

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

Reader Hours: Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Choir Director: Wash King

Reader Epistle: Ed Pierson

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – ST. JOHN CLIMACUS (of THE LADDER)

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!

Services:

Sunday, March 26	8:45 AM – Church School
Sunday, March 26	9:30 AM – Liturgy of St. Basil – (St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)) & Fellowship
Sunday, March 26	4:00 PM – Mission Service - St. Mary's, Coaldale
Wednesday, March 29	5:00 PM – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts (Fast from Noon)
Thursday, March 30	5:00 PM – Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Friday, March 31	5:00 PM – Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos
Saturday, April 1	5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions (<u>Note: Time Change</u>)
Sunday, April 2	8:45 AM – Church School
Sunday, April 2	9:30 AM – Liturgy of St. Basil – (St. Mary of Egypt) Adult Class "Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians," Chapters 7, 8, 9
Sunday, April 2	3:00 PM – Mission Service – St. John the Baptist in Nesquehoning

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.*

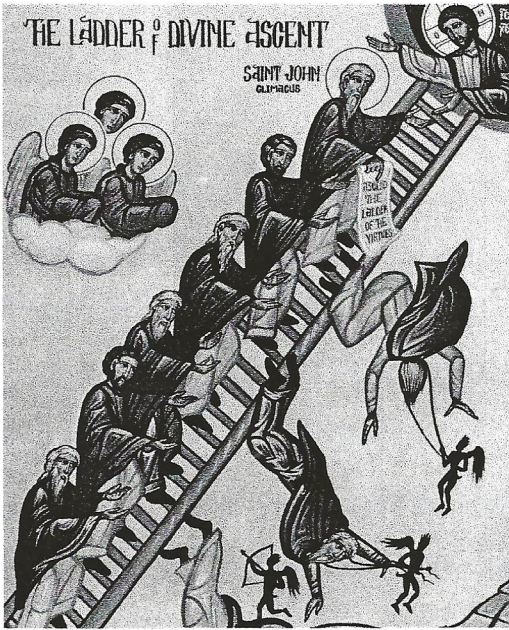
If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our Church Family.

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

Prayer List:

Fr. James Weremedic, Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Danielle Bogosh, Elizabeth Brennan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Kimberly Evetushick, Nadine Fegley, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Michael Kulick, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pierson, Dale Renninger, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidorik, Mary Simone, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Joseph Tosca, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, George Yurchak, & Marie Yurchak.



If anyone is in need of a priest, please call Fr. 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 (March 26)

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Alexis Gancasz** offered by Jeanne & John Cannon
 Altar Candles... In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
 Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members
 Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
 7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory of **Kay & Paul Maliniak** offered by William Yelsh
 Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Friends

March Birthdays: 1- Logan Leatherman, 6- Marie Kalavritinos, 16- Anthony Vavra, 21- Mildred O'Shura, 24- Tracy Skripnek, 24- Zachary King, 24- Olga Sidoriak (101), 29-Sandra Zuber

Financials 2/26/23; Operating Acct: Weekly Envelopes \$ 557 Non-envelope \$ 260 Holy day \$5
 Altar candles \$ 40 Candles \$ 112 Donations \$1,225

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

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

March 26	Helen King	April 9 -	OPEN
April 2	Russell King	April 16	Pascha

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

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



CARRYING THE BODY OF CHRIST



Throughout the Gospels, there are a number of times the Body of our Lord was held by others. During His Presentation in the Temple, the baby Jesus was held by Simeon. For many years, Simeon had awaited the coming of the Messiah.

Christ was carried by animals both during his Flight from Egypt and His Entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. It is interesting to note that the first was to SAVE Him from death and the latter was to DELIVER Him to His death.

Following His arrest and condemnation, Jesus was bodily abused and crucified by the civil authorities. He was treated like a common criminal.

Upon His death, Christ's earthly body was entrusted to the wealthy Joseph of Arimathea. Misunderstanding that our Lord's Kingdom did not belong to this world, Joseph kindly gave up his burial spot. But Jesus was not destined to remain dead. He could not be contained in a tomb!

The reverent Myrrh-Bearing Women thought they knew the correct way to take care of the Lord's Body. They came to honor it with anointing, on that early morning. We all know that the tomb was empty.

But the lesson we learn from all these people is that Jesus Christ's Body was not only to be HELD but to be CARRIED FORTH for the salvation of the world. The message of our spiritual rescue from sin and death is all according to God's plan. May we give our possessions towards the use of God, like Joseph of Arimathea did. May we accept a change of plans like the Myrrh-Bearing women were asked to do. Above all, may we willingly receive God into our lives each day.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 8. Leavetaking of the Annunciation. Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel. St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*). Hieromartyr Irenæus, Bishop of Sirmium (304). Martyrs Bathusius and Bercus—Presbyters, Arpilus—Monk, Abibus, Agnus, Reasus, Igathrax, Iscoeus (Iskous), Silas, Signicus, Sonirilus, Suimbalus, Thermus, Phillus (Philgas)—laymen, and the women: Anna, Alla, Larissa, Monco (Manca), Uirko (Virko), Animais (Animaida), Gaatha and Duklida, in the Crimea (375). St. Malchus of Chalcis, Syria (4th c.). Ven. Basil the New, Anchorite, near Constantinople (10th c.). Martyr Montanus, Presbyter, of Singidunum, and his wife, Maxima (235).

4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus (of the Ladder)

Troparion — Tone 1 - Dweller of the desert and angel in the body, / you were shown to be a wonderworker, our God-bearing Father John. / You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. / Glory to Him who gave you strength. / Glory to Him who granted you a crown. / Glory to Him Who, through you, grants healing to all.

Kontakion — Tone 4 - The Lord truly set you on the height of abstinence, / O our instructor and Father John, / as an unerring star, guiding the ends of the earth by your light.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John Klimakos, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. In this book the Igoumen of Saint Katherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai bears witness to the great effort which is required for entry into God's Kingdom (Matthew 10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is difficult since it is "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Ephesians 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, as the Lord has said, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Saint John was born around the year 525, the son of devout and wealthy parents. He received a very good education, but at the age of sixteen, he forsook the world and went to Mount Sinai, subjecting himself to the spiritual guidance of Elder Martyrios. When he was nineteen years of age,¹ his Elder reposed. Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skétē and Tabénnisē in Egypt. For another forty years, he lived in a cell at Thora in the Sinai Desert, which was a two hour (5 mile) walk from the Monastery of Saint Katherine.

Aflame with indescribable longing for God, he ate everything that was permitted by the monastic Rule, but only in very small quantities, and not unto satiety. By so doing, he overcame the vice of pride; and by eating just a little food, he humbled the stomach, which always wants more. He raised his body from death and paralysis by the remembrance of death, and he overcame the tyranny of anger with the sword of obedience.

Who can describe the fountain of his tears, which is now to be seen in very few individuals? He slept only as much as was necessary to prevent his mind from being distracted. Before going to sleep he prayed a great deal, and he also wrote books. This was how he subdued despondency. His entire life was spent in unceasing prayer, and incomparable love for God.

After writing *The Ladder* at the request of Igoumen John of Raithu Monastery, and leading a God-pleasing life, Saint John fell asleep in the Lord when he was about seventy-five years old (ca. 603). This was his monastic age. He was, in fact thirty-five years old.

Ephesians 5:9-19 (*Epistle, Saint*)

(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Therefore, He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Hebrews 6:13-20 (Epistle)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

This hope, we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Gospel, Saint)

Great multitudes followed Him -- from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Mark 9:17-31 (Gospel)

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So, I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me."

Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

So, He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"

Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead."

But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

So, He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it.

For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."