



## HE WAS A MAN OF "VISION"

**P**ROPHET EZEKIEL was one of the four major Prophets of the Old Testament. He grew up in Jerusalem in the 6th century B.C. as a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah. Ezekiel was involved in the Babylonian exile in 597 B.C. and it was while living in captivity that Ezekiel began to distinguish himself with his gift of prophecy.

Ezekiel is well-known for his vivid visions, which often had Christian connotations. His famous vision of the "valley of the dry bones" has long been viewed as a foreshadowing of our Lord's teaching on the resurrection of the dead. He later predicted the destruction of Jerusalem, where only those marked with a Greek letter resembling a cross, would be spared.

Depicted on the cover of today's Church Bulletin is yet another of Ezekiel's visions. While praying at the banks of the river Chebar, the Prophet saw the heavens open up. A cloud appeared, surrounded by images of four living creatures. One had the face of a MAN, the second a LION, the third a CALF and the fourth an EAGLE. The Church has interpreted this as being a revelation of Christ, with the mysterious figures showing that He was both God and Man (*as symbolized by the image of a man and a lion*), Who was sacrificed for us (*the calf*) and Who ultimately resurrected and ascended into heaven (*the eagle*). It is important to note that the Four Evangelists are commonly depicted with these figures as the symbols of their particular version of the Gospel.

**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: Kaitlyn Dymtrow

**Sunday, July 23, 2023**  
Choir Director: Wash King  
Reader Epistle: Michael Ropitsky

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

**Services:**

Sunday, July 23	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Saturday, July 29	4:30 PM – Parastas
	In memory of Martha Teno offered by Russell & Geri King
	In memory of Alexis Gancasz offered by Jeanne & John Cannon
Saturday, July 29	5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, July 30	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Tuesday, August 1	<b>Procession of the Holy Cross, Beginning of Domitian Fast</b>
Tuesday, August 1	6 <sup>TH</sup> Annual National Night Out in Coaldale: 6 – 8 PM (on High St.)
Saturday, August 5	5:00 PM – Great Vespers with Litya & Confessions
Sunday, August 6	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Fruit (Transfiguration)

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 parish hall for fellowship. If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our parish 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 23)**

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Anna Harahuess** offered by Gary Harahuess

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... In memory of **Andrew Harahuess** offered by Gary Harahuess

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory **Gene Haspe** offered by Children & Grand Children

### **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 7/16/2023: Operating Acct:** Weekly Envelope \$730, Non-Envelope \$295, Altar Candles \$50, Candles \$90, Donation \$50, Picnic Donation \$340, Boyer's \$153.55, Building Fund \$25, Local Charity \$1

### **Fellowship Hour Hosts:**

July 23 Russell King      July 30 Michael Tatusko      August 6 John Evetushick

### **Maxim Timofryevich Sandovich**

(1 February 1888 – 6 August 1914)

Maxim Timofeyevich Sandovich is a New Martyr and Orthodox saint, known as Saint Hieromartyr Maxim of Gorlice. Maxim Sandovich was born in Zdynia, Galicia. The original picture of Saint Maxim was brought to Coaldale by Dimitri Sidoriak who was a friend of Maxim back in Galacia. In the 1990's, the Sidoriak family donated their original picture to Saint Mary's Orthodox Church while Rev. Paul Borick was pastor, and it hung in the rectory for many years. Over time, with changes to the rectory, the picture had been moved and recently could no longer be located. Fortunately, Very Reverend John Perich of Glen Mills also had a picture of Saint Maxim, and he made a copy from it to share with St. Mary's Parish once again. He also shared a portion of St. Maxim's relic. On July 8, 2023, Very Reverend James Weremedic blessed an icon of St. Maxim and placed his relic in St. Mary's church for everyone to venerate.

### **Telephone Parishioner Directory**

We are developing a 'Parishioner's Telephone Directory' for the use of our members. We ask you to fill out the form and return the following forms 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. Additional forms will be in the vestibule.

**7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 6** Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and 13 others in Lycia.  
**Icon of the Mother of God, "THE JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW" (with coins) in St. Petersburg.**

**Romans 15:1-7 (Epistle)**

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.

For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

**Silent Prayer before the Gospel:**

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Matthew 9:27-35 (Gospel)**

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."

But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.

And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

**Icon of the Mother of God "the Joy of All who Sorrow"  
(with coins) in St. Petersburg**

**Troparion — Tone 8** Let all of us, priests and monks, men, women, and children, the healthy and the sick, / turn in repentance to the ever-flowing fountain of mercy, the Most Pure Virgin Theotokos, / crying out and humbly saying, "O Sovereign Lady, help your sinful servants, / as your glory is revealed, be ever merciful to us, / and entreat the purification of our souls and bodies from the Fountain of our life, / the God to Whom you gave birth, O only Blessed One."

**Kontakion — Tone 6** We have no other help, we have no other hope, but you, O Lady. / Help us, for in you we hope, / and of you we boast, for we are your servants. / Let us not be put to shame.

The Icon of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow" (With Coins) was glorified in the year 1888 in St. Petersburg, when during the time of a terrible thunderstorm lightning struck in a chapel. All was burned or singed, except for this icon of the Queen of Heaven. It was knocked to the floor, and the poor box broke open at the same time. Somehow, twelve small coins (half-kopeck pieces), became attached to the icon. A church was built in 1898 on the site of the chapel.

### **Icon of the Mother of God of Pochaev**

**Troparion — Tone 5** Those who pray before your holy Icon, O Sovereign Lady, / are granted healing and receive knowledge of the true Faith; / and they repel the attacks of the Hagarenes.\* / Therefore, entreat the remission of sins for us who fall down before you, and enlighten our hearts to thoughts of piety; / and offer up supplication to your Son for the salvation of our souls.

**Kontakion — Tone 1** Your Pochaev Icon, O Theotokos, has been shown as a source of healing, and a confirmation of the Orthodox Faith. / Therefore, deliver us who come to it from misfortune and danger; / preserve your Lavra unharmed; / strengthen Orthodoxy in the neighboring lands; / and, by your prayers, free your supplicants from sins; / for you can do whatever you desire.

### **Commemoration of the Miraculous Appearance of the Mother of God at Pochaev, which saved the Monastery from the assault of the Tatars and Turks**

The Pochaev Icon of the Mother of God is among the most revered sacred objects of the Orthodox Church. Located in the Dormition Cathedral at Pochaev, Ukraine, the Icon is renowned throughout the entire Slavic world, and is venerated in Russia, Bosnia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and in other places. Christians of other confessions also venerate the Pochaev Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos. The wonderworking Icon has been treasured at the Pochaev Lavra for over 400 years.

Numerous miracles have taken place before the holy Icon, and these are recorded in special books at the monastery. The books contain the personal testimonies of people who prayed before the Pochaev Icon and were healed of their illnesses, delivered from unclean spirits, or freed from captivity. Many sinners were also brought to repentance.

Today's Feast Day in honor of the Pochaev Icon of the Mother of God was appointed to commemorate the deliverance of the Dormition Lavra from a siege by the Turks on July 20-23, 1675.

In the summer of 1675 during the Zbarazhsk War with the Turks, in the reign of the Polish King Jan Sobieski (1674-1696), regiments composed of Tatars under the command of Khan Nurredin via Vishnevets fell upon the Pochaev monastery, surrounding it on three sides. The weak monastery walls and its stone buildings did not offer much protection against a siege. Igoumen Joseph Dobromirsky urged the brethren and laypeople to pray to their heavenly intercessors, the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Job of Pochaev (October 28).

The monks and the people prayed fervently, prostrating themselves before the wonderworking Icon of the Mother of God, and the reliquary containing the relics of Saint Job. At sunrise on the morning of July 23, as the Tatars prepared to attack the monastery, the Igoumen ordered an Akathist to the Theotokos to be sung. At the opening words, "O Queen of the Heavenly Hosts," the Mother of God suddenly appeared over the church, in "an unfurled radiant white omaphorion," with angels holding unsheathed swords. Saint Job stood beside the Mother of God, bowing to her and beseeching her to defend the monastery.

The Tatars believed that the heavenly army was a vision, and in their confusion they started shooting arrows at the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Job, but the arrows turned backwards and wounded those who shot them. The enemy, gripped by terror, fled in panic, trampling upon and killing each other. The defenders of the monastery pursued them and took many prisoners. Later, some of the prisoners converted to the Orthodox Faith and remained at the monastery thereafter.

In the year 1721, Pochaev was occupied by the Uniates. Even during this difficult time for the Lavra, the monastery Chronicle lists 539 miracles of the Pochaev Icon. In the second half of the eighteenth century, a Uniate nobleman, Count Nicholas Pototski, became a benefactor of the Pochaev Lavra through the following miraculous circumstance. After accusing his coachman of overturning the carriage with runaway horses, the Count took out a pistol to shoot him. The coachman, turning towards the mountain of Pochaev, stretched out his hands and cried: "Mother of God, depicted in the Pochaev Icon, save me!"

Several times Pototski tried to shoot the pistol, which had never failed him, but the weapon misfired and the coachman remained alive. Pototski went at once to the wonderworking Icon and resolved to devote himself and all his property to building up the monastery. With the money he contributed, the Dormition cathedral was built, as well as other buildings for the brethren.

The return of the Pochaev Monastery to the Orthodox Church in 1832 was marked by the miraculous healing of the blind maiden Anna Akimchukova, who had come on pilgrimage to the holy shrine along with her seventy-year-old grandmother from Kremenets-Podolsk, 200 versts away. In memory of this event, the Archbishop of Volhynia and Archimandrite Innocent of the Lavra (1832-1840) appointed that an Akathist be read on Saturdays before the wonderworking Icon. During the time of Archimandrite Agathangelus, Archbishop of Volhynia (1866-1876), a separate chapel was built in the galleries of the Holy Trinity church, which was dedicated on July 23, 1875 in memory of the victory over the Tatars.