

**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: Kaitlyn Dymtrow

**Sunday, March 5, 2023**  
Choir Director: Wash King  
Reader Epistle: Michael Ropitsky

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**

*Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!*

*We wish His Eminence Archbishop Mark a warm welcome to our parish.*

**Services:**

Sunday, March 5 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, **Archbishop Mark Celebrating** (Orthodoxy Sunday)  
Followed by Light Lenten Meal & Fellowship {No Church School Today}  
Sunday, March 5 3:00 PM – Lenten Mission Service at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Lansford  
Wednesday, March 8 5:00 PM – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts (Fast from Noon)  
Friday, March 10 5:00 PM – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts (Fast from Noon)  
Saturday, March 11 4:00 PM – Great Vespers, Memorial Saturday Service, & Confessions  
Sunday, March 12 8:45 AM – Church School  
9:30 AM – Liturgy of St. Basil – (St. Gregory of Palamas) & Fellowship  
Adult Class "Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians" Chapter 4 Session  
Sunday, March 12 4:00 PM – Lenten Mission Service at Holy Ascension in Frackville  
Saturday, March 18 4:00 PM – Great Vespers, **Parastas**, Memorial Saturday Service, & Confessions  
In memory of Alexis Gancasz offered by Jeanne & John Cannon  
In memory of Jennie Harb offered by Jeanne & John Cannon  
In memory of Jean (Haspe) Huffman offered by the Herbert Family  
In memory of Helen Fedora offered by Barbara Faenza & Family  
In memory of John & Anna Bogosh offered by Gloria Bench & Family  
Sunday, March 19 8:45 AM – Church School  
9:30 AM – Liturgy of St. Basil – (Veneration of Precious Cross) & Fellowship

**Meet and Greet His Eminence, Archbishop Mark**  
**In the church hall immediately following Divine Liturgy**  
**Everyone is welcomed.**

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 Birocik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Danielle Bogosh, Samuel & Ashley Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Nadine Fegley, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Michael Kulick, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, 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 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 (March 5)**

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh

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 **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Friends

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

*We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Rick & Julie McHugh*

*On the passing away of his father, Francis McHugh*

*On 3/25/2023 Memory Eternal!*

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

**Financials 2/26/23: Operating Acct:** Weekly Envelopes \$1,107 Holy Days \$29 Candles \$55  
Donations \$496.50 Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

**Fellowship Hour Hosts:**

March 5 Light Lenten Meal March 12 Lena Berezniak

March 19 Marie Skripnek March 26 Helen King

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.

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## OUR CHANGELESS FAITH

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**W**e live in a time of tremendous change and that will certainly continue. Technological, social, political and economic change has been the hallmark of our age.

But in all this world of change, today we are reminded of something that does not change. Our faith in Christ, the Son of the Living God, has not changed; our Orthodox Faith is substantially the same as it was a hundred and a thousand years ago. On this First Sunday of Lent, called the "**Sunday of Orthodoxy**," we proclaim to this world of change the changeless Christian faith of our Church.

This is one of our main tasks as inheritors of this priceless heritage – to witness to the world our faith in the Lord. Jesus Himself said: "**Men do not light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.**" So we set forth our Faith this day for all to see.

America is a land of religious pluralism, a land of many religions and faiths. Obviously, we have a tremendous impact to make on the religious life of our land. This is especially true in our times, when the winds of the ecumenical spirit blow over the country, altering old antagonisms and fears, bringing fresh opportunities to reach out to brothers and let the Light of this ancient Lamp disperse the darkness of our age.

As we bring forth our icons this day, testifying to the triumph of the Church over those who would destroy these elements that portray the truth of the Incarnation, let us rededicate ourselves to Christ. Let us be careful not only to glory in the past, but to look forward to the challenge of our times and to make certain that the generations to come will confess the Faith of our Fathers.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT Tone 5 Sunday of Orthodoxy.**

Martyr Conon of Isauria (1st c.). Finding of the Relics of Rt. Blv. Theodore, Prince of Smolensk and Yaroslavl', and his children Ss. David and Constantine, Wonderworkers of Yaroslavl' (1463). Monastic Martyr Adrian of Poshekhónsk (Yaroslavl'—1550). Martyr Onesimus of Isauria (1st c.). Martyr Conon the Gardener, of Pamphylia (3rd c.). Virgin Martyr Irais (Raïssa) of Antinoë in Egypt (ca. 308). Martyr Eulogius, of Palestine. Martyr Eulampius, of Palestine. St. Mark the Faster, of Egypt (5th c.). St. Hesychius the Faster, of Bithynia (ca. 790).

**Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (Epistle)**

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 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.

**John 1:43-51 (Gospel)**

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy

**Troparion — Tone 2** - We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One, / and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God. / Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / to deliver Your creatures from bondage to the enemy. / Therefore, with thanksgiving we cry aloud to You: / You have filled all with joy, O our Savior, / by coming to save the world.

**Kontakion — Tone 8** - No one could describe the Word of the Father; / but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, / and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty. / We confess and proclaim our salvation in word and images.

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm.

The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilos, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel.

Originally, the Holy Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.

### Icon of the Mother of God "The Nurturer"

**Troparion — Tone 4** - You were nurtured in the Temple and in the Holy of Holies, / robed with faith and in wisdom and perpetual virginity. / The Archangel Gabriel brought you greetings from Heaven and cried: / "Hail, O full of grace, hail, Most Glorious Lady, / the Lord is with you."

**Kontakion — Tone 6** - We have no other help, we have no other hope, but you, O Lady. / Help us, for in you we hope, / and of you we boast, for we are your servants. / Let us not be put to shame.

In the Icon called "Nurturing," the Mother of God is depicted with her eternal Child sitting on her left arm. Christ's right hand is extended upward to the face of the All-Pure Virgin.

Before 1917, the holy image was located in the Kazan Cathedral on Red Square, but it was lost after the destruction of that church in 1936. The church was rebuilt in 1993, and it houses a copy of the Nurturing Icon. At that place there is a list of wonderworking icons glorified throughout Russia for their miracles.

The title of the Icon speaks for itself. Parents pray for their children in her presence, asking the Most Holy Theotokos to take them under her protection, to send them understanding, and to fill their hearts with wisdom.

Until our own time, a brief prayer has been associated with this image:

O All-Holy Lady, Virgin Theotokos, save and keep under your protection my children (names), all boys and girls and infants, both those who are baptized and those who are nameless and those being carried in their mother's womb. Cover them with your own maternal mantle. Preserve them in the fear of God and in obedience to their parents. Implore your Son and our Lord to grant them what is needful for their salvation. I entrust them to your maternal providence, for you are the divine protection of your servants. Amen.