

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 Dmytrow

Sunday, May 28, 2023
Choir Director: Wash King
Reader Epistle: Michael Ropitsky

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA – HOLY FATHERS - FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Services:

- Sunday, May 28 8:45 AM – Church School
Sunday, May 28 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Parastas Veterans of War, Fellowship
 Adult Class: "Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians," pages 128-135
Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day Pilgrimage – St. Tikhon's Monastery
Saturday, June 3 2:00 PM – Pentecost Memorial Service – Sky View in Hometown
Saturday, June 3 5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Litiya, & Confessions
Sunday, June 4 8:45 AM – Church School – Last session today for this school year
 Church School will resume in September.
Sunday, June 4 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship (Holy Pentecost)
Sunday, June 4 1:00 PM – Memorial Service – Parish Cemetery in Summit Hill
Saturday, June 10 5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, June 11 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship (All Saints Sunday)

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. 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, Dorothy & Joseph Macenka, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pierson, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Mary Simone, Jolie Skelton, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, George Yurchak, & Marie Yurchak.

*Names will cycle off approximately every 30 days. You may request to have your name or the name of a loved one placed back on the list at any time by contacting Fr. James directly.

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 (May 28)

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Lucy (Brunda) Nickovics** offered by niece, Elaine Chichura & Family
Altar Candles... In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members
Vigil Crosses... In memory **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **all Deceased Veterans & For the Health of all the Living Veterans** offered by a Veteran.

May Birthdays: 21- Lindsey Ruch, 31- Marie Skripnek;

June Birthdays 5- Dorothy Macenka, 13- Christianne Bayer, 21-Clark Andrew Bogosh,
24-Wash King, Geri King, 28- Olga Kushnir, 29- Julia Harahus

June Anniversaries: 1- Fr. James & Mat. Lisa Weremedic, 9- Michael & Julia Harahus,
9- John & Peggy Lampman, 22- Dr. Ronald & Lena Marie Berezniak

Yard Sale – June 10

Financials 5/14/23: Operating Acct: Weekly Envelopes \$ 594, Holy Days \$ 97,
Candles \$ 79, Donations \$ 300.

Thank you to the hard work and generosity of everyone who donated, cooked, set up, bought tickets, and came to the Chinese Auction. The profit was \$2,026.00, which went to the General Fund.

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

June 4 John Evetushick June 11 Michael Tatusko

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.

A GATHERING OF THE "SPIRITUALLY ELITE"

For nearly three centuries, the Christian Church was forced to endure ridicule and persecution from the pagan Roman Emperors. The blood of Christian martyrs flowed freely in the early days of the Church's existence. When Christianity was finally deemed acceptable, and, indeed, proclaimed to be the OFFICIAL RELIGION of the Byzantine Empire by Constantine the Great, it was hoped that these faithful communities of believers would find the peace and contentment for which they longed.

But it was not to be so! The Church now had to contend with an "enemy" from within: an Alexandrian priest named Arius, who was spreading a teaching that Christ was CREATED by God the Father, and, therefore, was NOT EQUAL to Him. The Church was shaken by this heretical teaching, which quickly gained widespread acceptance.

In an effort to combat this heresy, an unprecedented gathering of bishops, priests and other ecclesiastical dignitaries was convened in the city of Nicaea in the year 325 A.D. The list of the Church Fathers present was a "who's who" of early saints! St. Nicholas was there, as was St. Spiridon, St. Athanasius, St. Eustathius of Antioch, St. Eusebius of Caesarea and many others.

After heated deliberations – which saw an enraged St. Nicholas actually strike Arius -- the Council condemned the works of this heretical cleric. This Council also definitively confirmed the Symbol of Faith (the Creed), which was later expanded upon at the Second Ecumenical Council.

The First Ecumenical Council also established the guidelines for determining the date of Pascha, set the date of September 1 as the beginning of the liturgical year and decreed that celibacy should not be imposed upon the clergy.

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA Tone 6 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension. St. Niketas, Bishop of Chalcedon (9th c.). St. Ignatii (Ignatius) the Wonderworker, Bishop of Rostov (1288). St. Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene (1st c.). Martyr Heliconis of Thessalonica (244).

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Troparion Tone 8 You are most glorious, O Christ our God! / You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth! / Through them you have guided us to the true faith! / O greatly Compassionate One, glory to You!

Kontakion Tone 8 The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, / it defines and glorifies the great mystery of Orthodoxy!

Troparion Tone 4 (Ascension)

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing, they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world!

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 (Epistle)

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

Also, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.

Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

John 17:1-13 (Gospel)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.

For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

We commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius [who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18)]. He is called "the Great," for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today's Feast, he is referred to as "the thirteenth Apostle."

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan's knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).

Starting on July 1st, donations for Candles and/or Flowers will be available to use the three-ring binder labeled "donations" at the candle desk in the back of the church. Each Sunday and Holy Day Services will be listed. The date and suggested donation will be listed on the pages. Please note: Using this 'donation binder' is a first come/first served. If someone wishes to have a specific date and it is filled, please contact the person who is listed on the 'offered by _____' for consideration to change their date.

For friends of the parish or parishioners who are not able or due to their distance, please mail a request and donation to St. Mary's Orthodox Church, att: Financial Secretary, 217 1st Street, Coaldale, PA 18218. Please do not mail money, use a check. In the request, please state either "For the Health of" or "In Memory of" and who is "offered by."

Requested donations already sent to the Parish Financial Secretary will be included in the three-ring binder. John Evetushick will be able to help with any questions.

Additionally, requests for Parastas can be mailed to the St. Mary's Orthodox Church, att: Financial Secretary, 217 1st Street, Coaldale, PA 18218 or handed to the Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary will coordinate the scheduling of the service with the Rector. Please do not mail money, use a check.

Please circle the appropriate Health or Memory:
For the Health of _____ offered by _____.
In memory of _____ offered by _____.

Candles (DATE)

Donation: \$10.00

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|-----------------------|--|
| 7-day Vigils-Altar | For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____. |
| Altar Candles | For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____. |
| Eternal Lamp | For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____. |
| 7-day Vigils-Tetrapod | For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____. |

Donation: \$30.00

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|----------------------------|--|
| Decorated Candles/Tetrapod | For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____. |
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Donation: \$30.00

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| Vigil Crosses | For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____. |
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Donation: \$40.00

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| Flowers/Tetrapod: | For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____. |
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Donation: \$10.00

- | | |
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| Bulletin Sponsor: | For the Health/Memory of _____ offered by _____. |
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Also, we are reformatting the bulletin's "Sick List" at this time.

Names will cycle off approximately every 30 days. You may request to have your name or the name of a loved one placed back on the list at any time **by contacting Fr. James directly.**