

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, March 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent
St. Gregory Palamas

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever

Sun ... March 28 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Parastas
Parastas: In memory of Alexis Gancasz offered by Jeanne & John Cannon
In memory of Helen Fedora offered by Barbara Faenza & Family
In memory of Helen Suda offered by Gloria Bench
Wed...March 31 5:00 PM – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Sun...April 4 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy
Wed...April 7 5:00 PM – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
CONFESSIO

Confessions resumed with modifications due to COVID-19. Please call the rectory at 570-645-2772 and talk to Father James for a reservation. Call between 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Individual schedule times will be spread out so limited contact occurs. Husband and wife can be scheduled together. Lysol will be used between confessions.

Anyone wanting to have a confession, but has concerns of COVID-19, should contact Father James to make the appropriate accommodations. Caution in this period of time is the safe choice for many of our parishioners.

Candles (March 28):

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of Mat. Lovey Ropitsky offered by Ted Bogosh
Altar Candles... For the Health of Aunt Olga Hebda offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
Eternal Lamp... In memory of Gloria Ferri offered by Ted Bogosh
Vigil Crosses ... In memory of Mother, Mary Lutash offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the Health of sister, Alice Styer offered by Althea Shellock
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod...For the Health of Helen Sheers offered by

Drs. Andrew & Elaine Chichura

Candles (March 31)

Altar Candles... For the Health of Fr. James Weremedic offered by Ted Bogosh

Vigil Crosses ... For the Health of Mat. Lisa Weremedic offered by Ted Bogosh

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.

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Cecil Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, Peter Holoviak, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Joseph Tosca, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Richard York.

March Birthdays: 1- Logan Leatherman, 6- Marie Kalavritinos, 16- Anthony Vavra, 21- Mildred O'Shura, 24- Neil Skripnek, Tracy Skripnek, Zachary King, Olga Sidoriak (99) 29- Sandra Zuber. April Birthdays: 3- Anna Pisko 4- Elizabeth Warcholak, 10- Jackie Babinetz

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.

Financials 3/15-21/21: *Operating Acct:* Candles 43, Altar Candles 40, Offerings 1,176 , Non-Envelope 150, Holy Days 101, Donations 54 = Total \$1,564.00; Building Fund 20, Cemetery Fund 20, Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

We find our answer in today's GOSPEL lesson, when our Lord is approached in a rather unconventional way: a paralytic is lowered through a roof so that Christ might heal him! Eventually, our great Physician fulfills this request, but before He does, He teaches us where our priorities must lie. As important as it was for the young man to be made whole PHYSICALLY, Christ points out that SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS is a far greater blessing! He gives the paralytic the greatest of all gifts by offering these words of encouragement to him: YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN!

Our Holy Church wisely places this message before us in the early weeks of Great Lent. How comforting it is to know that God is willing to forgive us of our sins! How encouraging it is to know our loving Father awaits us with open arms! Forgiveness, however, does not come without effort on our part. In order for us to be forgiven of our sins, we must recognize them, confess them, and be sorry for them. This SEASON OF REPENTANCE is an excellent time for us to come to this realization.

On this Second Sunday of Great Lent, the Church honors the memory of ST. GREGORY PALAMAS. Having served as the Archbishop of Thessalonica, he has been associated with this particular Sunday of the Fast since the 14th century. In his troparion, St. Gregory is referred to as a LIGHT of Orthodoxy, a TEACHER of the Church, an IDEAL of monastics and an invincible CHAMPION of Theologians.

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

"YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN"

Suppose that you could ask God to grant you ONE REQUEST, what would it be? Would it be riches, fame, health or immortality? What is the greatest thing that our Heavenly Father could give us?

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 1. St. Gregory Palamas. Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Kiev Caves Lavra. Ven. Hilarion the New, Abbot of Pelekete. Ven. Stephen the Wonderworker, Abbot of Triglia. Monastic Martyr Eustratius of the Kiev Caves. Ven. Hilarion of Pskov Lake. Martyred brothers Barachisius and Jonah, and those with them, in Persia. Martyr Boyan, Prince of Bulgaria.

Troparion — Tone 8

O luminary of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, / ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians, / O wonderworker Gregory, boast of Thessalonika and herald of grace, / always intercede for all of us that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion — Tone 4

Now is the time for action! / Judgment is at the doors! / So let us rise and fast, / offering alms with tears of compunction and crying: / “Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea; / but forgive us, O Master of All, / so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns.”

Kontakion — Tone 8

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, / radiant and harmonious trumpet of theology, / we praise you in song, O divinely-speaking Gregory. / As a mind standing before the Primal Mind, guide our minds to Him, Father, / so that we may cry aloud to you: “Rejoice, herald of grace.”

Hebrews 7:26-8:2 (*Epistle, Saint*)

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Hebrews 1:10-2:3 (*Epistle*)

And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”

But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

John 10:9-16 (*Gospel, Saint*)

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.

The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Mark 2:1-12 (*Gospel*)

And again, He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house.

Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.

And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?"

But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"