

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 5, 2022

Choir Director: Wash King

HOLY FATHERS of the 1st ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

Services:

Sunday, June 5	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour
Saturday, June 11	2:00 PM – Memorial Service at Hometown Mausoleum, Skyview Cemetery
Saturday, June 11	4:00 PM – Vespers and Confessions
Sunday June 12	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy with Kneeling Prayers followed by Fellowship Hour
Sunday, June 12	1:00 PM – Memorial Services at Parish Cemetery, Summit Hill
Saturday, June 18	4:00 PM – Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, June 19	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour
Saturday, June 25	4:00 PM – Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, June 26	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Parastas & Fellowship 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 Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic.

Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Karen Harkins, Catherine Hedes, Nancy King, Russell King, Michael Kulick, John & Olga Kushnir, Paul Macenka, Mary Maholick, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, 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 5)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... In memory of **John King, Sr.** offered by Al & Linda Barnisky
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... In memory of **John King, Sr.** offered by John & Ilona Zubek
7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In memory of **Pauline Maholick** offered by Julia Forte
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Irene Scarloss** offered by Michael & Natalie Bolinski

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

June Anniversaries: 9- Michael & Julia Harahus, 9- John & Peggy Lampman,
22- Dr. Ronald & Lena Marie Berezniak.

Please note: *If you do not see your name on the birthday or anniversary list, please let Gloria Bench know, and she will gladly add your birthday and/or anniversary to the list.*

Financials 5/29/22:

Operating Acct: Candles 43 - Altar Candles 30 - Offerings 424 - Non-Envelope 170
Holy Days 15 - Donations 255 = Total \$937.00.
Building Fund 21 - Cemetery 250

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

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

June 5 - John Evetushick
June 12 - Russ King
June 19 - OPEN
June 26 - OPEN

There is a sign-up sheet for **Coffee Hour** in the vestibule if you would like to host.

Our sympathy is extended to Paul Macenka, Jr. and his family on the passing away of his wife, Karen on 05/28/2022 - Memory Eternal

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

❖ ❖ ❖ HEAD FOR THE HILLS ❖ ❖ ❖

Psalms 121 begins with these wise words "I will lift up my eyes to the hills - from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth . . ." This is a psalm intended for those who are in need of help. Sometimes it is people who give us trouble. At times, it may be our bodies that give us trouble. There are times we even bring it upon ourselves. But know that when trouble does come, we must "HEAD FOR THE HILLS."



The Bible tells us we can head for a hill called SINAI. On Mt. Sinai, Moses encountered the burning bush. It is also the place he received the Law of God. These 10 Commandments declare God's Holiness and unchanging principles.

They are meant to offer help to those in distress.

We can head for a hill called GOLGOTHA. It is the place Jesus died, providing us mercy and grace. It is the hill of salvation and hope. If you are burdened with sin, the Cross upon the hill is the cure.

Today we head for a hill called OLIVET (Mount of Olives). We witness the Ascension of our living Saviour. We patiently await His return to establish the Kingdom in all its fullness.

The phrase "Head for the Hills," in biblical terms, is an INVITATION to those in need of help. So if you ever find yourself in need . . . accept the invitation. In doing so, you will find the heavenly grace you seek.

HOLY ASCENSION of OUR LORD

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 6. Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension. Hieromartyr Dorotheus, Bishop of Tyre (ca. 362).

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

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!

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.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as Holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius [who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18)]. He is called "the Great," for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today's Feast, he is referred to as "the thirteenth Apostle."

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan's knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).

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.

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.