

**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: Mat. Lisa Weremedic

**Sunday, June 18, 2023**

Choir Director: Wash King

Reader Epistle: Edward Pierson

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA**

*Services:*

Sunday, June 18      9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, **Parastas**, & Fellowship (Saints of America)

Happy Father's Day - Flowers will be distributed after Divine Liturgy

In memory of Matushka Lovey Ropitsky offered by Fr. Paul & Michael Ropitsky

In memory of parents, Anna & Michael Tatusko offered by Michael Tatusko

In memory of wife, Gertrude Tatusko offered by Michael Tatusko

In memory of Mary Ann Macenka offered by brother, John Charnak

In memory of Janet Jupin offered by the Jupin Family

In memory of Martha Teno offered by the Teno Family

Saturday, June 24      5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, June 25      9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Adult Class: "Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians," pages 144-151

Saturday, July 1      5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, July 2      9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

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, Mat. Lisa Weremedic

Ashley Buchanan and her new born child, Kasandra Anne

Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Danielle Bogosh, Elizabeth

Brennan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Kimberly Evetushick, Nadine Fegley, Julia Forte, Michael &

Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Edward Hojinicki, Nancy King, Michael Kulick, Olga Kushnir,

Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy & Joseph Macenka, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pierson, Melissa Schmitt,

Althea Shellock, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Mary Simone, Jolie Skelton, Sonny Skumorucha, Martha

Stafiniak, Michael Teno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, George Yurchak, &

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.

**Congratulations to Ashley and Samuel Buchanan on the birth of Kasandra Anne!  
May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Candles (June 18)**

Flowers on Tetrapod... In memory of **all deceased fathers, godfathers, grandfathers**

And for the good health for **all living fathers, godfathers, and grandfathers**

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Lillian 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... In memory **Kay & Paul Maliniak** offered by William Yelsh

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

**June Birthdays** 5- Dorothy Macenka, 13- Christianne Bayer, 21-Clark Andrew Bogosh, 24-Wash  
King, Geri King, 28- Olga Kushnir, 29- Julia Harahus

**June Anniversaries:** 1- Fr. James & Mat. Lisa Weremedic, 9- Michael & Julia Harahus,  
9- John & Peggy Lampman, 22- Dr. Ronald & Lena Marie Berezniak

**Financials 6/4/23: Operating Acct:** Weekly Offerings \$309, Holy Days \$17,  
Altar Candles \$320, Donation \$25,  
Memory of Martha Teno \$720, Yard Sale \$1036.50

**Fellowship Hour Hosts:**

June 18 Helen King

June 25 Russell King

July 2 John Evetushick

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



- WHAT DOES YOUR CONSCIENCE SAY? The Christian conscience is an important compass for living. But conscience can be misled or misinformed. It is here that Christian nurture and upbringing comes in. Through prayer, attendance at the Liturgy, listening to the Gospel and Epistle as well as sermons, and study of religious writings, the conscience is trained.

- DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO HIDE? It is important to keep clear of concealment. There's nothing one can really hide. After all, you can't hide a thing from yourself, let alone others. Keep in mind that everything you do leaves its mark upon you.

- IS THIS GOD'S WILL? Every question has a religious dimension. How often Jesus said, "not My will, but Thine be done." It is a petition in the Lord's Prayer. What all this means is that the graduate has responsibilities to fill. They have obligations to their Creator, parents, society and world. And the best way, in short, to fill these obligations is through FAITHFUL SERVICE. The Life of our Lord was one of service. Christ said He came into the world "not to be served, but to serve . . ."

Certainly the Church makes a contribution to the upbringing of each young person. We are living at a time when Churches are paying considerable attention to the religious training of youth. Schools, conferences, camps, fellowship organizations and discussion groups all help to shape the student and guide them along the best paths of life.

But there is an obligation of the graduate to the Church, too. It needs their loyalty, skills and help. Let us reflect on these things and dedicate our lives in faithful service to God and His Church, along with our family, society and community.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.

## Graduation

The day that young people graduate from school is an important one. It brings to an end, years of study in the classroom. After this, they enroll in the school of life, where, someone once said, the class colors are black and blue.

Now the graduates will no longer find books with ready-made answers to all the questions and problems of adult living. In life, answers to problems do not come as easily. Every few miles along the road of life the way splits in two, and at each fork they must make decisions. Isn't there someone or something that can help people as they seek answers to some of life's difficulties? Yes, there is help.

Above, are some questions graduates should ask themselves whenever they have doubts as to which course of action should be taken.



## 2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. All Saints of America.

**Troparion — Tone 8** - As the bountiful harvest of Your sowing of salvation, / the lands of North America offer to You, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. / By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace / through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One.

**Kontakion — Tone 3** - Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North America / now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. / With them the angels glorify Him, / and all the saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them; / and together they all pray for us to the Pre-Eternal God.

### **Romans 2:10-16 (Epistle)**

But glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

For there is no partiality with God.

For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

### **Matthew 4:18-23 (Gospel)**

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

## **Orthodox Christians in North America (1794 - 1994)**

Written by Mark Stokoe and the Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky.

In a nation whose religious culture has accommodated Catholics, Protestants, and Jews, Orthodox Christians in North America have been largely overlooked and ignored. With few exceptions, their historical experiences remain unrecorded, their documents untranslated, their personalities, institutions, and activities unknown.

Contemporary American Orthodoxy is the result of the Russian missionaries to Alaska, but also of the migration of peoples from Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East. As a result, it often presents an "ethnic" face to American society. Building on an earlier pioneering historical work, *Orthodox America* (compiled for the 1976 American Bicentennial), the present work seeks to provide the reader, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike, with a popular narrative account of two hundred years of Orthodox Christianity on this continent.

From its humble beginnings in 1794, when a small group of missionaries landed on Kodiak Island, Alaska, Orthodoxy in America has expanded to comprise a church of over two million faithful. Yet numerous Americans from all cultural and religious backgrounds have, particularly in recent decades, joined Orthodoxy as well. Orthodoxy does have something to say to American society. Thus, the story is told on these webpages.



## **Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America**

**Troparion — Tone 7 - Joyful North Star of the Church of Christ, / guiding all people to the Heavenly Kingdom; / teacher and apostle of the True Faith; / intercessor and defender of the oppressed; / adornment of the Orthodox Church in America: / Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, / pray to our Lord Jesus Christ / for the salvation of our souls!**

A spiritual mission was organized in 1793, made up of monks of the Valaam Monastery. They were sent to preach the Word of God to the native inhabitants of northwestern America, who only ten years before had come under the sovereignty of Russia. Saint Herman was among the members of this Mission.

## **Saint Tikhon, Enlightener of North America**

**Troparion — Tone 1 - Let us praise Tikhon, the patriarch of all Russia, / and enlightener of North America / an ardent follower of the Apostolic traditions, / and good pastor of the Church of Christ. / Who was elected by divine providence, / and laid down his life for his sheep. / Let us sing to him with faith and hope, / and ask for his hierarchical intercessions: / Keep the church in Russia in tranquility, / and the church in North America in peace. / Gather her scattered children into one flock, / bring to repentance those who have renounced the True Faith, / preserve our lands from civil strife, / and entreat God's peace for all people!**

Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and Apostle to America was born as Vasily Ivanovich Belavin on January 19, 1865 into the family of Ioann Belavin, a rural priest of the Toropetz district of the Pskov diocese. His childhood and adolescence were spent in the village in direct contact with peasants and their labor. From his early years he displayed a particular religious disposition, love for the Church as well as rare meekness and humility.

## **Saint Innocent, Enlightener of the Aleuts, Apostle to the Americas**

**Troparion — Tone 4 - O holy father Innocent / in obedience to the will of God / you accepted dangers and tribulations / bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth. / You showed us the way, / now by your prayers help lead us into the Kingdom of Heaven.**

Having spent a large part of his life in journeys, Saint Innocent translated a Catechism and the Gospel into the Aleut language. In 1833, he wrote in this language one of the finest works of Orthodox missionary activity  
INDICATION OF THE WAY TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

Saint Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn

St. Alexis Toth, Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy in America

St. Jacob, Enlightener of the Native Peoples of Alaska

Priestmartyr John Kochurov, Hieromartyr, Missionary in America

Alexander Hotovitzky, Priestmartyr

Saint Juvenaly, the Protomartyr of America

Martyr Peter the Aleut of Alaska, America, and San Francisco

Archpriest Vasily Martysz, New Martyr dedicated his life to Christ and the Holy  
Orthodox Faith.

Saint John [Maximovitch], Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco

Saint Nikolai of Zhicha, Dean and Rector at Saint Tikhon's Seminary

Venerable Alexei (Kabalyuk) in missionary labors many thousands of Carpatho-

Russians returned to the faith of their Fathers, the Orthodox movement

Venerable Sebastian Dabovich, founded the church of Saint Savva in Jackson, CA

Hieromartyr Seraphim (Samoilovich), was rector of the Nugek Spiritual Mission

in North America, and in 1907-1908 he taught at Sitka Theological Seminary.



## Dear Abby | Woman's final wishes create angst in family

My children from my first marriage are very much against cremation.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 76. My husband and I planned our final wishes for cremation because I have had a lifelong fear of being buried underground. My children from my first marriage are Jewish and very much against cremation. When I told them my wishes, they attacked me with a barrage of negatives about cremation, such as, "You won't go to heaven," "You won't see your deceased mother or grandson in heaven," "We won't be able to say kaddish for you," etc., so I immediately changed my plans. My husband and I purchased side-by-side crypts, thinking it was an acceptable alternative.

I was wrong. For the last month, they have continued to push me to change to a regular burial. I finally had enough and told them to respect my choices and never discuss this with me again. So now, no contact at all except an occasional text from my grandchildren. Any advice or help would be appreciated.

— *UNHAPPY IN FLORIDA*

**DEAR UNHAPPY:** I assume from your letter that you are neither a conservative nor an orthodox Jew. Because your question involves Jewish law (which is outside my area of expertise), I ran your question by the most brilliant rabbi I know, Rabbi Elliot Dorff, who teaches at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles. In part, this is what he had to say:

"The prohibition against cremation comes from the belief that your body belongs to God, not to you personally. It's not unlike renting an apartment. Part of the lease agreement is that you will not destroy or harm the property before you cease residency. (There is no restriction on piercing, which was practiced by Jewish women and men from the time of the exodus from Egypt. As for tattooing, the restriction against it goes back to the days when the Jews were fighting with the Canaanites, who used tattooing in their religious rites.)

"The restriction regarding cremation came about because of the belief that it is actively destroying God's property. According to the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, cremation is prohibited, but if people do that their cremains may be buried in a Jewish cemetery -- but, unlike what your children are threatening, it has nothing to do with what happens after death. There are differences on this subject. Nobody knows what happens after death, not even rabbis. Jewish people have a positive commandment to save a life. Organ donation would be an example of this. Although it might be considered 'damaging a body,' saving a life takes precedence."

Rabbi Dorff said your children need to know there's a disagreement among rabbis as to whether interment in a mausoleum is equivalent to burial in the ground. So, cremation may be "out" for you, but you can be laid to rest next to your husband in a crypt. What is of utmost importance is that your relationship with your children be restored. In the precious time you are on this side of the sod, you and your children need to be able to love and enjoy each other. Weapons like threats and blackmail should not be used.

Dear Abby | Woman's final wishes create angst in family (inquirer.com)

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