

**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 16, 2021**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pascha  
Holy Myrrhbearing Women

<i>Christ is Risen!</i>	<i>Indeed, He is Risen!</i>
<i>Khristos Voskrese!</i>	<i>Voistinu Voskrese!</i>
<i>Christos Anesti!</i>	<i>Alithos Anesti!</i>
<i>El Messieh Kahm!</i>	<i>Hakken Kahm!</i>
<i>Cristos a Inviat!</i>	<i>Adevarat a Inviat!</i>
<i>Cristo ha resucitado!</i>	<i>Verda-deramente, ha resucitado!</i>
<i>Christ est Ressuscite!</i>	<i>En Verite, Il est Ressuscite!</i>
<i>Christus ist auferstanden!</i>	<i>Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!</i>

Sunday, May 16	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy
Sunday, May 23	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy
Sunday, May 30	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – followed by Parastas
Sunday, June 6	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – followed by Parish Council Meeting

### *Acts 6:1-7 (Epistle)*

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

## Mark 15:43-16:8 (*Gospel*)

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So, when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.

But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

So, they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

### Candles (May 16):

Flowers on Tetrapod (5/9) – For the Health of all living Mothers and

In Memory of all deceased Mothers.

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of Wash & Helen King offered by Ted Bogosh

Altar Candles... For the Health of Gloria Bench offered by Ted Bogosh

Eternal Lamp... In memory of Mother, Mary Lutash offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Vigil Crosses ... For the Health of John & Peggy Lampman offered by Ted Bogosh

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the Health of Russell & Geri King offered by Ted Bogosh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod... For the Health of Matesy & Sal Herbert offered by Millie O'Shura

## THEY FOUND AN EMPTY TOMB!

**T**he Church's celebration of Christ's Resurrection from the grave continues. This second Lord's Day after the Feast of Feasts is in commemoration of the MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN. What a lesson they provide us of faith, devotion, love and service to the Lord.

These were women who watched under the Cross as Jesus suffered and died. They watched when Joseph and Nicodemus took down the Lord's body from the Cross and carried it for burial. They watched at the grave as their Loved One was laid to rest. Apparently the internment was hurried since the great Feast of the Passover was at hand. How the women wanted to minister to the Lord at this time of need!

It is no wonder that as soon as the Passover was over, the women hurried to the tomb of Christ, armed with the proper ointment. It was still dark, but they knew the way. They wondered who would roll away the stone from the door of the tomb, but still kept going. Love would find a way.

And when they finally came to the tomb, they see to their surprise that the stone had been rolled back. They discovered that the grave is empty! An Angel of the Lord proclaims the good news: "You seek Jesus Who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen! Behold the place where they laid Him . . ."

The icon for today depicts the scene in a traditional way. The burial garments lie in place, but the body is gone. The angelic messenger bids them to hurry and tell the disciples of the Lord that He has risen from the tomb. But the women, trembling and astonished at what they have learned, depart in awe.

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

**You seek Jesus Who was crucified.  
He is not here.  
He is Risen!**

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA. Tone 2. Myrrhbearing Women. Ven. Theodore the Sanctified, disciple of Ven. Pachomius the Great. Translation of the Relics of Ven. Ephraim, Abbot of Perekop, Ven. Cassian and Lavrentii, Abbots of Konel'. St. Alexander, Archbishop of Jerusalem. Martyrs Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia, at Lucania. Bl. Child Musa of Rome. St. George, Bishop of Mitylene. New Martyr Nicholas of Metsovo. Saint Brendan the Navigator.

### Troparion — Tone 2

The Noble Joseph, / when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the tree, / wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, / and placed it in a new tomb. / But You rose on the third day, O Lord, / granting the world great mercy.

### Troparion — Tone 2

The angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said: / Myrrh is meet for the dead; / but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption! / So proclaim: The Lord is risen, / granting the world great mercy!

### Kontakion — Tone 2

You commanded the myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ! / By Your Resurrection, You stopped the lamentation of Eve, the first mother! / You commanded them to preach to Your apostles:\* The Savior is Risen from the tomb!

Prayer List:

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.

May Birthdays: 2- Lynn Sharpe, 17- Russell King, 17- Julia Forte, 21- Lindsey Ruch, 31- Marie Skripnek

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 5/3-9/21: *Operating Acct*: Total \$718.00; Cemetery 30, Building Fund 1

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

**Are you shopping on Amazon??? If so, please use "Amazon Smile" and choose "St. Mary's Orthodox Church". When ordering from Amazon Smile, a percentage is sent to our general fund.**

**If you have questions, please contact Mat. Lisa Weremedic.**

**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**

## Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women with the Noble Joseph

The Myrrh-bearing women are those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion, and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Joseph and Nikodemos asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen cloths and spices, then they laid it in a tomb, and then they placed a great stone over the entrance of the tomb.

According to the Evangelist Matthew (27:57-61) Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses (Mark 15:40) were there sitting opposite the sepulchre, and they saw where He had been laid. This other Mary was the Mother of God. Not only were these present, but also many other women, as Saint Luke says (24:10).

Today the Church honors Saints Mary Magdalene (July 22), Mary the wife of Cleopas (May 23), Joanna (June 27), Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee (August 3), Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus (June 4), and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph's sons James (October 23) and Joses (October 30). Today we also also remember Saint Joseph of Arimathea (July 31), who was a secret disciple (John 19:38), and Saint Nikodemos, who was a disciple by night (John 3:3; 19:38).

The holy right-believing Queen Tamara of Georgia is honored twice during the year: on May 1, the day of her repose, and also on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women.

The Assembly of Bishops Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey is available on the Diocese of Eastern PA website. Parishioners are asked to complete the survey by June 15, 2021. See bulletin from April 11, 2021 for more information.



The Orthodox Church in America  
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

May 15, 2021

*Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!*

Dear Rev. Frs. And faithful,

Hopefully, we are rejoicing with the announcement from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) of May 13<sup>th</sup>, that those *fully vaccinated no longer need to wear masks or socially distance inside or outside!* The state of Pennsylvania has adopted the CDC's new guidelines as well. Additionally, every adult wishing to be vaccinated has had more than adequate time to do so. (The HIPAA law, safeguards a person's right to privacy and consequently restricts who may ask about a person's vaccination status.) Therefore, effective immediately, we are eliminating the mandatory mask and social distancing requirements for our Pennsylvania parishes and encourage our faithful to return to full participation in the life of the church. Wilmington, DE may implement the new guidelines on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Let our churches be filled once again to the Glory of God! One may personally choose to wear a mask if desired, but it is no longer required. Parishes that have adequate room may set aside a small part of the sanctuary for those who may be immunocompromised, and medically need additional personal space.

I pray that our faithful will welcome these changes and begin to experience some measure of peace. Our full choirs may return to the choir lofts, parish councils may gather and other activities may resume as before. Let us give thanks to the Lord that He has heard the voice of His people and stretched forth His healing hand! I would encourage every parish and parishioner to offer prayers of thanksgiving for answered prayers.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania



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"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine

## ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESMENT SURVEY

His Eminence, Archbishop MARK has released a letter regarding a mental health initiative for Orthodox Christians developed by the Assembly of Bishops' Mental Health Task Force, with links to a survey that parishioners are encouraged to complete.

Glory be to Jesus Christ during this period of Holy and Great Lent!

The Hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Bishops are aware of the many pastoral issues we face regarding mental health among the faithful. These issues are complex and challenging and, during the pandemic, have increased significantly. It is well known among mental health professionals that many people of Faith approach their parish priest, before their physician or a therapist, with mental health struggles. The Mental Health Task Force of the Assembly of Bishops has completed a Directory of Orthodox Mental Health Professionals as a first resource to immediately meet an urgent need. We hope that you have been sharing it, listing it on your websites, and encouraging Orthodox Christian providers in your region to apply to be listed.

In an effort to further understand and respond to the specific mental health needs of our clergy and faithful, we are now conducting a comprehensive anonymous survey:

- The Needs Assessment Survey can be accessed at: <https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/mental-health-task-force/mental-health-needs-assessment-survey>
- The survey is completely anonymous and takes about 15 minutes to complete
- Both clergy and the faithful age 18 and older are asked to complete the survey by June 15, 2021
- All faithful are invited to complete the survey, regardless of their experience with mental health or their level of engagement with the Church.
- Parishes are encouraged to print copies of the survey for parishioners who are not comfortable using a computer. Guidelines are provided on the aforementioned survey page.
- Data collected from the survey will be analyzed by the Task Force to create mental health related resources that reflect our Orthodox praxis and theological perspective.

In order for the work of the Task Force to successfully serve you and the faithful, I ask you to assist by the following:

1. Please participate in the anonymous survey and ask your parishioners to participate in the survey. **Please help us meet our goal of at least 50 parishioners from each parish.**