

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 27, 2021

1st Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints.

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

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

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 Richard York offered by Gloria Bench

Monday, June 28 – Ss. Peter & Paul Fast (1 day)

Sunday, July 4 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, July 11 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Candles (June 27)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... In memory of Olga, Benjamin, & Reader Leonty Macalush offered by
Millie O'Shura

Altar Candles... For the Health of Helen Sheers offered by Anne Ostrosky, & Chris & Marie
Kalavritinos

Eternal Lamp... In memory of Mother, Mary Lutash offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Vigil Crosses ... In memory of Aunt Olga Hebda offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the Health of David Bogosh & Family offered by Ted Bogosh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod... In memory of George & Helen Ostrosky offered by Anne
Ostrosky, & Chris & Marie Kalavritinos

Prayer List:

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic,
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birozik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna
Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, 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, 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. **July 9-** David & Chris King.

Financials 6/14-20/21: *Operating Acct:* Candles 51, Altar Candles 70, Offerings 711, Non-Envelope
150, Holy Days 161, Donations 220 = Total \$1,363.00.

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

A Big Thank you for a very successful yard sale.

To all who donated, worked, and bought – Thank you.

A profit of \$891.50 was turned over to the church fund.

Next Yard Sale is planned for October – please watch the bulletin for details

**1st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. All Saints. St. Sampson the
Hospitable of Constantinople (ca. 530). St. Joanna the Myrrhbearer (1st c.). Ven.
Serapion of Kozhenezérsk (1611). St. Severus, Presbyter, of Interocrea, Italy (6th
c.). Ven. George of Mt. Athos (Georgian—1066).**

Troparion — Tone 4

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, / Your church has been adorned with
Your martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world. / She cries to You, O Christ
God: / Send down Your bounties on Your people, / grant peace to Your
habitation, and great mercy to our souls!

Kontakion — Tone 8

The universe offers You the God-bearing martyrs, / as the first fruits of creation,
O Lord and Creator. / Through the Theotokos, and their prayers establish Your
Church in peace!

~::~ THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS ~::~

The idea of observing ALL SAINTS SUNDAY one week after the coming of the Holy Spirit is a striking one, for this day reveals the HARVEST of what happened on Pentecost. From weakness, men, women and children were made strong in faith, enabling them to endure all things for our Lord.

Early Christians, witnessing the sufferings and saintly lives of followers of Jesus, felt that their memories should be perpetuated. Their intercession should be called upon for those struggling in the Christian life against temptation. Annual memorials were made with services over the graves of those who suffered and died for Christ. Should anything less than this be done?

And so the Church began to assign days for the commemoration of saints. With the passing centuries, the calendar became full of saint days, and in fact, more than one saint is commemorated on every day of the year.

In addition to these great heroes of the faith, there are countless martyrs and hierarchs, monks and missionaries, who left bold traces of their dedication to Christianity. Let us commemorate others, practically unknown, who lived out their lives in the "Way" of Christ. It is no wonder that the Church in her wisdom, set aside this Sunday for remembrance of All Saints. These are our HEROES for emulation. It was Apostle Paul that bid us to "lay aside every weight and sin that besets us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

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

THE GREAT HEROES OF THE FAITH

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.

Hebrews 11:33-12:2 (Epistle)

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 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30 (Gospel)

Therefore, whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?"

So, Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

Saint Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (*Philokalia* [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the *Octoechos*, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

Saint Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to Saint Peter's five categories. The list of Saint Nikodemos is found in his book *The Fourteen Epistles of Saint Paul* (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. Saint Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, Saint John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men" (LADDER, Step 26:31).

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living "in the world." Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Saints Joachim and Anna, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, Saint Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of Saint Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.