

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 29, 2023
Choir Director: Wash King

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

Services:

Sunday, January 29- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Hour & Book Group Meeting
Wednesday, February 1- 4:00 PM – Great Vespers with Litya & Confessions
Thursday, February 2- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Meeting of Lord in Temple (Blessing of Candles)
Saturday, February 4- 4:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, February 5- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy and Fellowship Hour and Church Council Meeting
Saturday, February 11- 4:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, February 12- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy and Spaghetti Dinner (Prodigal Son)

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 the Divine Liturgy 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 Note: Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.

Prayer List:

Fr. James Weremedic, Matushka Lisa Weremedic
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birozik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Danielle Bogosh, Ashley Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Nadine Fegley, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen Harkins, Nancy King, Russell King, Michael Kulick, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, Dale Renninger, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, Mary Simone, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Joseph Tosca, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, George Yurchak, 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 29)

7-day Vigils-Altar...In memory of **Pavlick Family** offered by Alice (Rosahac) Styer
Altar Candles... In memory of **Michael & Julia Rosahac** offered by Alice (Rosahac) Styer
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members
Vigil Crosses...In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
7-day Vigils-Tetrapod...In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

Candles (February 2)

7-day Vigils-Altar...For the Health of **Sue O'Shura** offered by Millie O'Shura
Altar Candles... In memory of **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Theresa Wyshosky** offered by Julia Forte
Vigil Crosses...For the Health of **Claire & Odess Remington** offered by the Herbert Family
7-day Vigils-Tetrapod...In memory of **John King, Sr.** offered by Gary Harahuess
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

January Birthdays: 2- Tommy Shanosky, 3- Allysa Vavra, 7- Ted Bogosh (98),

13- Dr. Ronald Berezniak, 21- Helen Sheers, 28- Edward Pierson;

February Birthdays: 1- Michael Kulick, 3- Michael Tatusko, 7- Ira James, 9- Wendy Kulick,

15- Claire Remington, 22- Peter Harahus

January Anniversaries: 1- Edward & Anna Pierson, 9- Wash & Helen King, 23- Russell & Geri King

Financials 1/22/23: Operating Acct: Candles 71 Altar Candles 10 Weekly Envelopes 1,262

Non-Envelope 250 Holy Days 10 Donations 250 Initial Envelopes 47

Adult Education Book Donation 180 Boyer's 129.39

Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

January 29	Helen King
February 5	John Evetushick
February 12	Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner
February 19	Mickey Tatusko
February 26	OPEN

There is a sign-up sheet for Fellowship Hour in the vestibule if you would like to host.

Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner is on February 12, 2023 @ 11:30 AM

See Marie Skripnek, Gloria Bench, or Helen King for Tickets **Donation: \$12.00**

Several Memberships are available for Sam's Club, Annual Fee is now \$45.00.

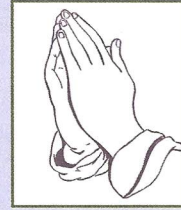
See Helen King if interested.

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.

LABORING FOR THE LORD

We have all heard of a good deed or kind action described as a “labor of love.” If we would carefully study that alliterative phrase, we might be tempted to question the grouping of the words “labor” and “love” together. When we labor, we often struggle greatly. Love, on the other hand, is a virtue that is supposed to flow freely and easily.



In reality, love and its corresponding fruits require a great deal of effort on our part. Raising a family in a world where Christian family values are scorned and ridiculed is a “labor of love.” Being faithful to a spouse in a society that condones, and even encourages, infidelity is a “labor of love.” Remaining loyal to our Faith when others around us have few spiritual ties is a “labor of love.”

As is the case with manual labor, “labors of love” can cause us to feel tired and worn out. We may even wonder if our efforts really matter. It is at times like this that we must remind ourselves of the greatest “labor of love” that the world has ever seen: Christ’s Incarnation and subsequent Crucifixion and Resurrection. Bringing us the gift of salvation was no easy task for our Lord. His labors on our behalf were matched by His love for us.

Psalm 104 tells us that “. . . man goes out to work and to labor until evening.” God expects all of us to live productive lives. Let us never forget, however that He also desires that we live “loving” lives as well.

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 8. Sunday of Zacchaeus.

Translation of the Relics of Hieromartyr Ignatius the Godbearer, Bishop of Antioch (107). St. Lavrentii (Lawrence), Recluse, of the Kiev Caves, Bishop of Turov (Near Caves—12th c.). Ss. Gerásim (1441-1467), Pitirím (1445) and Jonah (1470), Bishops of Perm. Martyrs Romanus, Jacob (James), Philotheus, Hyperechius, Abibus, Julian, and Paregonius, at Samosata (297).

Troparion Tone 4 - By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / you became a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, / even to the shedding of your blood. / Hieromartyr Ignatius, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Kontakion Tone 4 - Today you rose from the east, / enlightening all of creation with your teachings, / and you are crowned with martyrdom, God-bearing Ignatius.

1 Timothy 4:9-15 (*Epistle*)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

For to this end, we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

These things command and teach.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Luke 19:1-10 (*Gospel*)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.

So, he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

So, he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Sunday of Zacchaeus

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation is come to this house" (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology and Trisagion at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is in Tone 1, 3, 5, or 7) we sing the Troparion of the Resurrection: "Today salvation is come to the world, let us sing praises to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He has given us the victory and great mercy."

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature; therefore, we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

Translation of the relics of the Hieromartyr Ignatius, the God bearer and Bishop of Antioch

The Transfer of the Relics of the Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer: (See December 20). After the holy hieromartyr Ignatius was thrown to the lions in the year 107 on the orders of the emperor Trajan, Christians gathered up his bones and preserved them at Rome. Later, in the year 108, the saint's relics were collected and buried outside the gate of Daphne at Antioch. A second transfer, to the city of Antioch itself, took place in the year 438. After the capture of Antioch by the Persians, the relics of the Hieromartyr Ignatius were returned to Rome and placed into the church of the holy Hieromartyr Clement in the year 540 (in 637, according to other sources).

Saint Ignatius introduced antiphonal singing into Church services. He has left us seven archpastoral epistles in which he provided instructions on faith, love and good works. He also urged his flock to preserve the unity of the faith and to beware of heretics. He encouraged people to honor and obey their bishops, "We should regard the bishop as we would the Lord Himself." (To the Ephesians 6)

In his Letter to Polycarp, Saint Ignatius writes: "Listen to the bishop, if you want God to listen to you... let your baptism be your shield, your faith a helmet, your charity a spear, your patience, like full armor." (Compare Eph. 6:14-17 and the Wisdom of Solomon 5:17-20. Also *The Ladder* 4:2)