

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, May 10, 2020
Sunday of the Paralytic
Tone 3

Prokeimenon – Tone 1 – Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us
As we have set our hope on Thee.

Epistle Reading: Acts 9:32-42
Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15

Christ is Risen!

Indeed, He is Risen!

Khristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese! Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!
El Messieh! Hakken Kahm! Cristo ha Resucitado! Verdaderamente ha Resucitado!

All liturgical services are cancelled until further notice!

This includes Divine Liturgy, Akathist, Vespers, Parastas, etc. and all meetings and events at the church are CANCELLED.

Please read the **Epistle, Gospel and Scripture Readings** on OCA website or use your bible with the Readings listed on the Church Calendar during this period of time.

Happy Mother's Day Everyone!

“A Mother's Beatitudes” from St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Blessed is the mother who understands her child, for she shall inherit a kingdom of memories.

Blessed is the mother who knows how to comfort, for she shall possess a child's devotion.

Blessed is the mother who guides by the path of righteousness, for she shall be proud of her children.

Blessed is the mother who is never shocked, for she shall receive and know confidence and security.

Blessed is the mother who teaches respect, for she shall be respected.

Blessed is the mother who emphasizes the good and minimizes the bad, for her children shall follow her example.

Blessed is the mother who answers questions honestly, for she shall always be trusted.

Blessed is the mother who treats her children as she would like to be treated, for her home shall always be filled with happiness.

Messages from the OCA and Diocese:

On the OCA Website click on (May 3) Message from His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon for the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women. You can listen to the message, if it is hard for you to read it.

Then click on (May 1) **Holy Synod Issues Pastoral Letter** – at the bottom of the letter you can click on Download for the 3-page letter. Under the letter, click on the **Directives of the Holy Synod Toward Re-opening the Churches** – 29 pages.

On the Diocese of Eastern PA Website click on “Guidelines for Re-opening” at the top of the page.

Scroll down to “Preparing for the Next Step in **Moving Beyond Coronavirus and Being Proactive**” -click on Archbishop Mark’s message to read his message (6 pages). This was sent to all parishioners this week in place of the regular bulletin.

Scroll down and please read the following:

- ***New Federal Guidelines for Reopening** (18 pages)
- ***Calculations for Reopening** (1 page)
- ***CDC Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfecting** (3 pages)
- ***CDC Handwashing Fact Sheet** (1 page)

Please use this time to read the Scriptures, pray in your home and please pray for those on our prayer list.

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, Michael Birozik, James Blair, Terry Blair, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Jane Bubernak, Cecil Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Edward Conarty, Mary Evetushick, Irene David, Ilene Devine, Gloria Ferri, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, Dorothy Macenka, Helen Macenka, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Alexandra Miller, Courtney Miller, Mildred O’Shura, Anna Pisko, Helen Scheese, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Helen Suda, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Nancy Vanno, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Richard York

Please contact Fr. James Weremedic with any emergencies or concerns at 570-645-2772.

Local On-line Services:

Go to the Diocese of Eastern PA website at the bottom of our church website.

At the top of the page – Click on Live Streaming

Scroll down to Livestream Calendar and Click on Service you want to watch

Christ the Saviour – Harrisburg, PA --- Readers Vespers – 5 PM

Sunday Typica Prayers – 9:30 AM

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church – Mechanicsburg, PA --- Vespers – 6 PM

Sunday Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church – Mogadore, OH – You Tube

Services every day of the week – Mon. to Fri. at 7:00 PM

Sat. Vespers- 5:00 PM, Sunday Divine Liturgy- 9:30 AM

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Helen King is in need of ¼-inch wide elastic to make facial masks

If you have this kind of elastic, please call her at 570-645-9484

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***We wish to thank Father James and Matushka Lisa Weremedic & family ,
Father Paul and Matushka Lovey Ropitsky & Son, parishioners, friends, and
others for their sympathy cards and telephone calls expressing condolences
in memory of our daughter, Elaine (Harahus) Rottet, who fell asleep in the
Lord on 04-10-2020. God Bless You All, Julia & Michael Harahus & family***

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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**

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Financials April 25-30, 2020 Operating Acct: -Dues 720 – Candles 0 – Weekly 749 – Non-Env 0 – Holy Days 225 – Altar Candles 40 – Pascha Offerings 900 – Donations 1,090 = **Total \$ 3,724.00**
Building Fund 35- ... Charity Donation 0- .. Furnace Fund 400-.. Cemetery 100- .. Flowers 40 ... **Thank you.**

May Birthdays: 2- Lynn Sharpe, 17- Russell King, 17- Julia Forte, 21- Lindsey Ruch, 21- Gloria Ferri, 22- Andrew Miller 31- Marie Skripnek

May Wedding Anniversaries: 9 – Richard and Julie McHugh, 16- V. Rev Paul & Matushka Lovey Ropitsky

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Please keep filling your church envelopes

April 25-30 income –\$3,724.00; April 25-30 expenses - \$200.00

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May 10 – THE POOL OF BETHESDA

“In 1888, archaeologists made an amazing discovery while excavating near St. Anne's Church in the Bezatha Quarter of Old Jerusalem. They are thought to have unearthed the legendary POOL OF BETHESDA. It is located about 100 yards north of the temple area of the ancient city, in

close proximity to the SHEEP GATE. This entrance was precisely what its name implies: the gate through which sacrificial lambs and other animals were herded into the city. They were then taken to the Pool of Bethesda for a ceremonial washing prior to their being sacrificed.

The intermittent bubbling of its water caused many to believe that angels were stirring up the pool, giving it miraculous powers of healing. Those suffering from incurable diseases and afflictions gathered regularly on the five porches of the pool during the time of Christ. They hoped to be cured by this angelic mediation.

It was here that our Lord encountered a PARALYTIC, who had been suffering from his condition for 38 years. Sympathetic to the man's plight, Jesus does more than help him into the 'troubled' waters. He provides the cure for which the paralytic had longed. 'RISE, TAKE UP YOUR BED AND WALK,' Christ commanded. The paralytic was healed!

Today we are reminded that our Lord has power over physical AND spiritual infirmities. 'SIN NO MORE,' He advises the paralytic, showing His divine concern for the total person. Christ can free all of us from the 'paralysis' that sin causes to our soul. He can release us from the heavy burden that our transgressions place upon us. 'DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WELL?' This question is constantly asked of us by our Saviour. Christ CAN heal us, body and soul, if we turn to Him and seek His assistance. "

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey...USA

SUMMARY OF 29-PAGE OF DIRECTIVES FOR RE-OPENING THE CHURCH: APPENDIX A: PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

In order remain vigilant in all ways, the churches should strictly maintain the following preventative measures:

1. Members of the Church should become familiar with the symptoms of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell), and, if these symptoms present themselves, both seek medical help immediately and self-isolate.
2. In terms of preventing the spread of this virus, the best advice is to follow CDC directives, which currently include: wash hands thoroughly and frequently, cover your coughs and sneezes, avoid sharing personal items, wear a mask, and maintain a social distance of six feet.
3. Churches must have hand sanitizer readily available at entrances, outside elevators, and other points of ingress. They should be sure that restrooms are properly stocked with soap, and sanitized frequently, recorded with an accompanying log sheet.
4. Everyone except clergy and singers must wear facemasks in accord with civil directives (clergy may wear plastic face shields at the distribution of communion).
5. Churches must be cleaned routinely between, especially objects that are routinely touched, like door handles, or furniture. Doors should be propped open so that door knobs or handles do not need to be used. It might, in fact, be more practical to have a designated person, an usher or greeter with gloves minding the door.
6. Icons, the blessing cross, and other sacred vessels should be venerated without physical contact.
7. When giving blessings, bishops and priests should not offer their hands to be

kissed.

8. No service books should be distributed or left out for common use.

9. Unless zapivka can be offered in a safe, individual manner, it should not be offered.

10. Unless antidoron can be presented in a safe, individual manner, it should not be distributed.

11. Priests should modify their censing patterns and processions to limit exposure, or wear a mask during censings and processions in the Church building.

APPENDIX B: CONDITIONS AND CAUTIONS

TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE OPENING CHURCHES

Before churches are re-opened, the diocesan bishop, in collaboration with diocesan and parish leadership, should consider the following conditions and cautions:

1. Opening can only be done after a thorough cleaning of the church building.

2. Ways should be found for everyone in the parish community to come to church for a service on a rotating basis, or at least to visit the church in order to pray and perhaps receive the reserved sacrament.

3. Methods of calculating how many people can safely be in church, and then identifying where people can be six feet away from each other, or other family groupings, should be found. In order to do this, parishes may have to measure the square footage of the church, and calculate how many people can fit into that space, while remaining socially distanced. This will only give a rough estimate since other factors will need to be considered, such as families living together that may stand or sit more closely than those who do not.

4. The best system for determining how people are to come in for services in limited numbers should be found. Precise records of who comes on which day will have to be kept so that those who attended can be contacted if necessary. Using online forms, or having one of the faithful sign them in, for example, could be employed. Those attending will have to be told the following:

a. Where they can enter the church

b. Where they can hang their coats and place any personal belongings

c. Where they must sanitize or wash their hands

e. That their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be inspected

f. An individual may be designated to light candles for people

f. That an usher will lead them to a designated place

g. That masks will be available to them (parishes are strongly encouraged to have supply of masks readily available).

5. For the purposes of screening people as they come in, churches will need an usher or a doorkeeper, who can ensure that the faithful are following the directives of the Church.

6. In certain places, temperature checks at the door might be necessary.

7. The number of people in altar must be limited; the placement of singers and choir need to match social distancing requirements. Since those reading loudly or singing may be sources of the virus through the projection of their voices, all choirs should be moved to the optimal location to keep such possibility to a minimum (for example, moving the choirs to the front of the nave).

8. Signs should be posted on the front door of the church explaining the directives and stating the assumed risk of those entering by age and preconditions.

9. Consideration of “at-risk” groups must be taken into account.

Kontakion:

**By Thy divine intercession, O Lord
As Thou didst raise up the Paralytic of old,
So raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts;
So that being saved I may sing to Thee:
"Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!"**

Acts 9:32-42 (Epistle)

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

John 5:1-15 (Gospel)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.