

**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

**Sunday, June 26, 2022**  
Choir Director: Wash King

**ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA**

*Glory Be To Jesus Christ!      Glory Be Forever!*

***Services:***

Sunday, June 26      9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Parastas & Fellowship Hour

In memory of Janet Jupin offered by the Jupin Family

In memory of Gertrude Tatusko offered by Michael Tatusko

In memory of Michael & Ann Tatusko offered by Michael Tatusko

In memory of Mary Ann Macenka offered by Paul Macenka & Family

In memory of Catherine Hedes offered by Friends

In memory of Matushka Lovey Ropitsky offered by Friends

June 20 to June 29 – Ss. Peter and Pàul Fast

Saturday, July 2      5:00 PM – Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, July 3      9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship-Coffee Hour

***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.*

**Please Note:** *Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.*

**Prayer List:**

Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Andrew Balliet, Michael Birocik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Karen Harkins, Nancy King, Russell King, Michael Kulick, John & Olga Kushnir, Mary Maholick, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidorik, Mary Simone, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Marie Yurchak.

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 (June 26)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... In memory of **Benjamin, Olga, Reader Leonty Macalush** offered by Millie O'Shura  
Altar Candles... In memory of **Uncle Stephen Yurchak** offered by Sharon Lewis  
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members  
Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Aunt Kathryn Yurchak** offered by Sharon Lewis  
7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the Health of **Geri King** offered by Millie O'Shura  
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

**June Birthdays:** 5-Dorothy Macenka, 21- Clark Andrew Bogosh, 24- Wash King, 25- Geri King, 28- Olga Kushnir, 29- Julia Harahus. **July Birthdays:** 2-Mary Taylor, 5- Isaac Miller, 11- Geri King

**June Anniversaries:** 9- Michael & Julia Harahus, 9- John & Peggy Lampman, 22- Dr. Ronald & Lena Marie Berezniak. **July Anniversaries:** 9- David & Chris King, 16- Joseph & Dorothy Macenka

**Financials 6/19/22:**

*Operating Acct:* Candles 55 - Altar Candles 10 - Offerings 659 - Non-Envelope 50  
Holy Days 40 - Donations 415 = Total \$1,229.00.  
Building Fund 25

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

**Fellowship Hour Hosts:**

June 19 Mike Tatusko      July 3 John Evetushick      July 17 OPEN  
June 26 Helen King      July 10 OPEN      July 24 Church Picnic  
There is a sign-up sheet for Fellowship Hour in the vestibule if you would like to host.

**Church Picnic – on July 24 following Divine Liturgy**

**Please take the time for fellowship, good food, and fun. A sign-up sheet is on the candlestand in the back of the church. A headcount is needed in order to prepare enough food. If you and your guests cannot stay, take-outs will be available.**

Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon.

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

## THE GREATEST AND LAST OF THE PROPHETS

**T**hrough the words of the Prophet Malachi, God foretold that before the Messiah would come, a **FORERUNNER** would be sent to His people, preparing them for the arrival of the Saviour. He would truly be the **VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS** of whom the Prophet Isaiah would also speak centuries before his birth.

This "Messenger of God" is better known to us at **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**. His nativity is documented in the first chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke. A pious, but childless couple, the priest **ZACHARIAS** and his wife **ELIZABETH**, were chosen by God to be the parents of the Forerunner. While serving in the Temple in Jerusalem one day, Zacharias was visited by the Archangel Gabriel, who announced to him what was about to occur. When the elderly priest questioned the Archangel, he was punished by losing his ability to speak!

True to God's promise, Elizabeth soon conceived. Eight days after their child was born, Zacharias and Elizabeth hosted a gathering of their friends and relatives for the purpose of naming their son. While the popular opinion was to name the infant after his father, Zacharias wrote these words on a tablet: "**HIS NAME SHALL BE JOHN.**" After this, his speech was immediately restored. Zacharias boldly proclaimed that his son ". . . **WILL BE CALLED THE PROPHET OF THE HIGHEST, FOR HE WILL GO BEFORE THE FACE OF THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS.**" (Luke 1:76) From the day of his birth, John, which means "the grace of God," was destined to play a major role in the story of mankind's salvation.

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

**Synaxis of the Saints of North 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.

**Hebrews 11:33-12:2 (Epistle, Saints)**

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**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.

## Synaxis of the Saints of North America

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day. Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians.

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ. The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, Saint Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were Saint Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and Saint Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive Saint Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy. Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

Saint Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. Saint Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary. Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915. The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Saints John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. Saint John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.