

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
Choir Director: Wash King

Sunday, June 13, 2021
7th Sunday of Pascha
Holy Fathers of First Ecumenical Council

Sunday, June 13	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – followed by Parish Council Meeting
Saturday, June 19	2:00 PM – Pentecost Memorial Service – Skyview at Hometown
Sunday, June 20	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – Pentecost and kneeling prayers
Sunday, June 20	1:00 PM – Memorial Service – Parish Cemetery at Summit Hill
Sunday, June 27	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – followed by Parastas

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.

Prayer List:

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic,
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Cecil Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, Peter Holoviak, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Joseph Tosca, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, Marie Yurchak, & Richard York.

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.

June Birthdays: 5- Dorothy Macenka, 21- Clark Andrew Bogosh, 24- Wash King, 25- Geri King, 28- Olga Kushnir, 29- Julia Harahus

June Wedding Anniversaries: 1- V. Rev James & Mat Lisa Weremedic, 9- Michael & Julia Harahus, 9- John & Peggy Lampman

Candles (June 13):

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of Kim & Tom Herbert offered by Millie O'Shura
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 ... For the Health of Betty (Bogosh) Renninger offered by Ted Bogosh
7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the Health of Danny Herbert offered by Millie O'Shura
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod... In memory of Andrew & Mary Bybel Family offered by Family

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised
Evanna June "Ita" and Emmalyn Naomi "Emiliana" Buchanan
and their parents, Ashley and Samuel.
May God Grant You Many Blessed Years!

*We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Olga Hebda
Who fell asleep in the Lord on 6/8/2021
Memory Eternal!*

Troparion — Tone 8

You are most glorious, O Christ our God! / You have established the Holy
Fathers as lights on the earth! / Through them you have guided us to the true
faith! / O greatly Compassionate One, glory to You!

Kontakion — Tone 8

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one faith for
the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, / it
defines and glorifies the great mystery of Orthodoxy!

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of
the First Ecumenical Council. The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has
been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left
the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail
against it" (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult
struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore
witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing
Christ, but the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ. (OCA.ORG)

THE CREED: COMPOSED BY THE ANCIENT FATHERS

This day on the Church calendar is known as the **SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**. They assembled in the year 325 in the ancient city of Nicea (now a village called Iznik in Turkey.) This Church Council compiled the Creed that is recited at every Divine Liturgy. Actually, the Fathers dealt with the first part of the Creed that speaks of the Person of Christ. The section on the Holy Spirit, to the conclusion, was compiled at the 2nd Council in the year 381 at Constantinople.

The Creed is nearly 1,700 years old and has been recited unchanged through all the centuries of the Faith. It contains the basic statement of Christian beliefs. There were 318 Fathers of the Church at the first Council in Nicea. The fine icon of our bulletin depicts some of them, holding the Greek version of the Statement of Faith.

The Creed begins with the words "I believe . . ." This is somewhat unusual, since invariably in the Church's worship the plural form of "we" is used. Thus, we pray "Our Father . . ." and "Let us pray to the Lord . . ." and "Let us lay aside all earthly care . . ." This is so, because we are gathered together as Christ's family, as the Church, the people of God, the body of Christ.

We say "I believe . . ." because faith is a personal matter. No one can believe for me; I must believe. What does it mean, to believe? This goes to the heart of religion. We cannot "prove" the articles of faith; we cannot see them, touch them or feel them. We believe they are real and they are true. St. Paul put it this way, we "walk by faith and not by sight." Let us honor those Fathers of Nicea today.

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA. Tone 6. Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension. Martyr Aquilina of Byblos in Syria. St. Triphyllius, Bishop of Leucosia, Cyprus. Ven. Andronicus, disciple of Ven. Sergius of Rádonezh, and Ven. Savva, Abbots, of Moscow. Martyr Antonina of Nicæa. St. Anna and her son, St. John, of Constantinople. 10,000 Martyrs.

Financials 6/1-6/21:

Operating Acct: Candles 47 Offerings 593 Non-Envelope 150 Holy Days 91 Total \$881.00.
Cemetery 10 Building Fund 6. Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

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

Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon.

When you shop for gifts or merchandise at *smile.amazon.com*, Amazon Smile will donate a portion of your eligible purchases to St. Mary's Orthodox Church at no cost to you!

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 (*Epistle*)

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you,

Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

Also, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me.

I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Silent Prayers:

Last week, the sermon included the following prayer. In doing so, the hope of understanding the Gospel of the man, blind from birth, was healed and could see. Then Jesus says in the Gospel, 'While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

I believe that my orator skills lack (and probably further decline as age becomes a factor), and often I pray that, if my words are not perfect, that those who hear, will hear what God intends. This commentary was spurred on from a comment to me. In past sermons included; we should read the Gospel readings before coming to the church. The readings are listed in the church calendars that we take home each year.

The Orthodox Study Bible (which can be purchased at the church) has wonderful footnotes, helping in our understanding.

Each of us eat daily (once/day, twice/day and even more) to nourish our bodies. Some of us can 'feed ourselves' or prepare food for others or even have others prepare our food. Try to count the number of times we put something in our mouths in a week, all in the name of nourishing our bodies. Whether the meals are really great meals or not so desirable, each can be considered to nourish our bodies.

We must ask ourselves, how often do we nourish our souls? Whether we read the Word of God ourselves or listen to someone else read them, we must prepare our hearts and minds to hear the Word of God. This is the light of the world that Jesus is telling us. The following prayer is succinct. I ask for your forgiveness in my lacking in my orator skills and I pray that Jesus will implant the Word of God as He intended!

Silent Prayer before reading the Holy Scripture:

Illuminate 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.

John 17:1-13 (Gospel)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.

For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.