



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

Readers: 3rd Hour: 3/10 Gloria Bench– 3/17 Nancy Lorchak

Epistle : 3/10 Nancy Lorchak– 3/17 James Blair

Sunday, March 10, 2019

41th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 8 – page 44

Epistle – Romans 13:11-14:4

Gospel – Matthew 6:14-21

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

Sun...Mar 10...9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy – followed by Coffee Hour

Cheesefare Sunday / Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

Sun...Mar 10...5:00 PM

Forgiveness Vespers

Mon...Mar 11; Tues...Mar 12...5:00 PM

Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Wed...Mar 13;

Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Fri...Mar 15...5:00 PM

Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos

Sat...Mar 16...5:00 PM

Great Vespers / Confessions

Sun...Mar 17...9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy – followed by Coffee Hour

Wed...Mar 20...9:30 AM

Presanctified Liturgy

Fri...Mar 22...5:00 PM

Akathist to Jesus Christ, Our Savior

Sat...Mar 23...9:30 AM

Memorial Saturday – Parastas only

Sat...Mar 23...5:00 PM

Great Vespers / Confessions

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*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 services 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 sign the guest book in the Vestibule, so we can have a record of your visit..... **Please Note:** Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.*
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Flowers –

7-Day Vigils/Altar ... For the health of *all Shut-ins* offered by Good Samaritans

Altar Candles... For the health of *Olga Hebda* offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Eternal Lamp... In memory of *Marion Pickenheim*. offered by William Yelsh

Vigil Crosses ... For the health of *EVERYONE* celebrating their *Birthday or Wedding Anniversary* during the month of March offered by St. Mary's Society

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the health of *Dr. Ronald Berezniak* offered by Ted Bogosh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod... In memory of *Andrew & Mary Bybel* family offered by Friends
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Prayer List: HEAVENLY FATHER ... Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent your only begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit us and heal us, Your servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments through the grace of Your Son Jesus Christ; grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body and spirit, and recovery of health. **Lord, You have taught us through Your word to pray for each other that we may be healed.** You are the source of healing and to You, we give glory; to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Terry Blair, Clark Bogosh, Jane Bubernak, Cecil Buchanan, Thomas Kavanagh, Stephanie Chmel, Edward Conarty, Irene David, Gloria Ferri, Olga Hebda, Andrea & Patrick Hodgins, Mary Hudak, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Peggy Lampman, Jacob Lorchak, MaryAnn Macenka, Matushka Gail Mathewson, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Helen Scheese, Helen Suda, Martha Teno, Nancy Vanno, Richard York.

If anyone is in need of a priest please call Father James Weremedic at 570-645-2772Visitation 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.**

Baptism: Parents, please contact Fr. James prior to setting a date/time for your child's baptism.

Marriage: Please discuss timing with Father James prior to setting a date. There are Pre-marital sessions that need to be attended prior to the wedding.

COMING EVENTS

Wed. Mar. 20, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Church Council Business Meeting

Sun. Mar. 31, 2019 – Fish Dinner

After Divine Liturgy/Parastas

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Financials 3/3/19 Operating Acct: -Dues 648 – Candles 83 – Weekly 578 – Non-Env 177 – Holy Days 20 – Altar Candles 130 – Initial Offering 10 – Flower Remit 0 – Donations 280 = **Total \$ 1,926.00**
Building Fund 30 - ...Charity Donation 0- ...Furnace Fund 25-...Cemetery Care 0-... Thank You.

Coffee Hour: Please join us in the Parish Hall following Divine Liturgy, every Sunday, for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Mar 10 – Barbara Teno, Marie Yurchak

Mar 17 – Geri King, John King, Geri Vavra

Mar 24 – Marie Skripnek, Lena Marie, Margaret Miller

Drawing winner: Wash King

Important: Please inform Marie Skripnek (570-386-2307) at least a week ahead of time if you are bringing food or a cake for a special occasion. This will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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March Birthdays: 1- Jacob Lorchak, Logan Leatherman 6- Marie O Kalavritinos, 7- Kathryn Puschak, 16- Anthony Vavra, 21- Mildred O'Shura, 24- Neil Skripnek, Tracy Skripnek, Zackary King, Olga Sidoriak, 29- Sandra Zuber

March Wedding Anniversaries: none

Fish Dinner – March 31, 2019 – Tickets \$10.00

See Helen King or Marie Skripnek for Tickets

The Great Fast

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

The Great Lent

The purpose of Great Lent is to prepare the faithful to not only commemorate, but to enter into the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus. The totality of the Byzantine Rite life centers around the Resurrection. Great Lent is intended to be a "workshop" where the character of the believer is spiritually uplifted and strengthened; where his life is rededicated to the principles and ideals of the Gospel; where fasting and prayer culminate in deep conviction of life; where apathy and disinterest turn into vigorous activities of faith and good works.

Lent is not for the sake of Lent itself, as fasting is not for the sake of fasting. Rather, these are means by which and for which the individual believer prepares himself to reach for, accept and attain the calling of his Savior. Therefore, the significance of Great Lent is highly appraised, not only by the monks who gradually increased the length of time of the Lent, but also by the lay people themselves. The Orthodox lenten rules are the monastic rules. These rules exist not as a Pharisaic law, "burdens grievous to be borne" Luke 11:46, but as an ideal to be striven for; not as an end in themselves, but as a means to the purification of heart, the enlightening of mind, the liberation of soul and body from sin, and the spiritual perfection crowned in the virtue of love towards God and man.

In the Byzantine Rite, asceticism is not exclusively for the "professional" religious, but for each layperson as well, according to their strength. As such, Great Lent is a sacred Institute of the Church to serve the individual believer in participating as a member of the Mystical Body of Christ. It provides each person an annual opportunity for self-examination and improving the standards of faith and morals in his Christian life. The deep intent of the believer during Great Lent is encapsulated in the words of Saint Paul: "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

Through spending more time than usual in prayer and meditation on the Holy Scripture and the Holy Traditions of the Church, the believer in Christ becomes through the grace of God more godlike. The attitude towards this period is very positive, it is not so much a period of repentance, as the "West" think of it, as an attempt to recapture our true state as it was for Adam and Eve before the fall - to live pure lives.