

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

Sunday, June 20, 2021

Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky

8th Sunday of Pascha

Choir Director: Wash King

Feast of the Holy Trinity - Pentecost

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

Sunday, June 20 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – Pentecost and kneeling prayers

Sunday, June 20 1:00 PM – Pentecost Memorial Service – Parish Cemetery at Summit Hill

Sunday, June 27 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – followed by Parastas

In Memory of Olga Hebda offered by Russell & Geri King

In Memory of Michael & Anna Tatusko offered by Michael Tatusko

In Memory of Gertrude Tatusko offered by Michael Tatusko

In Memory of Janet Jupin offered by Her Family

In Memory of Bernard Sharpe offered by Lynn Sharpe

In Memory of Rose Zenzel offered by Lynn Sharpe

In Memory of John Zenzel offered by Lynn Sharpe

In Memory of Alexis Gancasz offered by Jeanne & John Cannon

~~In Memory of Nicholas, Jr & Helen Macenka offered by Shelly Macenka &~~

~~Elaine (Macenka) Andrews~~

Sunday, July 4 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Candles (June 20)

Flowers/Tetrapod: For the Health of all the Living Fathers & In memory of all the Deceased
Fathers

7-Day Vigils/Altar... In memory of Charles Timko, Jr. offered by Vera Timko

Altar Candles... In memory of Parents, John & Helen Molotzak offered by John Molotzak

Eternal Lamp... In memory of Lillian Yelsh offered by William Yelsh

Vigil Crosses ... In memory of Mary & Andrew Yelsh offered by William Yelsh

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the Health of Julie McHugh offered by Ted Bogosh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod... In memory of Theodore Scarloss offered by Natalie & Michael
Bolinski

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.

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, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, John King, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Olga Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, MaryAnn Macenka, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Marie Yurchak.

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

Financials 6/7-13/21: *Operating Acct:* Candles 66 Altar Candles 90 Offerings 505 Non-Envelope 200 Holy Days 104 Donations 500 = Total \$1,465.00. Cemetery Fund 150 Building Fund 20

Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

***We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Richard York
Who fell asleep in the Lord on 6/15/2021
Memory Eternal!***

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!

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

PENTECOST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

At His Ascension, Our Lord instructed His followers to stay in Jerusalem "until you are clothed with power from on high." This was in reference to the Holy Spirit, Who had been promised to be sent. The Lord's instructions were followed. This first Christian group, numbering some 120 persons including the Holy Virgin and the Apostles, gathered in a room each day and all "with one accord devoted themselves to prayer."

This was done for 10 days. On that 10th day, the 50th day after Christ's Resurrection, the Holy Spirit came. It was Pentecost, the Old Testament feastday. The Book of Acts tells what happened: "Suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the house . . . And there appeared tongues as of fire, resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit . . ."

The holy city was packed with people for the feastday. Because of the sound of the wind, a multitude quickly gathered. Amazingly, the strangers heard the disciples speaking in their own different languages.

The Apostle Peter, renewed in faith and vigor, spoke to the throng as he had never spoken before. He spoke of Jesus of Nazareth Who had been put to death, but Who had risen from the grave. The preaching had a profound impact on the crowd. They were moved by the message, and some 3,000 people were added to the Christian ranks that day.

But the Descent of the Holy Spirit is not just a relic of the past. There is always an outpouring of the Spirit where believers gather in anticipation and in prayer, beseeching His coming. Pray that He might come and abide in us and save our souls.

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THE POWER & GRACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

8th SUNDAY OF PASCHA Tone 7. Holy Pentecost: Feast of the Holy Trinity . Hieromartyr Methodius, Bishop of Patar (312). Rt. Blv. Prince Gleb Andreevich (son of St. Andrew Bogoliubsky—1174). Translation of the Relics of St. Gurias, Archbishop of Kazan' (1630). Martyrs Inna, Pinna, and Rimma, disciples of Apostle Andrew in Scythia (1st-2nd c.). Martyrs Aristocleus—Presbyter, Demetrian—Deacon, and Athanasius—Reader, of Cyprus (ca. 306). St. Leucius, Bishop of Brindisi (5th c.). St. Callistus, Patriarch of Constantinople (1363). Icon of the Mother of God "Hodēgētria" ("THE GUIDE") at the Monastery of Xenophontos on Mt. Athos.

Troparion — Tone 8

Blessed are You O Christ Our God / You have revealed the fishermen as most wise / by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit / through them You drew the world into Your net / O Lover of Man, Glory to You!

Kontakion — Tone 8

When the most High came down and confused the tongues, / He divided the nations; / but when he distributed the tongues of fire / He called all to unity. / Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All-holy Spirit!

Acts 2:1-11 (Epistle)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

Silent Prayer before reading the Holy Scripture:

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.

John 7:37-52, 8:12 (Gospel)

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Therefore, many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet."

Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee?"

Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"

So, there was a division among the people because of Him.

Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?"

The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived?"

Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him?"

But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

Nikodemos (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them,

"Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"

They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

"Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit,
The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope,
The mystery which is as great as it is precious."

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed:

"The Holy Spirit provides all,
Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood,
Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians,
He brings together the whole council of the Church."

FATHER'S DAY

One of the most precious images we have of God is as our Heavenly Father. Jesus Himself taught His followers to think of "the One who is and was and is to come, the Lord Almighty" as "Our Father" whenever we pray. What a radical image that Christ offered to His disciples – telling them not to think of our All Powerful Creator as a distant God, as someone or something separate and far from us, but to relate with our Maker as our Father! And numerous examples Jesus offered highlighted this comforting image – think of the most beautiful story Jesus ever taught, the parable of The Prodigal Son, which more appropriately should be called the Parable of The Loving Father.

God as a compassionate, merciful, forgiving, grace-filled Father, One whose love for us is unconditional and unlimited, this is our understanding of Our Heavenly Father. That is the image of God for all Christians to embrace and hold onto.

I highlight this image of God because today our country commemorates Father's Day. Today we celebrate and honor our fathers, and all the father figures in our lives, and thank God for the blessing they have been in our lives and the lives of many. Fathers can play such a central and influential role in our lives.

I think of my own father and thank God that I had a wonderful role model – one who tried to live all that he preached. One of the greatest lessons I learned from my father, which exemplifies his spirit, is his sincere love and generosity towards the poor, needy and defenseless. He always incarnated God's divine love to those in need. "If you are going to err," he would say, "Err on the side of generosity! Err on the side of helping others in as generous a way as possible!"

Throughout his life, my father tried to offer to all a clear vision of life according to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. While preaching the Good News through countless moving sermons, and trying to live faithfully according to our Orthodox tradition, he also desired to offer every possible opportunity for his children and others to discover and embrace that same intimate, dynamic relationship with God for themselves.

Fathers can truly play a central and influential role in our lives. As I googled Father's Day, I liked some of these saying I found:

One father is worth more than a hundred school teachers. *George Herbert*

My father didn't tell me how to live; He lived and let me watch him do it. *Clarence Kelland*

A dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall, but instead picks you up, brushes you off, and lets you try again. A dad is someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes, but instead lets you find your own way, even though his heart breaks in silence when you get hurt. A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail. *Author Unknown*

Father, Your guiding hand will remain with me forever. *Author Unknown*

If Jesus called us to understand God as our Father, He obviously has a very high understanding of what a Father should be. A Father is supposed to be a model of love, peace, and joy; an example of someone who is compassionate to the marginalized, generous to the poor, ready to help those in need, merciful and forgiving to those who have fallen. A father is one who is faithful, an encourager and supporter of others, a caregiver and a protector of his loved ones. A father is one who guides His family – who leads first by his example, and second who walks hand in hand with his family, guiding them on a path that leads into the Kingdom of God.

As I reflect on fathers, I think of something that Fr. Alkiviadis Calivas, my former beloved professor, shared with our group in Albania 10 days ago. He said that all Christians, and I could underline these central traits in true fatherhood, are called to reflect two fundamental characteristics. We are called to be "philotheoi" and "philoptochoi." These two Greek words summarize our Christian life as "philotheoi" (friends/lovers of God) and "philoptochoi" (friends/lovers of the poor). Jesus Himself said that the two greatest commandments were to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbor, the other. We can't say we love God if we don't love the other, and we can't truly love the other if we don't see the image of God within them and then love them with the agape love that God fills us with.

On Father's Day, we lift fathers who love their wives, who are present and available to their children, who support and care for their families, who protect their homes, and above all, who teach their family to fear the Lord and lead them on the path of the Kingdom of God!

A most blessed and joyous Father's Day to all fathers everywhere!

St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2250 E. Paris SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546