



## **PRIDE IS A DEADLY ENEMY**

**I**n Proverbs 16:18, we hear these powerful words: **"PRIDE GOES BEFORE DESTRUCTION, A HAUGHTY SPIRIT BEFORE A FALL."** Countless times, pride has proven to be a person's downfall. Because of his prideful desire to be like God, Satan, once an angel, was driven from heaven -- banished for all eternity. Adam and Even, pridefully believing that they could possess the knowledge and wisdom of their Creator, ate the fruit from the one tree they were forbidden to touch, causing them to be cast out of Paradise. Yes, the consequences can be of epic proportions.

Sadly, pride continues to claim its victims. We are driven by a multitude of goals and aspirations. When we achieve success in our endeavors, we are often reluctant to give credit where credit is due. We quickly forget that without God's help, we can accomplish nothing. To be proud of our own works is nothing more than a failure on our part to recognize our place on the "Ladder of Creation." The Lord is our Master; we are His servants. In the words of the Blessed Augustine: "God created us for Himself, and our soul is lonely without Him."

We must remember the words spoken by Moses to the Israelites after receiving the Ten Commandments. While reassuring them that God will lead them into a land of plenty, he issues this warning to them as well: "Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God, that when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses, you do not say in your heart: MY power and the might of MY hands have gotten me this." Indeed, may we, as well, never forget what God does for His faithful children.

**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  
Reader Hours: Claire Remington

**Sunday, July 16, 2023**  
Choir Director: Wash King  
Reader Epistle: Edward Pierson

**6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Services:**

Sunday, July 16            9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship  
                                  Orthodox Family Picnic at Knoebels Amusement Park after Divine Liturgy  
Saturday, July 22        5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions  
Sunday, July 23         9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship  
Saturday, July 29        4:30 PM – Parastas  
                                  In memory of Martha Teno offered by Russel & Geri King  
                                  In memory of Alexis Gancasz offered by Jeanne Cannon  
Saturday, July 29        5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions  
Sunday, July 30         9:30 PM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

The FOCA's Orthodox Family Picnic at Knoebels Amusement Park is TODAY, July 16<sup>th</sup>.  
If anyone wishes to donate towards the cost to help others attend, please do so at  
the candle desk.

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. 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  
Ashley Buchanan and her newborn child, Kasandra Anne  
Theodore Bogosh, Elizabeth Brennan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia  
Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy & Joseph  
Macenka, Melissa Schmitt, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Sonny Skumorucha, Martha Stafiniak, Michael  
Teno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Marie Yurchak.

\*Names will cycle off approximately every 30 days. You may request to have your name or  
the name of a loved one placed back on the list at any time by contacting Fr. James directly.

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 (July 16)**

Flowers on Tetrapod... For the Health of **Logan, Sophia & Ira** offered by their Grandparents, Odess & Claire Remington

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Mary & Andrew Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh

Altar Candles... In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

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

Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... For the Health of **Mary (Matesy) Herbert** offered by Millie O'Shura

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

### **July Birthdays:**

11- Geri Vavra, 20- John Evetushick, Anna Pierson, 22- Michael Ropitsky, 23- William Hudak

**July Anniversaries:** 9- David & Chris King, 16- Joseph & Dorothy Macenka

**Financials 7/9/2023: Operating Acct:** Weekly Envelopes \$344, Candles \$75, Altar Candles \$150, Non-Envelopes \$255, Holy Day \$5

### **Fellowship Hour Hosts:**

July 16 Helen King

July 23 Russell King

July 30 Michael Tatusko

August 6 John Evetushick

There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen in the church hall if you would like to host.

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

### **Telephone Parishioner Directory**

We are developing a 'Parishioner's Telephone Directory' for the use of our members. We ask you to fill out a form and return them to Father James by the end of July. This directory is for the use of the parishioners. Also, we plan to have a section for "Friends of St. Mary's." Those who are friends of St. Mary's should fill out the form and return them to Fr. James by the end of July. Examples are included on the sheet. Any questions, call Fr. James at (570) 645-2772. Forms will be in the vestibule.

## 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical

**Councils.** Hieromartyr Athenogenes, Bishop of Heracleopolis, and his ten disciples (ca. 311). Martyrs Paul and two sisters, Chionia (Thea) and Alevtina (Valentina), at Cæsarea in Palestine (308). Martyr Antiochus, Physician, of Sebaste (4th c.). Virgin Martyr Julia of Carthage (ca. 440 or 613).

### Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

**Troparion — Tone 8** - You are most glorious, O Christ our God, / You have established the Fathers as lights upon the earth, / and through them, You have guided all of us to the true Faith! / O greatly compassionate one, glory to You.

**Kontakion — Tone 8** - The preaching of the Apostles and the dogmas of the Fathers sealed the one Faith of the Church; / and clad in the garment of truth woven of theology from on high, / it teaches aright and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

### Romans 12:6-14 (*Epistle*)

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

### Matthew 9:1-8 (*Gospel*)

So, He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!"

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?

But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

And he arose and departed to his house.

Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

The Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils.

In the Ninth Article of the Nicea-Constantinople Symbol of Faith proclaimed by the holy Fathers of the First and Second Ecumenical Councils, we confess our faith in "One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church." By virtue of the catholic nature of the Church, an Ecumenical Council is the Church's supreme authority, and possesses the competence to resolve major questions of church life. An Ecumenical Council is comprised of archpastors and pastors of the Church, and representatives of all the local Churches, from every land of the "oikumene" (i.e. from all the whole inhabited world).

The Orthodox Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils:

The First Ecumenical Council (Nicea I) (May 29, and also on seventh Sunday after Pascha) was convened in the year 325 against the heresy of Arius, in the city of Nicea in Bithynia under Saint Constantine the Great, Equal of the Apostles.

The Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople I) (May 22) was convened in the year 381 against the heresy of Macedonias, by the emperor Theodosius the Great.

The Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus) (September 9) was convened in the year 431 against the heresy of Nestorius, in the city of Ephesus by the emperor Theodosius the Younger.

The Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon) (July 16) was convened in the year 451, against the Monophysite heresy, in the city of Chalcedon under the emperor Marcian.

The Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II) (July 25) "Concerning the Three Chapters," was convened in the year 553, under the emperor Justinian the Great.

The Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III) (January 23) met during the years 680-681, to fight the Monothelite heresy, under the emperor Constantine Pogonatos.

The fact that the Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicea II) is not commemorated today testifies to the antiquity of today's celebration. The Seventh Council, commemorated on the Sunday nearest to October 11, was convened at Nicea in the year 787 against the Iconoclast heresy, under the emperor Constantine and his mother Irene.

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as "lights upon the earth," guiding us to the true Faith. "Adorned with the robe of truth," the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible.

The Orthodox Church's conciliar definitions of dogma have the highest authority, and such definitions always begin with the Apostolic formula: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." (Acts 15: 28). The Ecumenical Councils were always convened for a specific reason: to combat false opinions and heresies, and to clarify the Orthodox Church's teaching. But the Holy Spirit has thus seen fit, that the dogmas, the truths of faith, immutable in their content and scope, constantly and consequently are revealed by the conciliar mind of the Church, and are given precision by the holy Fathers within theological concepts and terms in exactly such measure as is needed by the Church itself for its economy of salvation. The Church, in expounding its dogmas, is dealing with the concerns of a given historical moment, "not revealing everything in haste and thoughtlessly, nor indeed, ultimately hiding something" (Saint Gregory the Theologian).

The 318 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council are spoken of in this Canon I of Trullo as having: "with unanimity of faith revealed and declared to us the consubstantiality of the three Persons of the Divine nature and, ... instructing the faithful to adore the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with one worship, they cast down and dispelled the false teaching about different degrees of Divinity."

The 150 Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council left their mark on the theology of the Church concerning the Holy Spirit, "repudiating the teaching of Macedonius, as one who wished to divide the inseparable Unity, so that there might be no perfect mystery of our hope."

The 200 God-bearing Fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council expounded the teaching that "Christ, the Incarnate Son of God is One." They also confessed that "she who bore Him without seed was the spotless Ever-Virgin, glorifying her as truly the Mother of God.

The 630 Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council decreed that "the One Christ, the Son of God... must be glorified in two natures."

The 165 God-bearing Holy Fathers of the Fifth Ecumenical Council "in synod anathematized and repudiated Theodore of Mopsuestia (the teacher of Nestorius), and Origen, and Didymus, and Evagrius, renovators of the Hellenic teaching about the transmigration of souls and the transmutation of bodies and the impieties they raised against the resurrection of the dead."

The 170 Holy Fathers of the Sixth Ecumenical Council "taught that we ought to confess two natural volitions, or two wills [trans. note: one divine, and the other human], and two natural operations (energies) in Him Who was incarnate for our salvation, Jesus Christ, our true God."

They remain always contemporary to the living Tradition of the Church.

And in **Antioch** the disciples **were first called Christians**. (Acts 11.26)

**They were called 'Christians'** by the unbelievers around them. **They** didn't give the name to themselves.



Dorothy and Joe Macenka are celebrating their 68<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Dorothy just turned 91 last month and Joe will be 100 in September.

The area natives were married July 16, 1955, and lived in Hometown, where they were members of St. Mary's Orthodox Church, before moving to Hershey to raise their two children. While in Hershey, they joined Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Harrisburg but returned often to Coaldale to worship at St. Mary's.

Joe spent the majority of his career as a civilian employee of the federal government, retiring from New Cumberland Army Depot. Dorothy was in the manufacturing industry and retired from Hershey Foods Co. in 1988, when the couple returned to Coaldale, where they have remained active members of St. Mary's.

They are the parents of Anna Marie Mantey, who lives in Matthews, N.C., with her husband, John, and recently retired from a career as a physician's assistant, and Joseph, an author and communications professional who lives with his wife, Jody, in Richmond, Va., and Avon, N.C.