

O foremost of the Apostles and

to the world and great mercy to our souls.



teachers of the world, intercede ye with

the Master of all, that He grants peace

THE "ROCK" AND THE "CHOSEN VESSEL"

It is fitting that our Church chooses to honor her two greatest Apostles on the same day. PETER, whose missionary labors centered on winning converts from Judaism, is often referred to as the "ROCK" because of his strong, firm faith. It was Peter, who boldly proclaimed his belief that Jesus was "the Son of the living God" in response to Christ's direct question: "And who do you say I am?" PAUL, who concentrated his ministry on taking the Gospel to the Gentiles -- those who were not Jews -- is commonly called the "CHOSEN VESSEL" of Christ's Church. Paul, in his own words, "labored more than any other Apostle." Through his tireless preaching, the early Church grew and expanded at a rapid rate.

It must be said, however, that BOTH of these Apostles once fell woefully short of living up to the accolades they now receive. We might even consider them to have been dismal failures in their early years! Despite his boasting, Peter's faith was weak. Remember how he tried to walk on the sea as Christ did, only to sink when his fears overcame his faith? Who could ever forget the shameful way he thrice denied that he even knew who Jesus was? In his own youth, Paul had no intention of winning souls for Christ. On the contrary, we know that he aggressively persecuted those who professed to be Christians, personally being responsible for the arrest and conviction of many believers.

Sts. Peter and Paul were both touched by the Lord and became changed men. They became totally committed to their divine commission. Nothing short of martyrdom was able to prevent them from carrying the message of the Saviour that they loved to all parts of the known world.

In one of his sermons, St. John Chrysostom calls Sts. Peter and Paul ". . . true pillars of the Church and the foundation and trumpets of the divine teachings of Christ." These words truly capture and define the significance these saints played in the life of the Church.

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: Gloria Bench

Sunday, July 2, 2023
Choir Director: Wash King
Reader Epistle: Edward Pierson

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Services:

Sunday, July 2 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Saturday, July 8 5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, July 9 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
 Adult Class: "Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians, pages 152-158
Saturday, July 15 5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, July 16 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
 Orthodox Family Picnic at Knobels Amusement Park after Divine Liturgy

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, 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 2)

7-day Vigils-Altar...For the Health of **Gloria Bench** offered by Millie O'Shura.

Altar Candles... In memory of **Martha Teno** offered by Julie Forte.

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

Vigil Crosses...In memory of **Martha Teno** offered by Russel & Geri King.

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory of **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **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 6/25/23: Operating Acct: Weekly Envelopes \$295, Non-envelopes \$275,
Holy Day \$23, Candles \$69, Altar Candles \$100.

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

July 2 Lena Berezniak

July 9 Michael Tatusko

July 16 Helen King

July 23 Russell King

July 30 Lena Berezniak

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

Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday (PMAS) is right around the corner: July 30, 2023.

On this day, the feast of St. Silas (patron saint of OCPM), hundreds of Orthodox churches across the U.S. will be preaching about the importance of prison ministry.

Every Orthodox Church in the United States Standing Together for our Incarcerated Brothers and Sisters

America's tragically high incarceration rate (2.3 million) means that—chances are—more than one parishioner in your church has been touched by a person serving time in prison.

OCPM introduces prisoners to the fullness of the Orthodox Faith. And we help Orthodox Christians who have been convicted of crimes to return to the Orthodox faith and find healing and reconciliation.

But we can't do this work without the support of our parishes. As the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church, we are entirely funded through parish and individual support.

Please help us fulfill the commandment of our Lord to visit Him in prison (Matthew 25:36) by participating in this vital day of awareness.

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. The Placing of the Honorable Robe of the Most-holy Mother of God at Blachernæ (5th c.). St. Photius, Metropolitan of Kiev (1431). St. Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem (ca. 458). St. John [Maximovitch] (20th c.).

Tone 3 Troparion - Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

Tone 3 Kontakion - On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Romans 6:18-23 (Epistle)

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 8:5-13 (Gospel)

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

The Placing of the Honorable Robe of the Most Holy Mother of God at Blachernæ

Troparion — Tone 8 - Ever-Virgin Theotokos, protectress of mankind, you have given your people a powerful legacy: / the robe and sash of your most honored body, which remained incorrupt throughout your seedless childbearing; for through you time and nature are renewed! / Therefore we implore you: "Grant peace to your people and to our souls great mercy!"

Kontakion — Tone 4 - O Pure One, full of the grace of God, / you have given your sacred robe as a garment of incorruption to all the faithful, / with it you covered your holy body, O divine protection of all mankind. / We celebrate its enshrinement in Blachernæ with love and we cry aloud with awe: / "Rejoice, O Virgin, boast of Christians."

Starting on July 1st, donations for Candles and/or Flowers will be available to use the three-ring binder labeled "donations" at the candle desk in the back of the church. Each Sunday and Holy Day Services will be listed. The date and suggested donation will be listed on the pages. Please note: Using this 'donation binder' is a first come/first served. If someone wishes to have a specific date and it is filled, please contact the person who is listed on the 'offered by _____' for consideration to change their date.

For friends of the parish or parishioners who are not able or due to their distance, please mail a request and donation to St. Mary's Orthodox Church, att: Financial Secretary, 217 1st Street, Coaldale, PA 18218. Please do not mail money, use a check. In the request, please state either "For the Health of" or "In Memory of" and who is "offered by."

Requested donations already sent to the Parish Financial Secretary will be included in the three-ring binder. John Evetushick will be able to help with any questions.

Additionally, requests for Parastas can be mailed to the St. Mary's Orthodox Church, att: Financial Secretary, 217 1st Street, Coaldale, PA 18218 or handed to the Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary will coordinate the scheduling of the service with the Rector. Please do not mail money, use a check.

Please circle the appropriate Health or Memory:

For the Health of _____ offered by _____.

In memory of _____ offered by _____.

Candles (DATE)

Donation: \$10.00

7-day Vigils-Altar For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____.

Altar Candles For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____.

Eternal Lamp For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____.

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____.

Donation: \$30.00

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____.

Donation: \$30.00

Vigil Crosses For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____.

Donation: \$40.00

Flowers/Tetrapod: For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____.

Donation: \$10.00

Bulletin Sponsor: For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____.

Also, we are reformatting the bulletin's "Sick List" at this time.

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.**