

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

Sunday, November 20, 2022

Choir Director: Wash King

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (9th of Luke)

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

Services:

Sunday, November 20- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour

Sunday, November 20- **4:00 PM** – Great Vespers and Confessions

Monday, November 21- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos

Thursday, November 24- **10:30 AM** – Moleiben followed by Thanksgiving Dinner

Saturday, November 26- **4:00 PM** – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, November 27- 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, **Parastas**, and Fellowship Hour

In memory of **Fr. Andrew Diehl** (40th day) offered by the Family & Friends

In memory of **Matushka Lovey Ropitsky** offered by Fr. Paul & Michael Ropitsky

In memory of **Janet Jupin** offered by the Jupin Family

In memory of **John Fedora** offered by Barbara Faenza & Family

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:

Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Andrew Balliet, Michael Birocik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Danielle Bogosh, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Nadine Fegley, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen Harkins, Nancy King, Russell King, Michael Kulick, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, Dale Renninger, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidorik, Mary Simone, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, 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 (November 20)

7-day Vigils-Altar...For the Health of **Liz O'Shura** offered by Millie O'Shura
Altar Candles... In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Matushka Irene Borick** offered by Julia Forte
Vigil Crosses...In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak
7-day Vigils-Tetrapod...For the Health of **Helen King** offered by Stephanie Chmel
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Husband, Andrew Chmel** offered by Stephanie Chmel

Candles (November 21)

7-day Vigils-Altar...For the Good Health of **Victoria Weremedic** offered by Gloria Bench
Altar Candles... For the Good Health of **Fr. Paul & Michael Ropitsky** offered by Gloria Bench
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Matushka Lovey Ropitsky** offered by Gloria Bench
Vigil Crosses...For the Good Health of **Helen King** offered by Friends
7-day Vigils-Tetrapod...For the Good Health **Walter & Louise Rosahac** offered by Friends
Decorated Candles ... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel** Family offered by Family Members

**Our sympathy is extended to Olga Kushnir on the
passing away of her husband, John Kushnir on 11/6/2022
May his Memory be Eternal!**

November Birthdays: 1- Nicholas Teno, Jr., 2- Justin Babinetz , 4- Lena Marie Berezniak, 11- Nancy King, 17- Victoria Weremedic, 17- Irene Puschak, 26- Helen King, 26- Barbara Birosik, 27- Chris King, 27- Walter Rosahac

November Anniversaries: 13- Walter & Louise Rosahac

Financials 11/13/22: *Operating Acct:* Candles 62, Offerings 797, Non-Envelope 275, Holy Days 35, Donation 50 = Total \$1,219.00. Poinsettias 135, Building Fund 26

Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon.

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

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

November 20 - Michael Tatusko November 27 – Open

PLEASE sign-up for Coffee Hour in the vestibule if you would like to host.

Thanksgiving Dinner after Moleiben

in the Church Hall Thursday, November 24, 2022

Please sign up in back of church – Everyone invited!!!

Everyone invited!!!

Please sign up at the Candle Stand so we can prepare enough food.



A PROMISE FULFILLED



Long before the birth of the Theotokos, her saintly parents, Joachim and Anna, made a solemn vow to the Lord. If He would bless them with a child in their advanced years, they would, in turn, give that child back to Him and to the service of the Temple.

The prayers of Joachim and Anna were answered with the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. When their daughter reached the age of three, they obediently kept the promise they had made to God. Joachim and Anna dressed the Theotokos in her finest clothes, and took her in procession to the Temple. They placed her on the first step and, according to Sacred Tradition, Mary climbed the fifteen steps to the entrance of this holy place, where she was met by the high priest, Zacharias. She was led by him to the "Holy of Holies," an area where only the high priest could go! This was taken to be a sign that this child was destined for a SPECIAL MISSION by God.

What message does the Feast Day of the Entrance of the Mother of God convey to us? Symbolically, we are reminded that the Blessed Virgin is, in reality, the ALL-PURE TEMPLE of the Saviour. This holy day also speaks of the joyful SACRIFICE of Joachim and Anna, who offered their child to the service of the Lord. Most importantly, this day, considered one of the twelve major feasts of our Holy Church, addresses the need for HOLINESS and OBEDIENCE in the lives of all of us. Mary's life in the Temple was one of prayer, fasting and study. She was "consecrated" to the Lord. May Her example inspire us to a greater commitment to our Saviour and assist us in fulfilling a promise that WE made on our day of baptism: TO LOVE AND SERVE CHRIST.

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

A LESSON IN BEING BOTH

HOLY AND OBEDIENT

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 6. Forefeast of the Entry into the Temple of the Most-holy Theotokos. Ven. Gregory Decapolites (816). St. Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople (446-447). Ven. Diodorus, Abbot of Yuregórsk (1633). Martyr Dasius of Dorostorum (3rd c.). Martyrs Eustace, Thespesius, and Anatolius of Nicea (312). Hieromartyrs Nerses and Joseph; John, Saverius, Isaac, and Hypatius, Bishops of Persia; Martyrs Azades the Eunuch, Savonius, Thecla, Anna, and many other men and women who suffered in Persia (343).

Forefeast of the Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos

Troparion — Tone 4 - Today Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow by bringing forth her fruit, the only ever-Virgin. / In fulfillment of her vow, / today with joy she brings to the temple of the Lord / the true temple and pure Mother of God the Word.

Kontakion — Tone 4 - Today the universe is filled with joy / at the glorious feast of the Mother of God, and cries out: / "She is the heavenly tabernacle."

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple has only one day of prefeast. The hymns for today praise Saint Anna for bringing her daughter, the living temple of God, to the Temple in Jerusalem.

The three Old Testament readings at Great Vespers refer to the Temple. The first lesson (Exodus 40:1-5, 9-10, 16, 34-35) refers to the arrangement of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation (a portable sanctuary which was carried by the Israelites in their wanderings). The second lesson (III Kings/I Kings 7:51; 8:1, 3-7, 9-11) describes the dedication of Solomon's Temple. The third lesson (Ezekiel 43:27-44:4) speaks of the gate of the sanctuary which faces east. God enters through this gate, which is shut so that no one else can enter by it.

Ephesians 2:4-10 (Epistle)

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace, you have been saved through His faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Luke 12:16-21 (Gospel)

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

So, he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, '*Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?*'

So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Venerable Gregory Decapolite

Saint Gregory the Decapolite was born in the Isaurian city of Decapolis (ten cities) in the eighth century. From his childhood he loved the temple of God and church services. He read the Holy Scripture constantly and with reverence.

In order to avoid the marriage which his parents had intended for him, he secretly left home. He spent all his life wandering: he was in Constantinople, Rome, Corinth, and he lived as an ascetic on Olympus for a while. Saint Gregory preached the Word of God everywhere, denouncing the Iconoclast heresy, strengthening the faith and fortitude of the Orthodox, whom the heretics in those times oppressed, tortured and imprisoned.

Through his ascetic effort and prayer, Saint Gregory attained the gifts of prophecy and wonderworking. After overcoming the passions and reaching the height of virtue, he was permitted to hear angelic singing in praise of the Holy Trinity. Saint Gregory left the monastery of Saint Menas near Thessalonica, where he had labored for a long time, and he went again to Constantinople in order to combat the Iconoclast heresy. At the capital, a grievous illness undermined his strength, and he departed to the Lord in the year 816.

Saint Gregory was buried at a monastery in Constantinople, and many miracles took place at his tomb. As a result, the monks removed the holy relics of Saint Gregory and enshrined them in the church where people could venerate them.

When Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1453, the relics of Saint Gregory were carried to the region of the Danube by a Turkish official. In 1498 Barbu Craiovescu, the Ban of the Romanian Land (Wallachia) heard of the miracles performed by the holy relics and bought them for a considerable sum of money. Barbu Craiovescu placed the relics in the main church of Bistritsa Monastery which he founded in Rimnicu Vilcea, where they remain to the present day. A small book describing the miracles and healings performed by Saint Gregory the Decapolite in Romania has been written by Abbess Olga Gologan, who reposed in 1972.

Saint Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople

Saint Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople, from his early years devoted all his time to prayer and the study of Holy Scripture. The Lord granted him the great good fortune to be a disciple of Saint John Chrysostom (November 13), who at first ordained him as a deacon, and then to the holy priesthood. He witnessed the appearance of the Apostle Paul to Saint John Chrysostom. Saint Proclus received from his teacher a profound understanding of Holy Scripture, and learned to elucidate his thoughts in a polished form.

After the exile and death of Saint John Chrysostom, the holy Patriarch of Constantinople Sisinius (426-427) consecrated Saint Proclus as bishop of the city of Kyzikos, but under the influence of Nestorian heretics he was expelled by his flock there.

Saint Proclus then returned to the capital and preached the Word of God in the churches of Constantinople, strengthening listeners in the Orthodox Faith and denouncing the impiety of the heretics. He once preached a sermon before Nestorius in which he fearlessly defended the title "Theotokos" in speaking of the holy Virgin. Upon the death of the Patriarch Saint Sisinius, Saint Proclus was chosen to take his place. Having thus been made Patriarch of Constantinople, he guided the Church over the course of twelve years (434-447). By the efforts of Saint Proclus, the relics of Saint John Chrysostom were transferred from Comana to Constantinople in the time of the holy emperor Saint Theodosius II (408-450).

When Saint Proclus was Patriarch, the Empire suffered destructive earthquakes, lasting for several months. At Bithynia, in the Hellespont, and in Phrygia cities were devastated, rivers disappeared from the face of the earth, and terrible flooding occurred in previously dry places. The people of Constantinople came out of the city with the patriarch and emperor at their head and offered prayers for an end to the unprecedented calamities.

During one prayer service, a boy from the crowd was snatched up into the air by an unseen force and carried up to such a height that he was no longer to be seen by human eyes. Then, whole and unharmed, the child was lowered to the ground and he reported that he heard and he saw the angels glorifying God singing: "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal." All the people began to sing this Trisagion Prayer, adding to it the refrain, "Have mercy on us!" Then the earthquakes stopped. The Orthodox Church sings still this prayer at divine services to this very day. The Constantinople flock esteemed their Patriarch for his ascetic life, for his concern about the downtrodden, and for his preaching. Many works of the saint have survived to the present day. Best known are his discourses against the Nestorians, two tracts of the Saint in praise of the Mother of God, and four tracts on the Nativity of Christ, setting forth the Orthodox teaching about the Incarnation of the Son of God. The activity of the holy patriarch in establishing decorum in all the church affairs gained him universal esteem. Surrounded by love and respect, Saint Proclus departed to the Lord after serving as Patriarch for twenty years.