sins.

The Veneration of the Honorable Chains of the Holy and All-Praised Apostle Peter: In about the year 42, on the orders of Herod Agrippa, the Apostle Peter was thrown into prison for preaching about Christ the Savior. In prison he was held secure by two iron chains. During the night before his trial, an angel of the Lord removed these chains from the Apostle Peter and led him out from the prison (Acts 12:1-11).

Christians who learned of the miracle took the chains and kept them as precious keepsakes. For three centuries the chains were kept in Jerusalem, and those who were afflicted with illness and approached them with faith received healing. Patriarch Juvenal (July 2) presented the chains to Eudokia, wife of the emperor Theodosius the Younger, and she in turn transferred them from Jerusalem to Constantinople in either the year 437 or 439.

Eudokia sent one chain to Rome to her daughter Eudoxia (the wife of Valentinian), who built a church on the Esquiline hill dedicated to the Apostle Peter and placed the chain in it. There were other chains in Rome, with which the Apostle Peter was shackled before his martyrdom under the emperor Nero. These were also placed in the church.

Colossians 3:12-16 (*Epistle*)

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Luke 18:18-27 (Gospel)

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So, Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.

You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

So, when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Blessed Maximus the Fool for Christ of Tot'ma

Blessed Maximus Makar'ev was a priest in the city of Tot'ma (Vologda Diocese) during the first half of the XVII century, and his father was a priest. Saint Maximus was also ordained to the priesthood, and for 45 years he voluntarily undertook the difficult spiritual exploit of foolishness for Christ's sake, spending his time in unceasing prayer, fasting, and completely neglecting to take care of his body.

Father Maximus was already distinguished by grace-filled gifts from God during his lifetime. He reposed at an advanced age on January 16, 1650 and was buried near the Resurrection church of Varnitsa in the city of Tot'ma. His laborious and holy life, and the miraculous cures which flowed from his tomb, served as an incentive to write his Life, but it was destroyed in 1676 during a fire in the church of the Resurrection. A new Life was composed in 1680, and it was lost as well. Meanwhile, the miracles continued at the righteous one's tomb.

Local veneration of the Saint began in 1715, because of the numerous miracles which occurred at his grave. In that year, the Priest John Rokhletsov and the parishioners of Holy Resurrection church asked Archbishop Joseph of Great Ustyug to allow them to place a sepulcher over the relics of Saint Maximus in the church of Saint Paraskevė, which was built over his relics, and to put an Icon of the Saint on the tomb. Vladyka granted their petition and gave his blessing for Molebens to be served for him, as is done for other God-pleasers. At that time, everyone still remembered the miracles which took place at the tomb of Blessed Maximus, and these miracles were depicted on the borders of the icon which adorned the God-pleaser's tomb.

In 1680, Boris Tarunin, a resident of Tot'ma, fell ill with a fever and was paralyzed for six months. When he prayed to the righteous Maximus for the help, he was healed right away.

In 1691, the peasant Arėthas Malevinsky was bed-ridden for nine weeks with a fever. When he began to call upon Saint Maximus for help, his illness completely disappeared.

The peasant Theodore Mamoshov was paralyzed for nine years. On the night of November 5, 1703, he dreamt that an old man, clad in just a shirt, approached his bedside and said to him, "Theodore, cease your grieving." Taking him by the shoulder, he led him into the church and commanded him to venerate his grave. When he awakened, Theodore felt so well that he was able to walk to the church of the Resurrection in order to venerate the tomb of his healer.

In 1705, Anna Tataurova had not been in her right mind for a month. One night, Saint Maximus appeared to her in a dream, telling her to have two Panikhidas served at his tomb, promising her that she would recover if she did this. When the sick girl woke up, she asked to be taken to the righteous one's tomb. After the two Panikhidas were served, she felt perfectly well.